



INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS MINISTRY
in partnership with
Action International Ministries



CANADA: 3015A 21st St. NE, Calgary, AB T2E 7T1 - USA: P.O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

December, 2023

Dear Friends,

I'll begin by reminding everyone about what I mentioned in my October Newsletter...namely that Grace and I would be "on assignment" when it came time for the December Newsletter to be written and sent out. So, having said that: Greetings from Antarctica!! We've traveled "south" many times, especially to Florida where we visit with the cruise ships in port, but never *this far south* 😊. I'll include a couple of photos. Most of the crew members on this ship have never been to this part of the world and have never seen snow either! This area of the world is a wonderful testament to God's glorious Creation.



Our God is blessing our Seafarers Ministry greatly, here on board on this voyage. The Sunday Church Services are well attended, as are all the sessions of Bible Study. Those who participate come from a variety of Church backgrounds and this, of course, leads to interesting times of discussion and perspective and it's always a wonderful thing to see Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord as the focal point in all things. Indeed, a pointed example of "Christ gathering His Church from all over the world".

Although we are here "on assignment", on behalf of the Cruise Line for "the enrichment of the Guest experience", we continue to interact with many Crew Members as well. It's been a challenge to actually organize a Crew Church Service, with considerable bureaucratic hoops to go through, but God has opened the door of opportunity for this to happen, and we have been blessed to hold late-night Crew Worship Services, along with many personal interactions with various staff and crew. We've even had staff come to the Guest Church Service, which is a rare but very welcome development. Our limited supply of Bibles and Devotional booklets (due to packing and weight restrictions for flights) is quickly disappearing among staff and crew; and we remain happy to see that the Word of God and opportunities to gather in worship and discussion are still so important to many! There was a surprise in store for us as well, when two crew members from a previous voyage of last year appeared at our first Crew Service, and encouraged others to come as well. What a marvelous blessing! We continue to pray that more will attend as the weeks progress. We remain thankful, even for the "small things"... one of our Guests has given us a BlueTooth speaker to use in our worship services. Combined with our laptop, we can now find accompaniment for the songs we're singing; a very welcome addition for our Worship Services!



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It's amazing to think that we are coming close to the end of another year of ministry to all those in the seafaring community. We look back and remember in thankfulness the many people we've met this year, both in our port-side ships visits as well as in our sea-going assignments. We've seen the continuing hunger for the Word of God in the hundreds of Bibles we've been able to give away as well as countless devotional booklets. There have been words of Biblical encouragement, whether in worship services or in personal conversations and group discussions or songs of praise. There have been joys, there have been sad times, laughter and tears...but in all things, we have been able to praise God for His faithfulness and goodness; His love and His providence, His grace and His protection.

Grace and I thank our God for all He provides for this Seafaring Ministry. We also thank all those who share in this ministry with your prayers, your words of encouragement and your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We remind ourselves continually that none of this would be possible in our own strength but only through the grace of God, His provision for us, and the generosity of all who share in our outreach endeavors.

As the Christmas Season approaches, we wish you all a most blessed Christmas and the joys of the celebration of Christ's birth. May the New Year be filled with God's blessings for all of you and we look forward to continue in the calling He has given us in this ministry.

In His Service,
John and Grace Van Huizen john.air2sea@yahoo.ca

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