

# “Friends of the Seafarers”

Tampa Seafarers Center / Tampa Port Ministries, Inc.

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## Caring for the Port Community

March was a month full of activity at the Seafarers Center. We were able to visit 63 ships in March and had 30 Seafarers visit the center during the month. 39 Seafarers accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior in March!!! These 39 were from the following countries. Philippines, India, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Each month we are able to minister to approximately 1,800 crew members on cruise ships and 1,196 crew members on cargo vessels. We appreciate your prayers and support which makes all of this possible.

### Tampa Seafarer Center asked to do ship blessing.

The Adfines North, a bulk carrier, was built in China and placed into service in the South Atlantic region in 2012. On March 13, 2013 the ship visited the Port of Tampa with a crew of Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Philippine Seafarers. The captain of the vessel reached out to us and requested a ship blessing be done because it had never been done and he and the crew wanted to have a service blessing the ship and crew. We gladly visited the ship and conducted a service for the crew blessing the ship and all the crew members. At the end of the service an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Savior was given and 17 Seafarers accepted Jesus as their Savior! We then went to the bridge of the ship and prayed for the safe navigation and operation of the vessel as long as it sails the seas. After the service we were invited to be the dinner guest of the captain in his dining room. We were able to get to know the captain and found out that he had a very interesting background. Before his career as a ships captain he had been a music teacher in Ukraine. He was a talented French horn player. Before his time as a music teacher he was a soldier in the Soviet army. It is interesting that at one time in the past we had stood on opposite sides of the Iron Curtain as enemies and now we sat across the dinner table as brothers in Christ. Praise the Lord!!!



If you would prefer to receive our email version of the “Friends of the Seafarers” newsletter please visit our website and sign up for our email newsletter at [www.tampaseafarerscenter.com](http://www.tampaseafarerscenter.com)

Tampa Seafarers Center, 1912 Eastport Drive Tampa, FL 33605, 813-247-5237

## Volunteer Opportunities

If you're interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact us. We'd love to talk with you about how you can use your spiritual gifts and talents to meet the needs of Seafarers visiting the Tampa Seafarers Center. God has called each of us to partner with Him in reaching the world for Christ. The world comes to The Port of Tampa — we need people who will join us in meeting them when they are here.

### Dispatchers/Hosts/Hostesses—

Answer the phones and arrange transportation for seafarers and greet visitors to the center and make them feel welcome.

**Van Drivers**—Provide transportation from the ship to ministry center and/or shopping venues.

**Prayer Partners**—God moves through the prayers of His people. We are in need of people who will commit to praying for Tampa Port Ministries on a regular basis.

**Fundraiser Volunteer**—Fundraising is a never ending need for us so if you are gifted in this area we would welcome your help.