



# 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

Autumn 2020

## “I am the Only One?”

- by Teus Kappers,  
Chaplain Emeritus

“I am the only one” were the words of forty five year old Eduardo Sareno, chief officer of the ship, M/V Gulf Livestock 1, after just being rescued. On September the 4<sup>th</sup>, his vessel was sailing between New Zealand and China and was caught in a typhoon near Japan. Apparently the ship lost engine power and was hit by a large wave and capsized. Forty three crew had no chance to abandon the ship and approximately five thousand eight hundred cattle were lost. “I have to go to the bridge” were the last words from the captain to his wife via the internet. To see the rescue on TV news was very moving. Two days after Sareno was found, one more crew man was rescued; these two were the only ones

saved.

The comment “I am the only one” reminded me of a few Bible stories. The prophet Elijah in 1 Kings

18-19 thought he was the only survivor from the evil hands of King Ahab and his wife. As it turned out this was not the case. There were one hundred other prophets that were cared for and hidden by Obadiah, the King's servant.

*“The prophet  
Elijah...thought  
he was the only  
survivor...”*

The other story is found in the book of Job where four messengers, in turn, bring him the bad news of the destruction of his property, servants and, even, children. Each time the messenger declares that he (three of four are declared as “he”) is the only one left (who has escaped the calamity). Just imagine being the only one left to bring that bad news.

But you, for sure, a believer of Jesus Christ who is reading this article, have a message to share with the spiritually dead. It is a message of LIFE. Even if you are the only one left (which you are not) you have a responsibility to share the Good News in the place where God has put you.



M/V Gulf Livestock 1

Vessel



***“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”***

*(Romans 10:17)*

## Ordinary Meetings?

- by Allen Jones, Board Member  
and Volunteer Ship Visitor

These days, with the COVID-19 pandemic still among us, Lighthouse ship visitors do not enter ships' accommodation areas but we remain at or near the top of the gangways and speak to whoever is on duty there. There may be several crewmen present or maybe just one. At the beginning of a day aboard ships and at every gangway I pray: to acknowledge that the time belongs to God, to ask Him to bring to the gangway those seafarers He is calling to salvation, for Him to give me the words He wants me to say to the seafarer(s), that He will glorify His name aboard the ship and that the visit I am about to have will bear fruit for His kingdom.

Most of the conversations with seamen seem to me to be unremarkable. Occasionally, they ask questions or state opinions that we can discuss. Often the seafarers believe in God but are unsure of their salvation or believe that God will receive them based on their own righteousness. Others have different belief systems altogether. The contacts I am able to have encourage me to tell the men that Jesus has already paid the full price for sin, the price that we can never pay, and He offers us eternal life.

I am especially encouraged when I meet another Christian on a ship. He is, often, living faithfully to Christ in perhaps very difficult circumstances, as a member of a cargo ship crew. There is joy as we fellowship in conversation and prayer.

Although I mentioned above that many of the contacts I have with the seafarers seem unremarkable, I do also believe that God is working miracles every day in answer to prayer; even in these seemingly ordinary meetings and conversations. At the end of the day I thank God that He has answered prayer and pray that He will continue His work with the seamen I met and lead them to trust Jesus for their salvation.



...Also at the Centres— fast food is a “hot” item for crew members who rarely go ashore at this time.

## How Many Burgers?!

With virus-related restrictions on shore leave for many seafarers, a number of crew members have asked Lighthouse chaplains for assistance in purchasing items. Since they have often been sailing on their ships for many months without setting foot on shore, understandably, they run out of essential and non-essential supplies and seek help from the Mission.

In order to serve the seafarers in word and deed, chaplains have made many trips to local shops to help the crews. Some of the items being requested would be expected (eg. items for dental care, shampoo, hand cream, snack foods (although mega-sized bags of chips take up a lot of room in the Mission's van!), souvenirs and other things. However, others may surprise you. These include:

- Laptops (purchased).
- Video game (purchased).
- USB multi-port (purchased).
- Espresso pods (couldn't find correct ones).
- 20 burgers for entire crew (purchased!).
- E-cigarette tool (not purchased).
- Cigarettes (not purchased).
- Alcohol of various types (not purchased).
- Canada Goose parka (not purchased).

All in a (few) days work at the Mission!



