

The Anchor



Volume 26 Number 11
November 2011

Published Monthly by Global Maritime Ministries, Inc.

A Special Invitation

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the completion of the volunteer housing portion of our ministry center in New Orleans, LA.

We will be dedicating this area to be used for God's glory and hosting an open house in conjunction with our annual meeting.

January 21, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.

3635 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA.

January 21, 2011, is going to be a very special day! Not only is it the day that we hold our annual meeting for the ministry, it is the day we are dedicating phase 2 of our ministry center in New Orleans. The second floor of the building was constructed so that we could have a place for volunteers to stay when they came to be a part of the ministry. It is finally done! You are invited to help us celebrate.

As we celebrate what God has provided, we are extending a special invitation to everyone who had a part in helping to complete this project to come and see the finished area. Please plan to join us for this open house and help us dedicate and celebrate this new ministry resource. We also want the opportunity to say thank you again for what you have done to make this dream a reality! We could not have done it without you. We look forward to seeing you soon.

News from Reserve

Else Miklavcic

The month of October was a busy one and filled with many pleasing activities and contacts. I served thirty-six vessels in twenty-one days; one was a tanker, the rest cargo-ships. A few times I helped in New Orleans with cruise-ship day. Some days I was able to provide service to three vessels. One hundred eighty seven seafarers signed my guest book. They came from the Philippines, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Turkey, and India. I served many more, but not all came to visit the center. Some cannot come to the center because they have no visa and cannot go ashore; some want only the transportation service, especially to BestBuy in New Orleans.

I visited two ships in the beginning of the month. On one ship I had a very long conversation with the captain who attacked me first as the "woman-preacher." During our long discussion the message reached him somehow that

we are a royal priesthood and everybody is called to tell the gospel as Jesus commanded it and to teach others to become disciples. I encouraged him strongly to preach the Gospel to his crew. When I left, he greeted me as "Sister." Nobody from his ship could go ashore because they had no visas, but they told me that the captain does devotions with them. I am praying and I am asking everybody to pray with me that the captain would preach the pure and genuine gospel from the Bible and not a watered-down version from a special preacher.

God provides a really good balance of activity and rest, of business and spiritual encounters. Sometimes I fear that with so much traveling with the seafarers, the sharing of the Gospel and the testimony would fall short. However, God showed me in this busy time that sometimes it is really our humble attitude towards the people we serve that catches them. In a Ukrainian crew

was a young gentleman who seemed to be arrogant, and during one conversation I said, "You definitely would need Jesus." He answered, "I don't need Him and I don't want Him." In the center it did not bother him to occupy two seats in front of the computer with his laptop and Ipad. I had to ask him three times to give the place to somebody else. I felt really bad about that encounter and was thinking and praying how I could get through to him. He came every day for one week, but he spent all time on his laptop. On the last day he asked me to drive him and another seafarer from his ship to BestBuy. On the way back, when his friend went into a store, he started asking me, "How did you find Jesus at age thirteen and who told you all this and who wrote the Bible?" I could share with him my testimony, and he asked so many questions about Jesus and the Bible and its truth. I was so grateful for that unexpected turn, and I am praying that he would receive Jesus in a personal relationship.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Every year about this time, we talk to you about the importance of our Christmas emphasis. Sometimes I feel like we are repeating ourselves, and I wonder if we run the risk of people not reading because we always say the same thing.

This month, I want to tell you several stories of why Christmas is so important to us. Then, when we tell you why you should get involved, perhaps you'll remember some of the people with whom we have shared Christmas over the past few years.

Several years ago, we had taken a group of young children aboard a ship so that they could sing Christmas carols, pass out Christmas cookies, and give gifts to seafarers. As the children were singing, the captain began crying. The tears were rolling down his face. Once the children were done, I asked him why he was crying. He started talking about his own small children at home in the Philippines and how he would spend another Christmas away from them. The children's singing was bittersweet, he said, because he missed his own children but he was touched by the gift of song that our children shared with him and his crew. We were able to pray for this captain and share the true meaning of Christmas with him. His story is true of so many of the seafarers on cargo ships who will miss yet another Christmas with their own families. We may be the only ones to wish them "Merry Christmas" each year.

