



inside:

Mission teams report on port activities as COVID restrictions continue

A time to reflect Lent 2023

22 February – 6 April 2023



In the long, hard months at sea, your care truly matters. This Lent, please help us to continue to reach seafarers and their families.

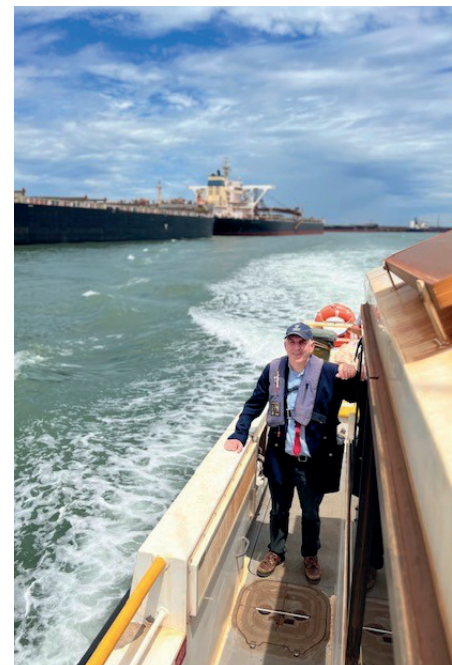
Our Lent Appeal will be mailed to supporters soon.
If you are not on our mailing list but would like to be, please email:
info@missiontoseafarers.org or call +44 (0)20 7248 5202.

Welcome to the latest FAN!

I have been welcoming you to editions of FAN now for ten years. To me it seems hard to believe that so much time has passed. I have just been flicking through some of the photographs on my phone. They are a reminder of the extraordinary journey The Mission to Seafarers has been on during that time. I have said before that I suspect we are due an updated History of the Mission, something to which I have begun giving some thought, especially in the light of the events of the last three years. The pandemic, with its implications continuing for seafarers, is probably worth several chapters on its own. And now the Ukraine conflict.

These editions of FAN, however, while they cannot tell the whole story, form an important part of our historical record. I hope you will enjoy those vital bits of Mission narrative which are told this month. They include some of my experiences on my first major post-pandemic Mission tour to Australia. It was a visit which highlighted the amazing work which has been done over these last years, despite so many hurdles. It was also a visit which highlighted the challenges and opportunities which face us around the world. These are uncertain times, but also exciting ones and I hope you get some sense of this in reading these pages.

Once again, of course, this welcome comes with the profound thanks of all of us at the Mission, and of course those of the seafarers we serve. We are so grateful for your continuing support – your interest, generosity, and prayers. Without them we could do nothing. As you read of “our” work, always remember it is “your” work.



The Revd. Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General

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Editors: Nina Edy & Abiola Oladunni
Design: Yeomans Marketing
FAN magazine
+44(0)20 7248 5202
contactus@missiontoseafarers.org
www.missiontoseafarers.org

The Mission to Seafarers,
First Floor, 6 Bath Place, Rivington Street,
London EC2A 3JE

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A Strong Future for the Mission in Australia

Andrew Wright's recent trip to Australia highlights the importance of our work in the region.

I spent my first day in Australia in Fremantle. It was encouraging to see a recovering crew presence at our centre there, as at several other ports, including Townsville on the opposite side of the country.

Despite welcome new legislation from the Australian maritime authorities, which makes it compulsory to allow shore leave, it seems many captains and companies may continue to quietly discourage it. It is great to see these new steps in 'normalisation'. However, it remains vital that we look for new ways to proactively reach seafarers.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

The crucial nature of our work is perhaps most evident in remote areas such as Port Hedland and Dampier in the northern Pilbara region. This is a rugged, red-blooded place from which radiate

a series of roads and railways serving many mines. The welcome and facilities provided by our centres in these dusty and industrialised ports are essential.

“**Our centres in these dusty and industrialised ports are essential”**

My trip to Port Walcott, a truly remote port focused on iron ore, was particularly eye opening. Some support is provided from Dampier, but that's an hour away, so I was delighted to hear of plans to open a centre nearby – and expand ship visiting.

This kind of entrepreneurial thinking is prevalent throughout the ministry in Australia. In the Port of Gladstone, the team have reorganised their welfare provision and were the official transport resource for seafarers across Queensland throughout the pandemic.

