



## SAILORS' SOCIETY AUCKLAND

### NEWSLETTER – Summer 2008/09

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[www.sailors-society.org.nz/iss\\_auckland.htm](http://www.sailors-society.org.nz/iss_auckland.htm)

**A charitable organisation working in the name of Christ in the ports of Auckland for the welfare of all seafarers**  
Registered NZ Charity CC 10836

*The Sailors Society represents Auckland's "non-conformist" churches and is a partner, with the Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) and the Apostleship of the Sea (Catholic), in the Auckland International Seafarers Centre [www.aucklandseafarerscentre.co.nz](http://www.aucklandseafarerscentre.co.nz) at 114 Quay Street, Auckland. The Society contributes the services of a part-time chaplain (Major David Millar, Salvation Army), some volunteers, members to the Board of the Centre and modest financial support.*

#### THE CHAPLAIN WRITES

Our location in Quay Street is such that none of the City wharves is more than 30 minutes walk away. Even from the furthest, Fergusson Wharf, many seafarers enjoy the walk for its recreational value, though transportation is provided to and from the Seafarers Centre where possible.

For commercial, operational and financial reasons, there is great pressure to minimize a ship's time in port. Often ships will spend just a few hours in port and they will often arrive late at night and sail early in the morning. Seafarers will often be required to work on the ship while it is in port and often will have little opportunity to get ashore.

The chaplains at the Seafarers Centre visit as many ships as possible (about 70% of all vessels visiting the port). For the first 10 months of this year, I visited 214 ships on my two duty days (Monday and Thursday). On one ship, I discovered in conversation with the bos'un that two months of his allotments had not reached his wife. Through the Centre we arranged for the local ITF (International Transport Workers Federation) Inspector to investigate and the seafarer was most grateful. We are hopeful of a good outcome. Edgar, a cook on another ship, has not been paid for 15 months! His case is being pursued by the ITF and Mission to Seafarers in UK. We were able to check that they were actively working on the case.

We aim to greet all seafarers in a warm and encouraging manner no matter what their nationality or religion. We hope that this lifts some of the loneliness and isolation that so many of them feel. Many seafarers are religious – and I believe that all are spiritual in some way. Crews seldom get ashore to a place of worship. Sometimes I see a seafarer standing in the Centre's chapel sitting or standing with head bowed just for a minute or two. Another facility that the Centre provides.

Carl Osterwald, a former chairman of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA), addressed an ICMA conference in New Orleans that I attended some time ago. He said "... the Kingdom of God is not a place that can be located on a map, but rather is a living process." [The signs of those who follow Him


are] "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, self-control." It is these qualities that we aim to emulate in our work with visiting seafarers.


I was privileged to meet with Sailors Society chaplains from around the world at conference in UK earlier this year. I believe this was the first time that we had all gathered together. It was an inspirational time of sharing our various experiences together.

**Thank you all for the support - prayerful, financial, and voluntary effort - that you give to our work.**

- Major David Millar, Sailors Society Chaplain Auckland


#### NEWS SNIPPETS



 At our AGM in August we agreed to adopt the generic name 'Sailors Society' for our work. Our legal name (International Sailors Society Auckland Inc) is unchanged. We have also adopted the generic logo. The ISS New Zealand followed a similar course in September.

 Our continued thanks to Hotelbookings.co.nz who have agreed to continue sponsorship of the Sailors Society website. **[www.hotelbookings.co.nz](http://www.hotelbookings.co.nz)**



offers a service whereby hotel reservations can be made on-line at heavily discounted prices up to 28 days ahead, with a parallel service offering reduced prices on bookings up to a year ahead. Accommodation ranges from 1 to 5 star. NZ and International destinations are covered.  **The Seafarers Centre needs volunteers** in the Centre or ship-visiting. Please contact Terry Nobbs or Rev John Marcon 09 373

4352 on a no-obligation basis if you think you may be able to assist.

 Perhaps the shortest ever tenure on the Society's Board was that of Major Bernie Knowles. Appointed as the Salvation Army representative at the AGM he was subsequently posted by his church to Kaitaia and has therefore resigned! We did, however, appreciate his willingness to serve and wish you all the best in your new appointment, Bernie.

 The Methodist Representative's position on the Board is also currently vacant.  Our Treasurer, Larry Robbins, is currently the Chairman of the Seafarers Welfare Board for NZ and represented the Board and our Society at the ICMA meeting in Hong Kong in November. He reports that (sadly) we are not alone in the challenges we face, but that there is a tremendous fellowship amongst the various Christian organizations working in the field of seafarers welfare.

 The Society's website now includes a video which graphically demonstrates the demands upon seafarers which the Society seeks, with its partners, to alleviate.

 Our thanks to the Auckland Baptist Association for their continued financial support of our work and also to Reef Shipping, McKay Shipping, NZ Company of Master Mariners (Auckland), Keith and Black Ltd (Uniform Brokers Ltd) and a number of individual donors. Thanks, too, to NZ Post for 200 Community Post envelopes. 

**May you enjoy a blessed Christmas and a safe, prosperous and happy New Year.**

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*\* If you wish to make a donation by internet banking, our bank account number is **12-3025-0214121-01**. Please ensure your name is clearly shown so that we can send you a receipt. ALL donations (up to the level of your taxable income) over \$5 made to registered charities such as the Sailors Society from 1 April 2008 can be claimed as a tax rebate (1/3<sup>rd</sup>). You will be able to claim your rebate from 1 April 2009. For more information see [www.not-for-profit.org.nz/tax.htm](http://www.not-for-profit.org.nz/tax.htm) and the IRD website.*

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