



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

February, 2024

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year to all! May you experience the blessings of our God in 2024 as we continue to serve Him in all that we do.

Our new year has begun with another ship ministry assignment where we have the privilege of serving our God in the missionary calling He has given us. We are conducting worship services as well as daily Bible study sessions for the guests on board, and many are participating and joining together in these activities. As you can see from the photos above, we are also meeting with a very enthusiastic group of crew members on a weekly basis. Once again, we praise God for the doors of opportunity He has opened for us. One of the unique characteristics of this particular group of crew members is the range in rank among them. Not that it matters at all when we are gathered together as the family of God, but just an interesting observation. Usually, our Crew Christian Fellowship groups consist of mostly service staff (stateroom attendants, dining room stewards, cabin stewards, bartenders, technical, engine, and deck staff.) We don't often see those with multiple "stripes" on their uniforms. Our present group is certainly exceptional in that regard. We have the Assistant Hotel Director with us, and it appears that the Entertainment Director and the Learning and Development Director are going to join us as well. As I said, rank doesn't matter within the Crew Christian Fellowship but there is an advantage for Grace and I in having Senior Staff joining with us, especially when it involves "getting the message out" that we are meeting together. Many of the organizational challenges fade away when God puts the right people on our path! We praise Him for His providence!





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

James looks after our room here on board the ship. An interesting gentleman who has a unique hobby of producing pencil sketches of the guests he looks after. His phone is packed full of photos he's taken of those he sketches and he takes great pride and joy in doing this for so many people. He has been with the cruise line for almost 30 years; an exceptional number of years, spending so much time away from his family in order to provide a decent living for them. His smile is infectious and one can't help but feel the joy in his heart as he goes about his daily work. His is not just a "surface happiness", but his entire attitude reflects the Spirit of God in his heart and that the "joy of the Lord is his strength". Once again, it was God's divine direction that led us to cross paths with James on the very first day of the voyage, so that he was able to let us know where and when the Crew Christian Fellowship was meeting and extending the invitation to us to join with them.

I also want to make mention of Catherine. She works as a server in both the buffet dining area as well as the more formal evening dining room. We met her two years ago on this same ship, during a different voyage assignment. She was recently converted to Christianity, having been raised as a Buddhist in her native Thailand. She was nearing the end of her contract and about to go home on vacation, but we were so happy to be able to spend just a few days with her and to see that the Christian joy in her heart was still very evident. As I've mentioned many times in past Newsletters, the secular environment on board all ships can be very challenging for a Christian, especially a "new" Christian, and even more so for one from a culture and language very different from most other crew members. We feel very blessed to see that Catherine has been able to maintain her heart for the Lord and we thank God that He has continued to look after her as she continues her work on board. We pray that she has a wonderful vacation at home!



Courtesy of James.

I hope to be able to share more stories of life on board in our next Seafarers Newsletter in April, 2024.

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

To donate to this missionary outreach, please make your check payable to:
"Action International Ministries" and send to the address at the top of this page.
Please attach a separate note: "For the Seafarers Ministry of John and Grace Van Huizen".
To give online, go to www.actioninternational.org/vanhuizen and click the "Donate" button.
A Charitable Tax Receipt will be issued at year-end.

If you do not wish to receive future Newsletters, please contact me to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you.