Responding to the changing needs of seafarers

Inside this issue of Flying Angel News

- Sea Sunday 2014 round-up
- Catching up with Pete Goss
- Support seafarers online
- Our plans for Woolly Hat Day 2014
- The latest fundraising news
- News from ports around the world
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

10 December
1800 – 2100
St Michael Paternoster Royal, near Cannon Street

An evening with the P&O Ferries Choir, winners of BBC’s The Choir: Sing While You Work, along with readings from VIPs including:
Robin Mortimer, Port of London Authority
Dr Grahaeme Henderson, Shell Shipping
Jeffrey Evans, Clarksons
Lee Wai Pong, Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration

The service will be followed by a drinks reception at Skinners’ Hall.

Reservations

Tickets: £27.50

Contact Rebecca Watson on 020 7246 2939 or at Rebecca.Watson@missiontoseafarers.org for details
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the September edition of Flying Angel News.

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your fantastic support so far this year. The Flying Angel Ride, a 75-mile bike ride from which I have just about recovered, was a success and helped us to raise £19,000. The ride is a sign of commitment from many of our supporters in the shipping industry, and a great day out was had by all. There’s more information on the ride, including some photos, on page 9.

It was also good to welcome some of you to our Annual Service, which gives us an opportunity to celebrate our work and to recognise the hugely important contribution made by our amazing volunteers in ports around the world. Sea Sunday this year has been taken up by a record number of churches, boosting our profile in communities and with churches. You can read more about the day and see some photos on page 3.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Mission. Our regionalisation process is enabling us to provide more effective support to our work around the world and to encourage new development where it is needed most. We will be opening a new centre in JNPT in India soon, along with a new facility in Scotland, and there are also plans to strengthen our presence in Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, our Global Review will make sure we are in the right ports with the appropriate level of resource. We are determined to make sure that our work is dynamic, creative and relevant to modern seafarers.

Our emphasis on relevance means, amongst much else, meeting and interacting with seafarers not only through traditional methods, but also through mediums such as Facebook, to help resolve welfare issues. One example recently linked up our London office and our team in Singapore, helping us to support a crew working in dangerous circumstances. There’s more on pages 4 and 5.

There is a tremendous amount going on and I am proud of so much that I see and so much that I read in our chaplains’ monthly reports, and I hope these pages will give you an insight into what is a very significant time in the long and distinguished story of The Mission to Seafarers.

I conclude by thanking you all again, not only on behalf of the Mission but, more importantly, of the countless seafarers who benefit from the work you make possible.

Andrew Wright
Secretary General

www.missiontoseafarers.org  0300 555 1505
Mission news

Mission launches new fundraising and awareness video

The Mission has launched a new fundraising video to support this year’s summer appeal. The video, filmed in Hong Kong and Tuticorin, India, focuses on the story of Wenying, a 23-year old Chinese seafarer who was diagnosed with cancer after falling ill while working on a Star Cruises ship near Hong Kong.

After she was hospitalised, the Mission’s senior port chaplain and regional director for East Asia, the Revd Stephen Miller, visited her in hospital regularly, and also learned about her seafaring husband, Raja. Stephen worked tirelessly to support Wenying, visiting her hundreds of times over the course of her long illness. He also arranged for Raja, who was working in India at the time, to fly out to visit Wenying in hospital, and the Mission in Hong Kong covered the cost of Raja’s accommodation in the Mariners’ Club.

After a long battle, Wenying sadly passed away in October 2013. When Raja returned home to India, he was offered support by the Mission’s chaplain in the port of Tuticorin, continuing the care that we provide around the world. Raja said: “Stephen treated my wife and I like his own family. His support gave us hope and strengthened me through the darkest moments of my life. What the Mission did for me, I cannot repay in this lifetime.”

To learn more, watch the YouTube video on our website, www.missiontoseafarers.org

Ebola outbreak leads to rise in port security

As the Ebola outbreak continues to spread across West Africa, shipping organisations are responding by issuing guidance to seafarers about the risks of the virus.

Three global shipping organisations, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Maritime Employers’ Council and the International Transport Workers’ Federation, have advised ship’s captains to ensure their crew knows about the risks of catching the virus as well as how it can be spread, to help keep their ships safe.

As a result, many ships have started to deny seafarers shore leave in the region, making it difficult for them to access Mission centres. It’s also made access to ships for our ship visitors more difficult. While official guidance states that “careful consideration” should be given to shore leave requests, in practice, this has turned into refusals.

