

“Friends of the Seafarers”

Tampa Seafarers Center / Tampa Port Ministries, Inc.

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Caring for the Port Community

July was an exciting month at the Tampa Seafarers Center. We were able to visit 58 ships in July. We had 42 Seafarers visit the center during the month. 30 Seafarers accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior in July!!! Each month we are able to minister to approximately 1,800 crew members on cruise ships and 1,500 crew members on cargo vessels. We appreciate your prayers and support which makes all of this possible.

Who says you can't go home Onesimus?

I always take with me on the cruise ships a few Christian books for the crew members to take free of charge. The other day one of those books was a devotional that had been donated to the Seafarers Center by a supporter of the center. One of the guys that I have gotten to know very well on the ship is a brother in Christ named Onesimus from Honduras. He picked up the devotional and opened it to somewhere in the middle and immediately became emotional about what he saw. The devotional that he opened up to was titled “Who says you can’t go home” and was based on the book of Philemon. Onesimus explained to me that he was going home that day and that he had been worried about the trip because his country is not very safe right now and he was concerned about the three hour journey from the airport to his home and the chance of being robbed or killed on the way home. He knew God was talking to him through this book because he opened it to this particular page and then he pointed out to me that the main character in the book of Philemon is a slave named Onesimus!!! It amazes me how God works in our lives to show us that he is there and that he cares for us. Here was a worried Seafarer named Onesimus and God put in his hand that day a devotion about going home using the book of Philemon which has a character bearing his name. If you get a chance today read the book of Philemon, it is short, only 25 verses. My favorite part is where Paul tells Philemon if anything is owed by Onesimus to put that on Paul’s account. That reminds me of what Jesus did for me when he took the sin debt which I owed and put it on his account.

2013 Tampa Port Ministries Anchor Ball - October 26th

This years Anchor Ball will be held on October 26th at 6:00 p.m. We will be celebrating at the Embassy Suites Tampa—Downtown Convention Center located at 513 S. Florida Avenue Tampa, FL 33602

This is a black tie optional gala event featuring dinner, live and silent auctions. For more information please visit our website www.TampaPortMinistries.com

If you would like to assist with this years event by donating items for either the live or silent auction please call the office at 813-247-5237.

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

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.

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.