

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, Joe Seale, and Ron Tan. Scott Johnson is the director of the missions in Seward and Whittier.

Seward Seaman's Mission

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Church Service in Seward

His Mighty Hand In Alaska *by Scott Johnson*

"For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth." Ps. 47:2

God rules over all the earth. To give us a helpful grasp upon His sovereignty, the Word of God declares "His mighty hand" works for His people. In the Old Testament, His "mighty hand" delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt, provided for their every physical need and even disciplined them in love. Moses stated, "So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders." (Deut. 26:8) In the New Testament, Peter teaches us to "be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:5-7. In 2017, we saw God's "mighty hand" working in our little Alaska seaman's mission by providing finances and physical resources, giving strength to love in the name of Jesus Christ, opening specific doors of opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the Word of God individually and in services, minister to needy local Alaskans and even continue to "run with endurance the race that has been set before us." We give Him the glory, praise and honor for each and every ministry success in 2017. Presently, we are praying specifically for God's mighty hand to reach around the earth and draw seafarers to Alaska who have spiritual needs or who are open to the

Quotes

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

Spreading the Lord's name is truly a gift that I'm glad you've shared with me in the last few months I was in Whittier. *SAfrica*

When you are doing something for God you are full of happiness. *Indonesia*

Scott's messages really change my life, his message develop my life. *Indonesia*

Thank you for everything! Please pray for us! *India*

Don't stop praying on us when we were on the ship. *Philippines*

Your love of Jesus inspires me. I see how you share Him with people and I want to do the same. *South Africa*

I came early before basket ball so you can pray for me. *Philippines*

You don't know how much your praying with me helps me. Captain *Italy*

Yesterday was very special. I feel "lifted up". My thanks to all of you. *St. Lucia*

You have a big heart. *Poland*

I always remember you, the man of God. *Indonesia*

Keep on doing what you are doing. Keep up the good work. Captain *Italy*

Scott's messages really change my life, his message develop my life. *Indonesia*

I have been all around the world with many companies and I have never heard a crew talk so highly of and get so excited to come to a seaman's mission before. This is by far the favorite place for the crew to come and they love the people and how caring they are. I don't usually get to go to the missions but I am glad I got to stop briefly today. guest excursion manager *Brazil*

I hope maybe you remember me. You gave me a new testimony (testament). I'm reading it and crying a bit. I think Holy Ghost wanted me to reach out to you. *Poland*

gospel of grace. As the director, I keep casting my many cares upon Him and upon His "mighty hand", trusting that as He has never let us down in the past, His grace will be exceedingly sufficient for 2018.

Are All Your Days Good Days? *by Jeannette Seale*

"I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Ps. 16:8

Recently Joe and I were in Rotterdam and port chaplains there planned a luncheon for Joe and me. As they are all younger than we are, they laugh and joke about us being grandparents of the cruise ship ministry. As we told them about God's exciting work in the missions last summer and what we were doing in Europe, they asked if they could ask us some serious questions. Of course! "What do you do on the day you just don't feel like ship visiting?" "Are all your contacts positive?" "What do you do when the crew are too busy to talk?" "How do you balance the ever-increasing needs of your family with the needs of the seafarers?" "How do you feel when someone who has professed Christ falls away and does not want to talk to you anymore?"

These were just some of the questions we honestly answered. Sometimes when we report about the summer work, we often leave out the days we are discouraged, dead tired, feel oppressed by the devil, and other situations that crop up. It was a great opportunity to tell them that God is always there with us, guiding and directing, even when we just don't sense his presence. Deut. 31:6 is so appropriate: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them; for it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."



Rotterdam luncheon participants.

Thank you Rotterdam chaplains for hosting the luncheon.

My Spiritual Battle *by Manuel Carvalho*

"But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name." John 1:12

My mother told me many times long ago, "Son, read your Bible, for salvation comes to those who read the Bible and believe and have faith in God and no one else". My dear sister would tell me of the consequences of living a life that ignores the existence of God.

Back then I felt very confident with myself; I was very satisfied with the life I was living, busy working during the day and studying at night. I began reading the Bible, but it seemed that everything I read I soon forgot as Satan kept me occupied with things of the world and the problems of life. I recall at one point my work started to falter as the boss expected a lot of work from me for low wages. A short time later I was laid off my job, leaving my wife to work while I cared for our two sons in their schooling. We were thrust into a financial crisis caused by my not finding work. I told my wife I would pursue an opportunity with Princess Cruises.

Six months later I met people from the Whittier Seamans Mission. They encouraged me to put aside the many things that preoccupied me, keeping me from the Word of God. I discovered that the Bible's message to the world cannot be ignored; it is the unique voice of God who speaks to us and teaches us how to speak with Him. He also helps with daily challenges. Soon my spiritual battles began: I started sensing rejection from my wife and growing resentment towards my parents and sister, believing they were contributing to the demise of our marriage. I now know that Satan tries to bring confusion and destruction into marriages.