Mombasa chaplain the Revd Lole Timayo said: “Some masters are preventing seafarers from getting off because of Ebola, while some are afraid, even if the masters don’t stop them. However, we still send our transport to bring seafarers to us and I continue ship visiting.”
Record-breaking Sea Sunday celebrations prove a success

We would like to thank everyone who took part in an event for this year’s Sea Sunday. 2014 saw a record number of churches around the world taking part in Sea Sunday to support our vital work with seafarers. We’re busy counting the money that has been raised by churches and our dedicated teams of speakers, chaplains and volunteers around the world and we hope to be able to share an update on just how much we have raised soon.

This year, we focused our campaign on the issue of abandonment, which can see crews left on board ships without food, water, or pay for months at a time, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and despair in which they are barely able to survive, let alone support their families, without our help. We paired this campaign with the story of Jonah and the Whale, which more than reminds us of the storms and perils that seafarers face.

You can see more photos from the day on our Facebook page. If you have some from your local Sea Sunday event that you would like to share, please send them to Fan@missiontoseafarers.org.

With many more services to come from around the world, we hope to update you with more pictures soon.

If you would like to hold a Sea Sunday event this year, it’s not too late. For more information on how to participate, and how to order our fundraising and church resources, visit our dedicated microsite www.seasunday.org.
Responding to the changing expectations of seafarers

As the Mission approaches its 160th birthday, it is looking forward when it comes to the way we work. Michael Keating reports on the way the Mission has responded to seafarers’ changing expectations of our services and the real-life impact that something as simple as a Facebook message can really have.
going on. After his initial visit, he said: “The crew concerned were of Myanmar origin, and they were generally afraid and feared for their safety, and for their lives.”

Peter spoke to the local ITF representative to find out what their legal standing was, and also contacted the ship’s repair manager to make them aware of what was going on on board. What the captain was asking the crew to do was not only dangerous, but illegal.

Peter said: “I advised them to not go into the confined space, no matter what, without a valid permit. The crew mentioned that they were verbally abused and threatened with physical harm and their family members were worried about their safety. “I could see that they were terrified and fearful. I mentioned to the crew that the labour laws in Singapore are very strict and that no one is above the law. After much encouragement, they were more relaxed. They were less afraid of being physically and verbally abused, and they calmed down, feeling a sense of peace knowing that we would help to ensure their matter would be amicably and peacefully resolved.”

Thanks to Peter’s efforts, a group from the ministry of manpower visited the ship. During their visit, they discovered that the captain was still demanding that the crew perform work in enclosed spaces. When the inspectors confronted the captain, he claimed to have a permit from the maritime and port authority of Singapore, but upon investigation, it emerged that this permit had long since expired.

Peter said: “I met up with the Captain together with an ITF Representative and spoke to the Captain and I found him to be very evasive. I personally witnessed how the captain verbally abused these two crew and the ITF officer took note of it.”

This intervention proved important, and before long things were moving in the right direction for the beleaguered crew. MtS ensured that their salaries were paid and that they were safely repatriated. We were at the airport with the seafarers when they were ready to go home. The seafarers were so thankful for our assistance, were at peace and went home safely to be with their families and loved ones.

Instead of giving you a quoted version of what the seafarers said after their issues were resolved, here’s a screenshot of the message we received through our Facebook page:

Dear Sir, Now everything is back to fine... because of Mr Peter. I really really praise to him and also his great performance. I never ever see him before in my life, like that person. He is welcome, smart, kindly, consideration, sympathy, etc. He is the only one truly of Mission to Seafarers. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL MEMBER OF (MISSION TO SEAFARERS) GROUP. GOD Bless your group and I wish to SUCCESSFUL.

As technology changes, and as shipping changes, the way the Mission works will change too, as it always has done, so we can continue to provide vital services to seafarers in need around the world.
As we look to future, our work around the world continues to develop. Keep up with the latest in our new feature here

UK and Northern Europe
Dunkerque has a new port chaplain. The Revd Ben Humphries, previously based in Mombasa, Kenya, has been appointed to the French port after its previous chaplain, the Revd Paul Bennett, retired.

The seafarers’ centre in Immingham is due to re-open at the end of September. The centre closed in December 2013 after it was flooded, and since then, repair work has been underway to restore it to its former glory.

