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Newsletter : AUTUMN EDITION

year : 2021

NR. : 166

Date: September 26

Sailors see much beauty of creation along the way, such as the Northern Light or Luminous plankton. With all that natural beauty ( and also violence) it is self-evident for many sailors that there is a God or Something higher. But



St. Paul says it a little more insistently in the letter to the Romans: " For the things of Him which are invisible, are known from His works since the creation of the world, even His eternal power and His divinity, so that they are inexcusable. ( Rom. 1:20). In the third photo we see Venus clearly visible right in front of the ship, also known as the "Morning Star". At various places in the Bible is written about the morning star, usually referring to Jesus Christ. Morning Star is literally translated as "light bearer". When Jesus walked on earth, He compares Himself several times with light and calls Himself "The Light of the world". Jesus also said: "I have come into the world that whosoever believeth in me may not remain in darkness. ( John 12:46). While the world is desperate and many so-called certainties prove to be uncertain, the morning star shines above us. Jesus is still the same, the Lord reigns! If you already know Him as your Saviour and Lord, I hope these thoughts will give you

encouragement. These are special times, but as children of light it shouldn't surprise us either. If you do not know Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, well, then the Light of Jesus still shines. Consider yourself a sinner, repent ( turn away from sin) and trust in Jesus as the only Saviour. And that is also our mission among the sailors and as Het Havenlicht we bring the Light on board! (by: **Marien Gijsbertsen**)

### Delfzijl and Eemshaven - a request for prayer

This time no message from the Eemshaven. Unfortunately I haven't been able to visit ships lately.

The cause is that I suffer from balance disorders that are the worst when standing and walking. It is the result of a cerebral infarction that I suffered a few years ago.



The last summer it was hard to experience that I can't be doing what I love to do: telling people about the grace of God. Especially at this time when all of life, due to the pandemic, has come to stand under pressure. Of course that applies especially to seafarers who are far away from home and for a long time estranged from their families.

But I remain hopeful that God will restore me. Hence my request for prayer.

There is here in North Groningen an ongoing

combat, the adversary has "lots of irons in the fire", but no matter in which way evil one continues on, God has given us spiritual armour. I trust in my Physician and your prayers as a strong belt of protection.

God is good! **Jan Peter Kapteijn**.

## Rotterdam - being a living letter from Him

We are grateful towards God for:



- that He goes before us, dwells in us, by grace may be His followers.
- that we could visit sailors, most of them for the first and only time.
- that we are gradually allowed to board the ships again instead of just on deck.
- that He has given us an everlasting Gospel through the sacrifice of His perfect Son.
- that sailors want to read the Bible.
- that conversations also take place with them even when busy at work.
- that we as believers in Christ, are a living letter from Him.
- that there are people who pray for this work.

### **Would you pray for:**

- Rajulan from India. He has prejudices against the Christian faith but wanted to listen anyway ( and I myself listening to him).
- Ajan from India, in thinking that continually copying the texts of God's Word call for mistakes, making the Bible no longer reliable.
- A security guard on shore and for Turkish sailors.
- Please also pray for Sing Klain, Tajic and Ohm from Myanmar. One of them is a Christian.

The following I read in an old paper called "Leidraad": Fortunately God watches our path of life when we seek Him for His wisdom. Therefore we need not despair when we seek Him and want to find it.

I wish to greet everyone who is reading this with the grace and peace of the Lord.

**Wout de Vries.**

## Amsterdam and Scheveningen - I am the vine, you the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ( John 15:5)



So much has happened and in this way I met, in the beginning of this month and after two years, a sailor from the Maldives, which is a closed mission country. I could read and share the gospel of Luke to him ( his own language is Divehi). At the beginning of August we had a so called kwartet evening with the sailors. My sons were there too. The sailors were not familiar with the kwartet game with the animals printed on the cards like the Toekan bird, orang oetang or the boa constrictor. Every time the game was interrupted by the men's stories about the animals. My youngest son won the game of course but that didn't matter for it was great to be in a family like gathering together again.

A Russian sailor practices English words with me and vice versa. I practise Russian words with him. I think "bicycle" is a nice word, pronounced – belociped- derived from velocipede. My pronunciation still needs some practice.

But then this Ships Officer recalls that the Seaman's Mission in Alaska gave them free bicycles, very handy on the ship but also ashore. Now, this time, comes someone from the seaman's mission with ao. Free socks, toothpaste and that also comes in handy. So he asks: "What is this, why are you doing that, what drives you to come and look for us?"

This allows me to explain the Gospel to him and he also wants a Russian Bible from me. Because what we really need is Jesus. We are often in search for the right form or moment to share the Gospel with the sailors but God provides, also this time.

