

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.

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Another Grace Season, by Scott Johnson

And from his fulness have we all received grace upon grace. John 1:16

Having just wrapped up another great Alaska cruise season, we praise God for His faithfulness to provide sufficient grace! In 2nd Corinthians, 12:7-10, Paul requested three times that the Lord would remove his difficulty, but instead of removing his difficulty, He gave sufficient grace for Paul to succeed with the difficulty. Wow, what exceedingly abundant grace! It could be accurately stated that we had another successful "grace season!" Being the busiest Alaska cruise season on record, we needed every bit of His heavenly grace. In this present booming Alaska cruise industry, I believe the mission served more seafarers, drove more miles, spent more money, transported more crew members, visited more ships, utilized more volunteers, baked more cookies and passed out more Bibles and literature than any previous cruise season! He gave sufficient grace to repeatedly send volunteers to serve separate ships in separate ports. He also gave us sufficient grace in many little ways to lovingly serve the Viking Orion ship which repeatedly stayed three days and two nights in port. With God's heavenly grace, He sent a great satisfaction in spending our

Quotes

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

The problems and the challenges never ends, hopefully God will give me the strengths till the end... has been a great pleasure to have met you, to chat with you to listen to your precious advices. Italy

We need a specialist to intervene for us and pray. Philippines

Pray for all of us! Portugal

The words of Jesus are still with us and they are so powerful! Philippines

Please bring me a NT in Serbo-Croatian--I have many questions. Montenegro

You are our family in USA. You can't imagine how important you have been in our lives and especially for our spiritual growth. Brazil

Your prayers have a direct line to heaven, mine have a stopover. Philippines

Your visits during the season have been good and spiritually enriching. Captain Italy

Absolutely amazing to see you again. I wish it hadn't been 7 years, but I'm glad we caught up albeit briefly. I still have your Bible that you presented to me as a little cadet. It has pride of place on my bookshelf. UK

Three years ago my cabin mate told me if I come here I would meet you and get free material about God. I have been waiting to get here, five contracts!!!! India

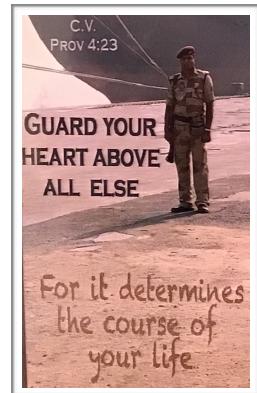
When I was a boy I asked many questions about the Bible and no one would answer my questions and I was very frustrated. Poland

time, energy, and resources for the blessing and edification of others. In 2nd Corinthians 12:15, Paul declared "I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls". So, as Paul, we declare our gladness in spending our time, resources and even ourselves for the spiritual edification of seafarers from all over the world.

Guard Your Heart, by Jeannette Seale

"Let your heart holdfast my words" Proverbs 4:4

We are so blessed by past crew members who stay in touch with us and help the mission one way or another. A past ship's photographer makes and sends us picture refrigerator magnets which highlight Bible verses. The crew covet those magnets so much that we must ration them at the book table, or they would all disappear within minutes!



One day as I walked around the crew mess handing them out at random. I gave the one pictured with this story to a head waiter while

he inhaled his lunch. He responded with a shocked look and asked, "why did you give this one to me and what does that mean?" He said he had only one minute before he had to report to work upstairs so I replied, "well on a ship it can mean 'don't give pieces of your heart away to women'." He responded, "how did you know that was my problem?" "Well I didn't but God did!"

This started a series of conversations each time he returned. He took a book about relationships and a Bible home with him when he left for vacation. I was able to present the gospel to him several times and he is pondering that while he is home along with the other situations he is dealing with. The magnets are all over the ships, in the captain's office, the head housekeeper's office, and in the chief engineer's office where his 16-month-old son plays with them down at his eye level. They are in the engine storekeeper's office, the laundry master's office, on the bridge, and in individual cabins. I have even been asked in the crew elevators what a verse means before the elevator reaches deck 14!

Please pray for these little seeds that are planted and sprouting. May God be glorified with this seafarer's gift to his Lord and Savior as these seeds bear fruit.

