

Spring 2006

SHIP AHOY!

Newsletter of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate



Our Sixtieth Year A Time to Celebrate!

By **Jim Lindgren**
Chaplain/Director

In 1946 Thorbjorn and Tuppi Olsen arrived from Norway to begin a ministry to seafarers from Scandinavian countries. They established a ministry in San Francisco, which began a fifty year association between the American Baptist Churches and the Scandinavian Union.

In 1996, the ministry was entrusted to the American Baptist Churches as the Scandinavian seafarers had diminished in numbers. The Board of Directors of the Mission was not ready to give up. They saw a need as a new breed of seafarers were coming from Asia and Eastern Europe. This became a wonderful opportunity to share the Christian message in word and deed.

The seafarers center in San Francisco was sold and the name was changed from Scandinavian Seamen's Mission to Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate to reflect its broader mission.

The Seafarers Ministry first worked out of the home of Chaplain Rune Modin. When he retired, Chaplain Milton Harris did the same. Later, an office was established at Oakland First Baptist Church. In 2004, the Seafarers Ministry joined with other faith based agencies working in the Port of Oakland at the International Maritime Center. Our new home has greatly enhanced our ministry and the ministry of the other agencies.

Since the end of World War II and the last half of the twentieth century, the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate has been faithful to meeting the needs of seafarers.

The beginning of the twenty-first century has brought with it a new set of challenges. 9-11 changed everything in terms of security. When I began as a Chaplain in Boston in 1982, I could drive into an unguarded dock and board a ship where there often was no watchman at the gangway. Now I have to show an ID at the terminal, be on an approved list, get a badge and wait for a shuttle to take me to the ship. After climbing the gangway, I am asked for an ID once again and I am

required to sign in. Sometimes my backpack is searched before I can proceed.

Upcoming 60th Anniversary Events

Picnic at the Port

Saturday, July 15th at 12:00 noon

Third Annual Shoreline Stroll

Saturday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Swedish Pancake Brunch

Saturday, December 9th
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

See Details on Page 2

For seafarers, it is equally difficult to get off the ship, and even more difficult to return. They must have their shore pass with them as well as a picture ID. Without their shore pass they could face fines or imprisonment!

But as things have changed, much has remained the same. Seafarers are forgotten people. They spend seventy percent of their time at sea. When they are in port, they are often too busy to go ashore. If they do have time to go ashore, they don't know where to go or where it is safe. This is the role of the Seafarers Ministry. We provide them with transportation for shopping and a safe haven at the International Maritime Center. Here they can relax, call home, use the Internet and engage in recreation.

The role of the Chaplain has greatly changed in the last twenty years. Besides more time spent getting in and out of the terminals, we spend more time advocating for justice for the seafarer. Port security is a major concern for all of us, but the denial of shore leave for innocent, law abiding seafarers is deplorable. Thus, we

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keep filing reports with the Center for Seafarers Rights which gathers information from Chaplains throughout the United States and channels it to the Coast Guard, the Justice Department and to Customs and Border Patrol. Sixty years have passed, but the human soul and the Gospel have not changed. And in the age of globalization, the role of the seafarer is as important as ever. With your help, we can continue to serve seafarers throughout the twenty-first century and beyond.

Save These Dates to Celebrate Our 60th Anniversary

All of the following events will be held at:

**International Maritime Center
4001 7th Street
Oakland, CA**

Picnic at the Port

The first will be on **Saturday, July 15, 2006 at 12:00 noon** when we will hold a **Picnic at the Port**. Besides having a great view of San Francisco, you will be able to see container ships coming and going and unloading. There is a small playground for young children adjacent to the Maritime Center. Bring the whole family. More details coming shortly.

Third Annual Shoreline Stroll

The Third Annual **Shoreline Stroll** will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** The Annual Stroll is one of the ways that we raise support for our ministry to seafarers. We invite you to join in this event by getting sponsors and strolling with us. If you cannot stroll, you can sponsor one of our Board Members. Last year we raised over \$6,000 for our ministry. Can you help us do even better this year?