“**Entrepreneurial thinking is prevalent throughout the ministry”**

Meanwhile, Port Hedland and Dampier conduct port tours, introducing visitors to both seafarers and to our work. The launches that collect seafarers now carry visitors as well, providing unique insight for both and vital income.

COLLABORATING FOR THE FUTURE

Throughout my visit I saw the Mission partnering with port authorities, mining companies, local communities and churches. This was clear everywhere, including Port Kembla. My meeting with port authorities there, as elsewhere, testified to the huge respect in which the work is held and the excellence of partnerships.

A highlight of the trip was the shared ecumenical conference in Sydney, which brought the Mission and Stella Maris teams together – many meeting for the first time in three years. Ideas were shared and explored, along with opportunities for funding and collaboration. How I have missed these connections!

“**How I have missed these connections!”**

Following on from our excellent former Director Garry Dodd, Sue Dight, our new Regional Director for Australia and Papua New Guinea, arrives at an important moment when fresh energy and vision will be vital. This was an enormously stimulating and refreshing journey for me, and how good to see our teams and seafarers face-to-face once again. An exciting future awaits the Mission in Australia.

“**Fresh energy and vision will be vital”**





Travels in the Pacific

Ben Bailey, our Director of Programme, reflects on his recent visit to New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands of Fiji and Tahiti.

In Auckland, I met with our Regional Director, Revd. Lance Lukin, and members of the Oceania Council. The Government of New Zealand have established a national levy which provides much-needed funding so every ship calling at its ports will be visited by a welfare officer.

“Every ship calling at its ports will be visited”

Such a scheme enables chaplains to focus on offering pastoral support and mental health advice. The visit provided an opportunity to understand how the

agreement works and take lessons I can use when lobbying other countries to adopt a similar model.

From Auckland, Lance and I travelled to Fiji. The Mission has worked on the island since 1941 and during our long history has provided a wide range of facilities. With changes in shipping, and a decreasing volunteer base, the team has focused on providing emergency support.

This came to the fore during the pandemic when long-standing volunteer and Secretary of MtS Fiji, Mrs Viti Whippy, supported seafarers from Kiribati who were stranded when their homeland closed its borders. In another case, Viti assisted a crew from the Philippines who were left abandoned.

REIMAGINING THE MISSION

Now that COVID is – for the most part – under control, we are working to reimagine the ministry. Fiji has a significant seafaring population, with around 9,000 people working on deep sea vessels. Here, there is scope to develop a Family Support Network like those we have in the Philippines and India.

We also spoke with the maritime college about training cadets in financial literacy and positive wellbeing. Our core work of visiting seafarers, however, remains vital and we had positive discussions with the Diocese of Polynesia to re-establish this service. I was delighted to join Swire Shipping to celebrate their 150th Anniversary during this trip too.



BEN BAILEY AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR, OCEANIA, LANCE LUKIN (L) WITH MTS FIJI SUPPORTERS

From Fiji, we crossed the International Date Line and arrived in the beautiful town of Papeete in French Polynesia. This island paradise has a busy port which includes containers, dry and liquid bulk, and a cruise terminal.

This is a new location for the Mission, and a group of eager volunteers and



BEN AND LANCE ATTENDED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR A ST NICOLAS EVENT AND MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF FRENCH POLYNESIA (CENTRE).

potential chaplains have been identified to serve seafarers. We are now working with the authorities to facilitate this and met with officials – including the President of French Polynesia!

“This is a new location for the Mission”

Occasional visits like these provide me and my colleagues with a greater understanding of our work in practice. They help to generate new ideas and build new partnerships so that we can serve more seafarers.



Chaplain's Corner

Our Chaplain in Singapore, Toh Soon Kok, and his wife Susan Koh, Centre Manager, reflect on the current challenges facing seafarers.

In the busy port of Singapore, the team visit between 400 and 500 hundred ships a month. This is a remarkable number, but as Soon Kok explains, "We've barely covered 20% of need, which is why we're trying desperately to expand our team, so no one falls through the gap."

The small team provide a full range of support for seafarers; from overseeing communion services and supporting the mental health of crew, to providing information on legislation and buying Big Macs!

“We work as a husband-and-wife team”

TRUSTED CONFIDANTS

"Every day is different, so I do enjoy the diversity," confirms Soon Kok. Perhaps one of the most important roles our chaplains play is as a trusted confidant.

