

THE SEAFARER'S HOPE *is Jesus*

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

Jan - Feb. 2012

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



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More than 800 Ditty Bags go to sea; thanks to you

by Trish Alligood

"I was a stranger and you invited me in."
Matthew 25:35. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."
Hebrews 13:2

These two verses define exactly what happens at Anchor House. About 5,000 strangers come through our doors a year. Some of them are return visitors. Thank God for the friendships developed through the years. Praise God for those who come to know Him and the spiritual encouragement Christian seafarers onboard are able to receive through Anchor House.

From Thanksgiving through the New Year, Ditty Bags are given to the men and women that come on these ships. Sometimes it is the only gift they receive. A captain on a juice ship came to talk to me one day before they sailed. They would be

celebrating Christmas on the water. The captain said that because of the economy, the ship owners would not buy Christmas presents for the crew. He was feeling bad for his men. He wanted to be sure we would bring Ditty Bags for the men. As we did this, we also gave other gifts provided by members of our **Port Manatee Propeller Club**.

A big thank you from the bottom of our hearts and theirs for showing the love of Christ in knitting the hats, sewing the bags, sending little items for the bags, giving money and coming to assemble them. We gave out 810 Ditty Bags to 33 ships with 21 different nationalities on them. I pray God continues to richly bless you as you serve Him and our friends of the sea.



Marie Beachy from Friendship Baptist Church in Sarasota, FL made 1,000 bags for Anchor House this year!

Please note the enclosed announcement about the Free Gospel Concert by The Staffmen Quartet and plan to attend.

The staff and volunteers of Anchor House express their deepest sympathy and prayers to friends and family of Jason Wren, a dock worker at Port Manatee, who frequented the center.

Jason died Feb. 4, 2012. He will be missed.

One evening we were sharing with a young Chinese man. He defined himself as a Buddhist. We talked about his home in China, his family and his relationship with them. He told us that his grandma was *like* us. We inquired further and he said **Christian**. We had something in common. As we asked about how his family had heard of Christ, he told the story of the milk that was brought to his village many years ago by the missionaries. As a result Christ was accepted by many in that rural Chinese village. Anchor House does the same type of ministry by sharing the word of God with people from various countries. We don't provide milk, but Bibles in 50 languages and friendship evangelism which nourish the soul. That young man willingly took a Chinese Bible with him when he returned to his ship.



The Gospel goes around the world

Annual Stats 2011

Countries Served	39
Seafarers in the center	4259
Transported	1600
Jesus DVDs	239
Bibles given	489
Meals	5,000
Ditty Bags	810

Save the Date

Please mark Thursday, March 29th on your calendar to reserve your seat at the Annual Anchor House Fundraising Banquet and Celebration. Watch your mail box and email for details.

We look forward to an evening of thanks and celebration.

We often talk about **Skype** in the center. Many of you may be familiar with the telecommunication process by which you can verbally and visually communicate by computer. This is a real blessing for the seafarers who come to ports where **Skype** is available. Fernando, the chief cook on the M/V Oruro do brasil faithfully Skypes. Fernando has been coming to Port Manatee for many years and we have come to know him very well. He is a model as a father and a husband who keeps in touch with his family while away from them at sea. When he comes into the center he spends hours playing tea set or other games with his daughter via the **Skype** on his computer. One of his dreams is that he would be able to find a land job and stay at home with his family. I have stated before that during the 35-year career of a seafarer, he will only be home a total of five years. While it is good that these men have employment to care for their families, in many ways this is very tragic. Fernando has recently become a Christian. We have talked often with Fernando and his dream is to have his own restaurant in his home country of Chile. This is a wonderful vision for him. Please pray to that end for him and his family.

Pictured to
The right:
Fernando
Romero



Thank you for all your attention to my husband and your friendship because of you he is more attached to our Dear God. It is nice to share all of this with my husband.

Ruth Romero