



Seamen's Christian Friend Society

World mission on our doorstep!



“For He shall give His angels charge over you,” Ps. 91: 11a

Dear friends,

In January I heard of crew who are still on board their cruise ship maintaining it, but the company is saving fuel so they turned off the heating! Imagine being on a cruise ship without heating! This made me think of the illustration which I sometimes use that the church is “not a pleasure cruise - we are a lifeboat/fishing boats”. But, how sad it is that the spiritual temperature can be so low in many churches where comfort rather than rescue is a priority. Jesus was never in a cruise ship, but he was in a fishing boat! Let's get closer to Jesus in 2021. Thanks for continuing to remember seafarers and us in your prayers. One point for prayer is that we would soon be able to get a replacement car. Our car has almost 246,000 km on the clock and has been a blessing to thousands of seafarers over the past 7.5 years.

Seamen's Christian Friend Society:
Colin and Sunhwa's monthly report
Number 132 Jan 2021
Cold on a cruise liner?!

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During January I was blessed to be able to visit 45 ships and minister to around 385 crew who came from 18 different countries. Below are just a few of the photos and stories from my January ship visits. I hope you enjoy reading the captions on the below photos. Thanks for all your prayers and support. God bless you!

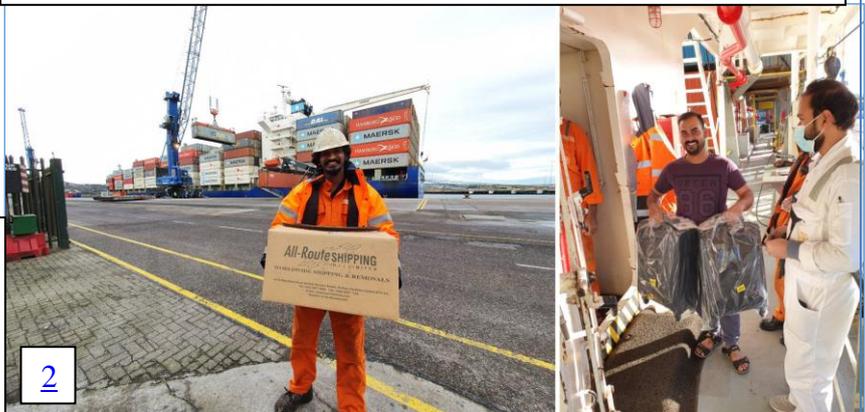


1

NB. To see a photo in full size you can press or click the number to open the pic in a webpage

1) Left: A fire in the grain silos at the Deepwater berth the day after I was visiting ships. Thirty-two firefighters came from different parts of Cork to help tackle the massive blaze in Ringaskiddy. It's believed it started due to an electrical fault.

2) Right: A full crew Indian container ship in Ringaskiddy. I did shopping for them (suitcases and a Rubik's cube), and brought Christmas presents and sim cards. This crew member told me “This is my first time stepping onto the land in 1 year of being on board!”



2



3) Left: Filipino crew of an oil tanker celebrating Christmas with me! They sang Joy to the World. You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/1IgzM4naoDc>

3

6) A research vessel called into Port briefly to re-fuel and also have a crew change. They had friendly Filipino crew and also British and Italians.

6



A rap video a seafarer made for us!
<https://youtu.be/Ua-W9KwoBUS>



4

4) Filipino crew on a Bulk ship which went to Belfast after Cork. Video of the crew singing Amazing Grace here: <https://youtu.be/aV2LhoDIETI>

5) They excitedly told me that their manning agency Magsaysay in the Philippines had issued them all with Martin Otto's new book The Seafarer's Mind. <https://bit.ly/SCFSbooks>

5



STORIES FROM JANUARY

7



7) Left: In November this ship asked if I could find them a Santa Claus costume as the Captain wanted to make a very nice party for his all Indian crew. I was able to coordinate this with my colleague Ben in Antwerp, who did some shopping for them. The crew had a nice party and de-stressed. The Captain (a turban-wearing Sikh) and the Chief Officer (C/O dressed as Santa) who is a Buddhist spent a long time talking with me and listening as I shared the Gospel and prayed for them. They had never heard about David and Goliath in the Bible. It reminded me that many of the seafarers we meet have no Bible knowledge. The majority of their crew are Hindu. Please pray for the Captain Taranpreet and the C/O Nitesh. Nitesh asked me to buy Spiderman clothes for his boy and cosmetics for his wife which I did. They are so thankful to have a friend in the Port who helps them in practical and spiritual ways.

