



CHINESE CAPTAIN CONSIDERS THE COST *by Jason Roberts*

Our port chaplains recently have had several meaningful encounters with seafarers. We have shared clearly the good news of Jesus with Indian, Greek, and Chinese seafarers. Chandler and Lee visited a ship that resulted in future ministry opportunities throughout the remainder of the week. Chandler later informed me that his conversation with the Chinese captain went very well. I was glad to hear this and discovered the following day that I would be visiting the same captain with volunteers from a supporting church, Calvary Shreveport.

The volunteers and I decided to bring fruit for the Chinese crew during our visit. They were delighted that we came bearing fruit and invited us into the mess room after we boarded the ship. We sat down with the captain and a few other seafarers as they finished their dinner. We asked them about their home towns in China, their families, and their positions on the ship. They were extremely hospitable and enjoyable to be around. Eventually, the mess room emptied until it was just us and the captain. I then asked him about his conversation with Chandler and Lee from the previous day. The captain shared that Chandler and Lee had given him a Chinese Bible. He told us that he had begun reading through the

book of Matthew and had several questions about the Christian faith.

We were delighted to hear that he had started reading Matthew. He asked us about the Trinity, explaining that he could not understand how Jesus could truly be the Son of God. We shared with him that the doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most difficult doctrines to understand in the Christian faith. We emphasized that, despite its conceptual difficulty, the Trinity is essential to Christianity. We explained that Jesus was and is God, one God in three persons, and that His works and miracles in the New Testament testify to both His divinity and humanity.

He also asked who the father of Jesus was according to the Bible. Gary, one of the volunteers, explained that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb. Jesus was not conceived through biological means but through supernatural conception. His fatherhood is therefore spiritual rather than biological. Joseph served as Jesus' earthly father through adoption because of his relationship with Mary, but we stressed the supernatural nature of Jesus' conception. The captain was clearly wrestling with many questions that night. He thanked us for our time and told us he would continue reading the Word of God.

I thought that would be the last visit with him, but Chandler later reached out and asked if I wanted to have dinner with the captain that Saturday night. I agreed, and we spent the evening eating dumplings with him. They were delicious! We asked if he would be interested in reading Scripture together, and he agreed. We went upstairs to a meeting room and began reading where he had left off in Matthew 13:45. The passage says, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." We explained to him the meaning of finding the kingdom of God. We shared that God's kingdom consists of those who acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior of the world. Those who genuinely believe in Christ and His work become part of the spiritual kingdom of God. We explained that the parable symbolizes...

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... the eternal value of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is analogous to a merchant selling everything he has in order to purchase something of immense value. The kingdom of God, however, is of eternal value rather than earthly value, so we encouraged the captain to consider the significance of what was being presented to him.

He asked several additional questions, and we did our best to answer. It was clear that the Holy Spirit was stirring his heart to seek the truth. I encouraged him to consider the cost of the gospel and reminded him that the decision to commit to Christ rests with him. He was not yet ready and would continue reading the Word.

I was deeply encouraged by these visits with the captain. He was hungry for the truth, and I am privileged to have been a part of his spiritual journey. I could see him wrestling with the nature of God, the challenges of the biblical text, and the weight of what it means to follow Christ.

Please pray for this captain. Pray that the Holy Spirit would bring him to a saving knowledge of Christ and that he would experience new life in Him. I have a strong sense that this captain will one day turn and follow Christ, as he is reading Scripture and thoughtfully wrestling with difficult questions. The power of the Word of God is sufficient to bring him into the kingdom of God.



Special Gifts

Honorariums

- **Ben & Cherry Blackwell** by Pat Vandercook
- **Ben & Cherry Blackwell**
by Philip & Sandy Vandercook
- **Rick & Joanne Lightfoot** by Pat Vandercook
- **Mary Ellen Logan** by Pamela Bonner
- **Jim & Mary McAnally** by Deborah McKinney
- **Jim McAnally** by Deborah McKinney
- **Joe McKeever** by Amanda Dungan
- **Debbie McKinney** by Ernie Kistler
- **The McKinney Family**
by Mark Johnson's Class at Salem Baptist Church
- **Margarita Stanford** by Shelia Stanford
- **Mike & Sandra Vandercook** by Pat Vandercook
- **Pat Vandercook** by Philip & Sandy Vandercook
- **Paul & Fran Vandercook** by Pat Vandercook
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- **Philip & Sandy Vandercook** by Pat Vandercook

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- **Earnie Fegley** by Rita Fegley
- **Ed and Pat Ficker** by Carla & Mitch Miller
- **Ed & Pat Ficker** by Deborah Meenan
- **Ed Fortenberry** by Robert Purvis
- **Newton Dekalb Goodwin, US Coast Guard**
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- **Ruth Ann Osborn** by Philip & Sandy Vandercook
- **Owen & Ruth Palmer** by Les & Joyce Fogleman
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- **Martha & Audrey Purvis** by Robert Purvis
- **John Payne Ratcliff** by Sammy & Gina Sabine
- **Lois Russell** by Donald Russell
- **Benjamin Sabine** by Sammy & Gina Sabine
- **Joan Schmitt** by Philip & Sandy Vandercook
- **Carol Diane White** by Robert & Elaine Lemay

