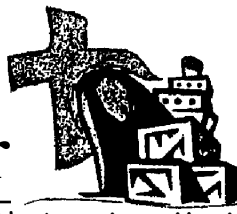


Waterlines



www.maritimeministry.org
(401) 739-5257

Newsletter of the North American Maritime Ministry Association Winter, 2003

Letter from the President

by the Rev. Jim Von Dreele



In December Lloyd Burghart, Bill Hempel, Peter Larom, Peter Michaelson and I met in New York to begin some discussions about a Vision for NAMMA. (Also invited but not able to attend were Aias de Souza, John Jamnicky and Sinclair Oubre.) The purpose of the meeting was start a strategic planning process for the future of NAMMA.

The committee reported its work to the Board at the January meeting and we had a spirited and productive discussion. The consensus was that NAMMA needs to take a more active and intentional lead role with our diverse ministries. Agreed upon areas of concern were:

- Education and training
- Advocacy and security issues
- Professionalism
- Stronger support for existing and new ministries
- Increasing funding to support current and future work of the organization.

The Board also agreed to move ahead with the planning process. The planning committee will meet again in early May to formalize key strategic issues and create strategies to address them. At the NAMMA Conference in September we will make a formal presentation of the goals of what the Board has agreed to pursue. The committee and I would welcome your input about issues that need to be addressed by the planning process. The overall goal is to strengthen not only NAMMA but our individual ministries as well.

Jim Von Dreele
President



International Seafarers' Center, Port of Tampa: Episcopal, Southern Baptist, and Roman Catholic.

In Memoriam

Ned Lamont, Husband of Maggie Whittingham Lamont

Joseph Przytulski, Father of Karen Lai Charles Corey, Sr.

John Pye, Chaplain at Toronto

Robert Shape, Son of Diane Bentley

Prayer at a Time of War

- * **Let us pray that God will hasten the day when swords are beaten into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, and people will learn war no more.**
- * **Let us pray for the people of Iraq, including fellow members of the Body of Christ in the churches there, who have already suffered for so long under an oppressive regime.**
- * **Let us pray for the service men and women in and around Iraq, that they will be preserved in health and safety.**
- * **Let us pray for military chaplains, especially ministers from Britain and the U.S.A., thanking God for their courage and asking God to bless their ministry among our nation's military forces.**
- * **Let us pray for President George Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and the leaders of all the nations, that God will give them wisdom and compassion, enabling them to preserve security everywhere while showing mercy for those in suffering and danger.**
- * **Let us pray for Saddam Hussein and the leaders of Iraq, that they will choose peace, and end the militarism and oppression under which their people live.**
- * **Let us pray for peace, knowing that it is God's will for all of creation.** *(Adapted from a prayer from the ELCA (Lutheran) Conference of Bishops.*

Report of the Winter Board of Directors' Meeting

NAMMA's Board of Directors held their regular winter Board meeting at the Rectory of Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, Jan.10-11, 2003. The main topic of the agenda was a "visioning process" aimed at proposing NAMMA's direction for the next 3-5 years. This discussion centered around two functions suggested by Dr. Colin Quine, a consultant conducting a similar planning study for ICMA. Dr. Quine suggests that ICMA, or by extension NAMMA, may choose a role as "regional secretariat" or "lead body":

1. **NAMMA as a "regional secretariat."** On this basis, NAMMA exists to provide services to its member organizations, principally where there is a need for collaborative activity and representation. The implication would be that NAMMA be more a facilitator than a provider, that the Executive Secretary represent the agreed interests of member agencies, that it produce a directory and other similar publications and assist in organizing conferences as required, within a brief agreed by the Board. This arrangement would

be funded at the minimal possible level, with an Executive Secretary who is more a senior civil servant than a leader. The implicit purpose would be to facilitate the member agencies in their work in maritime ministry, being reactive rather than pro-active.