Swedish Pancake Brunch

Last year we had a great time at our first Swedish Pancake Brunch. Stacks of Swedish pancakes, ham and other goodies made this a special event. This will be held on **Saturday, December 9, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. until noon.**

Please join us for these celebrations. It's a

good time to learn more about our ministry and experience what a working port is like.

Shore Leave is Still a Problem



Pictured above are Shu Rong Xin and Cha Xin Hua, two crew members of the Costo Qung Dao which called on the Port of Oakland in early March. Like many seafarers, they didn't have visas. Most of the problems with visas are now due to the companies not helping the seafarers get them. This ship will be calling in Oakland every five weeks. The seafarers were happy for the opportunity to use our cell phones so they could call home. During the month of March, we had more than ten ships use our cell phones. In one week we had five ships with men that didn't have visas. Our cell phones were used for more than 100 hours this past month! It is very stressful to a seafarer who cannot leave the ship to even make a phone call. One of the ways we share the Gospel is to show compassion. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . . I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35,36.

Members of the Board of Directors

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Mr. Charles Fender
Dr. Charles Ligon, M.D.
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Letters from Christmas at Sea

This year we placed 913 Christmas gifts on 43 ships during the months of November and December. These gifts were held by the Captain until Christmas Day when the gifts were distributed to the crews. We don't know where all of the ships were on Christmas but we know that these gifts were on ships scattered all over the world. Some of the ships sent us Emails and letters thanking us for the gifts. Here are some of the letters we received. Remember that English is the second language for those writing the letters.

Dear Mr. Lindgren,
By the name of the all crew members of m/v HYUNDAI KINGDOM, I would like to express my appreciation regarding your kind and thoughtful gesture and that you helped us to feel closer to our families on this sacred Christian holiday. We wish you a prosperous New Year & all your dreams to come true. God bless you, your church and all your family.

Yours faithfully,

The crew of m/v Hyundai Kingdom

Dear Jim,

Good day to u On behalf of my crew, I wish u all a merry Christmas & a happy new year. It was great to receive Christmas gifts fm u . It means a lot to all of us that someone other than our families & friends are also thinking about us. It teaches us the true meaning of Christmas which is to give love & spread happiness. It inspires us to be a better human being . I wud like to thank all of u who have taken time out fm your busy lives to make these gifts.

Once again wishing u all a season full of joy, happiness , good health & peace.

Best regards Capt Sunil Suri
mv MOL THAMES

Dear Dr. Lindgren,

On behalf of the Officers and Crew of the APL CANADA I wish to extend our thanks and gratefulness for the Christmas presents to you and all the good people that helped to put thee presents together. They

were very much appreciated by everyone on board.

With best regards,
Wolfgang Werner, Master

Dear Mr. Jim,
Myself Capt. Sardesai & all crew members of NYK Springtide would like to thank you for your wonderful Christmas gifts. Wish u & all your staff Merry Christmas & a Very Happy New year.

Tx & Brgds
Capt. Sardesai

A Gift Is Given in Return!

Lu King Kong, Captain of the Ever Decent, wants to thank us for all we have done for him and his crew. A Christian from Taiwan, Captain Kong is offering to share his talent with us when his ship returns. Besides discovering the importance of Christ in his life, he has discovered the benefits of Tai Chi. "The Bible tells us that our body is God's temple. We must keep it fit. Tai Chi is a *soft exercise* which helps keep our *temple* in shape. This is a benefit for all people, especially older persons. I want to teach others this kind of exercise as a way of thanking you for all that you do."

Tai Chi Class by Captain King Kong

Friday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m.

International Maritime Center
4001 7th Street
Oakland, CA

Please respond by calling 510-839-2226

Or Emailing chaplain@smgg.org

Because ship's schedules can suddenly be altered, please respond so that we can inform you if the time has to be adjusted. You will benefit greatly from this 45 minute instruction!

