



Caring for seafarers
around the world

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS IN THE DIOCESE OF WAIAPU

In the two ports of our Diocese where Chaplains of the Mission operate – Tauranga and Napier – each is a model of inter-denominational cooperation involving both Laypeople and Clergy to get a real job done. 365 days of the year, Seafarers' Centres extend hospitality to the crews of visiting commercial ships, offering lounge, phone and internet facilities, a range of entertainments and refreshments and currency exchange. Our partner organisations are the Apostleship of the Sea, the Galilee Mission and the Sailors' Society.

Seafarers visiting the two Centres in the last year numbered over 16,000 in total. Beside supporting their respective Centres, your Chaplains principally engaged in in ship visiting, transport and conducting monthly services, which they share with their colleagues of other denominations.

Welfare issues arise from time to time, underlining the importance of forming connections with Maritime NZ, the Federation of Transport Workers and the shipping agent, to get the best outcome for the seafarers. While we have no organisational authority in these incidents, we have benefitted from the advice of colleagues and management. Seafarers tell us they appreciate and welcome our visits to their ships and our prayers for them.

Both your Chaplains participate in the Mission's Oceania Council as members of the standing Executive. They also attend Oceania's biennial conference which this year is in Auckland. Our aim is to bring reality to the Mission's motto: "Caring for seafarers around the world" and to that end our chaplains interact with other Mission chaplains across the Pacific.

At the initiative of the Bishop of Waiapu, a committee of oversight has just been formed to oversee and support the Chaplaincy at the port of Napier. This is a welcome development: the chaplain's ministry has been a lonely one until now and this companionship will be greatly valued.

In both Tauranga and Napier the Mission to Seafarers gets most of its support from people who live in close proximity to their respective port. Distance from the Port seems to produce an 'out of sight out of mind' mentality, and a Committee for MTS is difficult to retain (drawing on the same people). We would really appreciate some out of town support for the Mission to refresh, support and challenge this vital ministry. For Tauranga the meetings are held 2 monthly, and the AGM will be held 7 pm, August 15, 2013. at St. Peters Anglican Church Hall, Victoria Rd. Mount Maunganui.

Grace and peace

Richard Spence, Chaplain
Mission to Seafarers
Port of Napier

Marie Gilpin, Chaplain
Mission to Seafarers
Port of Tauranga