2. **NAMMA as a "lead body."** On this basis NAMMA exists to provide leadership to organizations engaged in maritime ministry, building on and encouraging the work of its members. The implication would be that NAMMA develop its work as a provider, stimulate research and experimentation, that the Executive Secretary represent NAMMA as a plenipotentiary, more as leader than civil servant. As a lead body, NAMMA would be proactive in networking and sharing an emerging understanding of maritime ministry. It would require increased funding, but this may be easier to secure. The implicit purpose would be to stimulate and support an effective Christian ministry response to changing needs of seafarers and the shipping industry.

Discussion indicated agreement among Board members that NAMMA should not abandon its "secretariat" function but should also move to develop more of a "lead body" function. In further discussion, the phrase "more professional organization" was often heard. The task to spell out what this might mean was assigned to the Visioning Committee which had been appointed earlier. Members are: Jim Von Dreele, Lloyd Burghart, Bill Hempel, Peter Larom, Aias de Souza, John Jamnicky, and Peter Michaelson. The Visioning Committee is scheduled to meet May 6-7 in Washington, DC.

In other action the Board:

- Reviewed committee assignments and tasks.
- Considered a budget carrying an \$8800 deficit, down from \$10,000 for 2002. Adopted a budget increasing income 5% across the board and decreasing expenditures 5%, lowering the deficit to \$4300, not allowing for fixed expenses.
- Tried out the new LAMM Bible study resource, *Water Words* in worship (see notice elsewhere in this issue).
- Changed the name of the annual conference to "North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference" (NAMMAC) at the request of the Oakland organizing committee.
- Accepted the report of the ICMA-New Orleans 2004 Committee, and planned the previous two days for NAMMAC 2004, also in New Orleans.
- Referred the publicity project for the song, "Hands Across the Sea" to the Development Committee.
- Laid to rest developing a port chaplaincy in Cuba and voted to return the remaining grant funds to the ITF ST.
- Heard a report from Douglas Stevenson from the Political Action Committee.
- Discussed a proposed new logo for NAMMA, and sent it back for more work.
- Shared prayer for absent and those affected by illness.
- Enjoyed the hospitality of St. Paul's Church, Allene Taylor, Barbara and Ed Munro.

NAMMA

North American Maritime Ministry Association

Supporting Seaport Ministry in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean

www.maritimeministry.org

President Fr. Jim Von Dreele, Philadelphia
 Vice presidents The Rev. Aias de Souza, Mobile
 Chaplain Alice Thomas, Newport News
 Secretary Mrs. Maggie Whittingham Lamont, Halifax
 Treasurer The Rev. Jim Lindgren, Oakland

Board Members The Rev. Lloyd Burghart, Montreal
 The Rev. David Hurty, Oakland
 The Rev. Jim Keating, Chicago
 The Rev. Andy Krey, New York
 The Rev. Ted Mall, Illinois
 Br. Ed Munro, Baltimore
 The Rev. Rivers Patout, Houston
 Mr. John Sansone, Washington, DC

Denominational Representatives:

The Rev. Bill Hempel, LAMM (Lutheran)
 The Rev. Canon Peter Larom, MSNAC (Anglican/Episc.)
 The Rev. Bob Loy, PMI (Southern Baptist)
 The Rev. John Jamnicky, AOS (Roman Catholic)

Past president Deacon Ernie Elfer, Jr., New Orleans
 Counsel Mr. Jack Bernstein, Esq., Philadelphia
 Executive Secretary The Rev. Peter Michaelson, RI

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-PRM

The NAMMA Prayer List

For the bereft:

Karen Lai, Marion Przytulski (Karen's Mom), Maggie and the Lamont family, Dorothy Corey and Charles Corey, Jr.

