



The Anchor

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A Christmas Visit

Sissy LaFon

Seven other women and I left Franklin, Tennessee, on December 7, headed to the port of New Orleans with a mission—to serve at the Global Maritime Ministries there. At the same time, seafarers on cruise and cargo ships out on the oceans were making their way to that port as well. How and when these two groups of totally different people would meet, interact, and bond was in God's hands, and He arranged the meetings as only He could.

We eight women from ClearView Baptist Church arrived late afternoon at the Global Maritime Ministries Center amid Christmas lights and tinsel. We brought homemade cookies and personal items for the seafarers that friends had donated. Excitement was high as we disembarked the church bus and settled into the living quarters of the Center for four days of serving alongside the GMM staff in whatever job we were needed.

We wrapped the Center's Christmas presents, organized kitchen and closet shelves, cooked meals for the cruise ship workers. We talked with the ship

workers, played ping-pong with them, and even gathered for group photos with our new friends. We planted seeds of God's grace as we encouraged rare Christian seafarers who struggle with ship life where few, if any, Christians can be found. We prayed with the ship workers and gave them Bibles in their own language. We shared the gospel of Christ with the workers and saw five won to Christ. We saw grown sailors weep, as they were made aware of God's love for them. These heartfelt tears had a definite effect on our group of volunteers from Tennessee.

One volunteer from Franklin said, "I loved the map at the front door. The seafarers could show where they came from and all the places where they have been." Another volunteer asked the question, "Where else can one sit in a single room and talk to people from various countries around the world about our Savior?" She continued, "Truly, God has provided a unique opportunity for international missions in New Orleans, right on the shores of the Mississippi River!"

Christmas in the Port

Ron Townsend

Last month, we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I had the opportunity to share Christmas with the many seafarers, port workers, and security officers that I come in contact with each and everyday. It was a great joy seeing those who received a gift from us smiling when we handed

them a gift. While the gift may not have seemed like much to some people, to these seafarers and local port workers, the gift was more than just the simple contents of the box. It was the love and caring behind the gift-giving that meant the most to them. It was the idea that someone took time to think about them.

We eight women returned to our church enlisting others to go and serve the seafarers and dockworkers in the beautiful city of New Orleans. We continue to share testimonies of how God allowed us to help build and nurture relationships with those who visit the center from all over the world.

We eight women from ClearView Baptist Church returned with a commitment to pray for the people we met at the Global Maritime Center who have since sailed away to other ports across the world. We also were impressed to pray for the many needs of the center, such as adding more chaplains to minister at the Center on a daily basis; for more donations of personal items for the seafarers; for more funds to run the center and expand its ministry; and for more volunteers to come to the center.

We hope that our passion for the work being done at GMM is contagious. As plans for the next trip are already underway, others are saying to us that they, too, want to get involved in the work that God is doing on the port of New Orleans.

I remember handing out some gifts to the men who were working the docks on Christmas Eve day and the excitement and joy from those men when they received the gifts. Another moment, I remember very well was when I took some gifts to a crew that was not able to

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get off the ship to come to the center. The excitement in their eyes when they saw me show up with Christmas gifts and a box full of cookies brought joy to my heart.

Although all this was very exciting to see, my greatest joy of all was the op-

portunity to share the true meaning of Christmas. For us, the gifts are a way to have a conversation about the real gift of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

I also want to thank each person who either prayed or donated time and/or money to make Christmas possible for the crew members, port workers, securi-

ty officials, and harbor police officers. If it were not for you, none of this would have been possible. Continue to pray for those who received the gifts that they would remember what Christmas really means and they would give their lives to Jesus as their Boss and Rescuer!