"Just last week we went onboard a vessel to do a holy communion service," explains Susan. "The chief cook approached me crying, saying, 'before I came onboard my wife just passed'. He just left behind two girls in the Philippines. So, he asked [us] to pray for him and for his late wife." Soon Kok and Susan work as a tight unit, sensitive to the specific needs of



TOH SOON KOK, PORT CHAPLAIN IN SINGAPORE (L) AND HIS WIFE SUSAN KOH

each seafarer. "We do receive more female seafarers so it's more appropriate for Susan to talk to them one-on-one in confidence or in privacy, so in that respect Susan comes in really handy!" confirms Soon Kok.

UNUSUAL REQUESTS

In these times of constant change and flux, crew rely on our teams to update them on the latest legislation regarding shore leave, vaccination and crew changes.

Sometimes, they come to Soon Kok and Susan with more unusual requests! "Recently I received a message from a lady seafarer, and she asked to buy some arts and crafts so that she can de-stress when she's free," explains Susan.

During the pandemic, those requests came thick and fast. Seafarers were often asking for things that reminded them of home. Soon Kok recalls getting a message simply asking, "Sir, can you help me get 20 Big Macs?"

TO READ THIS STORY IN FULL,
PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG/NEWS

Going Green in Hong Kong

Our new seafarers centre in Hong Kong is leading the way in welfare support and environmental sustainability.

The Mission has been serving seafarers through the port of Hong Kong since 1863. After more than 50 years of service, the current centre, which occupies an enviable position in the bustling district of Tsim Sha Tsui, was beginning to show its age. "It wasn't very environmentally friendly, and only 30% of the bedrooms had ensuite," explains The Revd. Canon Stephen Miller, who's been chaplain in Hong Kong since 2011.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The 42-storey development, of which nine floors contain the new centre, will offer 75 ensuite rooms, a reception, car park, church for 200, restaurant, function rooms, bar/lounge, gym and heated swimming pool not to mention office space.

Thought has been put into every detail of the redevelopment to ensure it not only complies with the Gold Beam building standards but also promotes sustainability. Furniture has been sourced from sustainable producers, plastic will be used minimally with water dispensers



THE 42-STOREY DEVELOPMENT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN HONG KONG

on each floor and re-useable water flasks in each room, alongside refillable glass toiletry dispensers and the latest air treatment systems to guarantee a healthy environment. The menu in the restaurant will use locally sourced food, the pool will be insulated with thermal blankets at night, and LED lighting is used throughout.

MORE THAN LIP SERVICE

Of course, seafarer welfare remains central. "If we really care then we need to show it and hold up best practice for the shipping industry," continues Revd. Stephen.

“Best practice for the shipping industry”

Through the recruitment and training process, the visions and values of the Mission are clearly communicated and supported. Revd. Stephen believes this approach will make the centre in Hong Kong, which is due to open in 2024, a model for others to follow. "We want to provide a five-star service for seafarers who often find they live a two-star life," he says with pride.

“We want to provide a five-star service for seafarers”

THE MISSION HAS BEEN SERVING SEAFARERS IN HONG KONG SINCE 1863.



HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL IN ATTENDANCE AT THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS IN DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Wrapped

We are grateful to all those who wrapped gifts, made donations, and gave their time so generously to make Christmas 2022 a special one for seafarers.

On Tuesday 6 December, All Hallows by the Tower in London was filled with Christmas cheer as more than 200 guests gathered for our annual Christmas carols service. Once again, we were delighted that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, President of The Mission to Seafarers could join us to read the eighth lesson.

London wasn't the only concert venue this year. In Southampton, the Mission teamed up with Associated British Ports to host a free Christmas event. The night was a wonderful celebration



CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER.

of Christmas with live music from Southampton Youth Brass Band, and the choral group Cantores Michaelis.

CHRISTMAS WRAPPING

After the disruption of COVID, it was wonderful to have the support of many of our corporate partners in wrapping and distributing gifts.

The London office of law firm HFW was turned into a wrapping production line as Christmas gifts, containing toiletries, chocolates, and souvenirs, were compiled ready to be distributed by our chaplain in Southampton, Revd. James Mosher, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Special thanks also need to go to our partners Breakbulk Events and Media and the Hyve Group plc who spent a morning at the Port of Tilbury in London packing and wrapping more than 500 Christmas presents.