The Mission to Seafarers in Belfast has a new chaplaincy assistant to support the ship visiting team. Jake joined in August, and after his stint in Belfast ends, Jake will travel over to the UK port of Tilbury, where he will work part-time as a ship visitor.

The Mission to Seafarers Scotland will open its first 24-hour centre in the port of Grangemouth at the end of September. The new communications facility will be accessible by PIN code, and will offer Wi-Fi to seafarers in the port.

Southern Africa
The Revd Lole Timayo has been appointed as the new port chaplain in Mombasa, Kenya. Lole was previously port chaplain in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He replaces the Revd Ben Humphries, who has moved to the Mission in Dunkerque, France. Meanwhile, the Revd Mark Classen has moved from Durban to Richards Bay, and his position has been filled by John Appalasamy.

The Gulf & South Asia
The Mission plans to open a new centre in India. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is due to open in October 2014, and a new full-time port chaplain, the Revd Nitin Dethe, has been appointed to the area, which is on the west coast of India. The port itself is large and is based in a remote location, so the Mission will also run transport to help seafarers get around.

Oceania
The Mission in Fremantle is looking to the future as it prepares for its 50th anniversary in 2016. Developments are currently underway in the Flying Angel Club to add new medical facilities for seafarers recovering after illness and injury. The Fremantle team has also held a series of planning workshops, called “Vision 2020”, as it puts together a strategic plan for the future. The workshops were sponsored and arranged by Fremantle Ports. In addition, the team has also started preparing for their Woolly Hat Day – in 2015! To find out more about Woolly Hat Day, turn to pages 12 and 13.

Meanwhile, the Mission in Thevenard has had its centre officially opened in August. It had been operating since 2013, after its volunteers approached a local business, Ceduna Foreshore Hotel, for help finding the premises and providing furniture.

East Asia
The Mission in Singapore is due to appoint a second port chaplain to help the Mission reach its target of doubling the amount of seafarers it reaches. The new chaplain will work alongside our existing port chaplain, the Revd Peter Manimuthu.

Plans are currently underway to merge the local charitable statuses of the Mission centres in Kobe and Yokohama, both in Japan. The merger will offer the centres the chance to work together more closely and to pool resources to help them deliver even better services to seafarers in the region.

You can keep up to date with all of the latest news from The Mission to Seafarers by joining us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/themissiontoseafarers, or by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FlyingAngelNews. Alternatively, you can find out more about the Mission, including where we work around the world, on our website at www.missiontoseafarers.org
Row, row your boat

A brave team of fundraisers are taking on an epic rowing challenge in Singapore for the Mission next year. Find out about their plans here. Meanwhile, Pete Goss offers the crew some sage advice.

Forty brave rowers are taking to the sea with the ambitious aim of raising S$750,000 (£375,000) for the Mission by taking on an endurance relay rowing challenge called Mission Row Around the Island of Singapore (RASI).

The team behind Mission RASI plan to reach their target with a programme of fundraising events culminating in a 24-hour, 140km relay rowing challenge timed in conjunction with Singapore Maritime Week next April. The fundraising event is also intended to join up with Singapore’s 50th Golden Anniversary of independence.

The rowers will form two teams, and each team will take to one of two custom-built Cornish pilot gigs, rowing single-handedly during the challenge, with only six rowers plus a coxswain in each boat at any one time. Both boats will be supported by a flotilla of support boats, carrying the rest of each team, and safety vessels.

The rowers have already started training and have create a Facebook page to help document their story as it progresses. To find out more, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/rasi

Sailing legend Pete Goss is supporting our brave Mission RASI fundraisers at an event in September. Here, he talks about his sailing career – and offers the RASI team some pointers.

1. What drew you to the sea?
   I’ve always loved it, the romance of it, the challenge of it. My father and grandfather sailed, my great-grandfather was a shipbuilder: it runs through my family. I have no memory of learning to sail, it’s like walking, it’s the same as living and breathing to me.

2. You turned a team of amateurs into group capable of taking on the British Steel Challenge, the world’s toughest yacht race. How difficult was that?
   The idea was to break down some of the elitism around sailing, and we ended up with an eclectic mix group of people between 20 and 60, from different walks of life: farmers, bankers, surgeons. I trained them for two and a half years, then they race-trained for six months before taking on an eight-month row: around the world the wrong way! But with enthusiasm and passion you can do anything. Each team became more than the sum of their parts, and the teamwork really is essential. It was a real privilege to work with these guys.