In June I received a message from an Indian sailor whom I have known for some time. He has been to our house and church before. Now his ship is on its way to the Netherlands again, all the way from Papua. This voyage takes about 50 days plus one week at anchor off the coast of Rotterdam but will arrive in port here around mid-August. But stretching your legs on the shore is unfortunately not in for the crew, but luckily I was allowed to come on board.

It was great then to meet them in the port of Rotterdam and listen to their stories. We also did a kind of Bible study about Psalms 1; someone who completely trusts in God and is completely guided by God's Word: he is like a fruitful tree. After this of course dinner was served: a bit spicy though! My friend also showed me some plants he had brought from Papua. The "Crown of Jesus" plant because of the sharp thorns and the "heart of Jesus" plant because of the shape and colour of the leaves. Particular beautiful plants and for him a conscious choice to take these plants on board. It gives my friend a constant reminder of what Jesus did for him: don't worry too much for when God dresses the plants in this way, He will care for us much more. And so it is.

I am also introduced to various colleagues from India and Russia. I notice that my friend is in good standing with them. Let us pray for him that he will be a lasting witness of Jesus while aboard.

Best regards and thanks for all the compassion and prayers.

**Marien Gijsbertsen.**

### Seafarers mission to seamen from Logos Hope - "Ship-to-Ship" - an answer to my prayer

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We were also here in January, but then the city went into lockdown. The caretaker had referred us to the office but got no further than receiving a short note with a phone number. Then followed the adventures in Curacao and with the volcano. How do you approach a new port? We passed the ball to our contact,



who is harbour master. This contact said we could visit the local ships anyway and especially the ferry Gemstar and the advice: ask for Gussy. As it was said, so it was done. "Hi, we are from Logos Hope and we are looking for uncle Gus from the Gem Star. He said: "Quick, stop that car, he's just driving away, that's Gus!". We met a very friendly man behind the wheel and soon made an appointment. And the caretaker let us pass through the gate. We quickly made friends with the crew of the Gem Star and were allowed to go together to the smaller islands. An answer to prayer for me! The mysterious smaller islands. We helped with some mooring lines and repairs on the ferry. But also got an open door to see other ships to visit, albeit only to the gangway. Those poor Carib sailors aren't allowed to disembark anywhere it seems so they ask the dock workers to do their shopping. For a Second Engineer I have his phone number topped up near the corner of a supermarket. And he wanted books, lots of books but he said: "No one needs a Bible".

I went up and down to the Logos where the Book-deck now

is open to the public. Once back the best man said: "The Captain wants a Bible and a dictionary!". But the next day their ship was suddenly at anchor in the bay. But there was no need to worry, a group of our companions just had boat training and the helmsman was willing to pass on the books. ( photo) . What a surprise. "but the next time we'll also bring some food and drink and clothes". What those men did look like!

That's how we try to make use of every opportunity. In Castries, St Lucia we quickly searched to contact John Honere, who has been a ships visitor there for 25 year and we did everything together, visiting ships and encouraging each other. Up to the next port then, Bahamas.

Pray that we will be able to find a good Biblical basis there, thanks to the equipment on board.

**Michel Kramers.**

## Region IJmuiden - they show themselves very happy and grateful

Just three random examples of our visits.

The Chinese captain I speak to on the deck office of a Bulk carrier says he has received a KJV Bible in Vancouver from a Port Missionary. During his leave, although he has not yet accepted Jesus, he visits a Christian gathering (Underground Church) at his best friend's home in the village where he lives. I give him a NIV Bible in Mandarin to read. The Third Mate who is present at our meeting in the deck office wants to receive one too. I pray for them that God will reveal Himself to them when start reading their Bibles. The crew gets Chinese Sailor Bibles and three men walk with me to the car where Anneke provides them with clothing and personal packages. They appear very happy and grateful.



The captain of another Chinese ship says there are only Buddhists on board, including himself. When I give him a Chinese Bible, he shows interest and I have him read Philippians 4: 6,7 and he says of his own accord that he will definitely read this book and presses it to his heart. When alone with him he told me that his mother and aunt are Christians, but in secret. Undoubtedly, both women are happy that their son, resp. cousin, now possesses God's Word and thank Him for our visit there on the other side of the world.

Yet another ship. This time with a Filipino crew led by Greek Officers. Two Greek Cadets walk with me to Anneke in the car on the quay. They came aboard yesterday, fresh from the Maritime College in Greece so it's their first ship, the first day of a ten month contract. They are still in their spotless uniform and are very polite. We give them both a

Greek (!) New Testament and pray for them there by the car. They are deeply impressed that their seagoing career is starting in this way, with the blessing from God.