2025 MINISTRY IN REVIEW

1,021

PORT WORKER CONTACTS

641

SHIPS ASSISTED

564

CHAPLAIN SHIP VISITS

12,180

SEAFARER CONTACTS

90

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

1,493

SCRIPTURES DISTRIBUTED

547

GOSPEL SHARED

9

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH



One of my favorite things about this ministry is the connections we make with believers from around the world. Just before Christmas, we received word from a partner in another port about a Christian on board a ship that had just docked. After learning about the ship and being given the contact information for the individual named "Henry," I sent him a message to connect on WhatsApp and made plans to visit him.

Unfortunately, my first visit to the ship didn't yield much, as he was off duty getting some much-needed rest. I was able to speak briefly with one of the officers on watch, but the conversation was quickly interrupted by work responsibilities. Thankfully, I was able to return that evening after Henry had finished his duty. He was there at the gangway waiting for me. He told me he was excited to fellowship with another believer, as he was the only Christian on board.

We sat down, and Henry fixed me a cup of coffee. He began by asking about me, my family, and life in general. For a moment, I felt like the roles were reversed and Henry was the chaplain. He was cheerful the entire time, breaking his smile only to ask more about my life. As the conversation turned to his own story, I learned that Henry had been living for the Lord for many years. He expressed deep gratitude to God for his family, his church, and his job. He shared how

his work is blessing, as it allows him to be generous with believers back home who are not as fortunate.

We talked about many things, including the challenges of being the only believer on the crew. In his home country, Christianity is a minority faith, so Henry is accustomed to being spiritually isolated, but that doesn't make it easy. He said he regularly shares his faith with others on the ship, though it is not always well received. His crewmates were a mix of Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds.

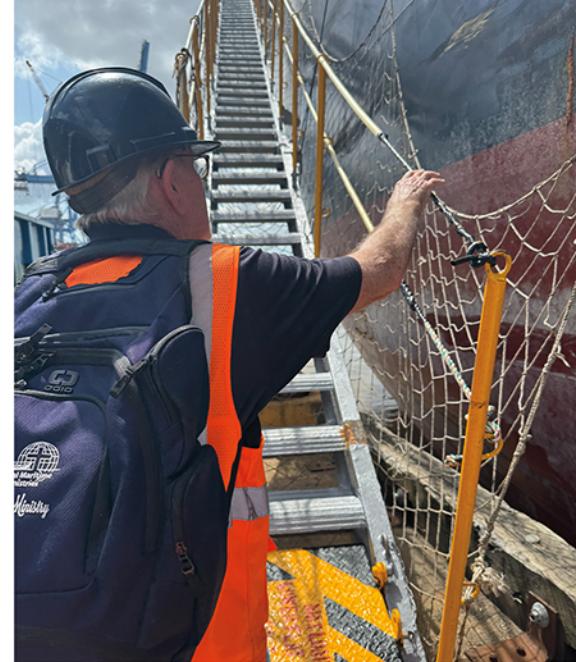
Henry said he will continue to share regardless. He told me he is constantly encouraged by his daily Bible reading, so much so that he typically reads through the entire Bible three times a year. He also shared how encouraging it is to spend time with other believers in the ports he visits. In his previous port, he was able to go ashore and attend a church service, something he was extremely excited about. He joyfully shared many photos he took with church members.

Overall, Henry represents so many members of the Lord's Kingdom, spiritually isolated and at sea for months at a time. What an encouragement when Jesus brings us together and we're able to fellowship with them. Even more uplifting is knowing that people like Henry are faithfully living out their faith and sharing Christ with others. Please pray for Henry and others like him.

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Scan to receive weekly prayer updates!



PARTNERS IN PRAYER

by Lee Gallion

In the three years I have worked at Global Maritime Ministries, I have climbed the gangways of hundreds of ships. I have met seafarers from over a hundred different countries, from first-year cadets to captains with many years of experience. Many have accepted my invitation to visit the ministry center on Tchoupitoulas Street. Most told me how much they enjoyed their visit and that they plan to return.

I didn't realize just how many of those seafarers recognized me when I returned to their ships until I was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent radiation treatment. Many told me they were praying for me while I was going through treatment. I came to understand what a diverse and faithful group of prayer partners I have who care enough to lift me up in prayer to our Heavenly Father. This includes many who read the weekly prayer requests we send out.

Believe me, it helped. Thankfully, the treatment went well, and I am glad to say I am on the road to recovery. Thank you to all who lifted me up in prayer. It was truly felt and deeply needed!



Global
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Port Ministry

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