Report about 2011 in Reserve

I have served more than nine months here in Reserve as Port Chaplain for Global Maritime Ministries. In the beginning I spent my time with renovations and reorganization of the Port Ministry Center. On April 8, I welcomed the first seafarers, and since then more than eight hundred different people have signed my guestbook. About sixty of them came from different mission groups that came to help in the center; the rest were seamen from almost all nations of the earth. The ministry developed so amazingly well. I have served now ninety-nine ships through the end of the year.

At Christmas time I baked some more and each seafarer received from Global Maritime Ministries a gift and baked goods. The cargo ships and the tankers which I serve have usually twenty to thirty crewmembers on board. The service that I provide starts most of the time with a call from the ship or from the security guard, and then I go and pick up the seafarers at the terminal. Usually they first want to do shopping at Wal-Mart; sometimes I bring them also to BestBuy in New Orleans or to other shopping malls. Then they like to come to the Port Ministry Center where I serve them refreshments and baked goods. There they have free access to internet or wireless service, and they can use our telephone booths and

buy international telephone cards. We provide also Christian literature in seventy different languages. I am available from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. In the evenings it can get very busy and sometimes I have to urge them to be brought back to the ship. Some days are hectic and full of activities, and then there are days where only a few come or even nobody. I can see it as the perfect balance provided from God who knows also the needs of His workers.

I have some faithful volunteers and I have scheduled each one for a different day of the week. They stay in the house when I am driving the van. Of great help are mission groups that come for mission work and clean and help maintain the house and the outdoors.

My constant prayer is that God would touch and open minds and hearts of those who are in authority over the seafarers who are working for the welfare of all of us. A captain recently said, "It seems we must permanently prove that we are not guilty. It is contrary to the court where they must prove that somebody is not innocent." Another captain was able to leave his ship for the first time since July and two of his officers since September! He was so happy; he called twice the next day and sent me a safety ring with signatures of his entire crew. He also expressed his

Else Miklavcic

concern that the regulations get tougher with every month, and he thought that it might happen that captains cannot go from the vessel anymore. So many seafarers cannot leave the vessels anyway because they do not get visas.

My work authorization is valid until February 20; I will see what will happen until then – if I will get a new visa. Please pray with me that my visa will be approved so that I may continue doing God's work here in Reserve.



Mrs. Else with crew of m/v Euro Carrier

Editor's Note: *Mrs. Else is from Austria and has recently completed her Masters degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She was a very faithful volunteer while at the seminary and is now working with us in Reserve, Louisiana. Her student visa is about to expire, and we are in the process of applying for her R1 visa so that she can continue to minister here. Please join us in praying that our application will be approved without delay.*

In Memory

In Memory of:

Mr. Henry M. Adams
 Mr. William Cooley
 Mr. B. Glen Davis
 Mrs. Hazel Gunn
 Mr. Leon Hodnett
 Rev. Phillip LaBorde
 Mr. Wilka May

Given by:

Mrs. Nada Adams
 Aubrey Jenkins
 Mrs. Rose Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Henson
 Mrs. Dorothy Hodnett
 Ms. Allie LaBorde
 Senior Adult Small Group SS
 FBC, Tequesta, Florida
 Senior Adult Small Group SS
 FBC, Tequesta, Florida
 Mrs. Vera Melton
 Mr. Charles Norfleet
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Russell
 Mrs. Marsha Crozat
 Mrs. Dorothy Sturtevant
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Diket
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Henson

Mr. William May

Dr. C.H. Melton
 Capt. Charles L. Norfleet Sr.
 Mrs. Lois Russell
 Mr. Joe Sullivan
 Mr. William Sturtevant
 Mr. Howard Tull
 Beatrice Henderson Waller

In Honor

In Honor of:

Mrs. Mary Champion
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl DuBose
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Howell
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Logan
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Dr. Joe McKeever
 Dr. Tom Roote, Jr.
 Rev. & Mrs. Bill Stanford
 Mrs. Helen Tull
 The Vandercook Family

Given by:

Mrs. Ruth Gunn
 Sharon Evers, Maria Higgins,
 and Michael DuBose
 Mr. Michael Fleenor
 Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Dyess
 Dacon Laird
 Mrs. Melissa Poag
 Mrs. Marjorie Winstead
 Col. & Mrs. Chet Griffin
 Mr. & Mrs. James Lowe
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Stanford
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Diket
 Mr. & Mrs. George Sims

2011 Statistics

<i>Ships visited</i>	407
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	11,446
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	633
<i>Countries represented</i>	110
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	7,563
<i>Professions of faith</i>	16
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	502
<i>Evangelistic Presentations</i>	368

2011 Budget Requirements

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 300,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 262,874.31
<i>Building LOAN balance</i>	(\$ 315,429.74)
<i>"Pay off the debt" pledges (\$1,000)</i>	28

Building Fund / Square Foot Fund

Mrs. Rose Davis	Mr. Charles Norfleet
Mr. & Mrs. Carl DuBose	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Norman
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Fleenor	Mrs. Melissa Poag
Mr. W.P. Lofton	Mr. Wayne Tubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mangum	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner

Did You Know?

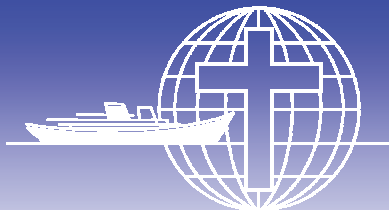
You can give a gift to the ministry in memory or in honor of a loved one. Your gift (unless otherwise designated) goes into our general operating budget, helping us to share the love of Jesus with the world.

Acknowledgment cards will be sent both to the donor and to the one (or the family of the one) in whose honor or memory the gift was given. As with all monetary gifts to the center, all donations are tax deductible as we are a non-profit, 501(c)3 ministry.

When you make a gift, please remember to include the name and address of the person you would like to receive notification of your special gift.



We hope you "like" us! A great way to keep up with all that is going on with the ministry is to follow us on Facebook. Simply search for Global Maritime Ministries and click on the "LIKE" button.



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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Doing Ministry

Norman Mangum

I was thinking about this past year of how the ministry at the port had gone and what I could do better. I was talking to one of the port workers Wednesday night about this and he replied that he thought I was doing just fine. I asked him to elaborate on that if he did not mind. He said, "We see you out here everyday. You take time to talk to us and listen to our problems or just say hello or even give us a wave as you pass. Not many people are willing to do that. At Christmas time we are given Christmas gifts by the ministry you work with, and that means a lot to us. It does not matter what it is; we are thankful that someone thought of us and was willing to take the

time and go to the expense to do this. That is something that the company we work for does not do. So you just keep on what you are doing, and the Lord will bless you for it. See you tomorrow, Chaplain."

What I do at the port just comes naturally to me. Tom, who helps me on Wednesdays, told me that I was in my environment when I am at the port and with the crew members on these ships. Just this week I received an email from the Chief Officer who was on the *Marchaser* vessel stating how much he had enjoyed our time together this past year. He has gone home for a three month vacation. When I was in North Carolina,

he also called me Christmas day from the Philippines to wish Priscilla and me a Merry Christmas. In his email he stated how much he enjoyed our time together each Wednesday drinking coffee. He would call if I had not made it to the ship by ten o'clock to say hello: "Norm, are you coming for coffee?"

What can I do better? Well, I guess I will just keep doing what I am already doing and that is to keep ministering to the people I come in contact with each week. That does not mean that I will not look at how to do ministry better, only if God leads me to do so. Don't worry how you are doing ministry; just do it.

It Is Tax Time Again!

We want to say thank you once again to all of you who support the ministry so faithfully. We work very hard to be good stewards of the funds you have trusted us to use for ministry. Each time a donation is made, you should receive a receipt to document your gift for tax deduction purposes. If you need an annual statement of your gifts, please let us know and we will be happy to send it to you. Again, thank you for your support and for your prayers!