

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, Dean Diller, Bruce Laughlin, George Reichman, Bert Spaeth, and Ron Tan. Scott Johnson is the director of the missions in Seward and Whittier.

Seward Seaman’s Mission

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Expanded Ministry Space *by Scott Johnson*

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

The national weather service declares Seward, Alaska one of the world's northernmost rainforests. An outdoor deck cannot be utilized often over the summer in the rain. Therefore, over this past summer, many volunteers were involved in building additional ministry space by replacing the outdoor deck with a new building. For six years, we have been praying, preparing drawings, and applying for a building permit. Without cruise ships, plans came together perfectly this past summer for building. Our faithful Lord demonstrated his grace many times with volunteers providing nearly every construction hour, funding, and procuring materials which are so hard to find in Alaska at this time. I acted as general contractor to oversee the materials, volunteers, and construction. Several times during the summer, God brought specific individuals with special skills to keep the project moving. God is amazing. The new building stands 16' by 24' with lots of windows and when fully completed, will have the sense of a northern lodge. Lord willing, the building will be ready for the ships arriving in May 2022. Praise the Lord!



In Honor of Our Volunteers *by Jeannette Seale*

Serve the Lord with gladness! Ps 100:2

In July two of our dearest friends who were volunteers at the mission went home to be with Jesus. Anggiat Malau, a purser for Holland America Line, had been our close friend for 30 years. He was a very dynamic Christian, many times leading the Indonesian fellowships onboard, and always encouraging the crew. Years ago, he wanted to come and be a volunteer at the mission. He not only got a wholehearted YES from his wife, Lisbet, but also our director at the time, David Hawkins. Anggiat flew from Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia to Anchorage working for several weeks witnessing to crewmen in Seward and Whittier. Later he wrote a newsletter article stating that he had no idea how hard it was to be on the giving side rather than the receiving end of love. He never realized how long the hours were every day of the week and how the volunteers gave and gave of themselves.

Our "Alaska mom", Edna Chapman, had hosted out of town volunteers, helped at the mission, and later baked hundreds and hundreds of cookies at her house that we served to crew at the two missions. She helped until she was no longer able. The loss of these dear friends who were like family, brings pain and at the same time we rejoice that they are with Jesus, whom they served whole heartedly with their lives.

Mess Man! Mess Man! *by Scott Johnson*

Today salvation has come to this house. Lk. 19:9

When the ship arrived in Seward with oil field pipes, it was scheduled for two days of unloading. Due to complications, unloading took three days. During those first two days, I brought fresh cookies, salmon, bought souvenirs, and participated in four or five long spiritual conversations in the crew mess. The engine wiper was engaged to get married, so we opened the Bible to see God's design for a biblical marriage. The quartermaster interacted with me regarding God, the Bible and salvation. The second engineer and I ate lunch together as I wrote out a diagram using John 3:16.

All these conversations were observed by the cook. At times, he even stood near listening. It was not until the third day, when the ship should have been sailing across the Gulf of Alaska, that I finally had a chance to initiate a conversation with the cook. When I asked if he wanted to see my Bible diagrams, he was eager. He seemed to be almost anticipating a conversation. He knew he was a sinner, so we focused on God's love for him in John 3:16. When I explained 1John 5:9-13, his understanding became clear, and he believed on Jesus as his Savior. After he grabbed one of each of my booklets, he jumped up from the table and yelled into the galley with a sense of urgency, "Mess man! Mess man! Come out here! You must hear this!" His urgency was focused on the gospel message he had just heard and believed. Within twenty minutes of believing, he wanted his coworker to hear the good news of salvation and eternal life. The mess man came quickly from the galley and sat down for a talk. To my delight, he was already a believer in Jesus, but not presently living as a disciple. His father had been a drunkard and after trusting in Jesus as his Savior, stopped



drinking, and completely changed nearly overnight. Mess man's entire family started going to church with his father and all became believers when this young man was nine years old. I encouraged him to again follow his Savior. While descending the gangway for the final time, I praised God for working out the unloading delay which allowed the cook and mess man to hear the gospel and the word of God.

