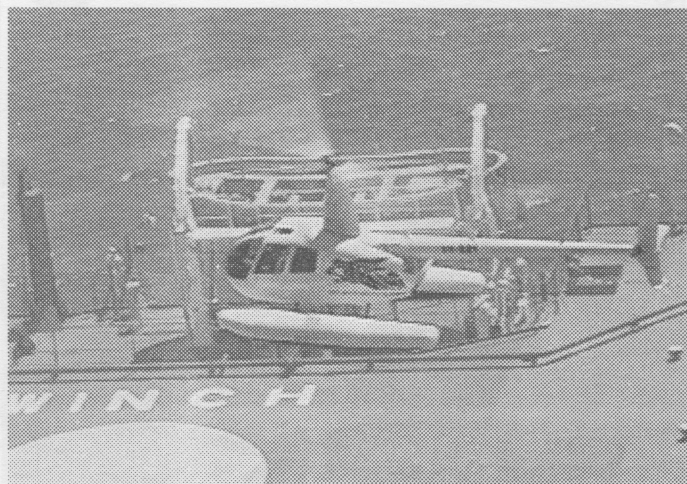


SHIP TO SHORE

The Mission to Seafarers • Serving seafarers in Geelong • Hastings • Melbourne • Portland
Special Synod Edition • October 2000

UNSUNG HEROES

The Olympics was all about celebrating heroes. But many heroes remain unsung. Take seafarers: they spend long months at sea away from their loved ones, families and friends. They are often isolated members of small multinational crews, divided from colleagues by culture, language and faith. They are frequently ill-treated by some unscrupulous shipowners who require them to serve on unsafe ships, accept scandalously low wages and eat unhealthy food. Yet we depend on their hard work for much of the food we eat, clothes we wear, cars we drive and books we read. The Mission to Seafarers doesn't forget them. We serve their needs around the world - including here in the Diocese of Melbourne. This newsletter will tell you more about our work - and how you can join us in it...



Last Christmas, the Melbourne mission drew attention to the situation of ships left on anchor on Christmas Day. We chartered a helicopter, painted it with our logo, and flew out to a car carrier called the Hume Highway anchored in the middle of Port Phillip Bay. We delivered a hamper filled with food, gifts, telephone cards and Christian literature to the officers and crew. Our action received a great deal of media coverage for the mission.

OUR WORK AT A GLANCE

(1999 figures.) We also visit seafarers in hospital and prison, help in cases of injustice and unfair treatment, take seafarers shopping and on outings, hold chapel services and more.

	Geelong	Portland	Hastings	Melbourne	Total
Seafarers visiting our centres	4,516	3,913	1,768	6,586	16,783
Seafarers transported in our busses	7,027	960	3,137	9,197	20,321
Phone calls made by seafarers	413	2,145	1,469	3,560	7,587
Letters posted for seafarers	1175	692	250	919	3,036
Bibles & Christian literature given out	3,517	1,042	N/A	455	5,014 +
Ship visits by chaplains and others	556	258	206	1,345	2,365

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GEELONG

The Revd Noyoun Park was recently one of the first Anglicans in the world to be directly ordained to a chaplaincy ministry. Korean-born Noyoun is a former ship's second engineer and he and his wife Lydia have a great love for seafarers. After nine years in Melbourne, the Parks and daughter Grace now work at the mission in Geelong. This is a day in their life...

The day begins early - Noyoun prays every morning before 7am. The main activity during the day is ship-visiting. Noyoun drives the mission bus to the dock and visits whichever ships are in port. Aboard ship, he usually goes to the crew mess,

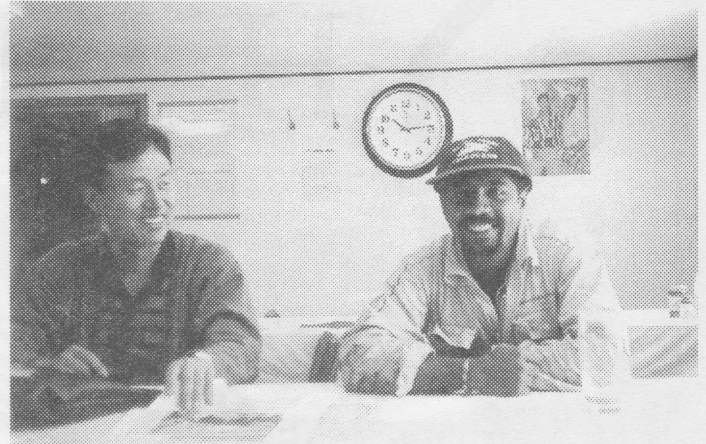


Seafarers meet some Australian wildlife

where the crew have their meals and relax, and talks to whoever is about. He invites them to visit the mission in the evening, and puts a poster on the wall saying when the mission bus will come to pick them up.

