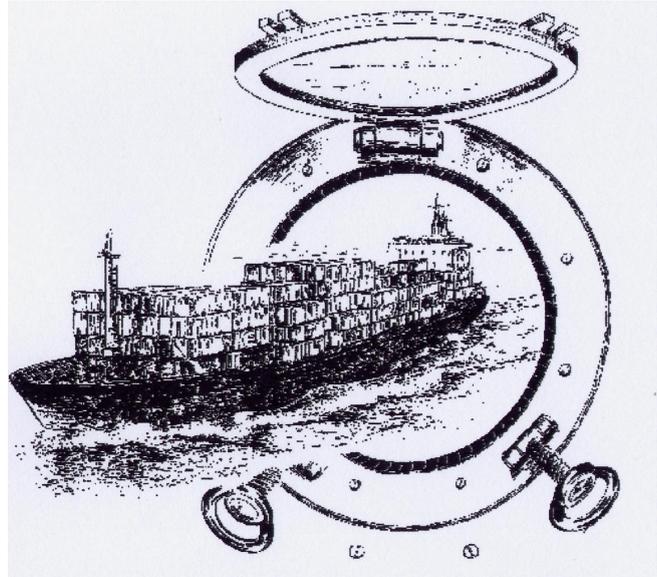


Through the Porthole

27 Heath Road
Ipswich
IP4 5RZ
England

Tel: +44 7484 606783

keithandhenriette@gmail.com



“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved” Jeremiah 8:20

October 2021

Czy Znacze Jezusa? Do you know Jesus?

This challenging question affected the young Polish officer one Sunday afternoon as he relaxed out on deck. I came up to him as he chatted with the Filipino watchman. One moment he was smiling and friendly, but the next he was getting away as fast as he could. I only asked him to translate a tract out loud in English. It was very obvious that he 'didn't' know Jesus!! This reminds me of the verse quoted in Jeremiah. I remember this chapter being preached on, probably 40 years ago. The best time to accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour is 'now.' Many, many seafarers have received a copy of the scriptures sent to their ships. No one is without excuse to understand the way of salvation. We enclose tracts in different languages, anything which might catch the attention of lonely seafarers.

We get very few responses in comparison to the amount of packages that we send out, but a friend wrote recently with the following thought - “sometimes God draws back the curtain and lets us see a little of what is going on by His grace and our prayers”. I think this puts things into perspective and helps with the disappointments.

Below you will see a few of these responses.



The Captain of a tanker called STEN NORDIC accepted a package on behalf of his crew, and then emailed me this photograph inviting me to see a picture of his happy crew. But he attached a letter written and signed by three of his

crew, part of which said “this has led us to conduct a small gathering to share the word of God to all crew when time permits. One way to bond with the crew and at the same time be closer to our Almighty creator”. It is possible that by the time this newsletter goes to press the crew might have changed, we don’t know.

Another photograph comes from the Captain of GULF CRYSTAL when it was off the coast of Falmouth. He said the crew would “carry the Bibles and gifts back home” and “in today’s world while the seamen are working to ensure that the trade is continued in the pandemic, the small token of appreciation and understanding have brought a smile on the faces of my crew”.



Lastly, the Captain of another tanker 'ASTELLA' writes to say "my crew is already enjoying this unexpected present".

By Easter time the tankers at anchor off our coast had dwindled considerably, but I am assured that this is only temporary. Tankers have continued coming with fuel, mainly from Northern Europe heading towards the river Thames. The boat moored close to Ipswich continues to go out to meet them at all times of the day and night. It is still okay for me to drop off packages for the two man crew to send on board. I don't send one for every ship that they visit but I go as often as I can.

There is also the opening in Falmouth still. At the beginning of the year I slowed down the packages that I was mailing to them. We are currently sending one a month.

The Port of Ipswich remains open for me to visit ships from the quayside when the port isn't working. I visit most Sundays and occasionally once during the week. SUNTIS, a small German timber ship, continues to come here regularly, so I visit when I can, but not on board. Its Filipino crew have now had double vaccines. But until this happened no one got shore leave. One crew member was on board for 7 months before he could take a walk into town. 7 months on board a vessel just 82 metres long by 11 metres. But he now talks about Christmas and if he will get home in time. This thought will be on many seafarers minds now as we head towards the end of the year.

We make sure to include scriptures, tracts and children's Bible story books in every package, as well as hats and chocolate. I am told by the crew of the visiting service boat that they see the crew wearing the hats, regardless of the time of year. It puts a smile on our faces as well as theirs.

Yours in His service

Keith & Henriette