GENEROSITY OF OUR PARTNERS

We are also grateful to our partners who helped fund our Christmas initiatives. Renewable energy company Drax, along with its partners Associated British Ports, DAN Shipping and Davis Wagon Services, donated £3,500 to provide Christmas gifts.



HFW, LONDON OFFICE WRAPPING CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE SEAFARERS AT OUR SOUTHAMPTON CENTRE.

Mark Gibbens, Drax Head of Logistics, said, "We are proud to support the important work that The Mission to Seafarers does to bring support and comfort to the key workers in our supply chain and others during Christmas."



We are proud to support the important work"

Funds raised through Eastern Pacific Shipping's centenary celebrations for their founder, Sammy Ofer, were also used to purchase gifts for seafarers.

And we continue to be grateful to The International Transport Federation, who support our efforts to spread Christmas cheer.



DRAX VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE FOOD, CLOTHING AND TOILETRIES FOR SEAFARERS AT IMMINGHAM PORT OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD.

GIFT DISTRIBUTION

Gifts are distributed in ports across the globe, including Rotterdam where chaplain Revd. Dennis Woodward and his team distributed 750 gifts and Falmouth where gifts were delivered to 212 seafarers.

Penny Phillips BEM, Executive Assistant at A&P Falmouth and Chairman of Falmouth Mission said, "Our thoughts go out to all seafarers away from their loved ones at Christmas and this year we think particularly of the 16 crew members [who received gifts] who are all Ukrainian seafarers."



Our thoughts go out to all seafarers"

Meanwhile, the port of Busan in South Korea was a hive of activity. On 15 December, The Friends of the Flying Angel prepared 250 Christmas gifts for seafarers and the Korea Maritime Church donated a further 50 gifts.

On 22 December, an additional 500 gifts were prepared by the Busan Christian Maritime Association. The day culminated with a Christmas party complete with carols and traditional Korean games. Hamburger boxes were even delivered to seafarers at a nearby hotel who were unable to attend in person.



PORT CHAPLAIN, MONICA PARK WITH A SEAFARER ON A SHIP VISIT.

Port Activities in the wake of COVID-19

Our teams across the world are finding innovative ways to support seafarers as COVID restrictions continue to disrupt life for seafarers in many ports.



1 Panama

Many ports have started charging crew who leave their vessels making it economically unviable for seafarers to request shore leave. These crews are also being unfairly penalized in the USA where seafarers whose ships have visited Panamá and Costa Rica are unable to leave their ships.



3 Hong Kong

While shore leave is still not allowed in Hong Kong, we are grateful that ship visiting has been reinstated. Our teams continue to be a lifeline for seafarers, as we shop for essential items and help them send money home to loved ones.

2 Thailand

In Thailand, much of port life remains on hold. Shore leave is not allowed and many crews complain of being over-worked as travel restrictions impact crew change. As a result, the time our team spends on board is vital and prayer remains our constant source of strength.



4 Busan

Ship visiting is still off limits in Busan. However, our team are working with other welfare organisations to find creative ways to respond. Together, we are approaching ships under gangways to have a quick talk with the duty crew before sharing welfare parcels for them to distribute.



5 Australia

New regulations have mandated shore leave in Australia, but some crew and captains are reluctant to leave their ships. Many seafarers are virtually imprisoned on board as their contracts run for nine months or longer. Our teams in Australia are working tirelessly to get support to these key workers.



6 Oceania Region

In New Zealand, COVID was the catalyst for a government funding programme, which has transformed our ship visiting programme. We may have lost older volunteers, but we have successfully recruited some younger ship visitors and now have paid visitors in all the major ports.



Make a donation

If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below, and complete your contact details at the bottom of the page.

Please accept my gift of: ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50

or £ (your chosen amount)

☐ My cheque is enclosed (payable to The Mission to Seafarers)

☐ Please debit my credit/debit card: Visa/MasterCard/Maestro (delete as applicable)

Card number:

Start date: - Expiry date: -

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Contact details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

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How you can support us

There are many ways in which you can support our work with seafarers around the world.

Find out more about getting involved

Please tick the box below and fill out the contact details panel overleaf to find out more about:

- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Remembering The Mission in your Will
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Involving your company
- ☐ Giving in memory of a friend or loved one

We will send you regular updates about the work, needs and impact of The Mission to Seafarers.

