

THE ANCHOR

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers is to establish and maintain a ministry of service to the seafarers calling on Alaska ports. This includes ministry to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs consistent with the Word of God as taught in the Bible and revealed in Jesus Christ through His life and the Holy Spirit.

ACMS is a non-profit corporation run by a board of volunteer directors. All directors and volunteers of the organization shall be eligible to serve if they know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and are active in a local church body. Volunteers come from churches world-wide. Members of the board are Scott Johnson, Karl Bengtson, George Reichman, Mike Adams, Bert Speath, and Ron Tan. Bert Speath is board chairman.

Seward Seaman's Mission

Box 2742
Seward, AK 99664
phone or fax: (907) 224-8482
ak.seamans.mission@gmail.com

Anchorage and Whittier Contact:
Joe and Jeannette Seale
P.O. Box 143316
Anchorage, AK 99514-3316
(907) 793-7634
E-mail: sealejoe@yahoo.com

Our Website:
www.alaskacms.net

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/akseamission

Abundant Fruit by Scott Johnson

"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8

I believe the Lord, in His exceeding abundant grace and mercy, gave us tremendous fruit during the 2025 cruise season. Anchorage, Whittier and Seward missions ministered the glorious grace gospel of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the love of Jesus to thousands of seafarers from 70-80 nations. Praise God for His continual faithfulness. We also praise God for all our supporters who pray, give, encourage, and volunteer. Thank you so much for your "striving together for the faith of the gospel."

We shared the gospel many times each week. We gave away hundreds of New Testaments and Bibles and many spiritual booklets covering needy topics. We baked and shared 700 pounds of our famous chocolate chip cookies to seafarers who declared, "These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!" Many pots of coffee, and cups of tea and hot chocolate were enjoyed.

One of our main concerns was listening to troubled hearts share difficulties from home, trials on the ships, and problems in relationships. We prayed with and hugged individuals needing comfort, hope and direction for life. We held church services and Bible studies in the missions, on the ships, and across the tables.

We drove thousands of miles around Whittier and Seward. We arranged basketball games and hikes for many. We served countless lunches and dinners, washed dishes, cups, and vans daily. We received, organized and distributed thousands of postal packages.

Many conversations were initiated with tourists, agents, longshoremen, neighbors, and seasonal workers. All the above, I believe brought honor and glory to the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our labors striving together for the faith of the gospel were not in vain!

In Need of a New Director

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

As most of you know, Scott Johnson has resigned as the ACMS director. He has accepted a pastorate in Big Lake,

Alaska, and has affirmed that he will not be available to volunteer at the seaman's mission in 2026. The board of directors is still in search for a man who can lead the mission into the future. Please continue to pray for Scott as he follows God's direction in his new position, and for God's guidance in the selection of the mission's next director.

The calendar for next summer's ship season is now available. The mission in Whittier will have 10 more cruise ship days than in 2025 and will in fact have more ship days than Seward (Whittier 74, Seward 65). Princess Cruises will have 4 ships every 2 weeks instead of 3 in Whittier, and other cruise ship companies have moved their ships from Seward. With Scott's absence in Seward, and a busier Whittier, the need for volunteers to serve has grown. Can you help? Some people are already planning their lives around the Alaska missions. Can you spare a few days to help?

Raymund's Report for the Summer by Raymund Eslao

"For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God." Acts 20:27



I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to volunteer a second season with the Whittier Seaman's Mission team. The experience is invaluable.

Your generosity and kindness in opening your home is especially appreciated. Your hospitality made a difference, and it created a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. The stay was a home away from home sharing meals together, Bible study, reading God's word daily, engaging conversations, and many fun memories.

To all my fellow volunteers thank you for all your support and dedication in helping the Whittier Seaman's Mission to be a happy family. Let us continue serving the Lord because there is a crown of glory waiting for us in heaven. The

way the team embodies the mission is inspiring. They all work hard together making sure that the expectations of the crew are met. Singing Merry Christmas when handing out packages is one of a kind. I thought Philippines had the longest Christmas in the world which is 4 months until I came to Whittier Seaman's Mission and found out that Christmas is celebrated for 6 months from April to October.

I really enjoyed meeting and sharing the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to the crew while driving the van, whether bringing them to see salmon in the creek or going hiking on a trail, taking cookies to the wheelchair guys in the terminal or in the gym sharing Christ with the basketball players after their game. All those are extra opportunities besides inside the mission where there is sharing the word of God to those who are searching. It was such a joy in responding to the commission of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." The crew comes from different nations, different cultures and beliefs, and the work is so challenging.

This experience has left a lasting impression on me, both professionally and personally. Hopefully next season God will make a way for me to join the team again.

Note: Raymund was one of the members of the first Filipino Bible study on a HAL ship, the Noordam in 1988. For the next 32 ½ years he progressed through the ranks from assistant beverage steward to beverage manager. During his career he was a Bible study leader on HAL ships during his many contracts before retiring. He can share the word of God in English, Tagalog, and Ilocano.

