

# THE SEAFARER'S HOPE *is Jesus*

*A bi-monthly publication of Anchor House Seafarer's Center, Port Manatee, Florida December 2014*



The Anchor House mission is to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of international seafarers.



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*"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*

## Anchor House Gifts & Bibles Reach the World



Christmas at Anchor House depends on you, who throughout the year, are making ditty bags, knitting colorful watch caps, donating toiletries and nail clippers and the Scriptures in many languages for the DITTY BAG Program. Last year we gave away nearly 800 bags to the seafarers at Port Manatee. This is commonly the only gift many of them will get during Christmas. Thank you for making this possible.

As we board vessels and greet the crew saying, "We have Christmas gifts." Faces light up with smiles and excitement because someone they have never met, thousands of miles from their homes remembered them. What an opportunity to share the love of the Lord Jesus without words. Thank you for your dedication to this Christmas project.

May this Christmas season afford you more opportunities to show unselfish kindness to someone in need.

The crew of the M/V Sol Do Brasil, an orange juice tanker, received ditty bags from Anchor House with their watch caps. (See photo above).

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Last night, a ship set sail for the Far East. It will sail around the tip of Africa and be at sea for 37 days. They will be on the ocean at Christmas. The captain will give out Ditty Bags and Watch Caps we provided him while in port.



Photo (L to R): President Mary Fabre Levine and Chaplain Tim Huppert

### Christmas Thank You

 Port of Port Manatee Propeller Club selected Anchor House as their Christmas project with a \$500 donation and additional gifts for seafarers.

 Federal Marine Terminal provided turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners served at Anchor House and a monetary Christmas donation.



## A Word from Chaplain Tim

*In Psalm 40:1-4 we see the hand of God moving in the repentant David's life.* The Lord inclined, or as I picture it, the Lord leaned down and intimately listened to David. What a personal God we serve. Knowing that the God of the universe would take time to listen to us is like no other God. He is personal. He actually leans down to hear our voice. One of the key thoughts in the beginning of this Psalm is that David waited patiently for the Lord. At times it is very hard for me to wait, to listen and to trust.

Personally, I can relate to the second verse because God lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire of guilt and temptation that I experience as a young person. This was difficult to overcome. Maybe some of you are dealing with the mire now or have had a similar challenge and have victory now.

God not only heard David, he forgave him. Can we respond as David did to God's grace toward him? David's response in vs. 8-10 is about his will. *"I desire to do your will, Oh my God; your law is within my heart. I proclaim righteousness in the great congregation. I do not seal my lips, as you know, Oh Lord. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart. I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly."* David received mercy and grace and forgiveness from the Lord and his response was not to hide what he received, but to share it all with the great congregation, his friends and neighbors.

Share the love of God with all your heart. Trust in him and he will act. In the many years that my wife and I have been believers, God has shown himself faithful to his word in our lives. I believe he will carry us forward as we continue to follow the Lord and put our trust in Him.

I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and trust that you all had a fruitful Thanksgiving.

Thank you for supporting us as your missionaries to the seafarers who come to Port Manatee.

Trusting Him,

Tim and Sue Huppert

### **Year-End Giving**

*A note regarding year-end giving. Please note that the IRS rule states that a donation must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If using US Postal Service, your donation must be POSTMARKED by December 31. Please consider Anchor House in your year-end giving.*

### **Statistics from Jan. to Dec 1**

Seafarers in the Center	3,357
Countries Served	33
Bibles/DVDs given	931
Meals Served	7,737
Seafarers Transported	1,787
Ships in Port	264

## **Save the date**

**Anchor House Annual Banquet**

**Friday, March 20, 2015**

**Please mark your calendar to join us.**

**Details will follow.**

## **Answered Prayer**

On Dec. 10, 2014 the Senate passed the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. The Act contains a provision that will provide protections for seafarers abandoned by their ship owners in the United States or on a US flag commercial vessel. A fund will be created from penalties collected from marine pollution cases and will provide necessary support to such abandoned seafarers.