For new maritime ministries of:

David Gunderson, Seattle; Carol Waud, Seattle; Richard Roberts, Vancouver, BC; Kuriakose Cheeran, Philadelphia; Sr. Domenic Garcia, Houston; John Fitzgerald, Baltimore; Jim Leone, Brooklyn, NY; Janet Henderson, Corpus Christi; Alberto Sescon, Detroit; Derek Skelton, Toronto.

For Charlie Brown.

For Jan Walley, mother of Chaplain Jared Walley, New Orleans.

For successful remodeling and dedication of new center at Philadelphia, PA.

For successful construction of new center at Port Arthur, Texas

For the NAMMAC – Oakland 2003 and ICMA World Conference - New Orleans, 2004.

For successful resolution of US shore pass issues.

For fund drives everywhere.

New Seafarer Bible Study Released

A full series of Bible Study courses for seafarers was announced at the North American Maritime Ministry Conference in September, by Dr. Robin Mattison, series editor and the Rev. Ted Mall, series publisher.

“WaterWords is the first book in a program to support Christian seafarers. This book focuses on readings from the Bible about the sea and seafaring. It is also planned to be a teaching resource, a sea salvation history, for those new to the love of God in Christ. The next books will be on the Gospel of John and the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. Then will follow a book on living the life of faith as a Christian at sea. Other volumes on books of the New and Old Testament will follow,” Dr. Mattison announced.

This project is sponsored by the Lutheran Association for Maritime Ministry (LAMM). Pr. Mall explained, “We are committed to providing the land-based support for these volumes to be a Seafarers’ Bible Correspondence Course. In each volume will be questions and opportunities for reflection to aid in faith development. These can be sent to shore by way of the post, a chaplain or a ship’s visitor to an established address. Then, a Bible pen pal will be assigned to respond to seafarers’ concerns, be they spiritual, familial or practical. Our goal is to make use of the faithful insights of believers on shore in congregations as an extension of the meaningful but often fleeting relationships between seafarers and chaplains and other ship’s visitors.”

The volumes are written for the ministry of any Christian chaplain, ship’s visitor, or ministering seafarer.

Mattison is a professor of New Testament and Greek at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Mall is the principal of Maritime Library, a maritime resource organization based in Beach Park, Illinois. He also serves on the Board of Directors of LAMM and NAMMA.

The initial volume is available. Orders and inquiries are being received. For additional information please contact Rev. Mall at info@waterwords.net.

—T. Mall



The NAMMA Board at their winter meeting, L to R, back to front: Pr. David Hurty, Pr. Jim Lindgren, Pr. Lloyd Burghart, Mr. Jack Bernstein, Fr. Jim Von Dreele, Rev. Ted Mall; back to camera: Deacon Ed Munro, Chaplain Alice Thomas, Mr. John Sansone; not pictured: Fr. Jim Keating, Fr. John Jamnicky, Pr. Andy Krey, Fr. Rivers Patout, Rev. Aias de Souza, Canon Peter Larom; not present: Mrs. Maggie Whittingham Lamont, Pr. Bill Hempel, Deacon Ernie Elfer.

ICMA Report

The International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) represents interests of seaport chaplains worldwide. ICMA is made up of sea ministry associations and agencies with regional scope or larger. NAMMA and the Nordic Council (a coalition of Northern European seafarer ministry agencies) are the only two "grass roots" members incorporating multiple agencies. ICMA is governed by its Executive Committee, made up of the staff executives of the founding entities: NAMMA, Nordic Council, British International Seafarers' Service, The Mission to Seafarers, German Seafarers' Mission, Apostleship of the Sea, and Netherlands Seafarers' Mission.

ICMA's Executive Committee held their regular fall meeting Nov. 9, with their Annual General Meeting Nov. 10, in Southampton, UK. The Executive also held a special session at the home office of MtS in London, England, Feb. 1, in order to consider the interim report of a "development study," which had been underway for about a year. The study, funded by the ITF Seafarers' Trust, is to define the current value of ICMA and its activities, assess the challenges and opportunities ahead, and to suggest options for developing the organization. Many options were discussed; the consensus at the end of the meeting was to develop ways port ministries may become better connected to churches as sources of volunteer and financial support, and also more effective mission both for the churches and chaplains. This theme will be spelled out in the second phase of the study.

