

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, Joe Seale, and Ron Tan. Scott Johnson is the director of the missions in Seward and Whittier.

Seward Seaman's Mission

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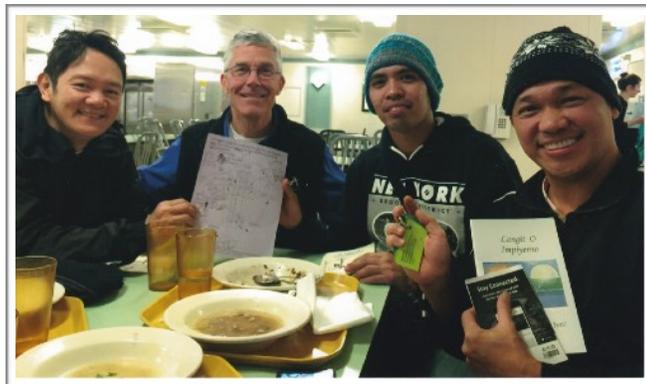
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It's Been a Good Run! *by Scott Johnson*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2



Scott was sharing the Gospel with Filipino Seafarers.

Here in Alaska, "a good run" usually means the salmon filled the river so everyone caught their limit or that the overall number of salmon commercially caught met expectations. But lately, I am referring to God's amazing grace giving us a successful summer of service to the Lord and the seafarers. It's been a good run of cruise ships this summer! It exceeded expectations as we eagerly and faithfully served each ship in the love of Jesus Christ. Our voice of service to the many Christians aboard the cruise ships rang out loud and clear ... "abide in your marvelous Shepherd Savior and hold fast to His precious Word. He will faithfully guide, strengthen and comfort you through your contract and with every trial as you serve Him by faith!" It's been a good run with our 40 plus volunteers baking cookies by the hundreds, brewing coffee with the French press, barbecuing salmon by the dozens, or sharing the glorious gospel of grace to many individual crew members. It's been a good run with around two hundred crew members from two dozen countries trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. It's been a good run seeing two rooms in Seward updated and remodeled to better meet the needs of the Seafarers. It's been a good run with our new donated 2016 Honda van transporting crew members to the mission or all over the city. It's been a good run ... to the glory of God and to the blessing of many precious souls!

Quotes

Oh to be known as a mission that lifts up and magnifies the name of Jesus!!

You are one of the reasons that I am encouraged to serve God. *Philippines*

My mom not to believe in Jesus. I believe Jesus, I want my mom to believe to Jesus, please I can I have the (Jesus) movie in Tamil? *India*

I am not ready to die, I'm scared! *Philippines*

It's not the things you bring us that counts, it's your presence and encouragement. *Italy*

I thank my God for the trials because they make me a strong man. *Philippines*

I want to tell you all thank you for what you do. The pastor gave me a Bible. It is such a nice gift! *Peru*

I hear the crew always talking a lot about you and how you pray for them and the problems. *Portugal*

God gives me the opportunity to buy instruments for the fellowship. *Philippines*

I took the Jesus Garifuna DVD home to my grandma, the one you gave to me two years ago. My grandma does not speak Spanish, only Garifuna. It was the first time she has ever heard about Jesus. She is telling everybody about Jesus now! *Honduras*

I am on call and I could sleep for a little while. I have been up so long already, but I would rather talk to you about the Lord. *Philippines*

I am not going to run away from God anymore. *South Africa*

People need someone to come and listen to them and give a good word. Staff Captain *Italy*

Praise God for you and all you do for us! *Indonesia*

We are glad you are still here sharing the words of God. *Philippines*

I Watched for Two Weeks! *by Jeannette Seale*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1:3,5

Albert sat across from us explaining the importance of Christian fellowships on board. Years ago when he was a new Christian and new to the ships, he had been assigned to a ship where he did not know a single person. He felt very alone, not only because he did not know anyone, but there also was no crew fellowship advertised. He decided to try to find Christians by looking for someone who prayed before their meal. At every meal he chose to sit in a different corner of the room where he could see everyone as they sat down to eat. He even came at different times and sat in different places so that he might see someone who bowed his head. In his first two weeks, he watched eagerly, but no one came to the table and bowed his head to pray! That memory of desperation brought tears as he told us how lonely he had felt. He so longed to pray and fellowship with others and often cried out to God about it.

One morning he decided to sing praise songs by himself as he cleaned the rooms in his section, where the entertainers lived. He was in the bathroom with the door shut, singing at the top of his voice, scrubbing the toilet, when he heard banging on the door! Someone was asking who was singing in his bathroom? Shocked, he opened the door to find a very happy man on the other side! He said his name was Roger and he was a new entertainer on board. Was his room steward by any chance a Christian? They hugged and laughed and Roger's wife got in on the joyous meeting. Roger and his wife had been feeling the same way as Albert. As staff they did not eat in the crew mess, and there was no notice posted of a Christian group, so he and his wife were feeling as despondent as Albert! They asked the staff captain for permission to start a Christian group and permission to use a room. God had answered all their fervent pleas for believers with whom they could share and grow!

As Albert talked, his eyes flooded at least four times and he wiped away the tears with his paper lunch napkin. Even though this event happened many years ago, it was very fresh in his memory. He had experienced the pain firsthand what it was like to be a crew member without fellowship!

Never a Dull Moment *by Cassandra Delgado*

"All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O LORD, and all thy saints shall bless thee." Ps. 145:10

In May I made the journey from Milwaukee, Wi. to Seward for an internship at the Seaman's Mission. It has been such a blessed blur of a summer. Now, after the last ship has sailed, I have been anticipating the barrage of questions I will face back home, such as, "How was Alaska?", "What was it like being on the ships?", or maybe, "What was the highlight of the summer?" After reflecting on the season, I've

concluded the one phrase that encapsulates my stint as an intern is: "Never a dull moment."



