



# Annual Report

January 1-December 31, 2020

# The year in a nutshell:

The COVID-19 pandemic changed how we do everything.

# **M2S Mission Statement Refreshed**

*The Ministry to Seafarers (M2S) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of seafarers regardless of race, religion, gender or rank, through ship visiting, advocacy and hospitality; and showing Jesus' love by caring for their physical, emotional, spiritual and justice needs.*

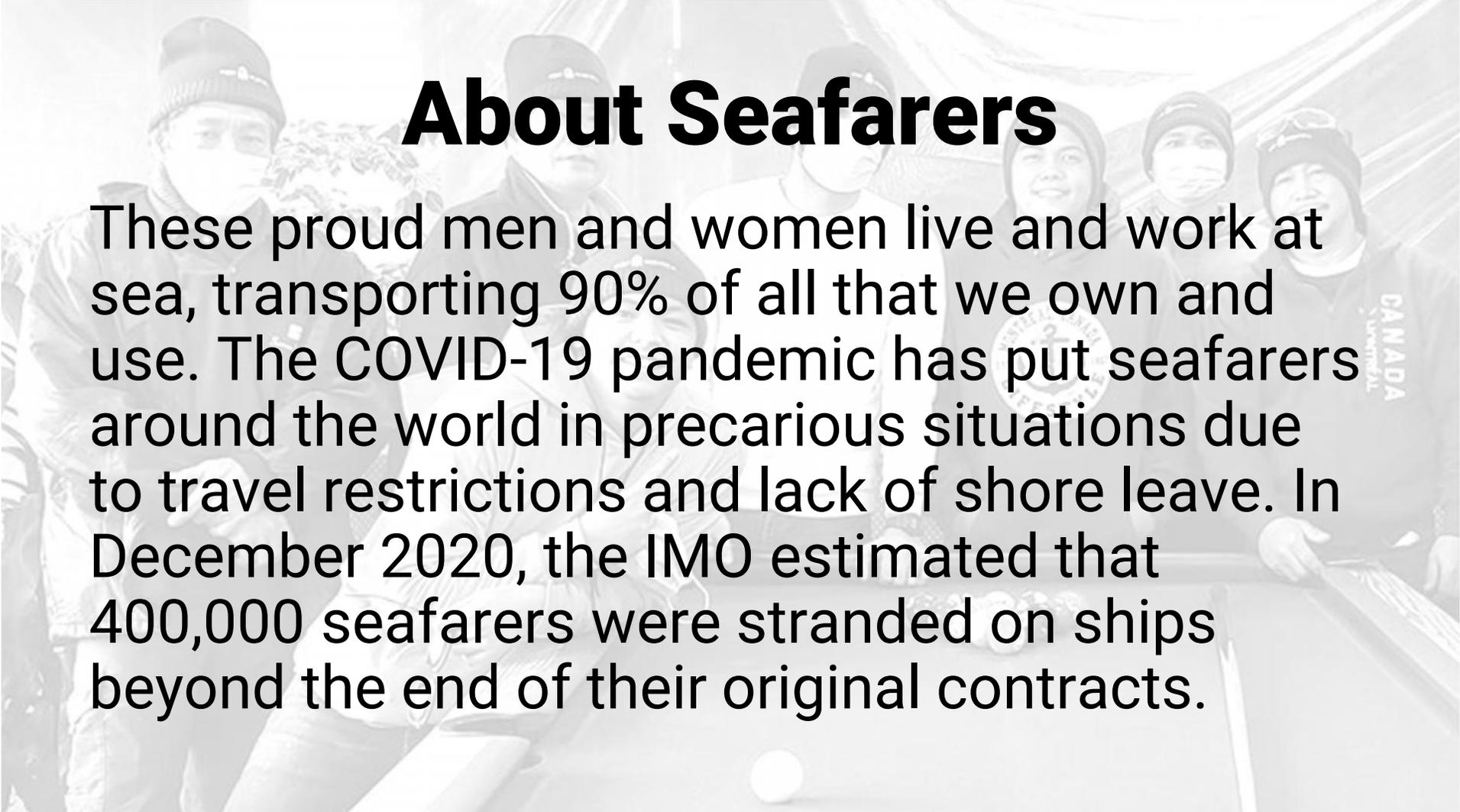


“ BEING  
TRANSFORMED  
AS WE BUILD  
PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH GOD'S  
LEADING. ”

