

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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“How Did Your Summer Go?” by Scott Johnson

We conducted ourselves in simplicity and Godly sincerity.

2 Corinthians 1:12

After each cruise season, I struggle with what to say when someone asks “How did your summer go?” I really hesitate to boast, yet I do want everyone to know what our Lord accomplished through the mission! My recent discovery of 2 Corinthians 1:12 helps describe the success of our 2018 season. “For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world (2018 season) in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you (seafarers).” Our testimony boasts of God and His grace! The Lord stood with us and made this summer a colossal success. He sufficiently provided wisdom, compassion, open doors, resources, strength, and endurance. All volunteers used “simplicity” and “godly sincerity” – loving each seafarer in the name of Jesus. We treated the crew as family members, not customers. Returning seafarers appreciated our greeting them with a genuine smile at the door and giving them free van rides, Bibles, coffee, WiFi and cookies. As we abounded in this simple and sincere love of Jesus, He repeatedly opened doors to share the Word of God and the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. Many responded by faith. So how did your summer go? This 2018 season was another grace success, blessing thousands of crew members from around the world and bringing great glory to our God!

Quotes

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

They wait for you like they wait for the Pope! *local American dock worker*

Since my friend has got all the teaching 'n is willing to get baptized on his own will, hope it won't be inconvenient for Pastor Scott to do the needful. *India*

My son died in a motorcycle accident on a bike I bought for him, my second son died from a cancerous brain tumor, and recently my third son tried to commit suicide. I have lost my faith in God. *Philippines*

May the Lord's light shine upon us in our daily lives and in our actions. *SAfrica*

You eat from these words from the New Testament. *India*

It is so good to know there are people like yourself and many others who go out and visit ships, lending an ear to seafarers and keeping them engaged in the Christian Spirit. *Germany*

You met me only one time but you are like family for me! *Indonesia*

The only people who come to ask, "how are **you**?" are from the seaman's mission, all the rest ask, "where are the papers?" *Croatia*

I had received the box you sent and I give it away because tonight we just have a big fellowship and the room was full of souls so the box you gave was bless many. *Philippines*

Most people don't know that Jesus gave his life for the people. *India*

By God's grace I got my break and got to come to the mission! *Goa*

Ten years ago I was on the Sapphire and the elevators weren't working and I carried your bag from deck 4 to deck 12. Do you remember that? *Goa*

I am glad I did not give up Jesus. *Indonesia*

Mini Vacanza for Beppe *by Jeannette Seale*

A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance. Proverbs 15:13

The middle-aged stranger walked into the mission, looking exhausted yet expectant. He worked in the engine room and only had two hours free. He was in charge of bunkering. He had not been off the ship for days, and his stress was easily visible. He wanted to be outside, but he also wanted to talk with his wife on the internet. I offered to walk him up to the waterfall so he could enjoy being outside for a few minutes.

As we approached the river in the sunshine and fresh air, he raised his eyes to the mountain peaks, breathed deeply, and laughed out loud. He had not wanted to go to sea, but the taxes in Italy had forced him to close his factory. He had to earn money for college tuition for his daughters. When we arrived at the roaring deluge, he stood in amazement. He took several pictures, then decided to climb down to the water to take a drink! He wedged his body between the huge boulders, awkwardly leaned forward and took water in his palms. Suddenly he was splashing water on his face and all over the top of his gray head, and he came up trailing exuberant laughter.

All people have three needs that we try to meet, spiritual, emotional, and physical. We don't often see the results of a physical need like sunshine and fresh air met so dramatically. All the way back to the mission we talked about God, His beautiful creation, and His love for us!



Beppe at Whittier Creek

Supernatural Work *by Cheryl Reichman*

For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11

Supernatural Strength for Supernatural Work describes the team experience. Thank you for praying for us! We were humbled as seamen and women from all over the world PACKED both Seward and Whittier missions, grateful to be our guests and to connect with home on WiFi! Always weak, sometimes with fear and trembling, we were aware that we were dealing with people's eternity. Pastor Scott and volunteers faithfully shared God's love and Word with so many. Many of our guests found freedom and new life. **God gets all the glory for He alone transform hearts!**

Sam, from the Philippines, had just listened to Pastor Scott give a convicting message. Later I noticed him standing alone behind the mission having a smoke. Not aware that he had been in the service, I shared some Scripture and the same message of salvation. He replied, "I have led worship services in many large churches in the Philippines, but I have never before heard this message of forgiveness and eternal life. Salvation is not something to be earned, but a gift from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ alone." That day he heard the message twice. He then believed and received it!