8



Left: The man on the left is a cadet and this is his first ship. On the instrument panel you can see a giant dollar bill which is actually a Gospel tract given by Ben in Antwerp.

9



All ships in their company are named after geese or ducks

Captain Nicolai from Ukraine on the right said that Cork was the first place his feet touched the land in 11 months!!



Left: Before Christmas I visited their sister ship Barnacle in Dublin Port with Jae and Stephen. The Captain told me that this was his first time going ashore in 11 months! He was very kind and spent time chatting and listening as I shared the Gospel. He agreed with everything I said, and he said his wife and child go to church every week, and he prays daily with them over the internet because he is afraid of them catching Covid. He was very happy to receive the presents in time for Orthodox Christmas Day (7th Jan). And in the presents are included Vit C, zinc and Vit A to boost their immune systems. Sadly Nicolai (names after St. Nicholas), told me that he thinks all religions lead to God. As well as giving him the Bible in Russian and a Gospel in Ukrainian, I explained that Jesus said He is the only way to the Father. Please pray for Nicolai and his family. He hopes to go home soon, after being such a long time on board.

10



10) Ship with a full Turkish crew. They didn't have permission to go ashore, so I ended up doing shopping for them. They were very thankful for my assistance, as well as Turkish scriptures, Gospel calendars and of course the always popular woolly hats! Muhammed is on the left and Bosun Murat on the right.

11



11) Surprisingly they asked me to buy them Coca Cola among other things! Very interestingly on the package of the Coke it reads "I will be open like never before!" Please join with us in praying that the hearts and minds of seafarers will indeed be wide open for the Gospel and the love of God during these challenging days.

12



Bananas arriving in Port from Belize

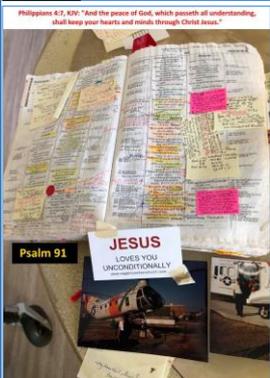
Crew from Panama were pleased to find their cargo already in the supermarket!

12) The crew were very happy to go shopping and even found bananas which their ship has been bringing to Ireland.



Left: I joined the first online COTO (Church on the Oceans) training held by SCFS Philippines over 3 days. This is the 44th batch of trainees who will go on board their ship with the objective of establishing a church on board. They started in 2008 and it takes place 4 times each year. Please pray for them and for SCFS Philippines. It was wonderful to spend time with them all, even if it meant getting up from 5am - 8am Wed - Friday.

Left: Incredible testimony of a Filipino seafarer who had been helped by an SCFS Port missionary over 30 years ago after their cruise ship had a terrible fire on board. Ps. 91



Above: I visited this ship around 1 year ago. I was able to counsel them, share and pray with them. As in Psalm 107 we pray for them to experience the name of their ship "Gentle Seas!"



Above: Night time delivery of Christmas presents! By a ship!!



Above: Mark got a plant to keep in his cabin. He said "I will talk and sing to this plant!"

Tip for those who read our update on a computer: You can see the pictures more clearly if you Zoom in (click the + button)

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Seafarers' Christian Friend Society
SUPPORTERS SUB-GROUP

<https://bit.ly/brightlybeams>

(NEW VIDEO - LIGHTHOUSE - 5 mins intro to the work of SCFS in our different ports)

Mobilize SCFS updates group. Please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/scfssupporters>

Thanks for all your love, prayers and support

Colin, Sunhwa, Aidan and Jenai Jenkins