Jesus told His followers, "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Global Maritime Ministries has been described as the fastest way to the ends of the earth, and I believe it! Within a few hours of writing this article, I have had the opportunity to talk with and assist seafarers from five different countries: Chile, Mexico, Myanmar (Burma), Romania, and Ukraine. During the months of January and February, our chaplains met seafarers from twenty-eight different nations: Bulgaria, Chile, China, Crimea, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Tanzania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

We truly have the opportunity to reach the world at our doorstep with the Gospel. By working as a chaplain at the port ministry, I am able to engage people from all around the globe with the Gospel. This is a unique mission, in that we can impact people from so many countries without ever leaving the United States. This means even countries that are closed to missionaries can be reached through the maritime community that can carry the Good News back to their families.

God has given us an opportunity to make a major impact. Our staff has accepted the call and we need your support as we engage the maritime community on a daily basis. Every Christian can be involved in God’s mission by praying. Praying consistently and fervently for our ministry is an important role for those who are called to be prayer warriors. Others may be called to support our ministry by giving financially. Some may be called to mobilize volunteer teams to get involved in ministry at the port. Will you ask God how He might want to involve you in reaching the world through Global Maritime Ministries?
2015 STATISTICS
As of February 28

- Seafarers contacted: 3,798
  - Visiting Center: 1,738
- Ships visited: 108
- Countries represented: 28
- Port workers contacted: 65
  - Visiting Center: 30
- Gospel presentations: 4
- Scriptures distributed: 20

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

65.29% FUNDED

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET
As of February 28

- Needs: $56,833.34
- Income: $37,107.18

IN MEMORY OF

- Sidney Caillouet
  by David Caillouet
- Doris Inez Fredericks
  by Dorothy Sturtevant
- Mary Nelle Jones
  by Murray & Charlene Card
- Walter Kirkpatrick
  by Leo Dillahunty
- Trent Lala
  by Dorothy Sturtevant
- Kirk Lee
  by Bill & Gloria Turner
- Margaret McKeever
  by Mary Ellen Logan
- Margaret McKeever
  by Bill & Margarita Stanford
- Jaime Mills
  by Bill & Margarita Stanford
- Martha Story
  by Bill & Margarita Stanford
- Walter Sturtevant
  by Dorothy Sturtevant

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are about how we are in community and communion with those people around us. For me here at Global, friendly relationships are built between the seafarers and the port workers. Sometimes those relationships are deeper than others. When a ship returns regularly or is docked at the port for a long time, it allows me the opportunity to get to know the crew better. When I am working at night, this often takes place in the van I am driving or at the center. Sometimes this takes place on a ship I get to visit. These relationships were something that I used to take for granted. I thought that I would definitely see that crew again, so saying goodbye was not a long-term goodbye. However, when the Bulk Jupiter sank recently, I realized that there is never a guarantee that I will see any crew member or ship again after they leave the port. I was never on the Bulk Jupiter and I never met the crew. They came through before I started working at Global. However, the sinking of that ship made an impact in my mind. While the sinking of a ship is not a common occurrence, working on a ship is never a safe environment. All we can do is pray for the ships’ crews that are away, remember those lost at sea in services honoring them, and provide what we can while they are here.
An old expression says, “The way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” This is certainly true for the men and women of the New Orleans Harbor Police. We were blessed with a donation of four boxes of hot dogs with thirty dogs per box along with buns, as well. As we contemplated how to use them, it dawned on me to feed the Harbor Police force. We had fed them once before on a Wednesday night, but some complained because they were not there to get any food. So I talked to my good friend, Lt. Sawyer, and he suggested that we come on a Tuesday and Thursday night this time to catch most of them.

I loaded my charcoal grill up in the back of my pick-up along with the food and condiments. Leonard and Stephen went with me the first night, while Priscilla went the second night. I cooked sixty hot dogs. When the announcement was made that there were free hot dogs in the kitchen, you could hear the stampede coming up the stairs. One by one they filed in and began to chow down. One officer ate six hot dogs without stopping. I asked him if he had eaten anything in the last week. They just kept saying how much they appreciate everything we do for them.

On Thursday night, Captain Hecker stayed to eat. While I was outside cooking, he told Priscilla that he was grateful for our service and how much he appreciated everything we did for his officers. He stated that the Harbor Police is not recognized much due to the fact that it is a little department. Altogether, there are only about forty-three officers. This is very small compared to the New Orleans Police Department that has approximately twelve hundred officers. However, these officers are the ones we deal with regularly in our ministry.

It has been one of my goals to build a relationship with these men and women. It has been slow, but it is paying off. They had to see that I was real. I am not above them and certainly not judgmental. I must say that some of them have tested me to see how I would react. I go out of my way to speak to each one when I see them, whether at the cruise terminal or at the port building. Slowly but surely I have gained their confidence and trust. As one stated, “Hey Chaplain, if you ever need anything, I am just a call away.”

Banging someone over the head with a Bible only gives the person a concussion. Sitting down and learning something about that person goes a lot further. You have to walk with them and listen to them before they will listen to you! This is a very special group of men and women who do a lot of very good things for the Port of New Orleans. Lift them up in prayer for their safety as they go about their daily routines!
Have you ever had a day when it feels as if nothing is going right? I am fairly certain it happens to everyone. A few weeks ago, I had a day where I spent two hours trying to get one man’s iPhone and iTunes to work properly. The solution had eluded three customer service people and left me pacing the ship’s mess room. When I went to the Apple store the next day, the gentleman who helped me explained the issue. It was so simple. It was going to be easy! However, Edwin had given me the wrong e-mail address. That $20 card he bought was now assigned to a newly created account with someone’s e-mail address. Kiss that money goodbye!

Through it all, he watched me patiently as I tried not to get frustrated with the hours I spent on hold for customer service. He did not get angry when I explained he lost his $20. He instead thanked me profusely for the things I was able to do such as fixing minor issues on his computer, getting phone cards to work, etc. I was on and off that ship probably four days in a row. Everyone knew I was the tenacious chaplain lady who was determined to make things work properly. The day I showed up with a $10 iTunes card and successfully used it to create an account for him felt like a momentous day. Victory was ours! We laughed out loud at how needlessly complicated everything had been. I thanked him for his patience, and he thanked me for my time and effort. This small triumph, though not very exciting or world changing, felt excellent to us.

Occasionally, we have big victories. They are exciting and many people celebrate with us. They are so great, lots of people see them: graduating, building a new house, or going on a mission trip. However, most often our victories are small: pride conquered, sacrifice made, and kindness rendered. We rejoice over the small victories also, knowing God sees our every effort. Often, those quiet victories are the most important. Here at Global Maritime, it is the same. We have more small victories than big ones. Every day we do our best to spread the love of Christ. Sometimes we can pay off the building or get a new bus, but every day we share kindness and love with God’s beloved creatures. We welcome someone who was a stranger. We lift up the brokenhearted. Many of these people did not know or did not care about God. We have a chance to alter their view. Please do not forget to support and rejoice with us even when our victories are small. Those of us working here on the port need all of you who pray, volunteer time, and give financially. In the end, it is not about you and me; He’s got the victory!