

Christmas at Sea 2008 Manual

Sharing Christ with Seafarers



Seafarer receiving gifts for his ship.

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**Gifts must reach the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate by
Friday, October 17, 2008**

Introduction

Christmas at Sea has been a part of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate for many decades. Each year we give gifts to over 1,000 seafarers. We do it with gifts we receive from churches, organizations and individuals. Seafarers are grateful for these gifts as it is a wonderful gesture of Christian love and concern.

This manual includes instructions for packing Ditty Bags and packing gifts. An additional manual is included with optional patterns for knitting and sewing.

Here are two Emails from ships receiving Christmas gifts from the Seafarers Ministry in the Port of Oakland early in December. The gifts were kept until Christmas Day when they were received at sea.

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

Christmas at Sea Mission Statement

The Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate seeks to share Christ with all seafarers. For those who are Christians, we offer encouragement and growth in their Christian Faith. For those who are not Christians, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ in Word and deed so that they will be challenged by the claims of Christ as the Son of God.

Christmas is an important time for the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate. It gives us a chance to present Christ in a special way. All seafarers find it difficult to be away from home and family. We do not want to forget these sons and daughters of God at this important time of year. A small gift reminds them that they are not forgotten by us, and most of all, not forgotten by Christ.

Do's and Don'ts for Christmas at Sea

Listed below are things to remember in preparing gifts for Christmas at Sea:

Do's for gifts:

- ☞ See list on the next page as a guideline for gifts. It's nice to have a number of items in one gift: toiletries, wrapped hard candy, a *game* type article, a cap, etc.
- ☞ Use directions for knitting hats and socks. Seafarers especially appreciate the watch caps and helmets.
- ☞ Use patterns for mending kits and ditty bags. Consider making ditty bags for packing the gifts. They are easy to handle and are reusable by the seafarer.
- ☞ **All gifts must reach us by October 17th, 2008. Packing Day is Tuesday, October 21st. Volunteers will gather on that day to pack the gifts. We will not be able to use or store gifts received after that date.**
- ☞ Place gifts inside Ditty Bags. Write their contents on a *post it*. Enclose a personal Christmas Card. Include your name and address. If you receive a letter of thanks please share it with us. We will print it in next year's manual.

Don't for gifts:

- ☞ **Do not wrap gifts.** All gifts not already in Ditty Bags will be placed in Ditty Bags. Unwrapped gifts are easier for us to pack.
- ☞ **Do not give gifts for women seafarers.** Most women seafarers work on cruise ships which come in the summer. We see, one or two women seafarers during Christmas.
- ☞ **Do not send hotel toiletries. Do not send used items.** Remember, we want these gifts to show our love for Christ. We should not give leftovers as Christmas gifts.
- ☞ **Do not use or send giant sized toiletries.** Gifts have to be carried a long distance to a ship and the weight makes it difficult.
- ☞ **Do not put magazines in the gifts.** We give magazines year round to all ships. We include biblical literature and prayers with all the gifts.

Suggested Items for Christmas Gifts

Toiletries

Tooth Paste
Shaving Cream
Deodorant
After Shave
Chapstick

Tooth Brush
Nail Clipper
Razors
Hand Lotion
Small First Aid Kit

Gloves

Travel Size Games or Cards (something fun to play with)

Flashlights with batteries

Hard Wrapped Candy (Soft Candy may melt)

Double A Size Batteries for flash cameras and cassettes

Writing Paper and Envelopes

Warm Socks

Sewing Kits (buttons, thread and needle.) Use pattern available on our website at www.seafarersministry.com or place items in a small medicine bottle or a film container.

Knitted Caps

Any similar items that would be appropriate. **No used items please!**

A Ditty Bag of gifts should have a value of at least \$5.00 and include toiletries, an item of clothing, a *game or toy* suitable for an adult, candy, sewing kit and one or two other items from above. **Please do not put more than one heavy item in one ditty bag. We carry 25 bags on the ship at one time.**

Send or bring gifts to: Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate
4001 7th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Gifts must reach us by October 17th, 2008. American Baptist Churches may bring gifts to:
Annual Celebration on October 10-11, 2008
Antioch Progressive Baptist Church in Sacramento
or
American Baptist Women's Ministries Diva Fest
Time and place to be announced

Our sincerest thanks for all that you do to make Christmas at Sea a wonderful part of our ministry.

