

# THE Anchor

DECEMBER 2014



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## REFLECTING ON 2014



by Philip Vandercook

Wait! Where did the year go? I can't believe that 2014 is almost done. While it has flown by, this year has been a great one for the ministry. God has blessed the work in so many ways. He has put together a wonderful group of chaplains who are committed to ministering in every part of the maritime community. God has continued to open new doors for ministry and allowed us to build strong relationships with many people in the port. We are seeing more seafarers from the cruise ships coming to the center each week. Right now there are four cruise ships that arrive in port each week. The port has announced that next year they will open a third cruise ship terminal. What does that mean? More ships, more crewmembers coming to the center, and more opportunities for ministry. We have also seen a steady increase of cargo ships coming to port every day. I just counted six ships right across the street from the center! Yes, I could go on and on. It has been a very good year for ministry.

As the end of the year approaches, there is much to be done to prepare for the new year. I am working hard to finalize our ministry budget for next year, prepare for our annual membership meeting, complete all the end of the year reports, and plan the ministry calendar for 2015. Yes, it has been a very good year for ministry, but it has been a challenging year financially. Most years, our expenses exceed our income. However, God continues to bless us, and I know for at least the last ten years we have ended the year in the black. However, this year may break that record. At the end of November, we were \$62,415.22 in the red. Now I am not giving up; I have seen God provide in miraculous ways. I also know that if we end the year in the black, it will be a God thing. So, I will just keep praying for God's wisdom and for His provision.

Why is this year so different? Why such a deficit? It's simple. Our undesignated income is down. The economy has made it difficult for us, just as it has for many of you.

*continued inside*



# WE GATHERED TO SAY GOODBYE

by Norman Mangum



One of the workers at the port's cruise terminal, a baggage handler, had an accident at his home. He dove into his swimming pool, hit his head, and was later declared brain dead. The doctors removed him from life support the following day. In a matter of minutes he had passed. It was a very sad time for all of us who knew Lionel. He was the glue that kept the other baggage handlers together. He was a counselor to some and a mentor to others. He was always smiling and had a great attitude. He would always get on to the guys for not putting a dollar or more in the basket when I would pass by and hand out water. It is very hot pushing those suitcases, and they deserved a cold bottle of water. We never charge, but it was a kind gesture on his part. Occasionally, I would give him a ride from the parking lot to the terminal, just to save him a few steps that day. I knew he was going to be walking enough as it was. I was not as close to him as his fellow workers, but I do miss seeing him on cruise ship days.

I did attend his funeral. It was more like a celebration or a farewell to a loved one. Lionel was a Christian. That is one of the things we had discussed. His death had a tremendous impact on some of the guys. What his death did do, was open the door to talk to some about their salvation. It also opened many doors that I had been trying to open for a while. There were people at his funeral who saw me there and came up and stated how much they were glad to see me. Others came up later at the terminal and stated that they were told I had attended. As I stated earlier, this had given me the opportunity to talk to some of his fellow workers about their salvation. It also has given me the opportunity to talk to some of the Harbor Police about their walk with Christ (or the lack thereof).

One of the officers sat on my bus the next week telling me how much Lionel's death had impacted him. I listened to him and could tell he was upset and just wanted to tell

his story. After he had finished, I looked at him and asked, "You are a police officer, and something could happen to you in a split second. Where would you spend eternity?" His statement was, "I have been thinking about that. I do a lot of good things. I help people as much as I can. I do more good than bad." My reply was, "That is nice. I am sure the people you are doing these things for are glad. But doing good things does not get you into heaven." I tried to explain to him Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved in Christ Jesus through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of your works, lest anyone should boast." He was called away but promised we would talk later. He was at the funeral of Lionel, so he heard the Gospel there and again with me. I planted the seed, now it is up to him whether he wants to pursue the conversation any further. I will continue to pray for him and continue to be a friend.

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

by Jennifer Hallberg

Guess what? Christmas is almost here. Now, before you moan and groan because you have heard this before, I would like you to consider something. Before you go shopping for that gift that your family member just has to have, I would invite you to say a prayer with me. Say a prayer for all the hands that have touched that gift or made it possible for it to be here.

