



Lighthouse Beacon

Pointing seafarers to Christ, the Light of the world.
(John 8:12)

Good News of the Lord's Work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Summer 2020

Isolated but not Forgotten

- by Paul McKenzie,
Director and volunteer ship visitor



Greetings from Westshore Coal shipping terminal in sunny Tsawassen, British Columbia. My name is Paul McKenzie and I have been a Lighthouse Harbour Ministries volunteer ship visitor at this coal terminal for over two years.

Essentially, coal ships can be described using two basic terms: *very large* and *very dirty*. Vessels can carry up to 200,000 metric tons of coal and are manned by a crew, including officers, of about twenty-two souls.

Once a ship ties up at berth it begins to take on its cargo and provisions. Loading can take approximately forty-eight hours but for the seafarers on board at present, due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, many are not permitted to take shore leave or even walk off of their ships within the shipyards.

On a recent visit I had aboard one of the coal ships a second officer informed me that he was working on his fourteenth straight month on his ship. Because of the virus, he had not been able to sign-off from the vessel for well over one year! Normally, employment

contracts are about nine months in duration for ships' crews (less for officers) at which time seafarers are permitted to disembark and then fly back home to be with their families. This fellow had exceeded this significantly!

Talk about quarantining? These men are, in effect, quarantined much longer and more frequently than any of us will likely be because of the virus. In reality they spend their entire careers as seafarers in quarantine.

As a volunteer chaplain, I have the pleasure of greeting the seafarers and giving them care packages at, or near, their ship's gangway. The packages consist of ten beautiful hand-knitted toques, twenty chocolate bars, Irish Spring Soap, Gospels of John and Seafarers' New Testaments. The men are very happy to see chaplains and to receive this type of gift.

As a result of this work among seafarers,

many crew have received GOD'S life-giving Word. We hope and pray that through this Word, the HOLY SPIRIT will draw them to know JESUS CHRIST during their isolation.

Thank you for co-labouring with us to provide men from several countries (eg. China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Myanmar, Philippines and Russia) the opportunity to know the Saviour.



Coal Ship at Roberts Bank



Which Soil?

by Ray Hanna, Senior Chaplain

In Luke 8:5 we read Jesus' words: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell..... Then, in verse eleven, it is written, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." You probably know this parable well.

Many times, I have been amazed at how wrong my judgements have been regarding the 'soil type' I spoke with. For example, recently on a day when I was out visiting ships, I encountered two ships at berth, right next

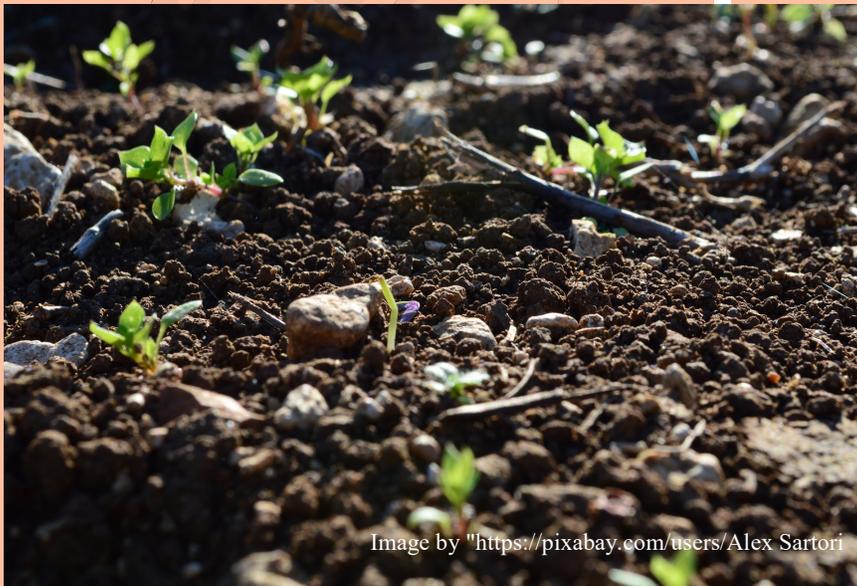


Image by "https://pixabay.com/users/Alex_Sartori"

to each other. One of them had an eastern European crew on board, the other was manned with Myanmar seafarers. I visited the Myanmar crew first and met some Buddhist seafarers. In speaking with one fellow on the ship's gangway, I asked him how he thought someone could go to heaven. As we spoke, a twenty eight year old second officer returned to the ship from a visit to a doctor. I greeted him, expecting that he would continue on into the accommodation area of the ship. He didn't do this however; instead, he stayed where I was and wanted to talk and ask some questions. This fellow gladly took a New Testament from me as I shared with him how one could have assurance of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

On the second ship, I spoke to a young Ukrainian sailor who was very respectful. I thought I was going to have an easy conversation with him regarding the Bible. However, this poor young man was very confused; he trusted in what others had told him but said he could not trust the Bible. As I tried to ask him some questions, he

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame." (Hebrews 12:2)

responded by *jumping* from one thought to another and would not listen to anything I tried to tell him. After a while I felt the need to excuse myself and I did so. But, I left with a heavy heart and a feeling of sadness for this respectful, but spiritually confused, young man.