3. What words of advice can you give our Mission RASI fundraisers?
   This is a real challenge: some charity challenges don’t seem difficult, but this will be. So I would say, train, train, train. 70 per cent of their result will happen before they cross the start line, so do the training.

   But the work of The Mission to Seafarers is a huge motivator. These guys will be going through the world’s biggest anchorage, and everyone out on those merchant ships will be able to relate to what these rowers are doing.

   This work will have a real lasting legacy. But above all, enjoy it. They’ll all be able to look back on this for years to come. Oh, and bring a cushion!

Feeling inspired?

If you would like to find out more about supporting Mission RASI, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/rasi. If you would like to take part in a challenge event, or want to come up with your own, contact us at events@missiontoseafarers.org and we will offer you all the support you need.
Fundraising news

Tall ships fly Mission flags

The Mission to Seafarers Scotland took part in the Commonwealth Flotilla on 25 July. 250 vessels of all shapes and sizes sailed from Greenock Docks, once the hub of merchant shipping on the west coast of Scotland, and up the River Clyde to Glasgow. The sailing procession was part of the celebrations around Scotland’s hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

A range of ships, including merchant vessels, luxury yachts and traditional clippers flew the Mission’s flag to raise awareness of our work in the area.

The Mission in Scotland also used the event to promote its new Commonwealth Trade Journey project, which will see a series of talks to schools and community groups take place during 2014 and 2015, to highlight the importance of sea trade to the UK as an island community and the Mission’s work supporting it. The project has been awarded £10,000 in funding by the Celebrate Big Lottery Fund and is also backed by Tunnocks.

To find out more about the Commonwealth Trade Journey project, please contact our regional fundraising manager for Scotland, Laura Brown, at Laura.Brown@missiontoseafarers.org.

Dubai Mission spreads Ramadan cheer to seafarers

With many centres around the world keeping one eye on their Christmas wrapathon plans, the Mission in UAE has already swung into action for Ramadan.

Theresa Dommett, senior partnerships manager for the Mission in the UAE, said: “Ramadan is the second busiest time of our year. This year P&G, Philips, Dubai Chamber and TNT selected the Angel Appeal as their community project for Ramadan, and we have been able to distribute several thousand gifts to needy seafarers in two Emirates over four ports.

“It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of the seafarers when they received their gifts. So often they are forgotten during the year but they are so appreciated for the work they do in bringing us all of the things that make our life better.”

‘Tis the season...

It’s that time of year already. Well, it isn’t quite just yet, but the supermarkets have already started to get the festive food out in the aisles and we’re all now looking ahead, with the usual mix of excitement and trepidation, to Christmas.

With that in mind, many of you will have received Christmas card catalogues through the post already. If you haven’t, don’t despair: you can order your cards online. To browse our catalogue, visit www.charitycardsshop.com/mts, where you can also place your orders for a range of cards, candles and Christmas gifts.

A percentage of each set goes to the Mission to support our work. At Christmas, traditionally a time for family, seafarers often feel their isolation more than usual. Fortunately, Mission staff and volunteers are on hand to spread some Christmas cheer and keep them connected to their loved ones.
Fundraise for us!

We need your help! Could you organise a coffee morning or quiz night, or would you like to literally go that extra mile and take on a run or challenge event in aid of The Mission to Seafarers? These events can be a great way to get people together, have fun, and raise funds for seafarers at the same time. We can offer tips, advice and resources to help ensure that your event is a huge success. To find out more, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/support-us

Nor-Shipping chooses Mission as 2015 charity

Nor-Shipping, one of the world’s leading maritime events, has chosen the Mission as its charity partner for its 50th anniversary event in Oslo in June 2015.

The partnership means that the Mission will be able to fundraise throughout the four-day conference and exhibition at a range of events such as the exhibition itself and the main gala dinner, as well as through ticket sales. Nor-Shipping will also work with the Mission to promote the partnership to its 40,000 attendees through the press, social media and its own conference newspaper.

Vidar Pederstad, Nor-Shipping Director, said: “It is natural for Nor-Shipping to partner with The Mission to Seafarers. Highlighting the help this organisation provides to shows that we recognise the invaluable contribution seafarers make to the industry. Without them, it wouldn’t exist.”

