

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

Seward Seaman's Mission

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Golden Princess Christian Fellowship

Serving in the Love of Jesus *by Scott Johnson*

Love is an eternal theme of God in Scripture. First, His great love for us, then His great love in us and through us. O how God desires every person on earth to grasp and to live His great love! Ephesians 3:17-19 records an apostle's prayer "that you may be able to comprehend ... the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge." God's love is a unique "grace love", unconditional and free regardless of person or behavior. His love is free, being based upon Himself and not the object – "God is love." He "demonstrated" (Rom. 5:8) and "manifested" (1John 4:9) His great love for us by giving His only Son, Jesus Christ. His love paid our sin penalty on the cross, allowing us to receive eternal life by faith as a gift of His grace (John 3:16). His Holy Spirit then dwells in us, producing the fruit of God's love. (Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22) During my winter updates to supporting churches, I emphasized our long-held theme, "Serving in the Love of Jesus." As I prepared each update and testified before the churches, my heart repeatedly rejoiced and marveled at the magnitude (width, length, depth, height) of God's love and His deep desire for that love message to go forth. I testified to the many last year who learned the gospel of Jesus Christ's love for them. I testified of the many van rides, salmon dinners, fresh coffee, delicious cookies, church services and smiling seafarer faces. I testified of God's grace love to us, in us and through us to the seafarers. His love was powerful in 2017. However, for the 2018 season, the cruise ship business will again increase to its highest passenger and crew levels in Alaska. Therefore, for us to "serve in the love of Jesus", we could really use your help. Would you repeatedly pray that we "be not weary in well doing"

for 2018? Would you pray that the “love of Christ would compel us” to serve with unconditional love, impacting all whom the mission serves in 2018? Would you please pray that we “love the Lord our God, love one another, love our neighbors as yourselves, love the stranger and love our enemies?” (Mark 12:30; John 13:34; Gal. 5:14; Deut. 10:19; Matt. 5:44). May His love in 2018 abound and be comprehended. Thank you in advance!

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies *by Jeannette Seale*

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



From the inception of the mission in Whittier, Alaska in 1989, we have served homemade chocolate chip cookies to the crew. Many times the cookies have been eaten while the chocolate is still gooey! It would be impossible to make a list of all the people who have donated supplies, mixed up dough, baked the cookies in various locations, or served them on a platter to crew members. What I do know is that the cookies make shy crew members feel at ease and welcome and if they could, they would thank every person who has made those cookies possible! Having the mission house look like home and the wonderful aroma of food bring in crew of all faiths and allow us the opportunity to share Christ with them, pray for them, and minister to their hurting, homesick hearts.

“A Stranger Loved by God” *by Scott Johnson*

“love the stranger.” Deut. 10:19

“Do you have a place for me to stay?” questioned the young man in his early thirties standing at the mission door. I hesitated for a moment, remembering a lesson learned years ago, “Never promise housing without interviewing the individual.” He had just been evicted from a local housing complex for disobeying the rules. His girlfriend was enrolled at the local vocational school and pregnant with their third child. His home village bordered the famed Yukon River. He needed only a couple of days to get other housing. During my “interview”, the Holy Spirit prompted my mind with the verse “the Lord your God ... loves the stranger... therefore love the stranger”. (Deut. 10:17-19) So I yielded and allowed him to stay the night, telling him that in the morning, I wanted to talk spiritual things. Early the next morning, our local police department called and arrested my guest. Six days later, he returned after being released from jail. Again, I permitted him to stay in the mission for a few days. As his full story unfolded, his village family life involved alcohol, drugs and violence. He had spent much of his adult life in jails or prison. As a youth, he attended a strict religious church with roots dating back to when Russia owned Alaska. For several days, we talked with an open Bible and notepad for diagrams. He attended church with us. During those few days, his eyes were opened to the love and grace of God, the completed work of Jesus Christ for all his sins on the cross and by his simple faith needed to receive eternal life as the gift of God. A “stranger” wandering from a remote Alaska village through multiple incarcerations arrived twice at the mission door and eventually came to the Savior by faith. God abundantly demonstrated His sovereign love for “the stranger” this winter at our little Alaska seaman’s mission.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!” *Revelation 7:9-10*