Port of Anchorage Ship Visits *by Jeannette Seale*

Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Cor. 16:14

There were no cruise ships in our part of Alaska this year, but many cargo ships sailed up Cook Inlet and tied up in Anchorage. Opportunities to visit the crew consisted of the crew leaning on the rail, and us on the dock side, looking up as high or low as 30 feet depending on the tide. Delivering Christian materials to tankers - carrying 400,000 barrels of jet fuel - and bulkers - ships delivering thousands of tons of powdered cement kept us busy.

On the last ship I was invited onboard to visit several times. Both the crew and I were celebrating this event as they had not been allowed to have any visitors for two years, and I had not stepped foot onto any ships! I was stunned when the messman recognized me. Jason had worked as a laundry man for Princess ships for 15 years, coming into Whittier and Seward. After two years at home without a job, God had moved him to a different company. He thanked the Lord he had a job even if it was measuring rice and washing dishes! On this new ship he had prayed for 6 months that someone would come to their ship bringing Christian literature like what had always happened on Princess ships in Whittier. It's so amazing to see that the Lord answered his prayer in such a personal way. He had no idea it would be someone he knew! We removed our masks to make a final identification, and we both had tears in our eyes as we saw God's direct answer to his prayer!



Jason is in the white t-shirt

“Could You Help Us Please?” by Jeannette Seale

All men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Jn. 13:35

The pandemic has caused many problems, but most people are not aware of how seafarers have suffered. Men could not leave the ship because either the country they were in would not allow them to disembark or their home country would not allow anyone to come into the country because the borders were closed. That meant the shipping companies had to keep the men onboard the ship many months past the completion of their contracts. Other men could not join the ship for the same reason and were stuck at home without a job.

We became aware of another unusual problem when the ships called in at Anchorage. The bulk carriers had loaded cement in South Korea, sailed to Anchorage which normally took two weeks, then unloaded cement for two more weeks. Their next port was usually in western Canada to load logs to take back to China. Neither the US nor Canada would allow crew to disembark. This meant the men would be at sea about seven weeks without fresh provisions. When the cook sees his cooler showing empty shelves and he is not allowed off the ship to purchase groceries and even the captain can't shop for him, the situation gets very tense. Twice this summer we were asked to buy groceries for a ship. The grocery list started out with 70 dozen eggs, 40 pounds of eggplant, 80 pounds of apples, 80 pounds of oranges, 40 pounds of celery, 20 pounds of garlic, 50 pounds of onions, and much more. Costco usually had most of the items, but we also found ourselves going to other grocery stores and dealing directly with the produce manager.

The next Herculean effort was to load the heavy boxes into the car in a downpour, drive to the dock, and then hoist it onto the ship. It took four trips and two days to finish the list for one ship. All of these steps took ingenuity, prayer, and help from the Lord to finish this task. The grocery bills hovered around \$3500 and one captain had been sent small bills by his company, so we were paid in five- and ten-dollar bills!

Even though we could not have direct contact with the crew, this hard work really radiated the love of Christ to these men. We still brought Christian materials to the ship, even if we could not talk to the crew. Jesus said they will know us by our love.



Monday Morning Prayer by Jeannette Seale

"Thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Phil. 1:5

During these many months of COVID, port chaplains around the world have continued to meet and pray together on Zoom. These meetings have been an unforeseen blessing. We have been able to hear about other ports and situations and even linked up with the Operation Mobilization ship Logos that has been ministering in the Caribbean. We have learned from other port missionaries what the rules are for cruise ships visiting Norway, Scotland, Germany, and France. It seems like the rules differ by country and by company so it is hard to know what next summer will look like in Alaska. Canada just announced that ships will be able to sail from Vancouver and also visit the city of Victoria starting in the spring of 2022. Will the crew be able to get off the ship? Will they want to? Are we going to be allowed to visit on board? Only God knows. Thank you for your many prayers that have sustained us during this difficult time.