- ☐ Please tick if you would like to stop receiving communication from us by post
- ☐ Please tick if you would like to stop receiving communication from us by telephone
- ☐ Please tick if you would like to receive email communications from us

Please detach this form and send it in the Freepost Envelope Provided.
You do not need to write any other details on the envelope.



Calling all Ethical Socially Active Businesses

Demonstrate your commitment to those who keep the global economy ticking by partnering with the Mission.

As we recover from the festivities, it's important to remember the seafarers who spent their Christmas away from loved ones, delivering the goods we needed to make our family celebrations so special.

The reality is, while seafaring is a life of adventure, it is also a life of loneliness where seafarers battle the dangers of the ocean alongside personal isolation. Through more than 200 port centres across the world, the Mission is ready to support them through whatever life brings.

With the help of our remarkable corporate partners, our regional teams can provide vital support such as mental health workshops, emergency medical assistance, or legal advice wherever it's needed.



DEMONSTRATE YOUR CORPORATE VALUES

There are so many ways your company can join us in honouring those who keep the global economy running. From regular financial donations to participating in activities such as the Global Day of Action, or our Japan Adventure Race, you can develop a programme that fits with your corporate social responsibility agenda.

So many great companies have already stepped forward to support our work. In the process, they are building their identity as ethical, socially-active organisations committed to living out their corporate values. We would love your company to join them.

Become a corporate partner:

- Increase brand awareness and recognition
- Inspire, engage and develop your employees
- Align with a great cause that matches your values
- Build competitive advantage in a crowded market

Contact Maurizio Borgatti on **0207 2462980** or email **Maurizio.Borgatti@missiontoseafarers.org** to explore partnering with The Mission to Seafarers.

Reaching Seafarers in Rotterdam



VOLUNTEERS PREPARING GIFTS FOR SEAFARERS AT OUR ROTTERDAM CENTRE.

The Mission to Seafarers has exciting plans to extend and strengthen its work in Rotterdam, Europe's largest port.

With a port area of 42km and a quay length of 79.5km, getting around Europe's busiest port takes some planning. As Johnny Dowling, the Mission's Senior Development Manager explains, "It can easily take 45 minutes to get from the seafarer centre to a ship."

These logistical challenges, accompanied by pressures to reduce turnaround times, mean some seafarers never get ashore, let alone into the city itself.

INNOVATING SUPPORT FOR SEAFARERS

In light of these challenges, the Mission must adapt. "It takes too long to transport seafarers into the centre of Rotterdam, so we are going to bring Rotterdam to them," explains Johnny.

Plans have been drawn up to maximise the outdoor space at our seafarers' centre and to 'bring The Netherlands to the seafarers' with elements of Dutch artwork and culture. Alongside the bar and shop, they'll also be more private areas for seafarers to chat with their families and access one-to-one support. But if we want to reach every seafarer,

We are going to bring Rotterdam to them"

we'll have to be more creative. We would love to develop an innovative electric vehicle that takes all the services provided by our seafarers' centre directly to the gangway of the ship. This could be a game changer for seafarers who struggle to get short leave.

We would love to develop an innovative electric vehicle"

VOLUNTEERS ARE KEY

Finances are vital in bringing these plans to life, but so too is manpower. At present, Revd. Dennis Woodward, our chaplain in Rotterdam, is the only team member delivering frontline support. In an ideal world, we'd need a volunteer team of at least 25.

Volunteering in a port as large as Rotterdam can be daunting, but also incredibly exciting. The World Economic Forum has ranked Rotterdam number one for its state-of-the-art infrastructure and pioneering green agenda.

The Mission is already working closely with other welfare agencies and port services to advance the welfare of seafarers, so now could be a great time to join the team.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR WORK IN ROTTERDAM VISIT WWW.MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG/ROTTERDAM

Seafarers Happiness Index

Seafarer's happiness continued to improve throughout 2022 providing a strong foundation for the year ahead.

The Seafarers' Happiness Index for the first quarter of 2022 marked a low point for crew who were physically and emotionally exhausted. After nearly two years of uncertainty and restrictions, their pessimism was reflected in the overall happiness score which was a dismal 5.85/10.

Challenges over crew change and shore leave abounded. But the industry listened and responded. Over the course of the year, seafarers were provided with more certainty and reassurance about their contract length. As a result, many felt better prepared to manage the inevitable challenges of life onboard. Their change in outlook saw the happiness score jump to 7.21/10 by June and 7.30/10 by October.