When the cruise ships started coming to port, we tried to think of gifts we could give them. With so many crew members aboard each cruise ship, and with our desire for them to know Jesus, we decided to provide small New Testaments for all crew members who desired

one. Several years ago, our family spent Christmas Eve aboard one of the cruise ship while it was in port taking on new passengers. Philip, the girls, and I took boxes of New Testaments down to the crew mess and offered them to each seafarer who came to the mess hall for a meal. Of course, the fact that my girls were dressed in matching dresses and looked so cute helped, but we also knew that people want to receive gifts. One crew member refused a gift from Amy when she tried to give him one. He went to the corner of the room and watched as seafarer after seafarer accepted a gift—the small New Testament wrapped in colorful Christmas ribbon. Finally, he came to get one to see for himself what it was. We watched him go to the corner, pull off the ribbon, and glance through it. This seafarer, from Indonesia, came back a few minutes later with his roommate, also from Indonesia, to ask for another New Testament. We gave him another. He came back several times to ask for New Testaments for "friends" who were on duty. I think before the afternoon ended, he had taken a dozen or so New Testaments. We don't know how many of these New Testaments found their way to Indonesia, but we do know that God promised that his word would not return void. We trust that these Bibles have found their way to people who need them.

Finally, I recall the forklift driver who couldn't wait for Christmas to arrive so that he could get a gift from us. Almost accidentally, we realized that many of our local port workers are as forgotten at Christmas as the international seafarers. (A port worker once told us that the gift he received from us would be the only gift he got that year.) On this particular day, we were passing out gifts to

Sandy Vandercook

forklift drivers at several of the wharves near the center. One of the men grabbed his gift, ran to his forklift, sat down and propped up his feet, and tore off the paper on the gift. I thought he was looking for the gift—a coffee mug that year—but instead he grabbed the pocket-sized Bible inside the box and began reading it right there. He told us, "I've been waiting all year for you guys to bring a gift. I was waiting for a Bible." We now make sure every year to put a Bible in the gifts that we give to local port workers.

Can you see why we need your help? We truly do share Christmas with the world at our doorstep. First, you can help by providing a gift for a seafarer. For \$8 and a signed Christmas card, you can purchase one gift for a seafarer or a local port worker. This year, the gift will be a pocket-sized calendar, a pen, and a prepaid phone card. We will also give each seafarer a Bible or New Testament in his heart language. Second, you can come to the center and have a mini Christmas party one night during the month of December. If a seafarer is in New Orleans during December, then he will probably not be home with his family for Christmas. Finally, you can pray for us. We want every seafarer and port worker to know the true meaning of Christmas. The only reason we pass out presents to seafarers and port workers is so that we earn the right to tell them about the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ.

For more information or to see how you can help, you can contact via email Philip at Philip@PortMinistry.com or by phone at 504-895-2028. May we be the first to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

In Memory

In Memory of:

Mr. Charles Henry Gunn
 Mr. Charles Gunn
 Mr. Charles Gunn
 Clifton & Nellie Mangum
 Mrs. Nellie Mangum
 Dr. C.H. Melton
 Mr. Tommy Reid
 Mrs. Catherine Vandercook

Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. James Gunn
 Mrs. William Champion
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hall
 Mrs. Melissa Poag
 Mrs. Melissa Poag
 Mrs. Vera Melton
 Mrs. Marsha Crozat
 Mr. Laurance Kannon

In Honor

In Honor of:

Mrs. Josie Lanzetta
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum

Given by:

Mr. Ralph Hihar
 Mrs. Marjorie Winstead

Building Fund / Square Foot Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Pete DePaoli Ms. Vermelle McDill
 Mr. Laurance Kannon Mrs. Melissa Poag
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tubbs

2011 Statistics

(through October 2011)

<i>Ships visited</i>	325
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	9,256
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	584
<i>Countries represented</i>	105
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	6,182
<i>Professions of faith</i>	10
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	425
<i>Evangelistic Presentations</i>	293

2011 Budget Requirements

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 250,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 222,883.80
<i>Building LOAN balance</i>	\$ 320,630.19
<i>"Pay off the debt" pledges (\$1,000)</i>	21

A Gentle Reminder

We greatly appreciate all of the generous financial gifts; they make this ministry possible! This has been a challenging year financially, and we are well behind our budget. Each year we receive many special gifts at the end of the year, and they are greatly appreciated. If you plan to make such a gift, please remember these gifts must be postmarked by December 31 to be deducted on your 2011 tax forms.

