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# THE ANCHOR

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*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19*

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## Mission Statement

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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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Scott Johnson  
Box 2742  
Seward, AK 99664  
phone or fax: (907) 224-8482  
E-mail: [russell.scott.j@gmail.com](mailto:russell.scott.j@gmail.com)

### **Anchorage Contact:**

Joe and Jeannette Seale  
P.O. Box 143316 Anchorage, AK  
99514-3316 (907) 240-7035  
E-mail: [sealejoe@yahoo.com](mailto:sealejoe@yahoo.com)

### **Our Website:**

[www.seamission.org](http://www.seamission.org)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/akseamission](http://www.facebook.com/akseamission)



## More than Morning Coffee, by Scott Johnson

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**Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you. 1 Pet. 3:15**

During morning coffee in the crew mess, I was approached by a man who asked about shipping a package to Germany. He had just arrived after an extended time on vacation in Thailand. When I asked about his purpose for visiting Thailand, he explained his studying meditation and Buddhism to teach classes on the ship. Being a spa therapist, he needed more skills and talents to offer for guests visiting the ship's spa. I listened for some time before I told him of my many visits to Myanmar, my studies of both Christianity and Buddhism and my concluding that both have great merits, but Christianity is superior. We discussed and debated for several cups of coffee upon what principle religion must be based – grace or works? He wanted to know my perspective, so there in the crew mess we discussed world religions and why grace is the only fair basis for us to approach a holy and righteous God. I turned over one of our free world maps and drew out a chronological diagram to my new German friend. We started with creation, traveled through the cross and ended in 2019. The message of Jesus and the grace of God intrigued his analytical mind as I presented the logic of a loving God who gives every human being the same chance to come to Him by faith in Jesus. God used a simple postal inquiry to lead into a wonderful world religion discussion over morning coffee. Amazing!

## Quotes

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

A chef cooks, a Saviour saves, everybody does his job! Italy

Thank you for coming, thank you for your love, thank you for the prayers, they are so appreciated. SAfrica

In that Bible verse the sheep are Jesus' kids? India

I have come to believe in Jesus now. Philippines

I will never forget you--you gave me a Bible--that was 2014. India

No one told me you were here, I just knew you would be. I cherish the Bible you gave me in 2011. UK

I am reading the NT you gave me. I am reading Luca now, my wife says that is the best one. Italy

We are in need of this kind of help. You opened a vast window to show me how important Jesus is in my life. I'm not afraid of anything now! Phil.

I don't know what it is but you have a special gift. I just met you and I told you my deepest troubles. I don't do that! Romania

You planted everything there in his life, even the fertilizer is there! Phil.

Pray with me now, I'm leaving soon and I won't have time later. Italy

There are Christians here on the ship but they are negligent to God. Goa

Thank you for what you are doing for us. Ukraine

Do you remember me? Five years ago you came to my cabin to pray for my burned foot. I still have the scar to remember you and your prayer for me! India

I have never had use for a Bible before and left them behind--now I have a use. Romania

## Christmas Comes to the Ships, by Jeannette Seale

**But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son....Gal. 4:4**

Years ago the crewmen wrote many letters home and they used to receive letters from their families on a regular basis. As the number of ships and crew has increased, and the use of messenger, we chat, skype, twitter, and all other electronic devices have become common place, letter writing has ceased to exist. Young men that I talk with have told me they have never written a letter in their lives! The other sad fact is they do not know their own mailing address as they don't get any mail! When Christmas comes around, the absence of Christmas greetings really becomes apparent for them. Years ago I started sending Christmas cards to the officers of the Princess ships, the company that I have consistently visited now for 39 years. With the help of someone in the back room of Princess, I have been able, over the years, to send the cards to the deck and engineering officers with many surprising results. Never did I think a Christmas card would be displayed proudly on a bulletin board in the chief engineer's office all summer long or an officer would meet me in May with tears in his eyes and a big hug, thanking me for the only card he received at Christmas. Officers I have never met or not seen for many years have the realization that someone in this big wide world prays for them, even when they are half a world away. Many hard or lukewarm hearts have been melted with a beautiful nativity scene on the card that sits on their desk. Jesus was so full of compassion and empathy toward the people he ministered to. I pray that those many cards that are sent to every ocean in the world, will loudly proclaim the love of Christ.

## Does God Use Skype?, by Cheryl Reichman

**Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you. Mark 5:19**

Several times seafarers using their phones, have put their wives or families on Skype so they could hear and watch our spiritual conversations. "My whole family is listening as the word of God is being shared. They will follow me."

A seafarer who had been born again in Christ 16 years ago at the mission came to talk, saying, "I have a deep problem." Now married, his Christian wife who "knows the Bible more than me" was under spiritual oppression, "a family curse." Using Skype, we sat looking at this woman in India with her face down. There was much interference, but we prayed in the name of Jesus and the blood of Christ, asking God to free this sister in Christ. Guided by God's Spirit, we read scripture for over an hour. Even with all the noise online, she said, "I can hear you perfectly." I don't remember when she lifted her head, but when she did, she had a huge smile and praised her Savior, saying "I'm free and haven't read so much scripture in years!"

## The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation, by Kathy Martin

Romans 1:17: A waiter, who professed to being a Christian and often attended the fellowships onboard was asked, "If you were to die tonight, could you say for certain that you would go to heaven?" He replied, "No, not for certain." So, we talked, and the gospel was presented to him clearly. I illustrated the truth using the John 3:16 diagram so that he could envision it, as well. And then I asked him again, "...are you 100% certain?" He was certain! Later, he came up to me in the crew mess with his hand outstretched to shake. I extended my hand and he said, "Thank you. I praise God who reminds us, "the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."