Quotes

I thank God give you to remind me they (Mormons) are a cult. *Indonesia*

It's me Joseph from Kenya whom you support with the good word of God spiritual book. *Kenya*

Glad you are keeping busy with ship visits and supporting seafarers. I am sure you have been told this umpteen times, but your visits are so important. It gives seafarers a chance to unload some their work frustrations on to a listening ear, knowing it won't go any further and there are no repercussions for them on a personal level. India

No words can express how much I am thankful that your guys taking care of me in this foreign country. God bless you. Filipino hospitalized seafarer

It was indeed God's will to make me come to Alaska half a century ago and to give me the privilege to meet you. My only wish is to turn the clock back. Not for some more pranks, but to have them all at the mission for coffee and cookies ! *Italy*

Turnaround day is not complete if you are not here. *Philippines*

I need to read my Bible more, *Nicaragua*

My favorite magnet is "God keeps His promises forever." *India*

When I hear about these kinds of things happening, I learn to hold each day very carefully. *Dutch Captain*

Thanks to all in the mission for your help. Good bye. *Indonesia*

They sent me to drink coffee but I don't drink too much coffee so I was looking for you. *India*

You have my full support on anything you want to plan on my ship. *Captain Italy*

If we don't pray, we are like the rest of creation. We pray because we are different. *Indonesia*

Attitude is more important than experience. *Philippines*

Jhuma by Jeannette Seale

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." John 6:44

Jhuma, from India, is such a bright little bird, bursting with laughter and eyes full of joy that highlights her shiny short blue-black hair. Cruise ship crew members work such long hours and have very limited time to spend with me at any one encounter. Even if I see them once every two weeks, the contacts are always very hurried. Jhuma, working as a security guard from India, and I had become friends during the past four months. Greetings and paperwork usually took up the one minute we had with each other on the gangway.

On her ship's last visit, I was thrilled to sit with her twice in the crew mess, once while she had a break and then later as she bolted her lunch. Eating is a furious affair when the lunch break is only a few minutes. I shared about Jesus with



her as she gobbled the rice and fish. She listened carefully to every word. As she swallowed her last mouthful, she smiled sweetly at me and said, "As a Hindu, in my religion we touch the feet of the people we respect. Can I touch your feet?"

I didn't know what to say. She hopped up from her chair. In her security uniform she squeezed down and knelt down between the tables among the kernels of rice and crumbs on the messy crew mess floor. She leaned forward touching her forehead to my feet. I was so taken aback by this gesture that when she stood up my eyes were brimming with tears.

I already know that many world religions contain aspects of Christianity in them. Was this act of respect somehow related to Mary washing Jesus' feet with her tears and drying them with her hair?!

We hugged and her lips brushed my cheek as we whispered, "I will see you next year" to each other. With a backward wave, she rushed out the door and hurried to work on the cold and drafty gangway. And me? What was I doing? I was still standing there, wiping tears from my eyes and a huge lump in my throat thanking God He knows the future of this fabulous young woman.

After One Day I Was Hooked by Detta Page

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen'" Matthew 28:18-20

My friend, Lavonne Sobek, knew that going on cruises was something that I enjoyed very much and asked if I would like to visit the Seaman's Mission in Whittier with her. After volunteering just one day I was hooked!

Being a preacher's wife for 50 years I was very aware of the great commission. We had come to Alaska as missionaries and have a desire to see many trust Christ as personal Savior and grow in the Lord. Now at the mission in Whittier, people from around the world come to visit us! We have met so many wonderful people from countries we would never be able to visit. Sure, they come for the free Wi-Fi, homemade cookies and coffee and to pick up their Amazon packages, but they also get to visit with volunteers that tell them how much Jesus loves them. It is such a privilege to give them a Bible in their own language, tell them how they can have sins forgiven and know for sure that heaven is their forever home. What a blessing to see souls trust Christ, receive assurance of salvation and be encouraged in their walk with the Lord.



My husband makes small wooden heart key chains that have "Jesus" etched on one side of the heart and "John 3:16" on the other side. We have been able to give out over 200 of these this summer along with a tract that tells them that Jesus loves them and died on the cross to forgive their sins.

Recently I was able to cruise on the Grand Princess and met the Captain and many of the crew that have previously visited and enjoyed spending time at the Seaman's Mission in Whittier. They had nothing but praise for the fine mission and volunteers. I was able to give heart key chains and tracts to crew on the ship too. Since the Grand Princess will be visiting Whittier next summer, I have signed up to meet the crew there all nine Saturdays! I am already praying for those that will visit.

In Memory by Jeannette Seale

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

This summer we know of 2 men close to us who passed away: Princess Cruises Captain Michele Bartolomei and Holland America Lines Bible Study leader Jerrol.

I want to take this time to express our condolences to Sherri, Michele's wife and two grown sons. Not only was he a very precious friend to us for so many years as I visited and prayed with him on the ships, but in Whittier he often came to visit the mission. He always encouraged us in the work we did with his crew and officers onboard. He was employed by Princess Cruises from August 1995 to May 2025. He died at sea near Singapore while on duty on the Dimond Princess.

Jerrol, an Indonesian Bible study leader that we had known for many years, died of brain cancer Oct. 22. We had visited him in mid-September on his ship in Whittier, but he did not know he was sick at that time. Our prayers and love go to his wife, children, and one grandchild.