Often, Noyoun will organise an outing or activity for seafarers with some free time. They might go shopping, to the beach or to see some famous Australian wildlife. (A reliable spot for kangaroo watching is Anglesea golf course!) On Sunday he will often take a bus-load to church.

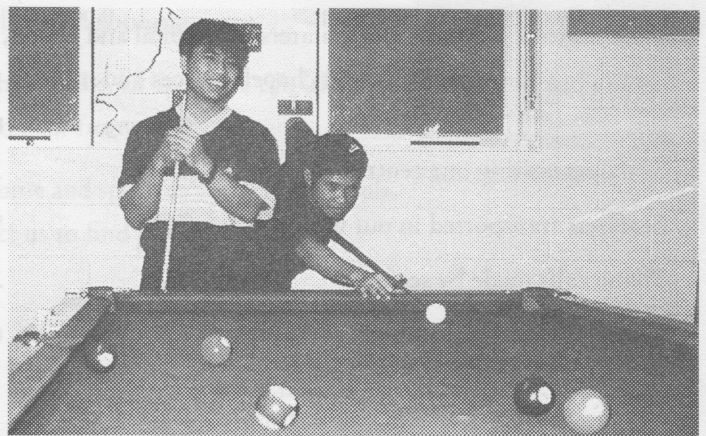
In the evening, Noyoun drives back to the dock to pick up seamen and bring them to the mission, which is only minutes from the port. When the seafarers arrive, they are met by Lydia - and often Grace who is a great favourite - and some of the team of regular volunteer helpers.



Revd Noyoun Park and a seafarer aboard ship

At the mission centre, the seafarers can exchange their money for Australian money, telephone overseas, write letters, watch TV or videos, play table tennis or billiards, play computer games or browse the Internet. Seafarers get very limited opportunities to go shopping for such essentials as soap, razor blades and other personal necessities, so the mission has a small canteen which stocks all the essentials, plus popular Australian souvenirs to take home to friends and family. Noyoun and the others help them make their phone calls, serve them in the canteen, and make them cups of tea and coffee. But by far the most important part is just sitting with seafarers and befriending them. It is important that we show true Christian hospitality to our visitors by sharing our lives and faith with them. We listen to their stories of life at sea and of their families who they often haven't seen for many months. This is the most rewarding aspect of what we do at the mission, although sometimes also the hardest.

At the end of the evening - anytime after 10.30 - the volunteers go home, and Noyoun drives the seafarers back to their ships. He often gives them a Bible as a parting gift. After packing up, it's the end of another day.



Seafarers playing pool



SERVING SEAFARERS IN CYBERSPACE

The mission recently launched two new websites for seafarers. The Geelong site (www.seachurch.org) offers free e-mail addresses for seafarers, links to world newspapers in seafarers' own languages and links to seafarers' rights and welfare organisations around the world. There is also a history of the mission in Geelong and Bibles and evangelistic resources in a variety of languages. The site aims to provide a spiritual home on the Internet for seafarers and their families.

The Australian site (www.mts.org.au) includes a map of Australia which allows users to find their nearest Mission to Seafarers centre, see what facilities the centre offers and when it is open, and e-mail the chaplain or manager. There are lots of photos, plenty of useful information about life in Australia and many interesting links.

A recent report found that more and more seafarers are using the Internet, so these new sites are sure to be popular. E-mail is an economical way of keeping in touch with home and the web is a good way to keep up with news and events from across the world. Thanks to our supporters, all four Victorian centres now have computers where seafarers can surf the net and contact loved ones at home.

www.seachurch.org

The Mission to Seafarers
7 The Esplanade
North Shore 3214 Vic.
Australia

Welcome to Mission to Seafarers, Geelong

Mission statement
As a Mission Agency of the Anglican Church, and supported ecumenically, our aim at Geelong is to provide a welcoming Christian face and homely atmosphere for all visiting seafarers whilst looking after their physical and spiritual needs.