“Positive progress continues”

CLEAR PINCH POINTS

Despite the positive progress, there were some clear pinch points. Shore leave remains a contentious issue. Legislation varies across the world and many seafarers continue to remain stuck on board their vessels. As one seafarer told us, “Crew should be entitled to shore leave regardless of the challenges of COVID19 restrictions.”

Workload is also a source of ongoing stress. It's clear that minimum safe manning levels do not adequately



reflect the realities of life at sea. Fast turnarounds, multiple ports, bad weather and other demands can push even the most experienced of crews beyond their limit.

However, change is coming. With the imminent introduction of the Sustainable Shipping Initiative Code of Conduct, compliance alone will no longer be enough.

CONTINUED PROGRESS

The industry clearly takes reports such as the Seafarer's Happiness Index seriously. Positive progress continues to be made with the final research of 2022 showing happiness levels were up to 7.69/10. There is still more to do and there is an expectation that the systems supporting seafarers will continue to deliver. There is also a tangible sense of relief that fewer seafarers are having to endure excess stress and contractual complications. We can only hope that this pattern will continue in 2023.

“Happiness levels were up to 7.69/10”

Family Support Network Expands in India

The Mission is making great strides to formalise a network to support seafarers and their families in Tuticorin, India.

Thomas O'Hare, the Mission's Programme Manager, recently returned from India where the Mission successfully completed a baseline study of 15 communities who are keen to join the Family Support Network.

The network will formalise much of the great work already being done by Father Stephen, the Mission's chaplain in Tuticorin.

A LIFE LINKED TO THE SEA

India now provides 9.35% of the world's seafarers, putting the country third in the global rankings. Tuticorin and the Tamil Nadu state are renowned for their fishing heritage. However, as economies evolve, and fishing becomes less sustainable, young people are looking for a career in seafaring.

Whilst this provides opportunity, it can also cause strife. “More young people are vulnerable to fraud. You pay an agent to get you a job, but they just take the money,” confirms Thomas.

SUPPORT FOR EVERYONE

The Family Support Network will help to address these issues, and others, by building the resilience of communities and ensuring they can access support in times of need. Communities are requesting support to develop their IT skills; English and Hindi classes; sewing classes; and first aid courses.

But, as Thomas points out, “The Family Support Network is about so much more. It's about securing the future for families and helping them adapt to the changes that come with seafaring.”

“It's about securing the future for families”

To help formalise the network, the Mission has been working with a volunteer committee consisting of lawyers, local government workers and welfare officials who are well connected.

APPETITE FOR CHANGE

Several successful events, including a family day, a women's carol concert and a gathering of local representatives show that communities are keen to get involved.

The next step is to secure funding, recruit a coordinator to head up the programme and find providers who can deliver the training programmes. There is certainly excitement and momentum to establish a network which could help to transform communities in this region.

“There is certainly excitement and momentum to establish a network”



VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE FAMILY PROGRAMME GATHER TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR SEAFARERS ASSOCIATIONS.



Growth for 2023

At the heart of the Mission is our commitment to advance the welfare of seafarers. This is our unfaltering 'true north', and we've made some significant changes to ensure it remains so.

Early in 2022, our trustees undertook a governance review. Amongst other things, it recommended strengthening the IHQ team in line with our current growth, and increasing compliance, programme and fundraising demands.

As a result, Tomi Toluhi has taken on a new role as Chief Operating Officer. This brings with it a range of responsibilities, including designated deputy to the Secretary General. She will be supported by a new Head of HR and a Regional Operations Manager within her wider team.

Ben Bailey has been retitled as Director of Programme, with his three core responsibilities of port support, programme development, and advocacy. His current team will be bolstered by a Port Development Manager and the new Dubai-based Justice and Welfare Chaplain. The Development Team was also strengthened in 2022, with some adjustments in Finance coming in 2023.

INVESTING IN GROWTH

Our aim is to ensure our work is effectively supported, properly accountable, and has strong foundations. Investment at a regional level is being supported by grants to the value of £750,000 over three years to expand ship visiting across all our nine regions.

Many new roles were put in place in 2022, including in Japan, Myanmar, Thailand, South Africa and the UK, with more to follow. Of note is the expansion of our excellent work in Panama, which will be done in partnership with the Deutsche Seemannsmission.