The ICMA Executive also established a Program Committee for the ICMA World Conference 2004, to be held in New Orleans and hosted by NAMMA. ICMA will serve as a conduit for an ITF grant to support the conference, especially to assist chaplains from the Southern Hemisphere to attend. The Program Committee is chaired by the Rev. Peter Michaelson, Executive Secretary of NAMMA, and includes Deacon Ernie Elfer, Past President of NAMMA and host chaplain for ICMA 2004; the Rev. Sakari Lehmuskallio, President of ICMA; and the Rev. Berend van Dijken, General Secretary of ICMA. The Program Committee met in New Orleans in October, 2002, to view the facilities of Loyola University, where the conference will take place, and to begin the planning process.

The next meeting regular of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 30-31, in Geneva, Switz. The agenda includes a review of finances and status of the records (ICMA bookkeeping is in transition) and to re-establish contact with officials of the World Council of Churches. -PRM

Chaplains Invited to Sea

ICMA (International Christian Maritime Association) seeks chaplains, lay or ordained, to serve as sailing chaplains for a term during 2004–2008. Funding would include ICMA International Sailing Chaplaincy training, supervision with annual meetings and traveling costs, plus financial support for your ministry to cover 3 months replacement costs of the participating chaplains.

In 1998 The ITF Seafarers Trust commissioned the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) at Cardiff University to evaluate the effectiveness of sailing chaplains aimed at providing shipboard welfare services for seafarers. The two and a half year project ran from January 2000 and was completed in August 2002. Three maritime ministries took part in

the Sailing Chaplains Project: the Finnish Seamen's Mission (SMK), the German Seamen's Mission (DSM), and the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) Philippines. 41 vessels were visited in 6 countries, all within Europe and the UK.

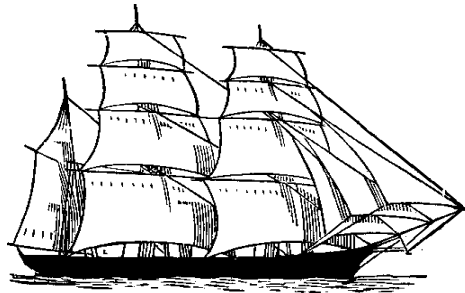
It is apparent from the research findings that sailing chaplains and similar schemes provide service of

quality to seafarers which cannot be delivered from shore based maritime ministries. There is considerable demand among seafarers on all types of vessels for shipboard welfare services of the kind provided by sailing chaplains of the Apostleship of the Sea, Finnish and German seamen's missions, PRC commissars and French seafarer priests. Activities of sailing chaplains are also welcomed by corporations, other secular service providers (e.g., Finnish Seamen's Service - MEPA) and seafarer organizations.

Only a small number of shipping companies include a sailing welfare workers position in their management systems; however, it is strongly argued by the operations manager of a major Finnish line that when one is provided, he has a positive impact on productivity, reducing industrial injuries and stress at sea.

The SCP Committee's recommendation to plan phase 2 of the program was adopted by the ICMA Executive Committee. A committee was charged with further developing and preparing the plan. Part of this is to determine whether chaplains are interested in participating. Please reply immediately to sakari.lehmuskallio@merimieskirkko.fi.

-Rev'd Sakari Lehmuskallio





The cruise ship is in, at Anchor House, Port Manatee, FL. Second from left is Rev. Ray Briggs, Director of the center.

Piracy Still Growing

The total number of worldwide reported piracy incidents increased to 370 in 2002 compared to 335 in the year 2001 according to the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB). "Since 2000 we have seen a steep increase in the hijackings of vessels. There is an increase in violence. In some parts of the world it is all too easy to unlawfully board a merchant vessel. Against the current concern in respect of maritime terrorism, it is vital that coastal states allocate resources to better patrol their waters," said P Mukundan, Director of the IMB.