My Bible Does Not Say That!

(Editor's note: As is our custom when we share stories of seafarers, the name of the seafarer in this article has been changed to protect his identity.)

I have held off telling this story for a few weeks. For one reason it disturbed me to write it, and the other reason was figuring out how to put this into words and try to keep my composure.

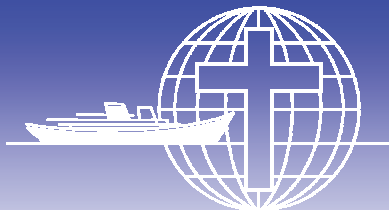
A few weeks ago, I went to the Norwegian *Spirit* as usual. Priscilla could not go because she was not feeling well. I made my rounds and came back to the crew mess area, placed my candy bag down, and began to walk around talking to the crew that was having lunch. I no-

ticed a young man sitting by himself, so I walked over and sat down. I asked, "How is it going Billy?" He gave a smile and said, "Okay." I looked at him and said, "Your mouth says one thing but your face is saying something else." He started out by saying, "You have been coming on this ship for a long time, ever since I have been assigned here. You and your wife always speak and talk to me and you always ask how I am and how things are back home. You have given me a Bible at Christmas, and you have tried to talk to me about religion. Pastor as you might know I am gay." I replied, "You are not telling me something that I did not know. I also

Norman Mangum

know that you are not the only one. So, what is your point?" "That's it," he replied. "You don't treat us as if we have some kind of disease." I started to interrupt when he said, "Let me finish. Everyone on here sees you and talks about you and your wife, and you two are highly respected. But, I have to ask you something. Why does a God that is supposed to love everyone hate me?" I stopped him very quickly. "Where did you get your information? That is not true." He said, "I have attended a few of the services in the crew area where we have a person on board that teaches the Bible, and he said, 'God hates gays.'" I

(Continued on page 4)



Global Maritime Ministries, Inc.

Global Maritime Ministries exists to provide holistic Christian ministry by meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers and maritime workers .

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(Continued from page 3)

looked at Billy and said, "Billy do you trust me?" "Of course," he said, "you have not given me any reason not to." "Billy," I said, "God does not hate gays. What God does hate is the sin. He died for everyone, I mean everyone. He died for those born before you and me and those to be born years to come." I had a small New Testament in my book bag; I pulled it and turned to scriptures on sin. I did not read it to Billy. I asked him to read it for himself. After he had fin-

ished, I looked at Billy and asked, "Did you read anything that states that God hates you?" He replied, "No, it says nothing like that at all." I said, "Billy, don't you ever let anyone tell you that God hates you again; if they do you can tell them that you read that He does not hate anyone." I also went on to tell Billy that he did not have to live the lifestyle he was living and that he could change but that he had to make that choice. I looked at Billy and said, "If you are willing, I can point you in the right di-

rection, and God can change people; he changed me." Billy did not make a decision, but at least he knows that I am there each week for him and that God loves him.

I am appalled at the thought that anyone would tell another human being that God hates him. I am sure that God is not happy that anyone who claims to be a minister or Christian decides for Him whom He hates and likes. Choose your words carefully and know the truth when you do speak.

Save the Date!

January 21, 2011, is the date for our Annual Meeting. We hope you will attend. This is your chance to hear about all God is doing through the ministry. This year we are also dedicating the volunteer hosing portion of the center. This area is finally complete! Please plan to attend.

We want to offer a special invitation to all of you that had a part in helping to complete phase 2 of the building. If you helped by working on the second floor, donating materials or finances, or even helping to clean up after construction, please join us to see the fruits of your labor! Please come help us celebrate all the God has done and to let us say thank you once again!