Andrew Wright, Secretary General, The Mission to Seafarers, said: “We are delighted that Nor-Shipping has agreed to work with us. Through this partnership, the Mission will be able to raise vital funds to support seafarers of every nation and their families. We will be able to further champion the cause of seafarers’ wellbeing with delegates and share our experiences about the working lives of the men and women who crew the world’s merchant fleet.

“Seafarers are so often forgotten, at times they are neglected and, in some parts of the world, those who spend their lives at sea continue to suffer abuse and exposure to danger.”

Fun in the sun at the Mission’s Flying Angel Ride

Enthusiastic cyclists gathered in the New Forest on 25 May to take part in our annual flagship challenge event, the Flying Angel Ride.

Riders were given the option of a 35-mile or 75-mile route, with the knowledge that a post-ride BBQ, generously sponsored by the Maersk Company, awaited them at the finish line. Teams from companies and organisations including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Lloyd’s Register, Faststream Recruitment and the Baltic Exchange took on the challenge this year, as well as many individual cyclists and Mission supporters.

51 riders took on an overall total of 2,865 miles (and three tyre punctures) to raise £19,000 for our work in 260 ports in 71 countries around the world.

The Mission’s Secretary General, the Revd Andrew Wright, who took on the 75-mile route this year, said: “This was a memorable occasion. We enjoyed some fine weather on the day which really lifted the spirits from the start. I opted for the 75 mile circuit this year and to my surprise made it back in a respectable time.

“These events are great for team building and to help to raise vital funds for the Mission, without which our support for seafarers simply could not happen.”

Several awards were handed out on the day, with the IMO team winning Best Team Spirit (pictured bottom right). Lloyd’s Register put together the Largest Team, scooping that award, and Champion of the Ride was awarded to Bruce Black, part of the IMO team, who overcame multiple punctures to his car and his bike to join us and complete the ride.

You can see some photos from the day on the right-hand side. For more, visit our Facebook page.

Top to bottom: one cyclist abandons their bike and helmet for some hard-earned sustenance; one of the ride’s pace-setters taking on the 75 mile route; and the team from the International Maritime Organization show off their team spirit with their end-of-ride faces (Photos: Michael Keating)
Ports around the world

Port Hedland, Australia: support and care for a seriously injured seafarer

Mahesh was helping out with a casting off operation on his vessel MV Julia N at Port Hedland in Western Australia when his leg was suddenly caught in the messenger line connecting the mooring line to the tug.

Mahesh struggled against the line, which tore into his leg below his knee. One of his crewmates reacted quickly and held on to him as the line threatened to drag him into the water. This saved his life, preventing him from being sucked into the deep water below the ship, but it couldn’t save his leg, which was severed by the line.

Another member of the crew improvised a tourniquet to stem the bleeding, again helping to keep Mahesh alive before paramedics arrived on the scene.

Associate chaplain Garry South from the centre in Port Hedland visited the crew on the ship, and Garry brought them to visit 27-year-old Mahesh in hospital regularly, giving him the company and support that he needed at such a difficult time.

The seafarers’ centre set up a fundraising appeal to help Mahesh rebuild his life. Just 10 days after the incident, Mahesh was already looking toward a new future, knowing that he would never be able to return to sea. However, he knew that the funds raised by the Port Hedland centre would be a huge boost. After two weeks, he was set to be repatriated, and a doctor flew out from India to accompany him on his journey home. Mahesh’s wife Sruthy was flown to Mumbai to join him, where he is due to receive a prosthetic leg. The couple had been married for just eight months when the accident happened, seven of which Mahesh had spent at sea.

After he arrived back in India, he messaged Garry to say thanks: “Thank u Garry. The care which I’m getting from there is really heavenly for me.”

The local community rallied around the centre and Mahesh, and the Port Hedland team raised an amazing AUD$35,000 to support him. They plan to fly out to present him with the funds in September.

The Revd Alan Mower, the Port Hedland Seafarers’ Centre senior chaplain, said: “This tragic incident has been a great lesson for us to recognise the power of prayer and the true heart of the Port Hedland people and PHSC staff. Support came in from so many that we cannot even begin to name or thank them personally. All I can say is thank God for your enormous care and generosity.

“Mahesh now has a good chance for a future for his family and himself.”

Walvis Bay, Namibia: safety for seafarers

While seafarers can face many dangers out at sea, they often encounter them on dry land too. The Mission’s Walvis Bay chaplain, the Revd Linea Haufiku, reports that many seafarers venturing out of the port can find themselves vulnerable to local gangs.

