



*Caring for seafarers
around the world*

The Master's Mariner

Sydney

Autumn, 2004.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS,
SYDNEY, NSW
WILL TAKE PLACE AT
FLYING ANGEL HOUSE
[320 SUSSEX STREET SYDNEY]
ON
SUNDAY, 28TH MARCH 2004
AT 2:00PM.**

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN

The past months since our last edition have spanned the Christmas / New Year period, and at the Mission we have experienced all of the joys and stresses that Christmas inevitably now brings with it. Seafarers naturally feel their separation from their loved ones very keenly at this time, and we felt an increased burden to provide for them whatever consolations that we could. I was very conscious that many of the staff might also find Christmas a 'mixed blessing', for a number of staff members had been granted leave around that time, and it would be necessary for the remainder to have to fill the gaps in what is always a busy time of year.

One of the benefits of having been a chaplain / driver for four months is that of being a bit of a 'jack of all trades', and since Jesus' defined leadership in terms of servanthood, I sought to alleviate the extra burden on the chaplains / drivers by filling as many of the vacancies as I was able to fill. I hadn't realised how much the drivers / chaplains had appreciated this until I read [our driver] Toshi Yano's report to the Japanese Consul-General, in which he wrote:

'The Christmas season is the busiest time of year to run the Mission to Seafarers around the world. Most centres are closed on Christmas Day, however our Mission to Seafarers centre in Sydney opens every day throughout the year, including New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day. Many people want to have a holiday around this time, therefore it is very easy for us to have staff shortages during this period. Most of the staff are forced to work overtime during this time of year. However, this year the staff did not work any overtime. Our new Principal Chaplain, the Rev. Ian Porter, covered for many duties of the staff. Sometimes he would drive the bus, look after the shop and reception, look after other chaplains' duties, etc. Therefore all the staff did not feel as exhausted as previous years and were able to provide better services for the seafarers.'

As much as I valued these comments, I was even more appreciative of the constant willingness of our chaplains / drivers to 'go the extra mile' and do all they are able to do to fill in the gaps when they occur.



Capt. George Chan with two seafarers on Christmas Eve (George is the handsome young man in the middle!)
Photo by Keith Taylor

Our Christmas Eve Service took the form of a 'Lessons and Carols' service, the benefits of which – unfortunately – were not fully realised. We were unable to get a musician to play for us, and so resorted to recorded music. Some of the arrangements worked well – and some others didn't. Nevertheless we had a happy BBQ together afterwards and if 'all's well that

ends well', then all was well. However we learned some helpful lessons about what, and what *not*, to do next time!

I was able to take some study leave in January to attend the CMS (Church Missionary Society) Summer School at Katoomba. Dr Don Carson was the speaker and I found his addresses on 1Peter to be wonderfully stimulating and helpful.



2Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

One of the commitments I made when I became Principal Chaplain was to seek to improve the profile of the Mission, especially amongst Anglican churches in this diocese. Towards the end of last year I contacted every parish and asked that the Mission be considered for inclusion in their mission programs. I am pleased to report that I have firm bookings for 15 deputations this year (with others yet to be finalised), and trust that these visits might be the beginning of a much greater awareness and support of the mission by the Christians of Sydney.

I am delighted to report that the Reverend Peter Kim is now a full-time member of staff, and will eventually have a particular responsibility, along with Harvey Burcher, for ministering to the seafarers whose ships have docked at Port Botany.

In this context, arrangements for the new Boomerang Club at Botany are moving ahead well, with the building planned for opening in May / June. Plans involving changes to staff rostering and locations are in hand, although such details are not yet near finalisation.

I am also very keen to provide our chaplains with the ongoing training that is necessary for them to fulfil their roles in an optimal manner. I am in the process of putting together a preliminary analysis of our situation and ministry, which will look at our Biblical and Constitutional commissions and goals, and

examine various means that will best help us, under God, to exercise a missionary ministry that is faithful in proclaiming and modelling our Lord Jesus Christ to the seafarers whom we are privileged to meet, in the prayerful hope that they too, might come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Rev. Ian Porter

If You Get Lonely For The Sea ...

1. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Six hours after you go to sleep, have your spouse whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack."
2. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the showerhead down to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you shut off the water while soaping up.
3. Every time there's a thunderstorm, sit in a wobbly rocking chair and rock as hard as you can until you're nauseated.
4. Put engine oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to "High".
5. Don't watch TV except movies in the middle of the night. Also, have your family vote on which movie to watch, and then show them a different one.
6. Leave the lawnmower running in your living room for six hours a day to get a proper noise level.
7. Have the paperboy give you a haircut.
8. Once a week blow compressed air up through your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot across and onto your neighbour's house. Laugh at him when he curses you.
9. Buy a rubbish compactor and only use it once a week. Store up garbage in the other side of your bathtub.
10. Wake up every night at midnight and have a peanut butter sandwich on stale bread, or perhaps canned ravioli or cold soup.
11. Make up your family menu a week ahead of time without looking at what's in your food cabinets or refrigerator.
12. Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run out into your yard and break out the garden hose.
13. Once a month take every major appliance completely apart and then put them back together.
14. Use 18 scoops of coffee per pot and allow it to sit for 5 or 6 hours before drinking.
15. Invite at least 20 people you don't really like to come and visit for a couple of months.
16. Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under it to read books.
17. Raise the thresholds and lower the top sills on your front and back doors so that you either trip over the threshold or hit your head

on the sill every time you pass through one of them.

18. Lock-wire the lug nuts on your car.
19. When making cakes, prop up one side of the pan while it is baking. Then spread icing thick on one side to level off the top.
20. Every so often, throw your cat into the swimming pool, shout "Man overboard, ship recovery!" run into the kitchen and sweep all the pots/pans/dishes off of the counter onto the floor, then yell at your spouse for not having the place "stowed for sea".
21. Put on the headphones from your stereo (don't plug them in). Go and stand in front of your stove. Say (to nobody in particular) "Stove manned and ready." Stand there for 3 or 4 hours. Say (once again to nobody in particular) "Stove secured." Roll up the headphone cord and put them away.



"Star Princess" with some of our 'sugarplum ferries'.
Photo by Keith Taylor

Pi-ra-cy *n* - "robbery on the high seas, especially the stealing of a ship's cargo"

The following is a summary of the daily reports broadcast by the IMB's Piracy Reporting Centre to ships in Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean Regions on the SafetyNET service of Inmarsat-C from 3 - 9 February 2004.

Actual or attempted incidents

30.01.2004 in Southern Red Sea.
Eight persons in 18 feet high-powered unmarked launch challenged and stopped a supply ship underway. All persons were armed with automatic rifles and side arms and five were dressed in military uniforms. Six persons boarded the ship, held the crew at gunpoint, switched off ship's communication equipment and demanded ransom for safe passage. Upon payment of the ransom, pirates disembarked and fled. Master reported that there was little communication from boarders except they were from Yemen.

03.02.2004, west of Phillip Channel, Singapore Straits.

One pirate boarded a bulk carrier underway. Crew raised alarm and pirate escaped. At the time several small boats were in the vicinity.

03.02.2004, Hongai inner anchorage, Vietnam.

Five pirates boarded a tanker and stole ship's stores.

04.02.2004, in Celebes Sea, Indonesia.

Ten pirates armed with knives and crowbars in three speedboats, 10m length, tried to board a bulk carrier underway. Alert crew mustered and activated fire hoses. Pirates aborted boarding.

05.02.2004, Belem inner anchorage, Brazil.

Four pirates boarded a LPG tanker at forecastle. Alert duty A/B raised alarm. Pirates stole ship's stores and escaped in a boat. Port terminal informed but no response received.

