

# GOOD NEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

June 2018, No. 82



## Seafarer Events

In March, David and Patty attended a shipping conference where the North American Maritime Ministry Association held sessions for organizations interested in seafarer welfare. We had the opportunity to meet port chaplains and other workers from all around the world. We heard talks on advocacy, seafarer mobility and fatigue, port-community initiatives, mental health and the environment.

In the talk on advocacy, we learned that in 2016 The Mission to Seafarers helped more than 1000 seafarers who hadn't been paid for a combined total of 529 years! We admire the important and valuable work that's being done by welfare agencies around the world.

We came away with a renewed desire to create a resilient community for seafarers in Montreal. So on April 26th we started by holding **An Evening of Rest & Relaxation** (see photos above). Forty seafarers attended! Jesus said, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28) He knows the value of rest and he cares about those who are weighed down by the cares and pressures of the world.

On June 25th we'll be celebrating the annual **Day of the Seafarer** which was established worldwide to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers. *Come and celebrate with us from 3-10 pm!*

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## Volunteer Corner

We are sad to say good-bye to **Kevin Walker** from All Nations CRC in Halifax. Since the fall, he volunteered with us two evenings/week while he studied at McGill University. We've had a lot of fun getting to know Kevin and we've appreciated his openness to new experiences and his dedication to whatever challenges he tackled. We wish him every blessing in Halifax. This winter we also enjoyed the company of other volunteers including **Gerard and Hester Bondt**, and **Tony and Mary DeKoter**.





June 2018 is a special month to donate because we are participating in the **Great Canadian Giving Challenge**, sponsored by Giv3 and CanadaHelps, which raised almost \$10M for Canadian charities last year! Here's how it works:

- Every \$1 donated earns us a chance to win a \$10,000 donation (minimum \$3 donation required).
- Only online donations will be entered for the prize draw. Donate from our giving page at <https://www.canadahelps.org/gcgc/39167>. (This link is also available on our website and Facebook page.)

**GOAL:** To raise \$2,000 in the month of June. It's part of a bigger goal to raise an additional \$30,000 in 2018 so we can purchase a new van. Our port is 25 kilometers long. On average, we do 125 monthly visits to ships and transport 150 seafarers. Our 2006 van has come to the end of its useful life and needs replacing.

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## Engaging Montreal Students

We often have groups of students visit the Seafarers' Centre to learn more about Ministry to Seafarers and the unique ministry we have. This past April, we welcomed a group of students from a French theological school in Montreal who visited as part of a class where they are learning about ministries in Montreal. When we have groups visit, we generally talk about the same type of things, and in this case, the professor sent Michelle a list of questions in advance that he wanted to cover. It was a pleasure to see how engaged the group was, because before half of the questions were asked, the students had their own questions digging further into the life and wellbeing of seafarers. It is encouraging for us to share our ministry with others.

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## Praise & Prayer Requests

We are looking for monthly prayer warriors! Sign up for LIFEBOAT, our prayer bulletin, by emailing us at [info@ministrytoseafarers.org](mailto:info@ministrytoseafarers.org). You can also access a copy in our NEWS section of the website.

Chaplain David had the opportunity to have three spiritual conversations with three different seafarers in the same day. While we hope and try to have spiritual conversations with people every day, it doesn't always happen, so when multiple people are open to these conversations in one day it is exciting for us.

After a busy spring, we're in need of some time off. Pray for our summer holidays – for rest, rejuvenation, quality time with family and safety in our travels.



### The Ministry to Seafarers

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