“There are an increasing number of seafarers being threatened by knife point at the railway line,” said Linea. Recently, a ship’s cook had his jacket, watch and jewellery stolen by a gang of men, and an American ship’s captain got away with a narrow escape after being confronted by a similar group, after some passers-by intervened.

Linea said: “Being in the foreign land is always scary but when you face challenges like that it’s even worse. The seafarers are usually terrified as they do not know what these youngsters’ intentions are. I advise seafarers to work in groups of twos or more just to be safe, but the best option is that when they call the Mission centre so that we can go pick them up.”

Sadly, this seems to be a part of working in ports where seafarers are in unfamiliar environments, but fortunately Mission chaplains like Linea are on hand to offer advice and support to help keep seafarers safe.
Grangemouth, Scotland:

The Revd Tim Tunley, who covers ports in Scotland, received an email from a seafarer named Pirash that he used to see coming into Grangemouth regularly.

“Dear Sir, myself 3rd engineer from LPGC Bastogne…writing you this mail in order to thank you for your help cz of which i am married now. last contract i was on the same vessel and when ever i use to mail you or call you for calling cards/internet cards you use to send me before i even could pay on many occasions… it was very important to me to be in touch with my family and a special girl Ritanshu who is my wife now. Thank you for your help sir, u have made my life much better...!!! Pirash”

Because Tim used to see Pirash regularly, he would often email him, and he would even top up his SIM card before he arrived in port so that Pirash could contact his loved ones as soon as possible. What may seem like a small gesture has obviously had a profound effect on the young seafarer and this kind of thoughtful care represents the work our chaplains carry out, all around the world.

Falmouth, UK: volunteers work around the clock to support cruise crews

The team at the Falmouth Mission have expanded service to cruise ships, working extended shifts to help seafarers make the most of their shore leave. The Falmouth team recently welcomed the crew of Thomson Spirit, working in three shifts to ensure that everyone in a continuous 11-hour stream was looked after.

Over 70 seafarers visited, all going away with Mission gifts and plenty of photos: a new sculpture of a WWII seafarer, designed and made by Mission volunteer Graham Hall, proved a popular photo opportunity with the Spirit crew, as did the Mission’s cat, Bagpuss. Many were also interested to see the photos of the crew of Thomson Celebration, sister ship to the Spirit, which had been in port in 2004 and 2008.

Penny Phillips, Chairman of the Falmouth Mission, said: “Thomson Celebration was one of the first ships to use the Flying Angel Cabin in 2004, and the crew were promised when they returned we would have phones, computers and a clothes store. When they came back in 2008 they couldn’t believe the transformation - they said “you promised you’d get phones and computers and you have!”

Oshawa, Canada: Fritz crew troubles

The MV Fritz was bound for the Canadian port of Oshawa when it suffered serious engine trouble. It was left stranded for several weeks in the St Lawrence River, while its nineteen-strong Romanian crew, unable to repair the ship, awaited orders from its owners.

In their last port of call, Montreal, the ship’s chandler had only given them half of their supplies and they eventually ran low. The crew had to resort to fishing over the side in order to eat. Realising that the Fritz crew were in trouble, passers-by on smaller boats offered extra supplies to the crew to help them as they attempted to fix the engine. When the Fritz finally made it to Oshawa, the Revd Judith Alltree was there. She was met by a crew that had been demoralised by months of mistreatment. Judith said: “Their stress levels were unbelievable. They had no trust in us and did not think they could be helped.”

Judith’s first task was to show them that someone cared. She said: “I got on board and offered them phonecards. I told them, you need to call your families. But they just pushed the cards away. Their attitude was, whatever you’re selling, we’re not buying.”

Eventually, a breakthrough was made: Judith explained that the cards were a gift, and the crew accepted them. It was the first time they could speak to their families in weeks. Judith was able to pick up much-needed supplies for the crew. On her return, a cadet told her: “I can’t believe you would do this”, to which she replied: “It’s what we’re here for.” A local Romanian church also stepped in, and was able to provide home comforts in the form of traditional food.

Despite conditions on board improving, they still hadn’t been paid for four months, and they had no means to repair the ship’s engine. The crew went on strike, and Judith remained available to support them. After three weeks in Oshawa, an agreement was struck. The crew were paid, and several were repatriated and replaced. The ship then moved on to Hamilton for repairs, before sailing on to Toledo in Ohio, USA. Unfortunately, more trouble awaited the Fritz there.