His Plan is Best!, by Lynne Iverson

My 2018-19 school year, teaching middle schoolers how to sing, was exhausting. I almost did not volunteer this year in Alaska, but when it became clear the Lord wanted me to go, I left MN

and volunteered for seven weeks. Once arriving in Seward, I got right back into the routine of greeting seafarers at the door, talking with new people, replenishing coffee and cookies, or cooking up lunches. By faith, I knew the most important thing was talking with others about Christ. But "why me?" "How could the Lord use me?" But the Lord was bigger than the plans and expectations that I had for myself. He taught me that "my" summer wasn't about me at all, but about Him. He showed me that sharing the gospel isn't to be done in my own strength, but His. (2 Cor. 12:9). I learned this summer that when I am enjoying my Savior, He opens a conversation to share His gospel. In focusing on Him and letting go of my pride, I became much more motivated to talk with others. I did end up discussing the gospel with many people at the Mission from around the world, and some believed in Him as their Savior! In fact, one older Filipino gentleman began crying while I was explaining his insufficiency to pay for his sin. And when he understood that he was loved even with his sin and could be saved through faith in Christ's death and resurrection, he said "God led me to the doors of this Mission today to talk with you- you're an angel!". I couldn't help tear-up myself. I give God the glory for using me by His grace to help seafarers pass from death to life!

Update on Whittier Condos, by Joe Seale

In the last newsletter, we wrote that we were not able to purchase the old city offices on the first floor of Begich Towers. Well, in an unforeseen turn of events the city assistant manager notified us in May that we could rent them instead! Since the season had already started and we didn't have much time, we scrubbed and cleaned as best we could and used the condos for the rest of the summer. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know that in 2021 we will have three ships per week instead of two, so we may need the space. Please pray with us to know what God is leading us to do.

Poured Out But Filled Up!, by Cheryl Reichman

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. John 1:12

A Filipino waitress was distressed, fearing she had cancer and did not feel free to have it checked out while on board. She needed some good news. Ready to hear from God's word, we started with bad news first. "There is something worse than cancer...eternal death, the wages of sin...." As we read, she heard and now understood that Jesus was born to die that she might live forever with Him! This was the best news! She responded, trusting Jesus Christ as her eternal Savior.

A strong unmarried woman from South America broke away from her family 8 years earlier. She had worked so hard to leave the terrible environment where she was raised to make a life of her own. Overcoming many obstacles, she sat before me at the mission with a very teachable, child-like spirit open to hear and believe God's word. She did and all by God's grace, she found a personal relationship with Christ!

Counseling God's Way, by Jeannette Seale

I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. 2 Cor. 12:15

As we think of missionaries overseas, we imagine them sitting at a table, walking in the park, or having a big dinner with all the neighbors, praying for the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus with the entire group.

When we are on the ships for an entire day, there is little or no time for a walk in the park or even to sit in the sunshine. Our time with them is usually in the crew mess or the place where they work. The accommodation attendants are busy taking monstrous size luggage from the service elevators to the passenger rooms all afternoon. In their 20-minute hiatus between elevator loads, I sometimes sit with them

on their luggage carts in their work area. They ask me spiritual questions and I try to answer them before the next batch of luggage comes. At one of these encounters I met a man who was deeply troubled, and he needed to talk to Pastor Scott. Two weeks later when the ship came in again, I introduced them in the mess. There was no time to talk so we went up to this man's work area. After the steward loaded his luggage cart, Scott walked with him up and down the hallways while the steward delivered the luggage and Scott counseled him! This lasted about an hour, with the attendant loading his luggage cart, then pushing it down the hall to the appropriate rooms, and then coming back for more. All the while Scott walked with him back and forth, listening, and giving counsel.

This is certainly not the picture we have of a counseling session, but on these ships, God leads us to react to situations in an appropriate way, even though they are so farfetched we would never think of them ourselves.

We Are Like the Slaves in Egypt!, by Jeannette Seale

We endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. 1 Cor. 9:12b

As we sat in the sunshine, a Filipino chef told me he still was involved in the Christian fellowship as a leader, probably for 25 years or so of his life. He had been encouraged by our first director David Hawkins to start a Bible study on a ship where there was none and after weeks of prayer, he had done just that.

About his job he said, "we are like the slaves in Egypt who were required to make the bricks but had no supplies." I asked what he meant, and he explained the company wanted them to produce the same amounts as previously but was taking away the supplies to make those quotas, just like the slaves in Egypt who were required to make bricks! However, he said he continues to work there in spite of the long hours and difficult requirements because he wants to share Christ with his fellow workers. Their salvation and growth are his main concern.



Yes, God Answered your Prayers, by Jeannette Seale

The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. James 5:16b

The middle-aged man walked into the mission and took off his sunglasses when he saw me. I had not seen this man for at least 11 years; the last time I had seen him he had asked me how my father was after so many heart surgeries. He had prayed for him every day for years for health and salvation. At that time I had told him that my father had survived the heart surgeries but was still not saved. However, this visit I was thrilled to tell him that God had answered his prayers for my father's salvation and that he was in heaven!

Years ago, when this chef was a junior cook, he had visited the mission every ship visit. Now he was the head chef and had taken an hour away from the ship to visit the mission, his only visit for the entire summer. What amazed me was that it was my only visit to Seward during the summer also! He smiled and said now he knew why he had had to come that specific day, he had to be encouraged that God did answer his prayers!