## **M2S Vision 2020**

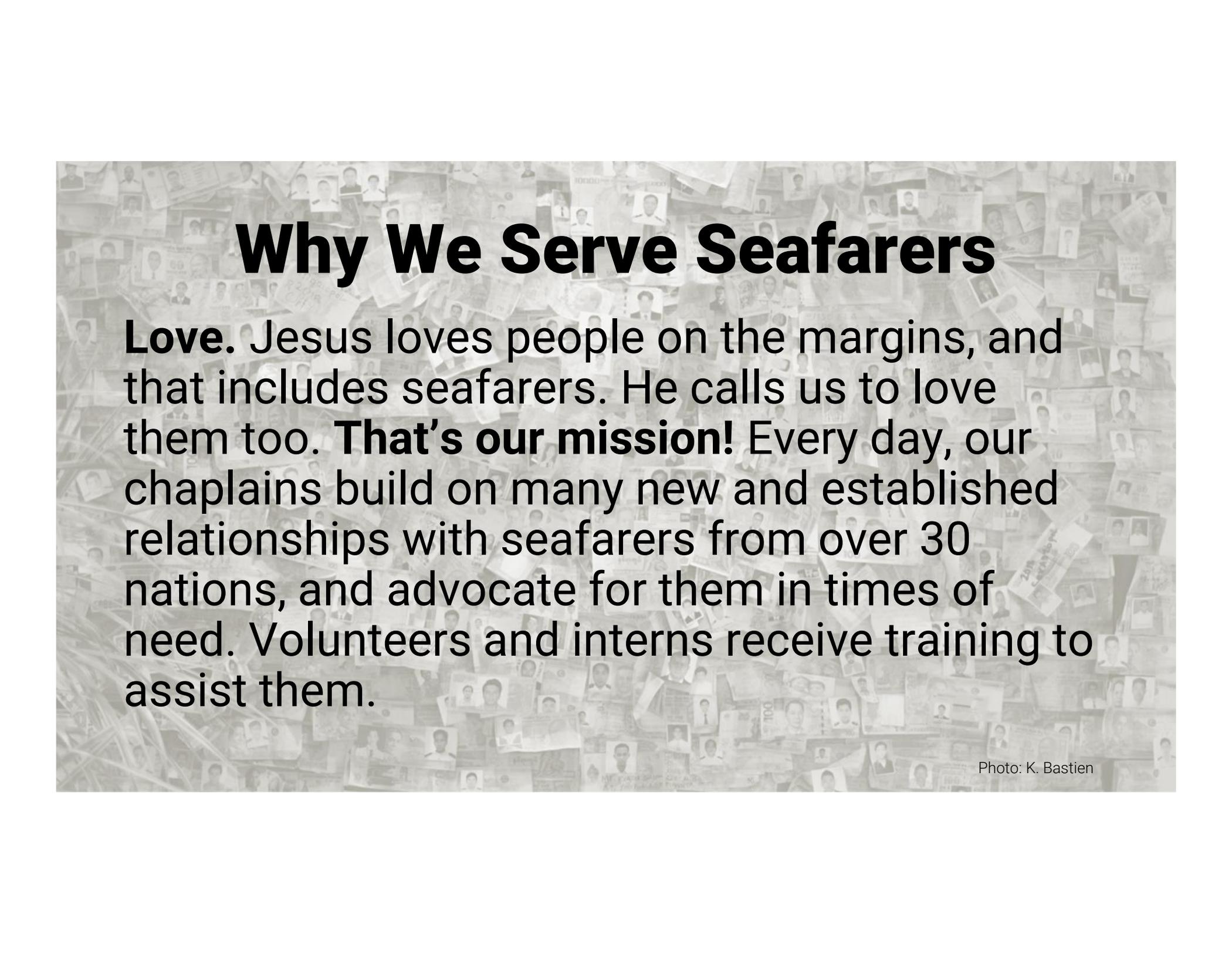
*In 2019 our vision was to trust in God's provision as we built relationships and grew.*

*We felt that 2020 would be a year to be transformed as those relationships became partnerships. The pandemic certainly impacted this vision but we are thankful for the fruitfulness we did experience.*

A group of seafarers on a ship deck, wearing winter gear and face masks. The image is in grayscale and serves as a background for the text. The seafarers are of various ethnicities and are dressed in heavy jackets, beanies, and face masks. One person on the right is wearing a jacket with 'CANADA' and 'UNIVERSITY' visible. The background shows the structure of the ship's deck and railings.