07.02.2004, at Chittagong inner anchorage, Bangladesh.

A gang of armed pirates boarded a Mongolian flagship and shot two watchmen. Pirates stole ship's property and escaped. The two injured watchmen were rescued by a tugboat and sent to shore hospital where they succumbed to their injuries and died. Local police are investigating the case.

08.02.2004, west of Luzon island, South China Sea.

Eight pirates armed with pistols and knives in four small boats attempted to board a bulk carrier underway. Duty officer raised alarm and took evasive manoeuvres. Crew mustered and activated fire hoses. Pirates aborted boarding.

09.02.2004, in Northern Malacca Straits.

Ten pirates in a wooden fishing boat armed with machine guns opened fire on a tugboat towing a barge. Tug's crew fought off the pirates with hand flares. Tug's towing line parted and barge was set adrift. Later tug managed to recover the barge. Tug sustained extensive damage to the bridge. No injuries to crew. Pirates aborted boarding and headed NW towards Aceh coast

In stark contrast to the evil of Piracy, there is the beauty of ...

Gen-er-os-i-ty *n*

1. willingness to give money, help or time freely
2. nobility of character
3. pleasingly large size or quantity
4. a generous kind, or noble act

In contrast to the greed and ruthlessness that characterises piracy, The Mission is frequently the recipient of generous gifts from many within the Shipping industry and from many who are outside it. For these we are profoundly grateful, for they enable us better to fulfil this vital ministry, to which God has called us.



Receiving a generous cheque from the Captain, and senior officers of 'Pacific Princess'

In Paul's first letter to the church in ancient Corinth, he described the qualities that define Christian love:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1Cor. 13:4-8)

Paul describes 'love' both positively (what it is) and negatively (what it isn't). If we turn the negatives into positives, and then seek to sum them all up, we may perhaps define such love as '*an optimistic generosity*' towards others, an attitude that arises from our prior experience of God's saving love for us in Christ. As John says,

'We love because he first loved us' (1John 4:19).

Such love is not simply a matter of 'doing', for in verse 3 Paul also wrote,

'If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.'

... it involves an attitude of both the 'heart' and the mind.

Looking at the passage a little more closely, we find that such love is defined positively (what it is) and negatively (what it isn't).

Positively,

1Cor. 13:4 Love is always patient and kind; ... 6 [Love] finds its joy in the truth. 7 It is always ready

to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. 8 Love keeps on going.

Summarising the positives, we find that Christian love is profoundly optimistic and enduring!

Negatively,

4 love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, 5 it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. 6 Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing,

...

Summary: Christian love is not self-centred.

If we turn the negatives into positives, and combine them with the first group of positives, we might arrive at the following description of Christian love:

1Cor. 13:4 Love is always patient and kind; it is generous, humble and modest. 5 It is respectful and seeks the benefit of others. Love is easy-going and forgiving. 6 Love delights in the doing of good and finds its joy in the truth. 7 It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. 8 Love keeps on going.

'Christian love' may realistically be summed up as the practise of '*optimistic, enduring generosity*'. As people who have been transformed by God's love (supremely demonstrated by Jesus' self-sacrificial death for us), how can we not seek to exhibit it to others, especially in seeking to share with them the saving, transforming news that Jesus is risen from the dead. As the Apostles themselves proclaimed to their enemies,

Acts 4:12 ... there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

... so we must also seek to share the Gospel with those who come to us. This is our God-given mission – and privilege!

Thank you so much to all of you who – in such love – support our ministry by prayer, by the giving of your time and energy, and also by giving financially. We are gratefully indebted to you all!

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS SYDNEY NSW

ABN 59 000 652 479

Flying Angel Seafarers Centre

320 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address: P.O. Box Q403

QVB Sydney NSW 1230

Tel: +61 (0) 2 9264 9900

Fax: +61 (0) 2 9264 9318

Email: sydney@mts.org.au