I am thankful to God for another sister who extended love to me, flying to Florida to join me in the commissioning of the Royal Princess ship in 2013. It was then that I received Jesus Christ by faith as my Savior, my God, my Shepherd, and forever my best Friend. Soon my spiritual battles increased, yet I learned that my God had something prepared for me and my house.

In May 2017, I went on furlough and decided to change the course of family events. My wife was antagonistic at my mention of the Bible. I asked God to help my wife see that her sin was not against me, but rather against God. I began to notice that her attitude and conversation began to change. She no longer spoke of church as she used to. The time of vacation was almost over. I thought the timing was good for me to be baptized. We all went to church, including my godmother and my aunt. I asked my wife if she would like to receive Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She declined, replying "let me be as I am". In the meantime, my godmother sitting next to her received Christ. In that moment, the Pastor approached my wife and asked, "Sister, Christ yearns for your heart; would you not like to trust Him as your Lord and Savior?" After a moment of thought, my wife looked at the Pastor and said, "Yes, I would!!!" Indeed, the great joy that He imparted in that moment was to write my wife's name in the Book of Life. (John 1:12-13).

My God is faithful. He fulfilled His promise; "I am with you". I sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit there all the time. I can say with confidence that my God will still perform miracles in my household, the next being my dear sons.

Cinderella after Midnight *by Joe Seale*

"He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life." 1 Jn 5:12

Recently Jeannette and I visited with four retired ship's officers at their homes. We had multiple opportunities to discuss their wonderful new life in retirement. The way each man approached his retirement was remarkable. Several men said that they had retired at the right time, that the demands of the job were getting too great, and that they were glad just to be home after so many years of stress, lack of sleep, and constant travel. Another man

said he missed the prestige that the job brought, missed the honor and respect that he was given as a ship's officer, and felt like he was "Cinderella after midnight." He had to carry his own suitcase now. The longed-for retirement has other draw backs. The children they worked so hard to support are now grown and may even live far away. Now that "dad" has time to spend with his children, they are busy with school, careers, and their own spouses and small children.

Beside the shock of his family no longer being available, his many years at sea has taken its toll on the number of friends he has left at home. The friends have dwindled as men moved away, died, or continue to work elsewhere. The officers who are younger which they worked with at sea, are still at sea and are too busy to keep up the friendships. After getting used to this new lifestyle of always being at home, the retired men begin to realize that the friends they have after retirement are mostly their wife's friends or men they knew as children who still live where they grew up.

Retirement is also a freeing time to do as you please when you please. Being an officer and always wearing a uniform, made life on the ship a 24 hour a day work place. There was seldom time to go ashore, even for a walk. Now that retirement has come, there is freedom and the opportunity to follow other interests. Also loneliness, sadness, and a sense of loss creep in when they discover that some of their friends were only friends because of their position.

Officers rarely have time to attend any of the crew worship times on the ship and are not at home long enough during their vacations to feel at home in the local church. Therefore, retirement is also a time to contemplate God and who Jesus really is and his gift of salvation that he heard from us. Once a man retires, it is up to him to decide whether to stay in touch with port chaplains or not. We always pray that something we have said in the past will help the retired men remember that the Lord is always there to give guidance and that the reason Jesus came to earth was to save each one of us from our sins and to give us the gift of eternal life.

Comparing Two "Royal" Ships *by Jeannette Seale*

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

It is hard to believe that two ships could be so different and yet the same. The Royal Clipper is a five masted sailing ship with five decks that carries a maximum load of 227 passengers and 106 crew while the Royal Princess is a cruise ship with 19 decks that sails with 3560 passengers and 1346 crew. These two ships were tied up side by side recently so it was easy to see the amazing difference in size! Both ships have the bridge team, engineers, dining and stateroom staff, but the Royal Princess has a full complement of entertainers, shop personnel, casino workers, art dealers, spa girls and cruise staff personnel, while the Royal Clipper has few or none of these.

But what is not easily seen is that the needs of the crew remain the same, no matter the size of ship. We had the privilege of meeting many crew on the Royal Clipper. They came from many countries, were cadets just starting out to men nearing retirement, just like the big ships. They all have families they try to stay in touch with, via Skype and internet at every opportunity, just like the big ships. They work long contracts and miss birthdays, graduations, and funerals just like the crew of the big ships. The most important factor for both ships is that the Christian crew on board have resolved to meet, no matter what size the group will be, 3,5, or 40! We found the Royal Clipper crew to love Jesus with the same intensity, craving fellowship and teaching, trusting God with all of their needs through prayer, and evangelizing other crew members just like the crew on the big ships. God is working in every ocean with crew from an endless list of countries. These crewmen and women are taking the message of Jesus home with them to every corner of the world!