As well as expanding our ship visiting teams, we are committed to supporting the development of our seafarers centres, with a particular emphasis on mobile and modular models. Much is changing following the pandemic, and we will need to remain flexible.

We believe that we have a team that can really provide the vision, energy and creativity which will be so vital as we look to an ever-changing future.



Many new roles were put in place in 2022"

Seafarers Awards Singapore

The maritime industry came out in force to honour those who have advanced seafarers' welfare within the sector.

After a two-year hiatus, the Mission's prestigious Seafarers Awards ceremony and gala dinner returned in-person to Singapore on 6 October 2022. The event was buzzing with industry professionals keen to show their support for seafarers' welfare.

The event honours crew, shore staff, and shipping companies around the globe who have made an outstanding contribution to seafarers' welfare. Competition was strong reflecting the

immense efforts being made across the sector.

We are extremely grateful to our Gold Sponsors, BHP and Shell who have sponsored this event for 5 years now. Our silver sponsors, North, BV, SOS, SMOU, Swire Shipping and PIL. HFW as Drinks sponsors and BSM as Award Sponsor.

During the evening, the Mission also launched its inaugural Adventure Race Japan, taking place on the Izu Peninsula in May 2023. This two-day adventure will see teams of three run or trek through some of Japan's most stunning landscape to raise funds for the Mission.



WINNERS AND SPONSORS OF THE SEAFARERS AWARDS, SINGAPORE 2022

Seafarers Appreciation in Manila

In collaboration with The Shipowners P&I Club we were delighted to celebrate the seafaring community in the Philippines.

More seafarers come from the Philippines than any country on earth and the event in Manila on 8 October was an opportunity to recognise the invaluable contribution they make.

"Listening to stories of seafarers and families as they openly shared their challenges and hopes was very enlightening and moving," explained Lala Tolentino, our Country Manager in the Philippines.

Alongside the celebrations, we took the opportunity to promote the overall health and wellbeing of seafarers with practical advice and workshops. All aspects of mental and physical wellbeing were covered to help seafarers and their families thrive in their professional and personal lives.

"May this kind of activity continue as we commit and strengthen our ties with our partners," concluded Lala.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for Mission Manager



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, ARTHUR J. LEBLANC, ONS, KC (L) AND GENERAL MANAGER AT HALIFAX MISSION TO SEAFARERS, HELEN GLENN (R).

We are delighted that Helen Glenn, General Manager of the Halifax Mission to Seafarers in Nova Scotia, Canada, is being honoured with a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award.

In his letter to inform her of the award, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, KC praised Helen for demonstrating "exceptional qualities and outstanding service to our province." Not only has Helen tirelessly sought to serve seafarers with compassion, care and love, she has also gone to extraordinary lengths to raise awareness of their vital work and the sacrifices they make.

As Revd. Judith Alltree, the Regional Director for the Mission in Canada says, "she has helped to change the prevailing attitude of sea blindness to sea awareness with her brilliant newsletters, and her support of her staff and volunteers."

"She has helped to change the prevailing attitude of sea blindness."

Lloyd's List Top 100



The Mission's Secretary General is recognised in Lloyd's List's top 100 most influential people in shipping.

Back in November, Lloyd's List unveiled the 12th edition of their top 100 most influential people in shipping, which reflects the constant change in the industry. The Mission's Secretary General Revd. Canon Andrew Wright was listed at number 82, the first time a representative from any of the seafarers' welfare organisation has made the list.

Lloyd's List praised Andrew's leadership, which has helped the Mission to develop a strong regional presence across the globe, and foster a spirit of partnership with other welfare charities. It also recognises his work over the past four years as chair of the International Christian Maritime Association, the overarching body of seafarer charities.

This recognition is a milestone for the industry, demonstrating changing attitudes toward the importance of seafarers' welfare and the vital support provided by charities such as The Mission to Seafarers.

"This recognition is a milestone for the industry"



A NEW VEHICLE FOR RICHARDS BAY, SOUTH AFRICA.

Sammy Ofer Centenary Celebration

Eastern Pacific Shipping raised more than S\$1.5 million to support seafarers' welfare.

In February 2022, Eastern Pacific Shipping (EPS) set out to recognise what would have been the 100th birthday of their founder Sammy Ofer. The centenary celebrations included an epic challenge to mobilise their community to run, walk or cycle a total of 100,000km and raise more than S\$1m to support seafarers' welfare.

