

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, George Reichman, Burt Speath, and Ron Tan. Scott Johnson is the director of the missions in Seward and Whittier.

Seward Seaman's Mission

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"This is Life Changing!" by Scott Johnson

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" John 10:10

When the bulk carrier docked at Seward in late October to off load pipes bound for the oil fields, the ship agent arranged for me to deliver SIM cards for the Filipino crew, Sri Lankan cook and Ukrainian officers. The strong, unlimited internet connection brought smiles on board. I brought dozens of chocolate chip cookies and some frozen salmon fillets. Since the cruise ship season had ended, I was able to spend extended time aboard and purchasing requested food and souvenir items. After several visits, the crew relaxed toward me, our conversations deepened, and I was asked to stay for meals. We talked about the war in Ukraine and the need for relocating families to other countries. We discussed Alaska "Reality" shows and shared family, career, and life stories. The oiler and wiper from the engine department ate lunch with me one day, opening up



spiritually to my probing questions. I had previously spread Bible materials on a table in the crew mess and both men told me they had taken several pieces along with a New Testament. I asked if they had ever read in the New Testament where God records that you can know that you are going to Heaven when you die? Could I show them from the Bible? Both eagerly accepted. Starting with John 3:16, using an open Bible and a few simple diagrams, I explained God's free offer of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Toward the end of our conversation, one man kept repeating, "This is life changing! This is just life changing!" He had come to trust in Jesus as his Savior and begun to understand the eternal and earthly ramifications associated with his decision. Praises to our "Life Changing God!"

Quotes

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

I am short tempered, but upon reading, knowing the teachings of God, I would say now "Patience is my virtue." Philippines

You can tell you have made an impact on their lives when they remember you after 20 years! unknown

Your prayers for the vessel and its crew and the materials you left to remind us that He is THE WAY was a true blessing. You shine the light of Jesus. Captain USA

You can't believe what a pleasure to speak with you last night and listen to your beautiful pray. People like you let me think positive and in God that is looking to all of us. Italy

It's good you are spreading the word of God. We don't want it, but we need it! Philippines

I cannot imagine a day where someone who enters this Mission is not overwhelmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, seafarers and volunteers alike. US

I was working and dancing in the galley as the waves were so rough. India

I want to thank you for all you do for the crew. Your hard work is really appreciated by us all. maître'd. South Africa

Thank you for all your efforts for the crew. When I see you, it makes me feel so good. Kenya

The time spent with you was a confirmation that devoting one's life and time to God should be an everyday part of every person's life. Poland

It has been so great to spend time there and with you has been the most important time. Great memories will always stay inside the soul. Captain Canada

I have been at sea 17 years and you are the first seaman's mission person I have ever met! Bulgaria

We need to embrace and cherish what God gave us and we need to ask Him to intervene in our daily living. South Africa

You came at just the right time! If you had come later, we would not have had this wonderful tour of the fish hatchery. Romania

I need to thank you for the nice walk and the deep breath of fresh air that you allow me to have. Also thank you to pray for me. Italy

Thank you for having a time like this for us. Philippines

I'm not a hireling by Jeannette Seale

The man runs away because he is a hired servant and is unconcerned for the sheep. John 10:13

"I am not a hireling. I care about the seafarers God gave to me as they are like my sheep. I always work on the premise of what is best for the seafarer."

"You work your whole life to get rich so when you die your pockets are full but your heart is empty."

Those two seemingly unconnected phrases came from a brief conversation during the lunch hour that I had with a few crew members from the spa. It is amazing that at one table in the mess, rather than sitting by nationality, the spa crew sit together, sometimes 6 countries represented at one table! I was sharing with them what Joe and I had read that morning about the hireling vs. the shepherd. That thought somehow morphed into the earning money topic!

Later one of the young men who had been listening, turned out to be a believer from S. Africa. He stopped me in the mess and said, "After you left our table, we discussed what you said about the sheep and money! It was a very animated discussion!"

We never know what God is going to use each day as the contacts we have are many and sometimes very hurried. This quick conversation was the beginning of my encouraging this young man every time his ship came in. I pray that our conversations will come to his mind at the time the Lord intends him to remember them and to apply the wisdom to his life!

Christmas in July by Joe Seale

"For by grace you are saved through faith; and it is not of yourselves: It is the gift of God; not of works, so nobody can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

With the advent of debit cards, the internet, and Amazon Prime, combined with less time ashore, the items crew now order on line has grown exponentially. Unfortunately, no Alaska port would receive parcels without charging them high pick up fees. Because we accepted packages for crew members with no pick up fee, many new crew came to the mission that had never visited before!