Say a prayer for the seafarer who has risked his life to ensure that the cargo on the ship arrives at the destination. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for these men and women. I remember when I went on a ship recently and talked to the Chief Mate. He was telling me about the hazards of working on a ship. His compassion for his fellow shipmates was noticeable as he was watching them while talking to me. Later, while in the officers' mess room, he introduced me to several other people. Each time that he did

so, he would say that I was a very kind person. Later he told me how thankful he was that I just took the time to listen. For those who work in this ministry, taking time to listen is part of what we do. Also, taking time every day to pray for those on these ships is crucial to us. So, this holiday season, as you go about your shopping and eating, please take the time to think about and pray for those who made it possible for those items to be there. Pray for them and their families. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.



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## 2014 STATISTICS

As of November 30



SCRIPTURES  
DISTRIBUTED  
**517**



GOSPEL  
PRESENTATIONS  
**89**



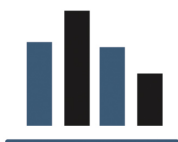
COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED  
**110**



SHIPS VISITED  
**574**



SEAFARERS CONTACTED  
**19,531**  
VISITING CENTER  
**9,627**



Budget Requirements

Needs: \$303,416.63 • Income: \$234,253.10



PORT WORKERS  
CONTACTED  
**445**

## "REFLECTING ON 2014" continued

We were not surprised by this, but of course it does not make it easier. However, even in these challenging financial times we have been able to grow the ministry. After much prayer, we decided that we could not wait any longer and we needed to expand our staff. Obviously this increased our expenses. It also allowed us to visit more ships, host more ministry opportunities in the port, bring more seafarers to the center, and simply minister to more people. We have also been able to be more efficient in our administration and dramatically improve our newsletter, website, and social media opportunities. I hope you have noticed these very positive changes.

So, now what? Well, we promise to continue to be the best stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us. We promise to continue to do our best to provide the best ministry possible to the maritime community. And, we promise to continue to seek God's leadership and wisdom as we prepare for a new year of ministry. So what can you do? Please promise to pray for this ministry consistently. Please ask God how He wants you to be involved. Please join me in thanking God for all his provision.

Perhaps God is leading you to help us end the year in the black. Perhaps you are considering making a special year end gift. First, thank you! Second, please remember that for your income tax purposes, your gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2014, to be applied to this year's contributions.

## IN MEMORY OF

- Henry M. Adams by *Nada Adams*
- B. Glen Davis by *Rose Davis*
- Ruth Gairen by *Vermelle McDill*
- Gwen Hamberlin by *Carol Lee*
- Grover Heard by *Rose Davis Family*
- Riley McDaniel by *Robert Burleson*
- Edwin "Pinky" Pincomb by *Martha Dalhouse*
- Penney Lou Purvis by *Robert Purvis*
- Ronnie Roberts by *Helen Roberts*
- Rev. John Vandercook by *Dr. Daniel & Mrs. Beverly O'Reagan*
- Rev. John Vandercook by *George Sims*
- Valerie West by *Sammy & Gina Sabine*

## IN HONOR OF

- Norman & Priscilla Mangum by *Mark & Pam Luttner*

## Help us share CHRISTMAS with the world!

We have put together over 650 Christmas gifts for seafarers and port personnel. Please pray that they will be open to hearing the story of Christmas. Pray for our chaplains as they bring the gifts to those in the port. Pray that God will prepare the way.

It's also not too late if you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of the gifts!



## REMEMBER: YEAR END GIFTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DEC. 31

If you are planning to make a year end gift, thank you for your generosity! For 2014 tax credit, the IRS requires that your gift be postmarked by December 31.





**Global Maritime  
Ministries**

*Port Ministry*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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New Orleans, LA  
Permit #820

*Merry  
Christmas  
from the  
Port Ministry staff!*

*Left to Right:*  
Leonard, Gina, Stephen, Alicia,  
Philip, Jennifer, Shekie,  
Ann, and Norman