Indonesia continues to record the highest number of attacks with 103 reported incidents in 2002. Piracy attacks in Bangladesh ranked second highest with 32 attacks and India is third with 18 attacks. Nigeria and Malaysia recorded 14 attacks each. Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guyana have shown a marked increase in attacks. It appears that piracy is on the increase in South America.

There was a substantial rise in hijackings from 16 to 25 incidents. Many of the hijackings involved tugs, barges and fishing boats in the Malacca Straits and Indonesian waters. It is believed that syndicates in the area may be targeting ships and barges carrying valuable palm oil and gas oil. Malacca Straits, one of the busiest shipping lanes, has continued to see a welcome drop in the number of piracy attacks to 16 in 2002 as compared 75 in 2000. This must be due to vigilant patrols and constant operations by the relevant authorities particularly the Royal Malaysian Marine Police.

Although the number of crew killed has declined to 10 as compared to 21 in 2001, the potential for violence however continues to be a worrying factor. There were 24 crew or passengers missing and this should be considered along with the 10 confirmed killed. The number of attacks using knives rose from 105 to 136.

The report identifies 29 ports and anchorages, which had three or more attacks during the year. Chittagong, Balikpapan, Lagos, Samarinda and Jakarta-Tg. Priok continued to record higher number of attacks on ships in their waters.

-ICC-International Maritime Bureau, Essex, UK

Detained Crew Data Collected

Data supporting shore leave denials across the United States was collected by the Center for Seafarers, Rights (CSR) of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey in late February/early March and submitted to the United States Coast Guard. "Ship visiting chaplains reported shore leave denials in selected United States ports," said Douglas B. Stevenson, Director of the Center for Seafarers, Rights. "CSR is committed to making the voices of seafarers and port chaplains heard as government agencies and port officials continue to develop port security plans. Shore leave is an essential right that must not be denied to merchant mariners whose help is needed in the battle against terrorism."

The Center for Seafarers' Rights conducted a weeklong survey of ports to assess the extent of and the reasons for denial of shore leave to seafarers. The "snapshot" occurred from February 16 to February 25, 2003 and chaplains continued sending in reports through March 7.

Port Chaplains from the following ports submitted information: Houston, Port of New York/New Jersey; Tacoma, Port Everglades, Philadelphia/Camden, Anchorage, Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin, San Diego, Boston, Lake Charles, and Baltimore.

Of the ports reporting, Philadelphia reported that 40% of all the ships visiting that week experienced shore leave denials, and in Houston, of the 28 ships visited by chaplains, crew members on 18 vessels experienced shore leave denial (64% of all the ships). The overwhelming reason for the detentions in all of the ports stemmed from mariners, lack of D-1 individual or crew list visas.

The Center for Seafarers' Rights submitted the data to the Coast Guard, as requested at the Public Hearing conducted in New York on February 11, 2003. CSR included examples of shore leave denials compiled since late 2001 in the submission. In addition to denials based on visa requirements, many situations involved private tank terminals (oil & gas terminals) prohibiting access to or from vessels tied up at their facilities, irrespective of the crew's immigration status.

"CSR's data indicates not only a high number of shore leave denials overall due to lack of visas, but also a significant number of restrictions placed on seafarers even in instances where they possessed visas," said Mr. Stevenson. "The United States already places a significant hardship on foreign merchant mariners by being the only major maritime country in the world that requires crewmember visas at all."

Before joining the Seamen's Church Institute as Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights Mr. Stevenson retiring as a Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard. He is a graduate of the USCG Academy and the University of Miami School of Law.

-D. Wagner, SCI-NY



From the Secretary's Desk

by Executive Secretary
Peter Michaelson

As ministers to sea people and members of NAMMA we have a long and honorable history.

