

The Master's Mariner

Summer 2008



Caring for seafarers
around the world

The Death of Kyung Wan 'Peter' Kim

In our last newsletter, I sadly reported the tragic death of John Wong, Manager of Bunbury Mission to Seafarers. Although Bunbury is far away from Sydney, and although we had not had much personal contact with John, nevertheless his death and its circumstances affected us all.



Now another life has been taken from us – this time that of Sydney Chaplain the Rev. Kyung Wan 'Peter' Kim. At 46 years of age, Peter leaves behind his wife and two daughters Karis and Jieun, as well as his parents and a younger brother.

Peter appeared to be in good health and had gone to Kiribati on Annual Leave in order to establish a business exporting sea-cucumbers to Asia. Why had he done this? Unfortunately The Mission is not able to provide a stipend package for our Chaplains that matches even the minimum levels required for Assistant Ministers in Anglican Parishes in Sydney Diocese. Our Chaplains minister sacrificially! Peter longed for his daughters to enjoy the highest standard of education he could provide for them, and had enrolled them at Roseville College. However, he needed to supplement his MtS income in order to do so. He incurred significant levels of stress in seeking to secure this extra income.

On Wednesday 22nd October, while he was on the pacific island of Kiribati, he suffered the heart attack that so tragically took his life.

Words cannot express the depth of the anguish and grief his family are feeling. Their lives will never be the same again.

Peter came to Australia in order to establish the Asia Seaman's Mission here and, in so doing, worked with the ITF at their 'Boomerang Club' for a number of years. This was not a very happy relationship and consequently, at the invitation of The Rev. Tom Hill, Peter joined The Mission to Seafarers in 2003. Peter was still 'The Asia Seaman's Mission' in Australia, but The Mission to Seafarers was his chief ministry for the past five years.

Peter was an excellent Chaplain - reliable, conscientious, and with a heart for Jesus Christ' - who was always keen to minister to Seafarers in whatever capacity was necessary.

Although Peter formed good relationships with other Chaplains, he and (Chaplain) Jong Jo enjoyed a close friendship and became an

outstanding good crew-visiting team. This was very good the seafarers, for The Mission and for them!



Peter explaining the Gospel to seafarers

Flying Angel House was closed for the morning on Monday 3rd November to enable all Staff to attend Peter's funeral.

At the funeral it was very clear that Peter was greatly loved and respected, not only within his family, but within his church and throughout the whole Korean community. His eldest daughter (Karis)'s tribute to him was very moving.



Peter was buried at Macquarie Park, North Ryde

Following Peter's death, we feared that financial considerations may mean that his daughters would be unable to continue at Roseville College. This would have been a very cruel blow. However, in an act of great kindness, the Principal of the College - Dr Briony Scott - has granted them the full clergy discount, even backdating it to ensure that they will be able to continue as full-time students of the College for the foreseeable future.

Although we cannot bring Peter back, this provision – so very important for Peter and his family – is a real consolation for them during these grievous times.

Please pray for Peter's family, and for all who miss him so deeply.

Final Voyage of QE2

The world-famous QE2 liner has left Southampton on its last ever voyage, as thousands of well-wishers looked on from the quayside.

At 1100 GMT, one million Remembrance Day poppies were dropped over the vessel by a DeHavilland Beaver aircraft accompanied by an Auster, to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of World War I and the start of a two-minute silence.

The Duke of Edinburgh went on board to meet crew members who travelled on the vessel when it was used as a troop ship in the Falklands War in 1982.

He was introduced to former captains of HMS Ardent, Antelope and Coventry - ships that were lost in the Falklands campaign.

He then joined other guests to watch an RAF Harrier jet, from No 1 (F) Squadron, hover over the ship for about one minute at 1345 GMT, before dipping its nose in tribute.

It was the Duke of Edinburgh seventh visit to the vessel, which was launched by the Queen at Clydebank, near Glasgow, in September 1967.

As well-wishers looked on from packed ferries in Southampton Water, RFA Mounts Bay led a flotilla of ships past the liner, blowing its horn as it went.

In a farewell address, Captain Ian McNaught told the crowd the vessel had been acclaimed all over the world as a symbol of British excellence.



QE2 during its final visit to Sydney

‘For 40 years QE2 has striven to serve Southampton and serve her country with flair and fortitude,’ he said. ‘But now her sea days are done and she passes on to a new life in a new home. We wish her well. On behalf of QE2 I bid Southampton farewell and thank you for all the affection you have shown to her in all these years. Southampton I salute you.’

The ship began to slip its berth at 1915 GMT, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

The vessel passed its terminal for the last time at about 2000 GMT, where more fireworks were let off.



QE2 was then visible from shore as it headed out into the Solent until about 2115 GMT.

The liner has sailed nearly six million nautical miles, been round the world 25 times, crossed the Atlantic more than 800 times and carried more than 2.5 million passengers.

Now her sea days are done and she passes on to a new life in a new home. The 41-year-old liner is being taken out of service and turned into a floating hotel in Dubai.

UN Anti-Piracy Resolution

The UN Security Council has passed a long-awaited resolution sanctioning continued deployment of naval vessels and military aircraft against pirates in Somali waters.

Resolution 1838 *‘calls upon all states interested in the security of maritime activities to take part actively in the fight against piracy on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, in particular by deploying naval vessels and military aircraft’*. French UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert (whose country initiated the vote) commented, ‘It states very clearly that you can use force against the pirates’.



No ‘Johnny Depps’ here; these are the real thing – ruthless thieves and killers.

However South African UN Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo wisely cautioned against seeing the Resolution as providing a solution to the causes of the problem, saying, ‘Until you address the situation in Somalia, you will always have piracy.’

Somalia has not had effective government in 17 years, during which time its waters have become the most dangerous in the world. More than a dozen vessels have been seized and their crews held for ransoms totalling US\$30 million. It is believed that most of the pirate activity is undertaken by six gangs involving some 1,200 men. The ransoms are used to pay for more sophisticated weaponry to further bolster their piracy capabilities and the grip of Somali warlords on their ‘territory’.

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