## The Word Became Flesh

- by Rob James, Volunteer Ship Visitor

At the end of August 2020, I visited a bulk carrier docked on the North Shore. Within minutes of boarding, I introduced myself to an engineer, a Bangladeshi gentleman with a keen interest in discussing matters of faith. It soon became apparent that he was a practicing Muslim, deeply immersed in the teachings of Islam from the writings of the Qur'an. We quickly became acquainted with each other, segueing easily to spiritual topics.

As expected, the engineer was willing to talk about Jesus, providing He was considered and revered *only* as this seafarer (and Islam) defines Him. According to his belief, Jesus is only a holy prophet of God, did not die by crucifixion, was not resurrected from the dead and was not the Son of God.

I gave the seafarer a copy of the Gospel of John and directed our conversation to the person, life and work of the Lord Jesus. I asked him to suspend his own Islamic beliefs, which were foremost on his mind, long enough to read the opening fourteen verses of John's Gospel with me. It was an unremitting battle to constantly redirect his attention to the person of Jesus, the Son of God. Eventually, we reached verse fourteen, declaring the incarnation of God in human form, resulting in the appearance and glory of the one and only Son of the Father, "full of grace and truth."

He was gracious to allow me to pray for him and leave him with the Gospel of John to read in his spare time. After thanking him for his time and our respectful discussion, I took my leave of the ship. I pray that God would open the eyes of his understanding, so that he could "see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and that he would "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing [he] may have life in His name" (John 20:31).



My mother never told me...

Romanian chief officer checking the draft.

If so, Paul's letter to the Colossians provides some incredibly encouraging words to inspire us to move forward in Gospel ministry: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, *Who is head over every power and authority.*" (Col. 2:9-10)

Paul points out an incredibly powerful and helpful truth: the Jesus you have accepted is God, completely, and you have fullness in Him, who is head over every authority. While space here limits probing the depths of what this means, suffice it to state that through the cross of

Jesus believers in Christ are already on the winning side, before engaging in any battle against the spiritual forces of darkness which mock God and hate Jesus!

In Christ, the kingdom of darkness no longer has dominion and victory over you. You have become a participant in Christ's headship over every power and authority.

N.T. Wright, in *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters* inspires one to grasp the truth of the supreme, limitless Kingdom of God, in Christ. From this true perspective, the Kingdom of God is not a second-best reality that looks like a comparison between a small grain of sand (the Kingdom of God) feebly trying to influence an entire beach (the Kingdom of darkness). No, in truth, it more like the entire cosmos (the victory in Christ) reigning absolutely and completely over a single atom. Jesus is supreme and in Him we are citizens of the undefeatable Kingdom of God. Remembering the overwhelming victory we share in Christ enables us to be assured that "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Rom. 8:37) - P.R.

**"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (Colossians 2:9)**

## How can I do it?

"How can I bear witness for Jesus in the hostile world I live in? If I open my mouth for the Lord, I may face the jeers of the crowd, the scorn of mockers and, possibly, even outright hate." Have you every felt this way?



## 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 ongoing help to the Ministry during the virus.
- For the salvation of a Filipino bosun who believes God but doesn't know Jesus.
- For an Indian deck seafarer who seems to believe Jesus but is strongly in sin.
- For Chinese third officer (who has two Christian relatives) to embrace Jesus.
- For a Chinese chief officer to take the Gospel seriously and come to Jesus.
- For both seafarers and Lighthouse workers to be protected from the virus.
- That the Lord would raise up more workers for His ministry among seafarers.

### Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

#### Our Mission

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

#### Senior Port Chaplain

Ray Hanna

#### Chaplain Emeritus

Teus Kappers

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Lighthouse Harbour

### Fall Prayer Gathering

Please join us for the Fall Prayer Gathering via Zoom video communication on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 9 a.m. For Zoom link, please visit the Lighthouse website at [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org) and click *Lighthouse Fall Prayer Gathering*.

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12)*

### 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.*



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](mailto: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](mailto:info@sealight.org). If you desire to donate on-line, please visit the Mission's secured web site at [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org).

Thank you for considering LHM.

Canadian Centre for Christian Charities  
ACCREDITED MEMBER

### Soon to Come:

*“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Rev. 22:2)*