# About Seafarers

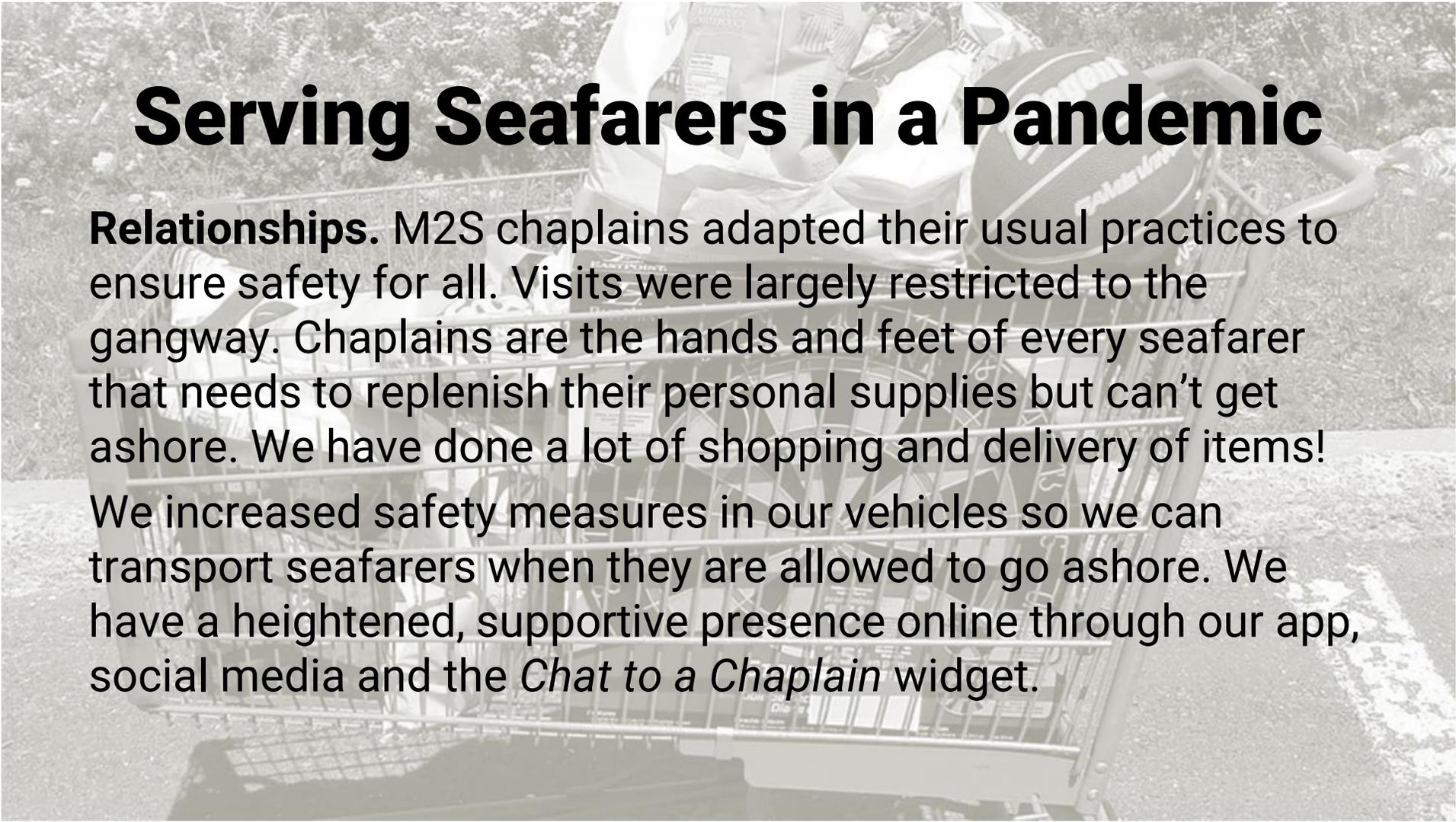
These proud men and women live and work at sea, transporting 90% of all that we own and use. The COVID-19 pandemic has put seafarers around the world in precarious situations due to travel restrictions and lack of shore leave. In December 2020, the IMO estimated that 400,000 seafarers were stranded on ships beyond the end of their original contracts.



# Why We Serve Seafarers

**Love.** Jesus loves people on the margins, and that includes seafarers. He calls us to love them too. **That's our mission!** Every day, our chaplains build on many new and established relationships with seafarers from over 30 nations, and advocate for them in times of need. Volunteers and interns receive training to assist them.

Photo: K. Bastien



# Serving Seafarers in a Pandemic

**Relationships.** M2S chaplains adapted their usual practices to ensure safety for all. Visits were largely restricted to the gangway. Chaplains are the hands and feet of every seafarer that needs to replenish their personal supplies but can't get ashore. We have done a lot of shopping and delivery of items!

We increased safety measures in our vehicles so we can transport seafarers when they are allowed to go ashore. We have a heightened, supportive presence online through our app, social media and the *Chat to a Chaplain* widget.

