

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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"Coming Boldly to His Throne of Grace!"

by Scott Johnson

As mission director, I anticipate this summer cruise season with both excitement and anxiety. According to ship schedules, the Alaska cruise industry is expanding another 10-15% over last season. Seward alone will receive an additional twenty port calls this summer. There will be more crew members to serve and more opportunities to show the love of Jesus, but it also means more significant challenges, which is causing my mind to anxiously race with "what if's." I get a little discouraged by seemingly difficult or insurmountable decisions. Yet, since all of God's servants have faced significant life challenges, what is my remedy? The remedy is always the same – Go to Him! I need to go immediately and often to my Savior's throne of grace. "Let us therefore come boldly to His throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16 "Come boldly" means to not hesitate, but go freely to Him without inhibitions. Talking to Him about all my worries, I must cast all my "what if's" on Him, requesting wisdom from Him (James 1:2-4), crying out to Him (Phil. 4:6-9), listening to His Word (2Tim. 3:16-17). He promises to help me with His grace and mercy. My loving, great and awesome Shepherd Savior promises to continually and faithfully supply my every need. What a great word picture to see in my mind – Jesus on His throne of grace, pouring out grace and mercy for me, His servant. From His throne of grace, I can see it is going to be another great season of serving seafarers in Alaska!

UPDATE!! Great News For Whittier Seafarers!

In the last newsletter we announced that there were some vacant offices in Whittier that would make a bigger and better seaman's mission for the Princess crew members. We have had word this week that they can be sold to us!! Please pray that the finances and clean up and repainting and remodeling can all be finished by the first ship which arrives in mid-May. If you are nearby and would like to help with the clean up or painting phase of this new home for the seafarers, please call Scott Johnson at 218 348-0104 or Joe Seale at 907 793-7634.

Quotes

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

Thank you very much, you make my day, this magnet is about Jesus! India

So!!! I am not good enough to go to heaven and not bad enough to go to hell, is there a place in the middle? UK

It is your duty to be on the ship!!!! Mexico

I want food for my soul and they want food for their stomachs. Phil

Thank you for remembering my name. Goa

Since I have changed as I read the Bible, my thoughts have changed also. Italy

I am a Christian and I am not ashamed of saying JESUS anywhere! S Africa

Before I never pray, now when I pray, somebody's there! India

My Dad said you will find Christians anywhere you go in the world, and he was right, I found you here! Mauritius

By the way, thank you for coming here. God will grant you a long life because you are serving Him. Phil

The mission is togetherness--feeling close to God. Goa

I don't know why and how but I just came. India

When I start to read the Bible, my kids start to read the Bible. I have changed a lot. Phil

Just you coming on board makes a difference. Goa

Everyday I read one piece of the page, (of his NT). Italy

I got my new Bible! This is a BIG wow! India

I am not fully a God man. Captain Romania

We Were Welcomed Like Family *by Joe Seale*

Just before Christmas of 2018, my wife Jeannette and I had the opportunity to visit the Coral Princess, but not in Alaska. It's always a bit odd to see a ship and its crew 'out of place', and many crew members were surprised and thrilled by our visit! The joy and laughter and hugs and kisses even on the main crew passageway were a delight.



Joe on the Coral Princess with crew members

It was surprising and rewarding to experience the warmth of our reception. We happened to meet the captain in civilian clothes shoreside, as we were clearing security. He was glad to see us, and looked forward to seeing us aboard! After we had boarded, we were able to personally distribute gospel calendars and Christmas cards to those we knew were going to be there, plus surprising many crew who we had not seen for months or years. The Merry Christmas hugs were very genuine.

It was amazing to me to see the acceptance and warmth given to us, it was like we were family, not "mission personnel." I realize it was from the many years of previous relationships with all the mission volunteers which preceded our visit that had laid the foundation for our reception. Equally important, we were building on a strong foundation which would allow access to sharing Christ in the future.

I Had Never Heard That Before *by Jeannette Seale*

"He is not here; for he has risen, as he said." Mt. 28:6

After knowing the Lord for so many years I have actually become complacent with the truths of the Bible! I had never really thought of myself being complacent until I met a young Hindu from India. He had been to the mission and used the internet, had coffee and cookies, and enjoyed the friendliness of the place, but he had not really engaged any volunteers in conversation because he wanted to talk with his family on the internet. I asked him why there is a mission, but he was mystified. I shared with him about our love for Jesus and His love for us. He knew Jesus had died on the cross, but he did not know why or that He rose from the dead. When I told him Jesus had risen from the dead, his shocked look told me this was astounding news!

I opened a NT and explained about the four men, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and why they wrote down four separate accounts of the same historical fact. We marked the last few chapters of each gospel so he could read all four accounts of the resurrection. In John 10 we read the verses where Jesus had power to lay down his life and take it again and this power he had received from his Father. This truth registered for the very first time.

He now understood about Jesus as never before. He tucked the NT under his arm and left to go to work, promising to read the four accounts later.