The majority of crew we saw would not be at their own homes at Christmas, so we decided to use this opportunity to pretend the packages were Christmas presents. We prayed this would open

the door to share the real meaning of Christmas, the gift of Jesus. We handed out lovely little booklets titled "What are Christmas and Easter All About?" which was the catalyst to many spiritual conversations.

We sang, "We wish you a Merry Christmas," as I wore a Santa hat. Their parcels were placed under the lighted plastic Christmas tree. The crew played along with this game with such enthusiasm that when their packages arrived during succeeding weeks, they expected to sing again and the Santa hat came out every time! The unsuspecting new crew who came to pick up their parcels were swept up in the joy and singing, along with all the old timers who had already learned the song! We delivered more than 580 packages during the summer. Indeed, this was a very popular event and we had many opportunities to share about Jesus, even to Muslims and Hindus.



When the Noordam diverted to Anchorage, 60 miles away from Whittier, at the end of the season, many crew wanted to visit Best Buy. As I dropped off four men from a tanker crew, two women rushed over to the familiar van and pleadingly announced, "Sir, it's late and there are no taxis. Could you please take us back to the Noordam? We can't be late for work!"

As they climbed in, one looked carefully at me and asked shyly "Aren't you Santa Claus?" We laughed at the 'inside joke!' Santa had come to the rescue!

"We don't have any instruments for the fellowship since COVID" by Jeannette Seale

"I raise my voice in praise and tell of all the miracles you have done." Psalm 26:7

During COVID months many items were taken off the ships and subsequently lost in the shuffle. The musical instruments from the Christian fellowship groups suffered the same fate. On one Holland America ship, returning Indonesian and Filipino leaders were onboard, but the fellowships had previously disbanded for lack of musical instruments and strong leadership. These two men approached me asking for musical instruments. We found a piano on Craigslist. The Indonesian leader came to the mission to try it out, pay, and carry it back to the ship. Since we had so many rainy days last summer, we had to be sure it was well wrapped! A few weeks later a guitar was on sale and the seller met us in the Sears parking lot. He hefted the beautiful guitar out of the front seat of his truck. He only wanted "60 bucks for it." as he said he just had too many guitars! The Filipino leader was absolutely ecstatic when he saw me coming to the ship dressed in an ankle length raincoat, dripping wet, and the guitar wearing a garbage sack jacket!



I recently received this email from the fellowship leaders.

"The keyboard is fabulous. We've been using it and the guitar every fellowship even with the joint Indonesian-Filipino gathering...This

Christmas we are also using for the practice for Christmas Carols which we will perform tonight."

The Lord is so gracious to help us find secondhand guitars and pianos that can continue to lift up and praise His precious name.

Our Great Missionary God! by Scott Johnson

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2Corinthians 5:18

Recently, I received renewed encouragement to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ when I had my thinking refreshed with God's grand purpose of reconciling all people back to Himself. "God is not willing that any should perish." 2Peter 3:9

Many Christians, myself included, will declare that we must share the glorious gospel message of Jesus Christ basically because of His "Great Commission" in Matthew 28 and Mark 16 which tells us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel" or because He told his disciples in Acts 1 that they "shall be witnesses of Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." And yes, this is Biblical truth for us. However, God's missionary orientation and work began long before Jesus' missionary mandates. His missionary work goes all the way back to Genesis 3. He became the first missionary when rebellion entered the Garden of Eden. His mission to reconcile every human being back to Himself began with four simple questions to Adam and Eve..."Where are you?... Who told you that you were naked?... Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?... What is this you have done?"

With those specific inquiries, God's missionary work had begun! Their disobedience and sin required Almighty God to become a missionary! He promised a "seed from the woman", a Redeemer/Messiah/Savior, who would crush the head of Satan. He instituted animal sacrifices as visual illustrations of the "Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world". He promised through Abraham that "all families of the earth will be blessed." He commissioned Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites. He spoke through prophets recording abundant details for his coming Redeemer/Messiah/Savior. God used angels to comfort Joseph, "and she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin".

Angels informed Mary, "behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and the Son of the Highest." They proclaimed a birth announcement to shepherds, "do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Jesus repeatedly evangelized the people with promises like, "for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." Just before His ascension to Heaven, Jesus sent out his disciples "to go into all the world... and be witnesses of Me."

The New Testament epistles elaborate that "we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God". Revelation ends the whole of Scripture with a direct appeal for all mankind to "Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." Therefore since "the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few" let us be His gospel laborers and "pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into HIS HARVEST."