

# “Friends of the Seafarers”

Tampa Seafarers Center / Tampa Port Ministries, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 8  
9/1/2012

## Caring for the Port Community

August was full of excitement for us at the Seafarers Center. We were able to visit 57 ships in August representing a mission field of over 2900 Seafarers. 11 Seafarers accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior in August!!! These 11 were from all around the world and these countries are represented in their numbers. Cape Verde, Philippines, Latvia and Kiribati. That makes a total of 255 Seafarers that have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior so far this year. We continue to appreciate your prayers and support.

### RNC brings a new kind of visitor.

While the ship traffic was a little slow the week that the Republican National Convention was in town we were still busy. We were blessed to have many of the additional Coast Guard and security personnel visit the center on a daily basis and utilize our facilities. We got to know many of them and had a wonderful time ministering to their needs while they were here in Tampa and away from their families.



### Sometimes they minister to us.

The stated mission of the Seafarers Center is to minister to the physical, social and spiritual needs of International Seafarers and others that enter the Port of Tampa. It is an honor and a joy to be used of the LORD to carry out this mission on a daily basis. There are times however when the LORD uses the Seafarers to minister to us. We had just such an occasion in August when one evening a group of Seafarers from a Chinese ship visited the center. After two young Chinese men finished off a game of ping pong with



our Coast Guard visitors one of them picked up the guitar we have here at the center and started picking away on it. Soon thereafter he began to sing for us and although I couldn't understand the words I could tell that it was a beautiful ballad from his home. As I sat there and listened to him singing I began to reflect upon just how blessed we are to be in this place at this time and how much of a privilege it is to be able to serve the LORD here.

## 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 to the center and make them feel welcome.

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

We are currently raising funds for some needed repairs to the facility. We need to raise \$25,000 for roof repair, termite treatment and a drop ceiling. Please pray that this need will quickly be met.



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)