

BEACON

the newsletter of the Henrichs family



The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

DEAR FRIENDS,

All of us have been affected by the current Corona virus, the measures to contain it and the worldwide panic. The seamen are no exception. According to recent estimates, roughly 300000 seamen are currently stuck on board their vessels and others who would like to work cannot join the ships due to the restrictions. This is becoming a great humanitarian crisis. Those seamen who do come to our port are often worried, tired and emotionally worn out. That is why we are grateful, that it is still possible to visit the ships here in Rotterdam.

In this text Paul is talking about a much more serious condition than Corona. While we are still waiting for a vaccination to become available, God has already provided the cure for the worst human condition – sin. Essentially, he is saying this: We are great sinners, but Jesus Christ is a greater savior! Let us hold fast to the hope of the glorious gospel and proclaim it wherever we can! Thank you for enabling us to minister to the seamen here in the port of Rotterdam!

A DIAMOND IN THE TRASH

In our last newsletter I wrote about how Steve found a Bible study course and came to faith in Christ. We had contact through email. I sent him four other courses, all of which he studied. Last month I was finally able to meet him personally and we had several great and encouraging conversations. He told me: “When I joined this ship, I was cleaning up the messroom and I found a diamond in the trashcan. This diamond was your book! Through studying the Bible, I became spiritually rich.” Not only had he studied the courses himself, but he had sent them to his wife in India: “Because of the lockdown, it is the perfect time for my wife to study the Bible. She is also teaching what she learned to our daughter. My daughter wants to study medicine. It is our greatest wish for her to become a medical missionary.” His wife is now continuing to study more Bible courses using the free app from Emmaus Bible Correspondence School. When I met Steve, she had already completed six courses in just a few weeks!

A JOYFUL REUNION AFTER 8 YEARS!

In 2012 I met a young Filipino cook by the name of Jeff. Jeff became a believer during that time and then returned home to the Philippines. He started his own business and quit his job as a seaman, but his business was not a great success. So, after a few years he had to join a ship again. Earlier this year his ship came to the port of Cork in Ireland, where he met my SCFS-colleague Colin Jenkins. Colin informed me that his ship would be coming to Rotterdam on a regular basis. It was such a joy to meet my brother Jeff again after 8 years! Now I visit him every two weeks and we have a time of fellowship, discipleship and prayer. Jeff is greatly encouraged by this and really growing in his faith. The Lord is so mighty and guides our every step.

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30 BIBLES FOR ONE TANKIER

I recently received a WhatsApp message from an unknown chief engineer who asked me if I could provide his crew with Bibles. He had found our website by searching for free Bibles in the port of Rotterdam on Google. Our website came up first! I was able to visit John on the tanker that he works on and I provided him with roughly 30 Bibles in Tagalog and English. John has been leading weekly Bible studies on every ship for the past ten years and plans to continue to do this until his retirement. He is faithfully sharing the gospel with his crew. Many of the crew members that I talked to were very happy about having a church on board. John is a wonderful brother in Christ and studies during his free time. He loves to read. It is such a joy to meet and support the missionaries in the ships this way!



A NEW BOARD MEMBER

A well-functioning board is very necessary for the chaplains and volunteers in our team do be able to visit and minister to the seamen. For quite some time now we were praying for new board members since two resigned in the last year. The Lord has answered our prayers!

Since this summer we have a fully manned board once again. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you:



Rhea Hartong is our longest serving board member. As a trained accountant she serves faithfully as our treasurer for many years already. She makes sure that all financial matters are handled lawfully and all the bills get paid. Her service is invaluable!

Marien Gijsbertsen is an active ship visitor in the port of Amsterdam. He serves as our secretary since the beginning of this year. With his experience in ship visiting he is a very valuable addition to our team.



Ernst Wenisch is our newest board member. He serves as the board's president. He has a lot of experience and works as a traffic regulator for the port of Rotterdam.



Praise the Lord for these dedicated people who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to enable René, Wout, Johan and myself to visit the seamen.

PRAYER CORNER

Thanks:

- that we can still visit the seamen on the ships
- for the time with our family in the summer
- for brother John and his Bible study group
- for the reunion with Jeff
- for Steve's conversion and spiritual growth
- for our new board member Ernst
- for your support and friendship

Please pray for:

- the believing seamen
- the many seamen who can't go home
- wisdom for John as he serves as a pastor on his ship
- that Steve will continue to grow in the faith
- for continued spiritual growth for Jeff
- travel restrictions for seamen to be lifted
- boldness and clarity in proclaiming the gospel
- that we will be able to hand out many Christmas presents in December



FAMILY NEWS

We are thankful that we were able to visit our families in Germany during the summer holidays. Now the kids are back in school and doing well. Kerstin is still able to continue with her day care. But the increasing measures to contain the second wave are also a challenge for us. Travel restrictions might hinder our plans to visit our families during Christmas and New Year. The Christmas parcel distribution has to be handled differently this year. René and Anna had to be quarantined for 10 days when they returned to the Netherlands after spending three months of deputation in Germany. Church activities are limited to groups of 30 people. And who knows what the next few weeks will bring. All of this requires us to be very flexible. Please pray that we will constantly trust in our great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are so dependent on him.

Thank you for your wonderful support! Let us know how we can pray for you. We are all in this together.

Yours in Christ

FELIX, KERSTIN, JAKOB, EMILIE AND HANNAH



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