Please keep praying for us, especially for Anneke's health. Kind regards and God bless.

**Jan and Anneke Best.**

## Dordrecht, Rotterdam - everyone listened well to the Word of God



My experience on board was great. I visited four ships with Wout in two ports in Rotterdam.

As I said it was a great experience because on the first ship we could share the Gospel with the Filipino crew, we gave Bibles (Sailor Bibles), in Tagalog and Russian.

Every one listened carefully to me to the Word of God and were very friendly. Although we were not allowed to enter the second ship to bring the gospel, however, outside gave Bibles to some Indian sailors and we talked a little about the Word of God.

I was amazed when I asked a sailor from India:

"Do you believe in Jesus?" He said: "Yes, for God is one".

I agreed with him when he told me that religion saves nobody but that only Jesus saves. In the end three men from India received Bibles out of our hands.

On the third ship we could come aboard but didn't have long conversations like at first.

We then left Bibles and a tracts behind that spoke of the Gospel.

On board the fourth and last ship we talked a lot.

Also we had lunch with some crewmembers because they invited us.

Later when I got up from the table, two Filipinos came to me and asked for Bibles which I gave them. They thanked me heartily. At the same time a young man from Ethiopia, who worked on the ship, asked me for a tract about the good news of Jesus.

I have thanked the Lord for the opportunity to do His will. We said goodbye, were happy, thanking God for all these good experiences and also for the kind way how they treated us.

**Fabio Jefferson.**

### Amsterdam - To tell of the greatness of God

There I ( Yvonne ) was, sitting in the car on the way to the ports. For the reason that Theo took care of me for many months, he could not go to the ports.



For the reason that Theo took care of me for many months, he could not go to the ports.

I could not be left to myself in case I might fall.

Now I'm with him in the car and therefore cannot fall. It is so special to sit in the car at the dock, sailors coming to me and praying for me and I could tell of God's guarding hand over my life.

I have read Psalms 23 to the sailors which says that the shepherd anoints the head of a sheep and thereby protects it against "vermin".

I am the living proof that I was "protected" during my stay at the Intensive Care unit and the "vermin" could not kill me! The prayers of many people have borne fruit, it was not yet my time!

As God is the Good Shepherd to me, so He wants to be a Good Shepherd to the sailors.

On a next visit to the ships Yvonne was there again to testify to the seafarers. These sailors on the photo have repeatedly asked how Yvonne was doing. They started

praying for her on board straight away after they heard of her fall. Several Bibles and text cards and wooden crosses have been gratefully received.

Of course clothing was again diligently selected to be taken up by the men.

The Ukrainian captain received a beautiful bottle ship. On board another ship an older Filipino sailor asked me to pray for him which I did and I always give a short "sermon" after the prayer.

When I got back home I received a message from him that he felt so good after the prayer. All glory to the Lord!

A Chief Officer from Belarus was very happy with my visit. "Great", he responded enthusiastically when I gave him the Interactive Sailor Bible. He was a believer, he said. May the Lord touch him and bless him.

Aboard a passenger ship, we (Theo and a senior member of our church) were allowed to conduct a church service. That was the first "church service" on this ship.

The attendants received an Interactive Sailor Bible as well as the QR keychain Bible. It was a great service and plans were immediately made for the next time.

With eleven sailors from Peru I held a meeting on board, gave a brief bible study and prayed.

Then we go to the car for clothing etc. I know several of these sailors for quite some time and I was asked to visit their ship again to "predicando la Palabra de Dios" as they said.

I thank you for your faithful prayers and other expressions of compassion.

**Theo and Yvonne van Zuilekom.**

The seafarers mentioned in this newsletter do have in actual life different names. For privacy reasons the proper names are not mentioned. The photo's in this bulletin are printed with permission.

Our deep thanks to: City-Bibles, "WIN-NL Seafarers' Ministry", Dutch Seamen Society, Seamen's Centre Amsterdam, Global Recordings Network, Ark Mission, Evangelism Foreigners Service, The Bible Society, Pocket Testament League, Christian Aid Ministries, Operation Mobilization,, Our Daily Bread Ministries and other unnamed organizations, who all in their own specific way, contribute to do the job well.

Once more we would like you to continue praying for the health of **Het Havenlicht workers and their families**. In particularly for **Jan Peter Kapteijn, Hanny de Vries, Inez de Baat and Anneke Best**. We need your intercession to go on and persevere in the special work that God has given us to do. Please pray for open doors and open hearts. We believe in a God of miracles! A hearty thanks for all your valued prayers and other tokens of fellowship. This is the way the Lord works through you in order that sailors can hear **His Word** and accept it.



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