



GET ON BOARD

FALL 2020

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

A ministry of the Christian Reformed Churches in BC and Alberta
401 E Waterfront Rd, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9

crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com

[f Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver](https://www.facebook.com/MinistrytoSeafarersVancouver)

[@ministrytoseafarersvancouver](https://www.instagram.com/ministrytoseafarersvancouver)

www.ministrytoseafarers.com

Ministry During Covid-19

Ship visiting during Covid-19 has been limited primarily to visits to the gangway only. In spite of the limitations, these visits have become even greater priorities for us, since most crew have not been able to access the seafarers centres during this time. In fact, the centres were closed from mid-March to mid-July.

In addition, during this time crew sign off at the end of their contracts has been extremely challenging. It has meant that many on board have been on extended contracts, often well beyond the one-year legal limit. At the same time, others who are stuck back in their home countries have faced long periods of unemployment.

With ship crews unable to go ashore, we began distributing care packages. In July the restrictions on shore leave were relaxed somewhat and seafarers were once again allowed ashore for short periods of time. Some crews are able to come to the centres now, but most ships are still not allowing shore leave in an abundance of caution. Crew change is somewhat more manageable, but still challenging.

With the seafarers centres now open again, for those crews that have been able to come ashore and visit, finally shopping, connecting, and getting that all-important break from the ship again has been a welcome relief.

The most vital service we still bring though is that of presence. Offering a listening ear, an encouraging word, the assurance of prayers for them (and with them when they're open to that), and sharing God's Word - all of these simple acts minister in ways beyond what we can even imagine. God is at work in the port!



Internship

This year we have been blessed with services of our intern, Rev. Vincent Ng. Below is his report. Thank you for your service, Vincent!



What I could offer to the seafarers during a pandemic?

I always have this question in my mind as a port chaplain: what kind of things I could offer to the seafarers especially during the pandemic? As port chaplains we offer not only care packages of chips, chocolates, candies, popcorn and necessary information about the seafarers' center and the port. We offer appreciation, care, and encouragement to each and every seafarer. In addition, what I would really like to offer is prayers and blessings. I always pray with the seafarers when I visit and speak with them on the gangway. I pray that God will watch over each and every seafarer, keep them safe from danger, protect them from infection of COVID-19, take care of them when feeling lonely, and bring them safely home to see their loved ones, Amen. And I invite you to spare a moment to pray for the seafarers. Each one of them needs God's divine help in knowing Him and being a follower of Christ Jesus.



GET ON BOARD

FALL 2020

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

A ministry of the Christian Reformed Churches in BC and Alberta
401 E Waterfront Rd, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9

crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com

[f Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver](https://www.facebook.com/MinistrytoSeafarersVancouver)

[@ministrytoseafarersvancouver](https://www.instagram.com/ministrytoseafarersvancouver)

www.ministrytoseafarers.com

Christmas at Sea

We are planning to distribute Christmas gifts again this year and are now beginning to purchase and prepare items for the gift bags. As always, we welcome your donations towards this project that enable us to give these gifts that the seafarers so appreciate and look forward to. Send donation cheques to: Ministry to Seafarers, 401 E. Waterfront Rd., Vancouver, BC, V6A 4G9. You can also donate online through our website at www.ministrytoseafarers.com. We are especially in need of toques this year! For further inquiries, email Gary at: crcvanportchaplain@gmail.com.



Prayer & Praise

Praise as we've been able to continue ministering to the many seafarers who visit this area all through this Covid season.

Pray for the health and safety of seafarers and their families back home, as well as for our visiting chaplains, centre staff, and volunteers.

Praise for advocacy action taken on behalf of seafarers through the likes of the new Port Welfare Committee and other local, national & international efforts.

Pray that all those we come into contact with would experience and recognize the love of Jesus for them.

Port Alberni Update

We were delighted recently to be able to deliver a cake, ice cream and gifts to one seafarer who was celebrating his birthday while in Port Alberni. We do this as often as possible to make their birthdays special, even far from home.

The Port Alberni Port Authority has restricted ship visits to the bottom of the gangway only. Crew can visit the centre on their own, but staff only drop in occasionally for cleaning and check-in purposes.



We can't thank Canadian Tire here in Port Alberni enough for giving us such a great deal on the basketball hoops and the Port Authority permission to paint an NBA sized court on their property for the seafarers to use while they are here.

Without doubt, COVID has put a real cramp in our ministry but everybody is trying to cope as best they can. They really seem to appreciate us telling them that our hearts go out to them and their families that they miss so intensely and that we will not forget them in our daily prayers for their health and safety.

