

# “Friends of the Seafarers”

Tampa Seafarers Center / Tampa Port Ministries, Inc.

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## Caring for the Port Community

September was another busy month at the Tampa Seafarers Center as we prepare for our annual Anchor Ball which will be held October 26th. We were able to visit 60 ships in September. We had 21 Seafarers visit the center during the month. 19 Seafarers accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior in September!!! 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.

### Hospitality: Part of our Christian Character.

In September I had the pleasure of going on my first cruise. It was aboard the Carnival cruise ship Paradise. It was particularly fun because that is one of the cruise ships I get to go on as a Chaplain while they are in port so I knew many of the crew members. The thing that stood out to me the most about the cruise was the efforts of the crew to make me feel welcome, comfortable, entertained and special. I mentioned this to my friend Richard who is from the Philippines and works on the Paradise. He responded that it is all about hospitality. Now that is a word I have never really thought of much and since I have been back I keep thinking about what he said. It is all about hospitality. You know we are told throughout the Bible that as Christians one of the marks of our character is that we are to be given to hospitality. In other words we are to show hospitality to others. That includes both those we know and strangers as well. Jesus laid it out for us in Matthew chapter 25 when he discussed hospitable behavior. Not all of the crew members on the Paradise are Christians but they all bear this mark of hospitality in their character. Think about the difference we could all make



in this world if we too would daily show this same hospitality to those around us. As Christians it is supposed to be a mark of our character. Here is a picture of the group of Christians we get to work with on the Carnival Legend. A picture of hospitality!!!

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](http://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.

## 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.

**2013 Tampa Port Ministries Anchor Ball - October 26th**