

GOODNEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

January 2024, No. 99

Photo: Fundraising Concert with the lovely Les Chanteurs de Lorraine, directed by CRC member, Sandra Penner

Vision 2024

To reflect the safety, refuge and peace God offers all seafarers

by Michelle DePooter and Patty Sarazen

As we start a new year, we're grateful for the ways we experienced the hope of Jesus through spiritual practices in 2023. We want to take what we received and pass it on. Our vision is to reflect the safety, refuge and peace that God offers all seafarers.

"Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge."
— Psalm 16:1, NLT

Seafarers continue to face many challenges, including stress and isolation. Some have also been caught up in attacks on ships in the Middle East, causing distress, delays and detours. We are grateful to know the God who calms storms and provides safety and stability. We seek to reflect this stability and safety as we meet seafarers where they are, whether we're visiting ships, transporting seafarers or meeting them at the Seafarers' Centre. We're asking God to help us be present in their lives in a non-anxious way so they may find all that he has to offer them.

There is also much to be grateful for from this past year. We celebrate that crews from the ships arriving in Montreal were finally allowed shore leave after 3 years of pandemic restrictions. We're thankful for returning and new volunteers and interns who used their skills to help us do a better job of telling our story. We appreciate the groups who visited to learn about seafarers. We're glad to have a place to host

events for seafarers and our community. **We are grateful for you!**

We can't begin to quantify the labour of love that went into the Christmas parcel campaign, allowing us to distribute **1437 gifts to 64 ships**. It takes many people to make a monumental task like

this possible including: sewers, stringers, card writers, shoppers, organizers, packers, checkers and transporters. **Thank you to all of you who put your hands, heart and time into this campaign!**



We will face challenges this year. However, Psalm 16 reminds us that we can be confident in God's protection. Like the psalmist, we have "a pleasant place to live" and good people around us. These are gifts from God. He provides for us as he sees fit. When turbulent times roll around, we will choose not to forget the safety, peace and refuge he offers us and we will bear witness to the transformation he brings to seafarers when they experience love and support in the Port of Montreal.

2024 Events | Mark Your Calendars!

TUESDAY, MARCH 19



2nd Annual **Cabane à Sucre** joint fundraiser at the cruise ship terminal. Experience a traditional French Canadian sugar shack meal while supporting Mariners' House of Montreal and M2S.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25



Day of the Seafarer: Come for a buffet supper, meet some seafarers and enjoy the beautiful views from the Grand Quai.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

5th Annual **Seaway Bike Tour:** 12, 25, 50 or 100 kilometer routes to choose from and maybe a ride on the REM this year. Stay tuned!



Seafarer Spotlight

Eugene Baliguat



In our June 2022 newsletter, we introduced you to Eugene Baliguat, a seafarer presently serving on the MV Marcos V. Eugene has incredible artistic talent and has generously allowed us to print some of his artwork. We wanted to share more of his talent and thoughts, and since Montreal is not on Eugene's current route, we interviewed him by email.

M2S: Your collage is incredible! Tell us why you chose Van Gogh as a subject.

EB: The "Self portrait of Van Gogh with the collaboration of his starry night" was made 3 years ago (2020). I've been a huge fan of his artworks and art style. I've always wanted to try different styles and techniques. Somebody wanted to buy the piece but I refused because it's one of my dreams to be able to visit and experience Van Gogh's Museum and bring my artwork there, it seems to be impossible because I have to travel to Europe to make it into reality but maybe one day when I have enough of income, I could. The artwork is still with me, it's framed and hanging on our wall.

M2S: Tell us about the process of creating Van Gogh's Starry Night.

EB: Working onboard the ship and knowing that I only have limited resources here, I still strive to find a way to grant my goal and that is when I found some old magazines, newspapers. Since it's not that much, I have to turn each page one by one in order to find the colors that are closer to the reference. This artwork was made and signifies patience and perseverance. You need to have both, so you can pursue the thing that you wanted to do. Every coffee break or after work, I spent 2-3 hours a day in cutting-out those papers into strips and random shapes until I finally made the piece.

M2S: How do you feel when you create beautiful works of art?

EB: Completing a piece of an art is a relief and also a piece of achievement for me. It maybe not that much beautiful in others sight but for me, it's already a big thing since I made it with dedication and patience, lots of patience to finish an artwork.



M2S: What do you want people to know about you?

EB: Simply, that I am just an ordinary person that aspires to be someone who's making something different and remarkable. Life's too short, being in this passion is a God's gift and I want to enjoy using this skill/talent in the way I could inspire people who's also striving to achieve things in life through art. My artworks are my therapy, it cures my sadness, homesick, boredom and it gives me a vibe that made me realize that 'sometimes I can enjoy... myself [when I'm all] alone'. How? Simply by making [works of art].



NOTE: In December 2023, Eugene mentioned he was running low on magazines and might not be able to complete some of his projects. We found out his next port of call was Alabama and arranged for the local chaplain to bring him more raw materials. Stella Maris deacon, John Archer not only showed up with magazines but with Christmas gifts too!

Volunteers, Visitors and Interns

Planning a trip to Montreal? Why not stop in for a visit? We take visitors on a tour of the port, provide an educational talk or plan an activity to help you bless a seafarer. Volunteers and interns are also welcome for short-term stays. Contact our Administrator, **Patty Sarazen**, for more information.

Donor Information

Have you considered a living legacy? Rather than waiting until our mortal lives are over, we can be intentional about how we're living right now by asking questions like:

- Where can I invest now that will matter later?
- Which individuals and organizations do I want to resource and empower today?
- Where can I build capacity?

Christian Stewardship Services (www.cssservices.ca) can help you answer these questions in creative and exciting ways that will extend your reach.

We are grateful for all the donations we received in 2023. We will finish the year with a shortfall of revenue over expenses. Our annual report will be available from our website in the coming months.

You can make a secure, online donation by **e-Transfer**, through the **PayPal Giving Fund**, at **CanadaHelps** or by **cheque**. Visit the [Donate](#) page of our website for details.



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