EPS smashed their goal, covering 217,448km and raising S\$1,585,934 in the process. 5,018 participants worldwide took part in the challenge which kicked off at the EPS offices in Singapore on 2 February 2022 and concluded in London on 22 February. We were delighted that Esben Poulsson, our Vice President could be present at both, supported by our teams.

Here at the Mission, we are deeply grateful to all at EPS for organising such a successful event and raising such a terrific sum for the Mission to help seafarers.

"We are deeply grateful to all at EPS"

GLOBAL IMPACT

Funds will be well spent on a range of projects, including advancing the Mission's Family Support Network in the Philippines; new vehicles in Richards Bay and Port Elizabeth, South Africa; three minibuses in Japan; and maintaining our front-line operations around the world.

In addition, significant funds will also be allocated to families in Ukraine who continue to be impacted by the war. Funds will also be used to develop our work in both Singapore and Rotterdam – which have been identified as key welfare hubs.

"Funds will be well spent on a range of projects"

Singapore is particularly important with the new port development of Tuas destined to become the world's largest container port. In the largest port in Europe, Rotterdam, our team will use the funding to extend our senior chaplaincy support and welfare services.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

“Ten years is a long time in the life of every human being. Because time is the most precious gift at our disposal, being of all gifts the most ir retrievable, the thought of time possibly lost disturbs us whenever we look back. Time is lost when we have not lived, experienced things, learned, worked, enjoyed, and suffered as human beings. Lost time is unfulfilled, empty time. Certainly, that is not what the past years have been.”

So wrote the German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from prison, after he had been arrested for his part in a plot to assassinate Hitler and before he met his death in a concentration camp. I used to have that quote written above my desk and it has resonated with me as I reach my ten years with the Mission, in February. It seems to sum up so well the value of “time” and the importance of

filling it productively. Such surely is our responsibility to God and to our fellow human beings as we seek to do our small bit in building a better world.

As I look back over the last ten years, it certainly does not feel that time has been left empty at the Mission! These have been years of enormous change in shipping, with external events like the pandemic playing a major part. At the front line, the core of our efforts, they have been years of so much narrative – for Centres, ship visiting, and advocacy. Our work has often had to adjust and develop creatively, with fresh and developed models of ministry taking shape, including in new ports. Our current investment in expanded ship visiting across all our regions is testimony to our ongoing commitment.



These ten years have also seen the dynamic development of our wider programme – the Family Support Networks, the WeCare educational programmes, the Seafarers Happiness Index, a cadetship initiative and, of course, our increasing engagement with digital programmes like Chat to a Chaplain.

These years have also seen wide-ranging developments in the way we organise and govern ourselves. This work has included the establishment of our nine regions (with regional leadership), a complete reorganisation of the way our IHQ operates, a major overhaul of grant giving and reporting, and much besides. All this has been focused on ensuring we are in a strong position to offer the global Mission the very best in support, strong systems of accountability, and a

solid platform for future development. We have also seen tremendous advances in our fundraising, building on the enormous generosity which has existed over so many years, but also breaking much fresh ground.

Word limits prevent me saying more. I am always the first to say that there have been plenty of failures and frustrations - and of course there will have been mistakes which only history will tell. One should always look back with humility as well as with gratitude. However, in all this, we have never forgotten our roots, that fundamental Christian purpose which continues to inform every step of our way, as we share God's love and seek to build his kingdom amongst seafarers and their families.



To donate please visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate/fan

If you would like to donate to a specific region, you can select this from the dropdown menu titled – ‘Why are you Donating?’

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

Africa Regional Director: **Cedric Rautenbach** cedric@mtssa.co.za

Australia Regional Director: **Sue Dight** rd@mts.org.au

Canada Regional Director: **Judith Alltree** glutenfreepriest@gmail.com

Europe Regional Director: **TBC** **TBC**

East Asia Regional Director: **Stephen Miller** stephen.miller@mtsmail.org

Middle East & South Asia Regional Director: **John Attenborough** john.attenborough@mtsmail.org

Oceania Regional Director: **Lance Lukin** lance.lukin@mtsmail.org

Latin America Regional Director: **Ian Hutchinson Cervantes** ian.hcervantes@missiontoseafarers.org



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