

The Anchor

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Seriously?

Norman Mangum

In September, I had the privilege of sailing with the crew on the container ship the *Marchaser* for the second time. This is the ship that comes into the Port of New Orleans every week. I have a great rapport with the captain and crew. I have always been treated with nothing but respect. The last time I sailed, you would have thought I was a king or someone of importance. The captain and the crew wanted to make sure I had everything I needed. This trip was very much the same way, even down to making sure I had enough bottled water to drink.

This trip my wife made a banana pudding for me to take so the crew and I would have a dessert. I told them what she had made, but they had never before had banana pudding. After they had tasted that first spoon full, you could not contain them. She had made two big pans of pudding, enough for thirty teen people! The second day at dinner time after I had finished, I asked the captain if he would join me in a bowl of pudding. We looked in the fridge to find nothing.

He made the statement, "I guess people roam at night looking for something to eat, and they ate it all." Oh well! What can you say? At least they enjoyed it.

I was sharing my experience of the trip with some of the ladies who work at Wal-Mart when one spoke up and said, "Are you crazy? I would not get on a boat with those people. It's no telling what they might do. They could have killed you and thrown you over board and you would never be found." Seriously???! I replied, "We live in a city that is known as the murder capital of the U.S. I felt safer with them than I feel walking through the parking lot here. *Those people*, as you call them, work very hard for their salary. They are away from their families, on the average, for almost one year before going home for vacation. Their vacation is for two to three months and they leave for another nine months, sometimes ten months. *Those people* buy a lot of merchandise from Wal-Mart and that means you have a job." Another lady spoke up to say, "They chose that kind of life." I an-

swered, "You chose to stand here and greet people as they enter the store, but does that make you any less of a person?"

I had to leave because my guys had finished shopping. As for the ladies who work at Wal-Mart, maybe they will think about what I said. May I remind some of you who might think of seafarers as *those people*, they bring most of everything we use, wear, eat, and drink to us by ship. Trucks may deliver it to the stores, but a ship probably brought it so it could make its way to you. I have a great passion for the men and women who work on the ships, and I do not like to see them mistreated or talked down to. Those people took very good care of me while I was sailing with them.

Seafarers speak very highly of our mission center and are very grateful that we provide a place to come to so they can get off the ship. Instead of looking at them as "Those People," why not pray for them and their families? Pray for us as we share Jesus with them through our words and our actions.



THANK YOU!

We cannot say thank you enough to all of you who helped to make Global Fest such a great success. Thank you to each of you who donated an item, volunteered, made desserts, attended, and prayed for this event. Because of your support, over \$17,000.00 was raised for the ministry, and 350 people attended. God has blessed the ministry once again.

We want to give a special thank you to our planning committee, Johnny's Catfish (our caterer), Tapestry and the New Orleans Jazz Ensemble (our entertainment). We could not have done this with out you! Again, thank you!

**Global
Fest 2011**

Christmas Countdown

Late last month, the girls and I were shopping in Sam's Club. On our way to the front of the store to pay for our items, we passed an aisle that was full of Christmas trees, Christmas wrapping paper, Christmas bows, and Christmas cards. Anna looked at me and said, "But it's not even October yet!" While we don't have Christmas decorations up at our house yet, here at Global Maritime Ministries, we are already thinking about Christmas. Why? We have to make plans since we will celebrate Christmas during the entire month of December. We have begun our preparations, but now we need your help.

First, please pray for the seafarers who will be spending Christmas away from their families. If they are here on

a ship during the month of December, we will make every effort to give them gifts, to love on them, and to tell them of the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ.

Second, you can help by buying a gift (or two or twenty) for a seafarer. This year, we will be giving away pocket calendars with notepads and pens as the main gift. Seafarers will also receive a pre-paid phone card so that they can call their families and a New Testament so that they can read the Christmas story in their heart languages. As in years past, the cost of each gift is \$8.00 and a signed Christmas card. We will place the signed card in a gift so that the recipient will know that someone is praying for him.

Sandy Vandercook

Third, you can provide Christmas cookies for us to give to seafarers during the month of December. Better yet, you can host a Christmas party here at the center! Then, you can give the seafarers the cookies you made, you can pass out the gifts for which you paid, and you can share the true meaning of Christmas with new friends who may never have heard of Jesus.

If you would like to provide Christmas gifts, please send your check and signed Christmas cards to Global Maritime Ministries, P.O. Box 750787, New Orleans, LA 70175-0787. You can also donate on our website, www.PortMinistry.com. From the donation page, select "Christmas Gift."

Loving Them Like Brothers

Almost a year ago a ship that had been seized by the Coast Guard entered our port and is still seized here today. When we found out about the ship, this gave us the opportunity to minister to the guys on the ship for several months. This is the same crew for whom Ron and I cooked and with whom we and our families shared dinner back at the first of the year. For probably the last six or seven months, the guys have not had any shore passes and have not been able to get off of the ship legally. This saddens our hearts as ministers not being able to minister effectively to our friends on the ship, so we would just constantly check on them to see what they needed.

On this ship, there were three men from Georgia (the country, not the state) with whom Ron and I became great friends. Their names are Ravaz,

Irakli, and Giorgi. Two of them were married and one was single. All had been on board that ship almost a year. Giorgi had yet to meet his new daughter, Irakli has two boys and missed his family very much, and Ravaz missed his parents.

After months of delays, all three of our Georgian friends have now been able to go home. This is a huge answer to prayer and blessing for those men. Ravaz and Irakli both personally called me before they left and each had the same type of greeting and farewell. Rivaz wrote to my wife in a message and he said :”i am happy because in this contract i meet ben ...Ben is a man who knows how to be good and excellenti respect your family wish you everything best.” You know getting a message like that will boost your ego, but I will really miss these guys.