World News
World wide newspapers in many languages

MISSION AT WORK
Big Tankers come to Geelong

Where the welcome starts

www.seachurch.org was created by the Geelong mission

The Mission to Seafarers

Navigate to a port in Australia where you will find us

Home
About us
Australian Ports
Worldwide Mission

Links
Mission Statement
Contact us

To find a Seafarers Centre you can either click on the state of Australia you are interested in on the map to the left and select from the ports listed by state.

or choose from the list of ports below

Select a port from this list →

www.mts.org.au features details of every mission centre in Australia

HASTINGS & PORTLAND



Changing the flag at Portland

1999 was the busiest year ever for Hastings - in terms of the number of seafarers visiting and the telephone calls they made. Hastings is a good example of an ecumenical mission in action - the Mission to Seafarers works in co-operation with the Catholic Stella Maris seafarers' mission and the local Uniting Church parish. Mostly tanker crews visit this centre, thanks to the large Shell terminal nearby.

In a smaller regional city like Portland, the mission is very much a part of the community. In May, 40 local people attended a service for the 'laying up' of the mission's old flag and a 'breaking out' of the new one which features our new logo. The mission's chaplain regularly organises basketball matches between visiting crews at the local high school, which the seafarers enjoy. One crew recently made a 'thank you' banner and presented it to the school principal in appreciation.



MELBOURNE - IT'S MISSION POSSIBLE

After almost 100 years of serving seafarers by the Yarra River, the future of the Melbourne Mission to Seafarers is uncertain. We are currently negotiating with the State Government over their plans for our unique heritage headquarters in Flinders Street - a wonderful building but sadly in need of urgent upgrading. This may mean that we will need to relocate our ministry centre, for any time up to two years.

As you can imagine, this is a time of anxiety for us all as we strive to keep serving the seafarers who visit Melbourne. More than ever, we need support from within the Melbourne Diocese during this demanding period. We ask you for your:

'Preachment' support. Padre Ted Cosens is available to pay a deputation visit to any parish or organisation, or preach at any service.

Prayer support. Once you know more about our work we need your informed prayers. Contact us and we'll send your our 'Prayer Union' newsletter to help you pray.

People support. Importantly, we need volunteer helpers. Volunteering at the mission is a great way to meet people from all over the world and encourage them in their work, lives and spiritual growth. All you need is a love for people and for God.



Melbourne's helicopter ready for take off

Purse support. Running an organisation like the mission is costly. There are buildings to heat and light, busses to fuel, insurance to pay. We receive no funding from the Diocesan budget, but rely on gifts from local churches, service clubs, op shops and generous individuals to stay afloat. Can you help?

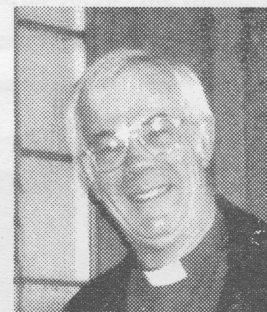
However, we are in much more than 'maintenance mode' - our focus is still on mission. We are planning to expand our services by opening a small seasonal seafarers' lounge, e-mail and telephone centre on Station Pier in Port Melbourne, hopefully beginning this year. More and more cruise lines are visiting Melbourne - next year 20 are scheduled, crewed by a total of 9,000 seafarers. Many wouldn't have enough time in their breaks to travel to the mission, so we hope to take the mission to them. Will you join us?

YES - I CAN HELP!

Whoever and wherever you are, you can help the Mission to Seafarers serve the physical and spiritual needs of seafarers in Victoria. In fact, your help is vital - especially in Melbourne.

If you can pray, drive a mini bus, visit ships, make phone calls, operate a till, make coffee, talk to people, smile, donate money - we want to hear from you.

As well, our Senior Chaplain, Padre Ted Cosens, would love to come and speak to your church, club, mens' or women's group about the mission's work. Please contact us to find out more.



Padre Ted Cosens

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