

# THE SEAFARER'S HOPE *is Jesus*



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

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



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*Wishing you and yours a very meaningful celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!*

## Thanks for the Ditty Bags

by Chaplain Tim Huppert

Ditty bags and Watch Caps are arriving by mail and being dropped at the center. Youth groups and other volunteers are filling bags with donated items to give away. We start giving Ditty Bags away around Thanksgiving until the first of the year. In Matt 10:42 we learn that even if we give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name we are impacting others for the kingdom of God. Ditty Bags are often the only gift seafarers will receive during Christmas.

Christmas is a time of year that crosses boundaries of many kinds. In the U.S. we see people and organizations displaying the Nativity scene, some of them even with living characters and animals. In the U.S.

we can say, "Merry Christmas." When we board vessels during this time of year, we extend our "Merry Christmas" and we give Ditty Bags in the name of Jesus to the world - Buddhist, Hindu, and those who express no faith. We get thanks and smiles. Thank you for your partnership in this wonderful Christmas global outreach.

Express the season of the year boldly. Let people know that you are a believer and that Christmas is important to you and that celebrating the birth of Jesus is really what the season is all about.



## Thank you to the TK Foundation

for the \$10,000 grant we received through the Orange County Community Foundation. These funds enabled us to install a new A/C unit in our Anchor House center. We also added a screen room offering seafarers a bug-free, dry space out of the heat to access their families through the internet when the center is closed.

## *Merry Christmas 2012*

I had the opportunity to go Wisconsin for deer hunting with my adult sons and to visit family and see some friends. Most of my time was spent in the woods or walking through them. What a time to reflect on what God has given me: health, a wonderful helpmate, five children, and now, yes, grand-children. Carter, Nehemiah's son, reached the age where he is able to go to the woods and his first time out in the youth hunt harvested two deer in the same day. He was so happy with a proud father and mother as well.

Anchor House has had a successful year also. We have seen many familiar faces and many new faces as the ships come from a variety of countries with their cargos. Even though our year has been a little slower economically, we have been busy with projects. The fruit of your labor is always encouraging to see. The Anchor House now hosts a breakfast every Thursday morning and recently two people that attend have except Christ as their Savior. Praise God for his moving in their lives. We rejoice with the angles of heaven. It is a privilege to disciple people who are eager to know Christ personally. Amen. Chaplain Tim



## Hebrews

4:12.



The word of God is living and active. The statistics we record reflect certain activities of the center, but not all the literature given out and the verbal witness Christ is sharing with many who come to the center and are met on ships. We are grateful for God's promise to use his word to reach people.

Due to the slower world economy, our donations and support have dropped. We send an invoice to each ship which docks for a voluntary donation. As you can see from the chart at the bottom of this column, a slow economy means fewer ships which affects support. Also our store in the center served fewer seafarers due to the decreased shipping. And individual businesses find themselves in a tighter budget so we experience a decline there too. However, there is a noted increase in our faithful individual donors! *As you prepare to be a blessing this Christmas, please consider those we minister to at Anchor House with your year-end giving.*

### Christmas Donations

Anchor House monthly partner	\$25/month
Chaplain support	\$25/month
Bibles	\$35 for seven
Phone Cards	\$25 for five
Fill ditty bags	\$25 fills five

Thank you for your continued prayers for the seafarers, the wellness of our volunteers and the direction of this ministry.

## Special thanks to Port Manatee Tenant

Federal Marine Terminals



for providing a turkey dinner for dock workers and a donation to Anchor House in celebration of Thanksgiving. We appreciate this very much.



### Prayer Request

**Pray** for those at sea during Christmas, during loneliness and separation from family.

**Pray** for the word of God to come alive in their lives.

**Thank God** for a \$1,000 donation toward our roof replacement. Pray for additional needed funds for the leaky roof.

**Please ask God** if you might become a monthly donor to Anchor House.

Funding Sources	2,011	2,012
Ship Donations	\$ 7,425	4,350
Store in Center Sales	70,777	49,737
Donation box	10,600	6,408
Individuals	32,700	41,100
Churches	20,173	25,518
Fundraiser Events	14,875	18,400
Business/Organizations	5,500	3,700

### Estimated 2012-Year Record

Countries Served	29
Seafarers in the center	2,467
Seafarers Transported	965
Jesus DVD Given	187
Bibles Given	389
Meals Served	4,174

## 2012 Volunteer Thank You

Webster's dictionary says that a volunteer is a person who voluntarily undertakes a service or duty, to offer one self freely. We are so thankful for all the hours that our volunteers give. May the Lord bless you.