

GOOD NEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

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Working TOGETHER for All Seafarers

Sometimes port ministry can seem isolating, especially when seafarers approach us with their unique and challenging issues. We are thankful that we can call on other organizations who have knowledge and expertise to help us better serve all seafarers, and not have to try to do everything on our own.

M2S is part of the **North American Maritime Ministry Association**



(NAMMA) which is an umbrella organization connecting port ministries throughout North America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Through this network we have been able to meet, and have contact with, other port chaplains and on occasion have contacted them concerning seafarers or ships which are heading to their ports.

The Seamen's Church Institute's **Center for Seafarers' Rights (CSR)** based out of New York, is a free legal aid service devoted to the needs of seafarers. Since 2001, CSR has conducted shore leave surveys in the United States to gain an accurate count of seafarers who are denied shore leave, and through these surveys has impacted government legislation regarding the rights of seafarers and access to ships for port chaplains and volunteers in the U.S.



The **International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)** regularly inspects ships and ensures all seafarers are paid correctly and treated fairly.

Over the years, they have fought against "flags of convenience" which allow shipping companies to register their ships in countries with fewer laws and regulations – not always in the best interests of seafarers! An ITF inspector is present in Montreal and we regularly speak with him about issues individual seafarers have confided in us.



The **International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)** is an international organization committed to

the relief of need, hardship, or distress among seafarers. One of the ways they do this is through



the **SeafarerHelp** network which provides 24/7 multilingual support to seafarers

through phone, email, and social networks. ISWAN is also committed to seafarers' health and promotes health and well-being programs for seafarers both at home and on ships.

Many countries also have unions which support seafarers, and most major ports have a port ministry like M2S which work to serve seafarers

and often are the first point of contact when seafarers face challenges or hardships.

These are only a few of the organizations working to support seafarers. Each year, more people are becoming aware of the unique challenges seafarers face, and are doing research and providing resources to help seafarers around the world in their physical and mental health, in improving their shore leave access, and in restoring their dignity.

We are thankful we are able to participate in the larger network of organizations working for the welfare of seafarers as we share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet.

A Home Away From Home Fundraising Campaign Update



Our collection box overfloweth! (Is that even a word?) Well, it should be, because *overflow* is what comes to mind when we reflect on the response of our faithful supporters to our recent fundraising campaign (yes, I'm talking about you)!

As I write, I'm surrounded by boxes that are ready for the Big Move – moving day is coming soon! How exciting! But what is most exciting is knowing that we aren't just a few people moving some boxes to a new building. We are part of a large and caring community that has seen fit to equip its ministry with what it needs to not only make the move affordable but to make the new center ready for the seafarers we serve – to make it a place of refuge for tired souls and homesick sailors. Now THAT is exciting!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming special report on our new digs, the Home Away From Home you helped make possible. Praise God for all and each one of you!

Good-bye Albertha...

For the past 8 years, we have been blessed to have Albertha Bosch as our Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator. Many of you have communicated with her by email and phone as she coordinated newsletter deliveries, Christmas parcel details, school and youth group visits, volunteer placements, and many other details too numerous to count.

Albertha's husband, Winston, is a pastor and has accepted a call to a church in Ottawa, so she will be leaving us as she accompanies her husband and family to Ottawa where we know God will continue to use her and her talents in many ways. Good-bye Albertha...thank you SO much for your years of service with The Ministry to Seafarers! We will miss you, and we wish you God's blessings as you move to a new city!



...and Welcome Patty!

We are pleased to welcome Patricia Sarazen as our new Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator. Patty is a lifelong resident of Montreal and will be joining M2S after serving for 13 years as Administrator of Rosemount Bible Church. She is already learning about the life of seafarers and the role M2S has in sharing the love of Jesus to seafarers from around the world.

Welcome Patty! We look forward to getting to know you and seeing how God will use you and your talents with M2S!



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