After the ship’s long-awaited cargo had been discharged, the ship was arrested over a US$900,000 unpaid fuel bill. Several of the Fritz’s original crew remain on board, unable to leave the ship and the story of this troubled ship continues.

Find out more about our work around the world

To read more about the work of our welfare teams around the world, and to support The Mission to Seafarers, please visit our website at www.missiontoseafarers.org or contact us at Fan@missiontoseafarers.org.
Support seafarers on Woolly Hat Day

On 24 October, we’re asking our supporters to put on woolly hats and fundraise for our vital work around the world. Here’s why...

Woolly hats play a huge role in our work. Around the world there is an army of volunteers who tirelessly knit woolly hats for seafarers. These are handed out by our chaplains and ship visitors to seafarers visiting our centres or on board their ships. The woolly hats not only keep the seafarers warm, but they are also a symbol of the care and support that the Mission and our supporters give seafarers all over the world.

How to take part

On Woolly Hat Day, we ask our supporters to wear woolly hats and to help fundraise for our vital work. This year, Woolly Hat Day is on 24 October. There are a range of ways you can take part in this year’s Woolly Hat Day, and we’ve put together a fundraising pack to help you make the most of your day, whether you’re taking part at work, at school or at home. When you wear your hat on your Woolly Hat Day, you know that you are part of something special. That’s because the money you raise is spent helping seafarers who are in need both here in the UK and around the world.

The great thing about Woolly Hat Day is that it is so flexible. If you’re at work, you could have competitions with your colleagues for the best or worst hat. Out of the office, in your school or community group, you could also have a cake sale, or hold a quiz, which is just one of the downloads we have on the Woolly Hat Day website, www.missiontoseafarers.org/whd

Send us your photos

This year, we’re encouraging people to send in photos of themselves proudly wearing their woolly hats, so you can get involved wherever you are. If you need some inspiration, we will be posting a “Woolly Hat of the Week” each Wednesday in the run up to Woolly Hat Day 2014, and we’ve got some great photos from celebrities including Griff Rhys Jones and Dick Strawbridge lined up, as well some from corporate supporters.

You can send us your photos by email at woollyhatday@missiontoseafarers.org. You can also post them on our Facebook page, or tweet them to us using the hashtag #whd14. On the big day, we want to be able to share as many photos of you, our dedicated supporters, as possible, so get snapping and send us your shots!

Competition time!

In October, we will be running a competition for the most interesting woolly hat photo sent in to us, with the top prize being a £50 Amazon.co.uk voucher to spend on whatever you like. To enter, simply take a photo of yourself wearing a woolly hat, holding up the “I’m supporting Woolly Hat Day” sign available from our website at www.missiontoseafarers.org/whd. How you send your photo in is up to you: you can email us at woollyhatday@missiontoseafarers.org, post it on our Facebook page, or tweet us. Good luck!

Here are just a few of the photos we have already received from celebrities and supporters. To find out how to send yours in, read on! From left to right: the P&O Ferries choir; Dick Strawbridge; Griff Rhys Jones; Russ Taylor, mate of the Svitzer Laura tug in Immingham shows his support; and the Mission’s Secretary General, the Revd Andrew Wright.
When (and why) did you join the Mission?

After church one Sunday, I was offered a half-day job at The Mission to Seamen. My first reaction was "What's that?" because I had never heard of it! I started in 1978, visiting ships, exchanging library books and looking after the accounts.

What has working for the Mission been like since then?

By 1983, I realised the Mission wasn’t fulfilling its role as the centre was being used by more locals than seafarers, and reported this to the Revd Bill Down (Secretary General from 1976 to 1990). The Mission sold the centre and used the proceeds to buy a flat in the area, which funds our work to this day. I left to join my husband’s boatbuilding company.

From 1983 until 2002, the Mission operated on the wharf, offering telephone services, recreation and library facilities. In 2002, the Mission closed after the wharf underwent a major renovation, but in 2006, while I was on the board of the Fiji Ports Corporation, I applied for space to re-house the Mission.

In August 2006, the late Archbishop Jabez Bryce opened the Suva Mission to Seafarers centre, and we’re still here today.

How big is the port of Suva?

The port can accommodate up to three 100-metre vessels at one time and one vessel on a side berth. There’s also a foreign fishing vessel wharf.

What’s the centre in Suva like?

