



# GOOD NEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

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M2S Chaplain, David Rozeboom (center) with four seafarers atop Mont Royal on their first visit to Montreal.

## Thinking Outside the Window

In his book called *Thinking Outside the Window*, Dr. Yaw Perbi, president of International Student Ministries Canada, makes a compelling case for the urgency to share the gospel with international students: “[God’s] pulled the brightest and the best of the window and placed them right in our backyards, whether in the Western world or elsewhere, to reach out with the love, lives, lips and literature of the Gospel and them send back into the Window\* for godly transformation!”

What does this have to do with seafarers? It turns out that two of the top four sending countries of international students to Canada are also the same countries from which we receive seafarers—China and India.

God is a strategic God and there are no coincidences with Him. We must not miss the message in this global movement: **God has strategically placed M2S in Montreal for the stunningly simple mission of sharing his love with thousands of seafarers who are in the position of influencing their crew mates, families and communities back home.**

In *The Message*, Acts 17:26 says, “Starting from scratch, [God] made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him.”  
Message received loud and clear!

“Is anyone...searching for...your God because they’ve been so profoundly touched by the warmth of your welcome and the love you showed them, a hitherto stranger?”

Dr. Yaw Perbi

Here at The Ministry to Seafarers, we have never been more certain of the value of our ministry or the urgency of our calling. We deeply desire that seafarers will find Jesus Christ while they are enjoying the hospitality of our land. We believe that each man or woman that God allows through our doors has been placed there deliberately by the Creator of the universe.

This ministry happens every day through the efforts of staff, volunteers and our partners at Mariners’ House. Read on to hear some of their reflections.

\* For a complete description of what’s known as the 10/40 Window, visit [www.win1040.com](http://www.win1040.com).

# Home Away From Home Campaign Update

Alas, the Port of Montreal has announced another delay and the new moving date is now the end of September. (You can find photos of the construction on our Facebook page.) We are learning to trust God's timing and to accept that perhaps this quieter season is a gift from him.



## Prayer Requests

- For seafarer centres in Texas and Florida that sustained damage from hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Pray for the rebuilding efforts. Pray for protection from further inclement weather.
- India, Bangladesh and Nepal have suffered huge losses this monsoon season. Pray for the families of seafarers who must cope with devastation while their men are at sea.
- For health and strength as one board member and one of our staff recuperate from surgeries.
- That we will cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he moves in and through us to bring others to faith.

## Christmas Shoebox Parcels

Last December our lead chaplain, Michelle, met a German captain who mentioned how much she appreciated the work of seafarer centres around the world. She has been sailing since 1980 and has been captain since 1995, and has noticed many changes in that time. She said many churches and organizations no longer see the value in seafarer centres and that many have closed since she started sailing, but she feels that chaplains and seafarer centres are just as needed now as they were 40 years ago.

We hope that story inspires you to remember a seafarer this Christmas and to pack a box. Find out what to include and how to send the box our way at [www.ministrytoseafarers.org/parcels.htm](http://www.ministrytoseafarers.org/parcels.htm).



## Volunteer Corner

Congratulations to George and Grace Couperus, the 2017 recipients of the **Sailors' Society Peter G. Bernard Volunteer Award!** This award is given annually in recognition of a volunteer that generously contributes his/her time to support the welfare of seafarers.

George and Grace have been volunteers with us for over 20 years and some seafarers still call them "Dad" and "Mom." George has even travelled to India to visit seafarers in their homes!

Tony and Mary DeKoter served with us in July and August and share this reflection about embracing the mission of M2S: *"We have a new friend on Facebook. The number of seamen that came was limited but one ship had generator problems and 'Ray' was excited to be at the Centre every day - perfect attendance. Just to see his joy and happiness will be a remembrance. M2S is a source of hope and love to those who enter."*

As a former seafarer, Mario Pinto and his wife Wendy understand what it's like to travel on the seas and feel the relational strain of separation. After two weeks of volunteering they commented, *"We thank God for this opportunity to volunteer. As always, we enjoyed our time here and got closer to all the staff whom we now know so well."*

This month we are also thankful for a new local volunteer named Kevin and for two women who are knitting hats for our seafarers!



## The Ministry to Seafarers

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