Just as the Lord's mercies "...are new every morning..." according to Lam. 3:23, in "everyday ordinary, absolutely spectacular" Alaska, no two days were quite the same. Whether it was in the unexpected closing of the crew mess due to a crew appreciation barbecue on deck 8, an unplanned guided hike up Mt. Marathon with crew members, prayer with a crew member who found out a loved one back home was seriously ill, an invitation to the bridge for a picture with the captain and all the officers, receiving a Costco-sized canister of chocolate covered almonds as a thank-you from a seafarer, attending the 4:45 tasting with the executive chef, sharing the gospel (in Spanish) in a crowded crew mess surrounded by a group of intrigued Hondurans, baking a surprise birthday cake for a crew member, or shedding tears of joy with a security officer as her

burden was lifted upon understanding and believing the gospel, the "manifold grace of God" was on display, and Jesus Christ was glorified.

It's difficult to summarize all that happened this summer at the Mission, but one thing is for sure, there was never a dull moment. That is what I have come to learn of doing the Lord's will; in His will there never is a dull moment. There were many unexpected twists and turns this summer, but "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." He faithfully guided me through all the unexpected moments as I trusted Him to do what He called me to do. It was His gospel, His power, His glory, and I was just the cracked vessel He used to accomplish His will. I am thankful for this spectacular summer, and the opportunity to serve the seafarers to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Hey Dad, What Do You Want for Christmas? *by Jeanette Seale*

He rejoiced with all his household that he (they) had believed in God. Acts 16:34b

The room steward in the passageway asked me what cabin number I was looking for. When I told him I was not a passenger, but from the mission, he replied, "I am very active in the fellowship here onboard!" This was an open invitation to get to know him, since I had no recollection of ever meeting or talking with him before. He asked if he could have the devotional I was carrying to take to someone else. As I gave it to him, I asked how long he had been a Christian. He started laughing and said he wanted to tell me how that happened. Several years ago when he called home to talk to his family, his children asked him what he wanted for Christmas. He was not a believer, did not have a Bible, but he wanted his kids to read the Bible, even though he didn't and his family was unchurched. So he told them he wanted them to read the Bible every day for their Christmas present to him! When he arrived home, he discovered that his wife and all of his children had come to trust Christ as their Savior. He was the only unbeliever in that household! So he went to church with them, heard the gospel, trusted Christ as his Savior, and has been very involved in the onboard fellowship ever since.

The Propellor Can't Drive the Engine *by Joe Seale*

I am the vine, you are the branches.....apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

We have learned that when you explain spiritual things to a person, its good to relate to something they know. A ship's engineer was convinced that good works could earn him a place in heaven. He did not have a strong belief in God. Eph. 2:8-9 explains that is not the case, but to relate it to something the engineer could understand, we explained that its like the ship engine, shaft, and propeller. We are the shaft connecting the engine, which is our

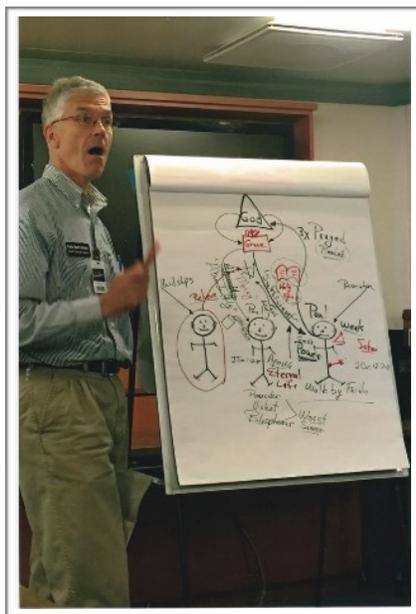
faith in Jesus Christ, to the propeller, which is the good works that result from our faith. Although the propeller makes a wake and moves the ship, we know the power is coming from the engine through the shaft to the propeller. The propeller can't move the engine, it has no power of its own. It is dead in the water, the same way as dead works has nothing to do with earning us a place in heaven. The engineer hunched over his desk to closely observe the drawing. And his response? "You mean it is impossible to please God without faith?" Now that example was just the diagram the engineer could relate to!

I Know I am Saved but How Do I Grow? *by Jeannette Seale*

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18

The man who asked me this question had been a believer a long time, but he knew he was not growing. This is often a problem for the crew on the ships as their time is filled with work with little down time to read and grow. He also found it very difficult reading in English, so we gave him a Bible in his mother tongue. He wanted to know, if as a believer he sinned, what should he do next.

We turned to 1 John 1:9 and then read quite a few verses in 1 John. I suggested he read the 5 chapters every day for a week and read it aloud as tiredness causes the mind to wander. Then we looked at Philippians, another short book. Why not read that next for several days and underline the verses that God points out to him? I suggested he start keeping a notebook of lessons learned and thoughts the Lord brings to mind. He had read John already so I suggested he read it again and list all the "I am" verses starting in John 4. Since seafarers have a hard time keeping track of the days, I suggested he read Proverbs, the corresponding date to the number of the Proverb. That way he could read through Proverbs each month and also know what day it was!



The next time I saw him he was carrying his Bible around visible to others, which he had not done before. He showed me his diary where he had been hand copying verses that spoke to him as he read. He asked me many questions about what he had been reading. It was so thrilling to see how God's word was changing him!

An immature believer doesn't need a long and windy explanation. They just want some simple suggestions!



**Thank you to all of the volunteers who served
the mission and witnessed to Seafarers.**