The centre in Suva is only a stone’s throw away from where the vessels berth and seafarers love it because they can walk to it. Recently, two seafarers climbed down the ropes as soon as their vessel berthed just before we closed to ask us to stay open for them. We normally close at 10pm, but we have been known to stay open until midnight at times.

We have internet and telephone facilities, as well as pool and table tennis tables. We have a small shop too. We also sell local SIM cards and recharges, which is growing. Ships that visit regularly know that they can call me at any time to recharge their SIMs, and they pay when they come into port. They enjoy this privilege because they can contact their families in their own time.

Do you work with other Mission centres or teams in the region?

I am the Secretary of the Oceania Council, and Suva is a part of that, so I’m in contact with centres in New Zealand and the Pacific.

What part of the work gives you the most satisfaction?

I love what I do, it’s a calling. No two days are the same and I look forward to every day when I go to the Mission centre.

Viti (centre) has worked for the Mission in Fiji since 1978, and in 2010 she was given the Recognition of Women in the Maritime Industry Award. She tells us how the Mission’s work in Suva has changed over the years.

The Revd Viti Whippy
Port chaplain, Suva, Fiji

Order your Woolly Hat Day materials today!

Our Woolly Hat Day materials have everything you need to make your day a success.

This year, we have a new fundraising pack to inspire you, full of ideas on how to make the most of your event. We also have a range of posters and lots of photos of people taking part to get you in the Woolly Hat Day spirit.

To find out more about Woolly Hat Day, visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/whd, where you can find out more about taking part, and download our new fundraising pack and posters.

For any additional information on Woolly Hat Day, please contact our regional fundraising manager, Josh Kubale, on 020 7246 2982 or by email at Josh.Kubale@missiontoseafarers.org.
How you can support us
There are many ways in which you can support our work with seafarers around the world.

Find out more about getting involved
Please tick the box below and fill out the contact details panel at the bottom of the page to find out more about:

- Fundraising
- Remembering the Mission in your Will
- Volunteering
- Involving your company
- Giving in memory of a friend or loved one

Make a donation
If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below, and complete your contact details at the bottom of the page.

Please accept my gift of: £5   £15   £35
or £.......................... (your chosen amount)

- My cheque is enclosed (payable to The Mission to Seafarers)

- Please debit my credit/debit card:
  Visa/MasterCard/Maestro (delete as applicable)

Card number:       Start date: ...... / .....
Issue no. for Maestro: ...... Expiry date: ...... / .....
Name on card: ................................................
Signature: .......................................................

Make your gift worth 25% more

- Yes I am a UK tax payer and would like The Mission to Seafarers to treat my past donations (in the last 4 years) and any donations that I make now or in the future as Gift Aid donations.

I have paid, or will pay in the year of donation, enough UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs I donate to will reclaim for that tax year (6 April to 5 April). I understand that Council Tax and VAT do not count and that The Mission to Seafarers will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 given.

Date: ...... / ...... / ...... Signed: ..............................................

Contact details
Name: ..........................................................
Address: ..........................................................
..........................................................
.......................................................... Postcode: ....................................
Email: ..........................................................
Telephone: ..................................................

Please detach this form and send it to:
Flying Angel News
The Mission To Seafarers
St Michael Paternoster Royal
College Hill, London EC4R 2RL

FC2014

Events 2014-2015

Woolly Hat Day, 24 October

Worldwide
The woolly hat is an essential item for any seafarer, and on Woolly Hat Day, we ask our supporters to put on woolly hats to show their support for seafarers around the world and to fundraise for our vital work. To register for a Woolly Hat Day pack, please call Josh Kubale on 020 7246 2982 or email him at Josh.Kubale@missiontoseafarers.org

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 10 Dec

London, UK
Join us at St Michael Paternoster Royal for an evening with the P&O Ferries Choir and readings from VIP guests, including Robin Mortimer (Port of London Authority), Dr Grahaeme Henderson (Shell Shipping) and Jeffrey Evans (Clarksons). The service will be followed by a drinks reception at Skinners’ Hall. For details, please contact us on 020 7246 2939.

Mission RASI, 22 April 2015

Singapore
The Mission’s endurance rowing challenge is taking place alongside 2015’s Singapore Maritime Week and the island’s 50th Golden Anniversary. You can support their efforts by sponsoring them at www.justgiving.com/themissiontoseafarers, and you can find out more about the event at www.missiontoseafarers.org/rasi