In times of war, disaster, and maritime threat, spiritual advisors have held an important role. Homer's hero, Odysseus, found them to be key to his survival long before the time of Christ. Since God's action in Jesus, gatherings of faithful people have been key channels for God's saving action at sea and ashore, even more than in prehistoric times.

In times like the present conflict, providing spiritual support for sea people at risk takes even more acuity. I give thanks that our fellowship is blessed with such deep endowment of faith and commitment to the ministry we share. As I visit our chaplains, I am impressed first, with the diversity of opinion about the US conflict with Iraq; and then beyond, the deep vocation and trust in God for the working out of his purpose in the conflict but also in caring relationships and service to seafarers, cruise ship staffs, and fishers we meet.

This is NAMMA's gift, strength, and reward in Christ!

The history of organized port ministry as we know it goes back about 200 years. Its beginning was nearly as diverse as the different chaplaincies are now. The first efforts took place among shoreside people who provided chapel services for seamen and at the same time, began among seafarers themselves who called together prayer groups ("Bethel") aboard one or another of the ships in harbor on a given night. Meanwhile, Bible societies were waking up to the need among seamen for scriptural literature, especially in Britain. A short time later, shoreside church members took up the tasks of providing seamen ashore with practical and social services to give them an alternative to strictly commercial, and often dishonest, waterfront inns, taverns, cafés, money changers, chandlers, and the rest.

Given a tendency for organization, by 1820 the American Seamen's Friend Society had been formed on an ecumenical base including Episcopal, Reformed Dutch, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational clergy, and at least Baptist laity. The new society, of course, claimed all of the different chaplain activities as its purview, including the Bethel flag, which often now flew over shore chapels instead of shipboard prayer meetings.

Seamen's Friend agencies still thrive in ministry in North American ports; however, perhaps NAMMA can claim the

old Seamen's Friend role, encouraging, assisting, and connecting the different chaplains. A lot has changed since 1820; we can imagine the complex politics of new and old associations, societies, and agencies jockeying, cooperating, and competing in the intervening 183 years of peace and war and all between. One important advance is the inclusion of the Apostleship of the Sea as an integral part of NAMMA.

As NAMMA moves toward clarifying its future, it is good to remember the history and to remember how fast things change. Some seafarer centers, once crowded, now serve mostly as office and meeting space for chaplains and volunteers. Small ports who have become cruise ship bases are now swamped with needy crews, staff people, and security personnel twice a week. Crews who once crowded phone banks ashore now flock to ship visiting chaplains carrying cell phones. These are changes which have peaked just in the last two years.

By the same token, NAMMA has changed. Issues such as port security, which were yawners in 2000, now generate intense concern, and chaplaincies with the most effectiveness are the ones who have changed their role in dealing with shore officials and terminal operators. Where two years ago there were too many qualified chaplains seeking positions, now there are too few. Sadly, some of the best respected members of NAMMA have now left maritime ministry for other fields, or retired; gladly, talented new and younger faces have joined our fellowship and are taking up important offices in NAMMA.

My point is that we have a wonderful history; and that we cannot allow outdated assumptions to keep us from a wonderful future. ###

Meeting Dates and Info

AOSUSA Annual Meeting, April 1-4, 2003, King's Point, NY.

SCI-Philadelphia, Grand Opening, April 3&5, 2003. Easter, April 20.

Visioning Committee, May 6-7, 2003, Washington, DC.

Port Ministries International Conf., July 17-19, Mobile, AL.

NAMMAC 2003, September 21-24, Oakland, CA.

ICMA Exec. Cmte., Oct. 4, 2003, Helsinki.

ICMA Annual General Meeting, Oct. 5., Helsinki.

NAMMAC 2004, July 26-27, 2004, New Orleans

ICMA World Conference 2004, July 28-Aug. 2, 2004, New Orleans, LA.