I asked the staff doctor on the ship, "Where do you think your patients go when they die?" His surprising answer, "I never thought about it." Together we asked God to help him hear the truth guide me as I shared the gospel. He was amazed as he read God's Word. He exclaimed, "I had to come to America to hear and receive this message!"

Twenty years ago, we met each other at the Mission! Normally after a busy day, my memories get jumbled but God brought these memories back...I recognized his name and his department. I also remembered he had no obvious interest in the Gospel, though his cousin trusted Christ at the Mission. Almost his first words to me were, "I'm going to church now!" My response, "So, do you know you're going to Heaven when you die?" His face immediately softened and looking at me with expectant hope, he said, "No, but tell me what I need to hear and believe." By God's grace he did hear and became spiritually alive in Christ! Seeds that had been planted 20 years earlier brought salvation!

A seafarer from Indonesia and his siblings were raised in a nominal Hindu family. His sister married a Christian man who died, leaving her with 3 children. This seafarer, single, was now supporting his widowed Christian sister and family by working at sea. He had heard a little bit about Christianity and was very interested to hear more. Reading and hearing the Word of God, he trusted Jesus Christ as His Savior that day.

A man from the Netherlands told me he came from a Christian home, his mother always prayed for him, but he had turned his back on the Christian faith. Why? "Science. Maybe there really is no God." Putting aside his phone, we read of a God coming into a world of darkness, as I pleaded with him using the Word of God to show him what he was turning his back on. Later, he sent me a message thanking me for the conversation. "I don't think there is a God who's looking for me. But if there is, I hope I'll find my way to Him."

Not Everyone Is Interested *by George Reichman*

So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20

On a nice September morning, I noticed a crewmember sitting on one of the benches outside. He was by himself, so I went out and sat across from him and started a conversation. After several minutes, I turned the topic to spiritual things. He was listening, responding from time to time, nodding, and even smiling at times. Just as I was getting ready to talk with him about faith in Christ alone for salvation, I was distracted by another crewmember. As I was answering his question, the first guy got up and went into the Mission. For a number of reasons, I never saw him again.

I realized that he really wasn't interested in Christianity but was just being polite. I was discouraged, but I realized that Jesus didn't tell us to save people. He did tell us to share the truth of the Gospel with them whenever we have a chance. My prayer is that someday he will remember something he heard and will start searching for the answers to life and eternity. If he does, he will find Jesus.

Baptism in a Bathtub *by Joe Seale*

See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized? Acts. 8:36

The day started out rather benign with one baptism scheduled. We have had baptisms before, usually at the head of the bay. It is a spiritual experience that can't be duplicated, with God's creation surrounding all the believers who witness this event.

However, Manuel did not want to be baptized in the sea. "It's too cold!" he said. We suggested using the ship's swimming pool, but that might cause a delay. Manuel wanted to get baptized that day since it was his sister's birthday! What to do? How about in a bathtub? It sounded like a good idea, so I ran the water in my bathtub as deep as reasonable. At 10:30, Pastor Scott, the Bible Study leader, Manuel, and one other crewman came up to our condominium at the tenth floor of Begich Towers. After Scott made sure Manuel understood the significance of the event, Manuel was baptized (face first) in our bathtub. Praise the Lord that one more believer showed to the world that he is faithfully following Christ! As we have said before here at the mission, "No two days the same!"



Looking Ahead

This year we made contact with people from at least 60 different cultures, including several unreached people groups. We are looking forward to another exciting summer next year. Next summer 2019 we will see more ships which equals many more crew members in both ports. We are praying that God would bring more qualified volunteers to help serve. Would you please join us in that prayer?

Our other item of prayer is to acquire a bigger space in Whittier for the Seamen's Mission. We know God will meet our needs and He will hear our prayers.

Thank you for all your support for this worldwide mission!!!!