I felt humbled that God would use me to share the good news but at the same time sorrowful that I had lost that degree of wonderment myself. My whispered prayer was, "Lord renew the joy of my salvation!"

“Mama Beth! Mama Beth!” *by Scott Johnson*

Recently, I was reminded that individual love can result in eternal spiritual impact. During January, my wife Beth and I drove 5000 miles to visit three evangelical seafarer ministries in southern United States. We assisted and observed to

glean tips on ministry effectiveness in hopes of improving our Alaska operations. These southern ports are much larger than our little Alaska ports, receiving up to five ships with thousands of seafarers each day. We assisted chapel services, baked cookies, rode buses to and from terminals, dialoged with crew members and helped the ministries as we could. Each ministry is staffed by devoted and diligent Christians who love the seafarers. It was a very blessed trip and worth each mile driven and dollar spent. At 11 am, one quiet ministry morning, a voice screamed above all noises, “Mama Beth! Mama Beth!” Almost



Leah with Mama Beth

every eye in the building immediately turned to see the excitement! It was Leah, running up to my wife with open arms. Again, she inquired "Mama Beth, what are you doing in Florida?" As this little Filipino bounced up and down with her hugs, tears of joy streamed down each cheek. She then turned to introduce us to her husband and other entertainers. In 2017, Leah had made the Seward mission her "home away from home". Being an entertainer, her embarkation duties were limited, so she stayed off the ship all day. She gave our kitchen staff grocery lists, while she cooked Filipino delicacies for her fellow crew members. She attended our mission church services, inviting friends to join. She spent hours confiding with the mission women about struggles as a Christian working far from a spouse on her first cruise ship. Now in Florida, before heading back to the ship, we shared, prayed, laughed and looked at Scripture. She shared of her just starting a Christian fellowship on board this present ship and of her leading several to Jesus as their Savior. It was a glorious spiritual reunion and encouragement for us all. Again, I am impressed that "Individual love can result in eternal spiritual impact."

"I Need This, I Need This!" *by Jeannette Seale*

The young Indonesian night worker was at the mission early, as they often join us in prayer and Bible reading. He was from Bali, on his first contract, and just two weeks on the ship. We had just received a wonderful supply of Indonesian-English NT and I offered him one. He had never seen one before, as he was a Hindu and knew nothing about Jesus. I told him this book was very important to him and he was interested to know why. I knew Hinduism had many gods and they were all very sinful; he agreed. This book told him not only how to get to heaven but would tell him all about the God who never sins. He was amazed. There is a God who never sins? The God who never sins died for his sins, in his place, and if he believed in that God he could go to heaven. Every statement met with such enthusiasm.

This book could also give him guidance in his job and help him speak better English so he would have the chance to be promoted. We happened to be reading in Galatians that morning, 6:9 which reads "Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap if we do not lose heart." I loosely translated it to "Let me always do the best job I can as I work on the ship, because my boss is always watching me to see what my attitude is, and if I do not get discouraged even as I work these long hours, I will eventually get a promotion!"

This book which told him of the God who never sins and provides the way for him to go to heaven and also helps with his English and doing his job well, became the most important book he had ever seen. He kept saying, "I need this. I need this!"

They're Almost on the Edge of Finish *by Jeannette Seale*

In Anchorage we have the privilege of taking crew from bulk carriers shopping for provisions. One ship needed vegetables and after three hours and \$708.12 later, we were back at the ship side with our pickup and car full of cases of celery, broccoli, tomatoes, cucumbers, and cauliflower. We lined the dock side with vegetables that had to be transferred to the ship!

A week later the captain wanted to shop again as their next port was very remote and there would be no chance for provisions. This time they also wanted to buy gifts for people back home. That found us in the vitamin aisle and much to our amazement, they had pictures of the vitamin bottles on their i phones that friends and family had sent them. They meticulously walked up and down the aisles until they found exactly what was pictured, and then counted out many bottles. An hour or so later, we were finally in the meat department. There was lots of haggling in Chinese over precut meat versus large slabs, to the point where Joe and I just sat down on the wheeled flat carts and waited. Hosea, our local new Chinese Christian friend helped us to understand what the discussions were all about. After another hour had passed, we were in the vegetables again. Cases and cases of broccoli, mushrooms, tomatoes, celery, romaine hearts, and then cucumbers were being loaded onto a flat cart. Joe and I sat down and waited and waited while the haggling went on. I asked Hosea if he thought they were almost ready to check out, and his reply caused us to laugh. **"They are almost on the edge of finish."** Hosea said one of the problems was the price of cucumbers! Another hour later we were in the checkout line.

After paying for one flat cart, and three grocery baskets, full to the brim and the captain's pocket \$1000 lighter, we loaded it all into the back of the pickup and our car and headed to the ship again. As the men shopped in each department, Hosea had diligently shared Christ with the men in Chinese. He had told us that in the Chinese culture LOVE is not a concept they easily understand. He made sure that they understood that our service to them was the outpouring of Christ's love through us and they easily understood! He could easily move from that to Christ's death and resurrection.