We Salute the 2005 Members of the Crew!!

Listed below are the individuals, churches and organizations which have supported us during the past year. On behalf of the seafarers we serve, "thank you!"

Double Admirals \$2,000 and Up

First Chinese Baptist Church
San Francisco
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chester man
Los Gatos
Mr. and Mrs. Claes Claesson
Millbrae
Neal Family Foundation
Charlotte, NC
Santa Clara First Baptist
Santa Clara
Mrs. Betty Hague Will
Oakland

Admirals \$1,000 - \$1,999

First Baptist Church
Alameda
First Baptist Church
San Francisco
Gateway Baptist Church
Visalia
Gateway Baptist Church
Amer. Baptist Churches of the West
San Ramon
Dr. and Mrs. Dale K. Edmondson
San Leandro
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fender, Jr
Kensington
Ms. Doreen A. Sullivan
San Francisco
Ms. Gerd Sollie
Arnold
Swedcom Corporation
Belmont

Captains \$500 - \$999

Mrs. Mary Ashford
Ukiah
First Baptist Church
Hanford

First Baptist Church
Oakland
First Baptist Church
Orland
First Baptist Church
Sacramento
Community Church of Hayward
Hayward
Santa Cruz Community Church
Santa Cruz
First Covenant Church
Oakland
Grace Covenant Church
So. San Francisco
Mount Miguel Covenant Village
Spring Valley
American Baptist Home Mission
Society
Valley Forge, PA
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Pinole
Mrs. Louise Probert
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Mrs. Frances Street
Oakland
American Baptist Women's Ministries
San Mateo

Chief Mates \$250 - \$499

First Baptist Church
Chico
First Baptist Church
Menlo Park
First Baptist Church
Nevada City
First Baptist Church
Paradise
First Baptist Church
Porterville
First Baptist Church
Stockton
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church
Oakland
Primera Iglesia Bautista
Fresno
Colony Covenant Church
Kingsburg
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Oakland
Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson
Turlock
Mr. Hugo Kenyon
San Francisco
Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor
Oakland
Reverend Harrison Williams
Oakland

Chief Stewards \$100 - \$250

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San Ramon
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson
Quincy, MA
Pacific Transportation Association of
San Francisco Inc.
San Francisco
Pacific Coast Baptist Association
Walnut Creek
First Baptist Church
Antioch
First Baptist Church
Avenal
First Baptist Church
Palo Alto
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Oakland
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Richmond
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Santa Cruz
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Selma
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Sparks
Women's Missions Fellowship
Placerville

Quartermasters
\$50 - 99

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American Baptist Women's Ministries
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Oakland
Ms. Merrilyn B. Zahnley
Alameda

Deck Hands
\$25 - \$49

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Walnut Creek
Ms. Karen Chamberlain
San Jose

In Memoriam Dr. Ray Jennings

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Eureka
Miss Odie B. Cook
San Mateo
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Mount Vernon
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Watsonville
American Baptist Women's Ministries
Napa

Recent Memorial Gifts

Doreen Sullivan in Memory of her
mother.
Daisy Skoglund in memory of husband
Dr. John Skoklund



Dr. Ray Jennings receiving the Seafarers Ministry Lighthouse Award from Board Member Alice Edmondson in December 2005.

On April 4, 2006, Dr. Raymond Jennings, Board Member Emeritus of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate passed away after a lengthy illness. Ray was a vital part of the Seafarers Ministry for more than a decade. Ray was a devoted father and husband. A distinguished pastor and national American Baptist Church leader. Our sympathies to Irene and Ray's children. Peace be to his memory.

Welcome to Our New Board Member

In January, we welcomed Dr. Chick Ligon to our Board of Directors. He is a retired doctor from Sandy Spring, Maryland, and supporter and volunteer of the Seafarers Ministry for many years. Chick is a member of Arlington Community Church in Kensington and a member of the Quakers. Welcome Chick!