

Nobleford Christian Reformed Church newsletter ~ Dec, 10 2021

Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver

The Christian Reformed Church

Christmas at Sea *the offering for Ministry to Seafarers will be on Sunday, December 19.

The ministry here has been very interesting these past months, full of almost constant change. Especially of late with the flooding, the rail lines have been shut down and no cargo has been able to go in or out of the port. The lines are opening up again now, but there is a real backlog to tend to. This situation has meant that ships are being delayed - many have to wait out at nearby anchorages, while a few are staying for much longer periods of time at the terminals. It certainly does provide us opportunities to get more well acquainted with those crews who are here for longer periods, and even to arrange worship services on board more often these days - something we haven't been able to do since the Covid pandemic broke out.

With the onset of the new Covid variant of late we are finding that some ships that were beginning to open up a bit again are now being more restrictive again. But reactions vary widely. Last Saturday I was on board 2 ships - one wouldn't allow me to go any further than the top of the gangway, so I was limited to visiting with the few crew who gathered there. The other ship, by contrast, welcomed me into the ship's office, then invited me to the messroom and to stay for lunch to hang out with the crew. Obviously the latter response is preferable as far as I'm concerned. But we go with the flow and adapt as needed.

Again, thank you for your support for this ministry - for my work, and for your thoughts and prayers for the seafarers. Christmas season can be a lonely time for them to be away from family. Pray we can be a real encouragement and support for the crews who spend their holidays here in the Port of Vancouver.

And may our Lord bless you in this Advent and Christmas season as well, and right on into the New Year. Warm regards, *Gary*

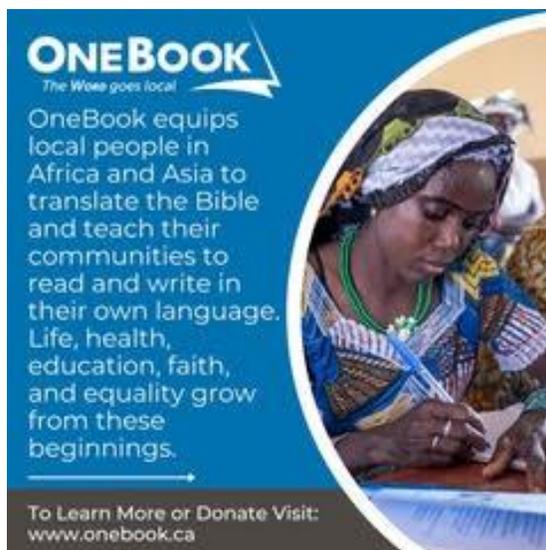
Rev. Gary Roosma

Ministry to Seafarers Vancouver

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Through AMG (Advancing Ministries of the Gospel):

We are organizing an adults working group to do some light construction, painting in a housing compound and children's school activities in both the hospital and new local school in the town of Cubulco Guatemala at the end of January. This trip will be combined with work and exploring some local scenery and learning some of the Guatemalan culture. If you are able to travel and have a desire to serve Christ through mission work please contact Clint deLeeuw by text or call at 4036349426 or by email at clint@summitlivestock.ca

Advent Means Hope - With World Renew's 2021-2022 Gift Catalogue, you can help a family plant seeds to grow food after COVID-19 lockdowns, give a child the supplies they need for health with a nutrition kit, or provide safety for a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is struggling with hunger and income insecurity the opportunity for transformation today and hope for the future. Give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) Leviticus 19 is full of commands for how to be holy. One of those commands is to love strangers (in this case people who are from other lands) as you love yourself. How do you live out this command? What are some ways that you, your family, your church, your wider community, and your nation could love people from other lands as yourself?

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Luke 14:12-14 and ponder or discuss the following questions. In this story, Jesus encourages us to offer hospitality to people who can not repay us. In your unique context, who might that be? How might you offer food, shelter, and protection to them? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Faith Practices Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Hospitality: Read Luke 10:38-42 and ponder or discuss the following questions. Do you identify more with Martha or with Mary? Why? What do you think Jesus meant by saying “Few things are needed—or indeed only one”? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Faith Practices Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Engaging Scripture: Read Psalm 1:1-2 and ponder or discuss the following questions. The new year is an excellent time to form new habits of Scripture engagement. How might you organize your day to make room for spending more time with God's Word? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

Faith Practices Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Engaging Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 11:18-20 and ponder or discuss the following questions. This passage envisions a community that is shaped and guided by God’s Word—one in which God’s people keep God’s Word continually in front of themselves and pass it on to others. How do the Christian communities you are a part of (such as family, friends, church, other groups) live out God’s commands in this passage? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

New Video: Kids in Action - Kids in Action host Simone meets Kyra, an accessibility leader at her school. She was part of a team that made renovations happen, and now her school is new and improved. kidscorner.net/kids-in-action/accessibility-leader. It’s Kids in Action, putting on a hard hat and creating great spaces for all God’s children. Please share this video and amplify the voices and stories in the disability community.

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Advent: A Time of Joy - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What has God done today that brought you joy? What makes you want to glorify and praise him? Look for God’s blessings and anticipate that he will do something. He always does! Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Advent: A Time of Love - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Angels are cool. Did you ever wonder about angels? As you read the Christmas story, listen to the angels. Each time an angel speaks, notice that the angel describes Jesus and tells how God will change the world. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

Christmas: Jesus Has Changed Everything! - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Advent is about waiting for the Messiah to come. Do you ever wonder if Jesus eagerly awaited his appointed time to arrive? Did our rescuer see the hurt in the world and long to save us? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content, including The Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and the KC parent blog too.

One Day at a Time - Check out the new kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. A new year has begun. We should begin this year grateful to God for his blessings and look ahead trusting in God’s faithfulness. But some days, it’s hard not to worry or be afraid of what comes next. In this next year, how do we stop being anxious and put God first like he wants us to? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Show the World - Check out the new kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever grumbled? Say the word "grumble" a couple of times. Most likely, it will make your eyebrows crease and your mouth turn to a frown. In Philippians 2, Paul wrote to a church telling them to do everything without grumbling or arguing. How do we do that? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: Christmas Hope: Ruth - When the trials and challenges of life drag on with no end in sight, it's easy to wonder if God cares, or if continued faithfulness is worth our effort. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Matthew 1:3-6, Ruth 1-4, Luke 16:10, and Micah 6:8 to discover how God uses the simple faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz to ensure the continuation of the Messiah's family tree. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

*“ Your life as a Christian should make non- believers
question their belief in God. ”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*“ Don't try to face the day, until you've sought the
face of God. ”*

-Ann Voskamp