



LIGHTHOUSE BEACON

Gospel Light for Seafarers John 8:12

Fall 2023 News

Divine Encounter with a Faithful Captain—by Bill Wong, Board President/Chaplain

One of Lighthouse's chaplains, Paul, and I recently had a blessed encounter on a newly berthed ship in North Vancouver. In the ship's mess room, we met a bosun (deck foreman) and, as we shared Jesus with him, he told us that his captain was holding weekly Bible studies aboard their ship. Both Paul and I were amazed to hear about this rare occurrence and asked to meet the captain. The bosun responded favourably, but was unsuccessful in his attempt to contact the senior officer. We were given the impression that the ship's short-expected port stay was causing the captain to be very busy with ship-related business.

Disappointed at not being able to see the captain, Paul and I left the mess hall and began to make our way off the ship. As we did so, we saw someone coming out of a room at the end of a hallway. Wonderfully, it was the captain. Quietly thanking the Lord for the divine encounter, we quickly went over to meet this senior officer and, after introducing ourselves, asked him if he had some time to chat. Although busy, Captain Noel kindly complied.



LHM Chaplain Oliver Samonte handing out Bible study resources to Captain Noel (in black) & his crew.

We told Capt. Noel that we were very encouraged and touched to hear about his ministry to his crew. He briefly shared about how he came to a faith in Jesus Christ and why he holds Bible studies. Coming from a Christian family background, he became a believer as a young adult and felt the urgency to share his faith

with those who have not accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord. Since becoming captain over five years ago, he has been holding Bible studies onboard all the ships under his command to give the crew an opportunity to know Jesus personally.

We tried to encourage Capt. Noel in his ship-board ministry and passed on to him a few Bible-related resources. Additionally, we told him that we would try to provide more materials for him that evening. Before we left him, we prayed the Lord's blessing over him and his onboard ministry.

As port chaplains, we have only a very short time to share the Good News with the seafarers. So, most of this ministry is seed-sowing with faith that the Lord will produce a harvest. When a Christian seafarer willing to lead a Bible study is onboard a ship, however, this is a game-changer. For, he is present among his crew for most of the nine months (common duration of a contract) of his contract. He is there to provide a Godly influence (be salt and light) to the crew members. Because of this strategic position, we become encouragers and resource suppliers for all Christian seafarers, not just captains, to help with their witness and ministry among their crew members, just as what Capt. Noel has been doing.

We thank and praise the Lord for our divine encounter with Capt. Noel! May the Lord continue to bless and use him in a mighty way for the Kingdom!



The Un-told Half

by Teus Kappers, Chaplain Emeritus

Most seamen I encounter are about *half* of my age. But, it was not this way when I began seafarer ministry.

I was twenty years old when I visited my first ship, a vessel from the former Soviet Union. The seafarers aboard were as anxious as I was, but for different reasons. They were nervous because of me being a Christian and I was nervous because of them being communists.

Recently, a chief engineer, from one of the former Soviet republics, walked into our Fraser Surrey Docks centre. He was happy to receive first-class treatment at the facility. During my meeting with him, I asked him if he had ever read the Bible. "Yes", he said, "for ten minutes, but I could not understand it." I wonder which book of the Bible he had opened. When he left the Centre, I gave him a copy of John's Gospel, hoping that he would be able to understand it better than what he had previously read.

Most seamen I meet are, more or less, about *half* of my size. (I gave up standing on weight scales about forty years ago.) My 6'7" height and my weight do have advantages, though, especially in the case, for example, of being challenged to a sumo wrestling match on a Korean ship. This actually happened to me and, at the time, I told the challengers "I do not like your dress code." However, my excuse did not work. They paired me up with the largest man on the ship and "the match was on." Amidst lots of cheers and hollers, I picked up the poor man and put him into one of the mess room corners.



In closing, in terms of *halves*, I would like to share with you the, more important, *other half* of what the Queen of Sheba had not heard (as per 1 Kings 10:7). It is found in 1 Cor. 2:9: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

Do you Love Him ?

“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear to dull to hear.”

(Isaiah 59:1)



Thanking the Lord



Treasure Received!

Lighthouse Harbour Ministries is very grateful to the Lord for His provision of many high-quality, New Living Translation, Gospels of John and Romans booklets. Almost 11,000 copies were recently received via the Canadian, Bible distribution charity *Give the Word*.

Not long ago, I met two Filipino sailors and gave them copies of the new Gospel/Romans booklets. After they had flipped through them, I shared some verses with the fellows and asked them to look these up and read them to me. To simplify things, instead of referring to verses by address (e.g. Romans 5:24), I used page numbers for guidance. We repeated the exercise several times and with each repetition the seafarers got quicker and quicker at finding the verses. After about fifteen minutes, many great verses in John and Romans had been read and I felt that it was very good for these sailors to read the Bible for themselves. Following this, one of the sailors said to me, "Honestly, I have never opened the Bible before and read it. This was very good, I understood what I read!" They

bent the corners of some of the pages they had read from and used other things I had given them as bookmarks for future reference. In response, I can only state, "Praise the Lord."

A common excuse for not reading the Bible that we hear from sailors is that they have tried to read it but don't understand it. In response, I try to encourage them to persevere by using an example from their seafaring studies, reminding them that persistence in study, inquiry and reflection was necessary for them to understand their training textbooks. I also mention to them that I have read the Bible from beginning to end, a number of times, but I still don't understand all of it. However, the more I read and study it, the more I do understand God's Word. Not only can we understand the Bible, but it's also a treasure to understand it.

Treasure in Hand.....



Please pray for all those who will receive these "treasures."

Romans 10:17: So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

by Ray Hanna, Senior Chaplain



"I call on You, O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer." (Ps. 17:6)

Please praise/petition the Lord with regard to the following:

- ✂ Praise the Lord for "an inheritance that will never perish, spoil or fade." (1 Peter 1:4)
- ✂ For the Lord to strengthen a Filipino chief officer who is sharing God's Word with his crew.
- ✂ A Chinese captain who asked a Lighthouse volunteer, "How can I become a Christian."
- ✂ For four Burmese seafarers who were open to listening to the Gospel, after an outing.
- ✂ For the Lord to prepare the "soil" of the seafarers' hearts to receive His Word.

Please mark your calendars:
Lighthouse 2023 ADVENT LUNCH
 Saturday, December 9, 2023 12 noon, Bethany Baptist Church
 To reserve: 604-988-5084; info@sealight.org

Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Our Mission
 To love and honour God by serving the seafarers of the world in Word and deed.

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Canadian Centre for
 Christian Charities
 ACCREDITED MEMBER

Methods of supporting the Lord's work at Lighthouse:

- Cash, cheque, credit card, PayPal
- Automatic debits to bank account
- e-transfers. Please send to: info@sealight.org
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests

To give on-line via LHM's secured web site: www.sealight.org.

Thank you for considering LHM.

**Soon to
 Come:**

"I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

LHM Stewardship Policy:

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.