

THE ANCHOR

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers is to establish and maintain a ministry of service to the seafarers calling on Alaska ports. This includes ministry to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs consistent with the Word of God as taught in the Bible and revealed in Jesus Christ through His life and the Holy Spirit. ACMS is a non-profit corporation run by a board of volunteer directors. All directors and volunteers of the organization shall be eligible to serve if they know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and are active in a local church body. Volunteers come from churches world-wide. Members of the board are Karl Bengtson, Jim Chamberlain, Bruce Laughlin, George Reichman, Burt Speath, and Ron Tan. Scott Johnson is the director of the missions in Seward and Whittier.

Seward Seaman's Mission

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A Father's Day Miracle *by Scott Johnson*

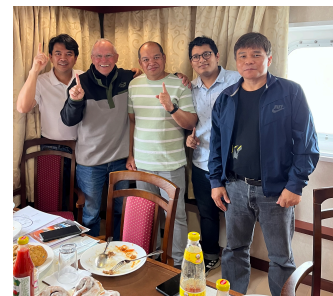
"I have set an open door before you, which no one can shut." Rev. 3:8

Late one Thursday evening, a cargo ship tied up with a load of pipe. Unloading would take several days.

I visited the ship early next morning as the crew wanted SIM cards and had no visas. With Bible materials, fresh salmon, and chocolate chip cookies in hand, I boarded and was brought immediately to the captain. We discussed the needed SIM cards and then he informed me that he was a Christian. He desired for his crew to be impacted spiritually. Along with the materials and visits, I offered to host a church service on board. Sunday afternoon was when most men could be available.

The coming Sunday marked Father's Day and church would be at 16:00 onboard. More than fifteen men joined us for singing, violin specials, scripture reading, prayer and Bible study. After the service, the captain invited our five mission volunteers for dinner in the officer's mess. Gospel

conversations dominated the dinner time with many hearing a simple grace explanation of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Our discussions included drawn diagrams, along with questions answered from opened Bibles on the dinner table. Each crew member seemed to be engaged in the discussions. As we wrapped up our dinner time with photos and Father's Day wishes, the captain urged me, "Please don't leave yet. You must share these good words with the other crew members!" To my delight, he ushered me into the crew mess where the cook, mess man and now other off duty crew members waited for their chance to hear the good news. For another hour, I



opened the Bible and shared God's message of love and forgiveness. They too were eager and delighted. After several hours on board, we eventually departed. We could hardly contain our joy, gratitude and awe at what the Lord had just accomplished. None of us seasoned mission volunteers could remember another instance where our Father had opened the door so wide with eager souls thirsting for His word. We concluded that "it was a Father's Day Miracle from God!"

Misspelled Gifts *by Scott Johnson*



James 1:17 declares that "every good gift and every perfect gift comes from above." Well, God is the "God of all grace," and He dropped some extremely good gifts into our hands this past summer. The warehouse manager of a major souvenir store asked if I was interested in some new sweatshirts.

"Sure!" I laughed. "Well, only one small problem... Alaska is spelled wrong on the front, so I can't sell them for their list price of \$50," she replied. So..... Five enormous boxes of "ALAKSA" sweatshirts became mission gifts to seafarers and volunteers. Everybody loved God's misspelled "good gift" given by the kind hand of our neighbor. One tiny Filipina crew member took an XXL and said, "this is my new sleeping pajama!"

It Doesn't Take Much to Bring Joy *by Jeannette Seale*

We were on vacation in Maui for only a week but realized the Royal Princess would be in port in Lahaina. We contacted one of the men from the Christian fellowship who came ashore to have lunch with us. We were able to encourage and guide him with some issues onboard. The day was hot and very humid, and the dock was under construction, leaving very little space for the tenders to tie up. It was a very tense day for the security, sailors, and all involved with disembarking and embarking passengers who choose to go ashore. Joe and I just stood around in the shade as hundreds of passengers lined the street waiting for their turn to clamber onboard a tender. We watched for returning crew from their short hectic shopping trips. As they queued up to rejoin the ship, we handed out 2023 calendars, answered Bible questions from the crew, and surprised many crew who were shocked to see a familiar



face. We handed out liberal hugs for a Merry Christmas reminding them that Jesus was the reason for the season. I caught one accommodation supervisor who deftly managed thousands of cups of cold water and wet wash cloths for the elderly complaining passengers, shyly smiling at us. "In all my wildest imagination I could never have guessed I would see your smiling faces so far away from Alaska. I thank God for you reminding us about Jesus."

Worldwide Port Chaplain's Meeting *by Jeannette Seale*

After three years of setbacks, the worldwide evangelical port chaplain's meeting will be held in Singapore mid-April. For many months we have kept in touch with a zoom prayer meeting each week, but seeing each other eye to eye to share Christ's love will be such a blessing! Port chaplains from many countries plan to be there to learn, share, and encourage each other in this exciting work. The special prayer request for all of us attending is that God would provide more and younger believers to join in and/or take over for the ones who are past retirement age. Even the travel time is 16 hours from LA and all who will attend from other countries will have a long trip ahead of them. Thank you for your prayers as we look forward to this important time of fellowship.