Ben Niscavits

From these guys, I learned so much. In America, whenever we hug someone, we usually always lean our head to the right side of the person. In Georgia, they do the opposite. In Georgia, whenever you have a baby, depending on the sex, if you have a boy they pull on your right ear lobe. I learned this when I had my third son back in April.

These men were our close friends and I love them like brothers. They have extended welcomes to us to their homes in Georgia. They told us that they would take care of us like we took care of them. One day I hope I am able to visit them in their country and am just truly humbled to be able to serve these men and others with whom we get to interact daily. May God continue to work through us here that we shine brightly for Christ and that the love of God is in our hearts daily.

In Memory

In Memory of:

Sid Wesley Champion, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Dean Hart
Dr. C.H. Melton
Mr. Paul Nelson Sr.
Mr. Everett Thomas
Mrs. Gladys White

Given by:

Mrs. Mary Champion
Highland Baptist Church
Mrs. Vera Melton
Mrs. Melissa Poag
Mrs. Martha Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Wynn

In Honor

In Honor of:

Mrs. Mary Champion
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dubose
Mrs. Gloria Leach
Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
Rev. John Vandercook
Rev. Philip Vandercook

Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fortenberry
Mrs. Laura Bieber
William G. Leach
Mrs. Marjorie Winstead
Mr. Andrew Galloway
Chapel Class

Building Fund / Square Foot Fund

Mrs. Melissa Poag
Charles and Julia Sanders

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner

When a memorial or honorarium is given, a personalized card is sent to the family acknowledging your gift. The person's name is also listed here in our newsletter. Memorials and honorariums may also be submitted through our website. Please feel free to call us with any questions or to receive more information about how you can honor a friend or loved one.

2011 Statistics

(through September 2011)

<i>Ships visited</i>	285
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	8,942
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	556
<i>Countries represented</i>	100
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	5,462
<i>Professions of faith</i>	9
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	400
<i>Evangelistic Presentations</i>	249

2011 Budget Requirements

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 225,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 183,916.28
<i>Building LOAN balance</i>	(\$ 323,138.49)
<i>"Pay off the debt" gifts (\$1,000)</i>	19

Do You Have a Motor Home?

If so, we need your help. We are looking for caring Christians who will come and help us share the love of Christ with the world. Would you consider spending a few days, or a few weeks, volunteering with the ministry? We have full hook-ups at both ministry centers for your motor home. Why don't you give us a call today and schedule a time to come and do your part to change the world? For more information, please call 800-413-4762 or email info@portministry.com.

Opportune Moments

Many times, opportunities to share Christ come through the little things we do to help seafarers with immediate personal needs that they have. At times, we take care of their immediate needs so that we can earn their trust. Once they know that we are there for them, they will begin to open up.

A few weeks ago, I was able to do this very thing. I had the opportunity to spend some time with a seafarer who was not able to leave the ship. He did

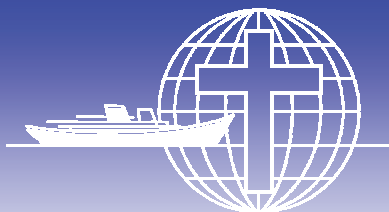
not have the proper papers to allow him to get off the ship. I had the opportunity to help him out with some issues with his cell phone.

During this time, he asked me if I was a priest. I told him, "I am a Port Chaplain." The gentleman asked if I could pray to God for him and give him blessings. I told him I would pray with him and for him. Through this request I was able to share with him about who Christ is. I also told him that Jesus is

Ron Townsend

our High Priest and we can talk directly to Him. As believers in Jesus, we do not have to go through a priest.

Please pray with me that I may continue to share the truth of Christ with this seafarer when his ship returns. Pray also that all of the staff will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we meet the needs of the seafarers and port personnel with whom we come in contact every day.



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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Only a Watch!

Else Miklavcic

One month ago I travelled with a gentleman from *M/V Seajoy* to New Orleans to bring him to an optometrist to get him new glasses. We found one and he got his new progressive glasses within two hours; this pleased him very much.

While he was waiting for his glasses, he wanted the battery of his watch changed. The gentleman in a well-named jewelry store broke the glass of the watch when he tried to change the battery! All that he offered to do was either to repair the watch or give a twenty (!) percent discount on a new watch. The seaman got very frustrated and came back to get my help in dealing with that store manager who told him that he had to send the watch somewhere for repair and it would take one month to get it done. I went back with him to find out that the store manager

was not very sorry for what happened. He reacted angrily and disrespectfully towards the concerns of the seaman. If he ever would receive his watch again when he was sailing, it would have to be sent to the Philippines. He told me that he had bought the watch some years ago for a good amount of money and it was precious to him.

These days I received an email from the seaman asking to inquire about the watch because it seems it did not make its way to the Philippines and he is currently sailing in Lithuania.

This incident made me aware of what it means to sail around the world and to rely on the diligence and eagerness of people at all different places of the world to receive the service that seem so ordinary to us. How comfortable it is to go to the store where you know you get

good and professional service! How comforting it is to go to the doctor you know to tell him about your headaches and illnesses!

One thing I want to proclaim: These seafarers are the people who work year-in and year-out, day and night so that we get all the goods that surround our lives daily, goods such as food, fruits, vegetables, clothes, electronics, cars, technical equipment, wood, coal, and other raw material, etc. They deserve our respect, our support, and our help in all aspects and our continuous prayer that they would find people who are willing to serve them wholeheartedly.

Whenever these seafarers entrust themselves to my care I will pray diligently to provide for them what they really need and that God would direct me for them to the right places.