I expected the opposite responses from what actually occurred with the seafarers mentioned above. But, the Lord is working in all men and women, so who am I to judge? As port chaplains our job is to sow the seed and leave the results to God.

2 Timothy 4:2: "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season!"

Please pray every day for the seed that is being sown in the seafarers.

Centres Reopen

As many of Lighthouse's supporters know, due to concern over the effects of the virus, in March the Ministry decided to temporarily close its two seafarers centres. It was a difficult decision but, after prayer and consideration, was considered the right choice to make.

The Ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus with seafarers did not end, however, with the closure of the seafarers centres. Instead, Lighthouse workers continued to visit the crew members on their ships while making efforts to respect social distancing (when possible!) and wearing personal protective equipment. Many, many great contacts with the fellows have occurred since March and the Gospel proclaimed to seafarer after seafarer. The Lord has continued to make His Good News known!

Recently, the government has made a provision for "controlled shore leave" which enables the ship's crew to attend seafarers centres again. As a result, the centres are reopening, but with many safety protocols being implemented. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for Lighthouse as we move forward in faith. Thank you!



Chocolate Cake Opens Doors

by Carl Dorozio, Chaplain

June 25th is the International Day of the Seafarer. Lighthouse Harbour Ministries (LHM) celebrated the day this year by bringing chocolate cakes, souvenirs and Christian literature to several the ships that were at berth on that day. Ship visitors were greeted warmly and had good opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with crew members that were met.

On a Chinese crewed vessel, volunteer ship visitor, Rob James, and I were brought to the captain's quar-

Less than a week after we first met I was back in the Chinese captain's quarters with the shoes. During our second meeting this senior officer caught me by surprise by expressing some of the struggles he faces at sea; he was quite candid as he shared with me. However, I was also encouraged to learn that he has been reading some Scriptures at night and believe that he is truly searching. Life in port is busy for the captain but he promised to read more and also said he would think about what he has been reading.

At the time of writing, the ship is at anchor and it appears that it will be back at berth one more time before sailing. I have been praying for another opportunity to visit the captain before his ship sails and to continue our conversations through social media.



“He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:17)

Thanks to our Faithful Supporters

Lighthouse would like to express its deep gratitude to all of you who have stood with the Ministry during this challenging time. Your prayers, knitting, financial support (and other signs of care) have been a great blessing to those who serve among the seafarers.

“The Lord bless you and keep you.” (Nu. 6:24)

ters and had a great visit. We spoke about our faith and the ship's master listened carefully and interacted with us. Following our visit I was able to connect with him on *WeChat* and a day later he contacted me to inquire about getting some basketball shoes for his eighteen year old son. After many messages, photos of shoe models and phone calls to stores, I was able to find shoes that the Captain liked and (praise God) were in his son's shoe size!



Prayer Porthole



"Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God." (Ps. 4:1)

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

- Thank the Lord for His continued work among seafarers during the virus.
- For the salvation of a Filipino chief officer who is struggling in his life.
- For wisdom, guidance and protection as the centres reopen.
- For a Christian Romanian chief officer to be able to be a faithful witness.
- For more workers for the Ministry.
- That the Lord would bless the Lighthouse volunteers for their faithfulness.

Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Our Mission

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

Senior Port Chaplain

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Lighthouse Harbour



On-line Global Prayer/Fellowship

One of the blessings of the virus-inspired isolation has been the institution of a world-wide weekly prayer gathering of evangelical port chaplains. Every Monday for the past few months, chaplains have come together using video communication to pray. Above, you can see a picture of some of them. Recognize any??

Contributions to the Lord's work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries can be made by:

- Cash or cheque
- Visa and MasterCard, PayPal
- Automatic debits to bank account
- E-transfer: info@sealight.org
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests, life insurance etc.

For more information regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact LHM at (604) 988-5084 or email: info@sealight.org. If you desire to donate on-line, please visit the Mission's secured web site at www.sealight.org.

Thank you for considering LHM.

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.



CANADIAN COUNCIL of CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Soon to Come:

"[T]he river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city." (Rev. 22:1-2)