# 2020 Timeline

Jan-Mar: Business as usual



Mar-Jul: Seafarers' Centre closes. Chaplaincy continues at/on ships and digitally

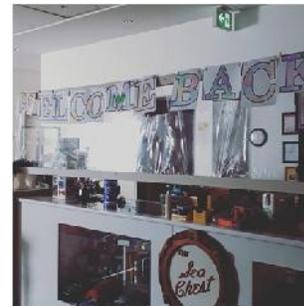


Jun-Jul: M2S writes protocol for safe reopening of Seafarers' Centre and advocates for shore leave

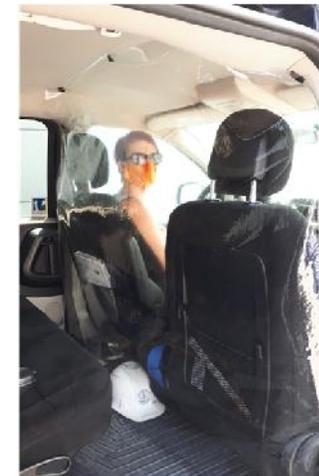


Seafarers: We are here for you! You are under so much pressure because of the pandemic. Are you struggling? We invite you to click the Chat button from the ICMA website to chat live with a Chaplain who is trained to be a good listener. You are not alone. Do reach out!

Jul: Transport Canada and the Port of Montreal accept protocols with modifications. Seafarers' Centre reopens on July 7<sup>th</sup>



Jul-Dec: Seafarers' Centre operating safely and free transportation for seafarers resumes



## Seafarer Events (January- March 2020)

Regular events at the Seafarers' Centre give mariners a chance to unwind, have some fun and mix with other crews.



It's also a great way to help our staff, interns and volunteers connect with them in a relaxed atmosphere.



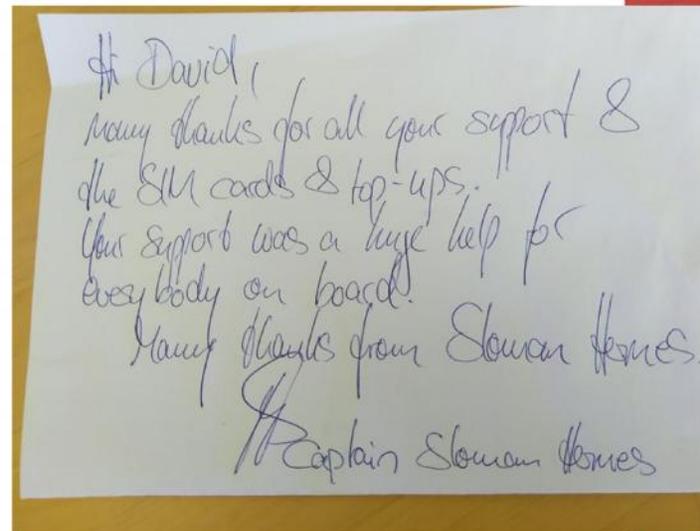
**Games Night and  
Sushi-Making**

Intern Ping teaches seafarers to make sushi. A cook's wife attended on an iPad from the Philippines!

## Ship Visits

Early on, during the pandemic, ship visits consisted of passing items up to the ship to avoid direct contact with seafarers. Seafarers were grateful for the help in getting essential supplies. As restrictions loosened, some brief, in-person visits took place on deck or next to the ships.

Our chaplains and volunteers did approximately 1129 ship visits in 2020.



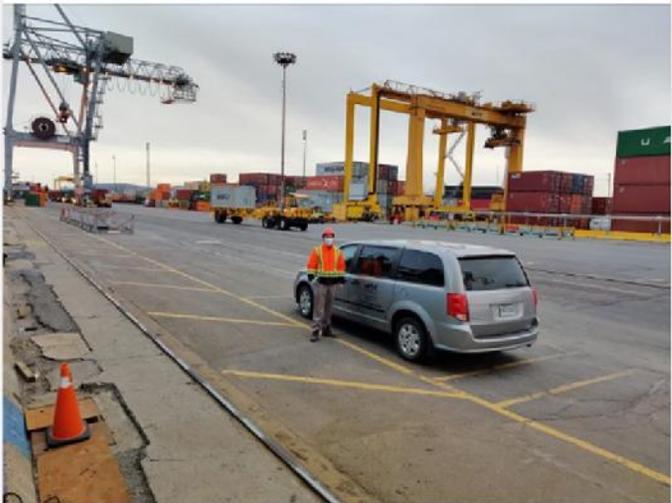


## Encouragement during Pandemic Restrictions

Dear Seafarers: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for doing your jobs in these crazy times. You are facing restrictions with shore leave, travel at the end of your contracts and you are far from your families when they need you most. You provide an essential service and we are here for you...

**Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal**  
 Published by Michelle DePooter · April 8, 2020 · 🌐

Although we can't visit ships the same we used to, the seafarers are thankful for a visit from afar. Thank you to the crew of the Nysted Maersk for their encouraging words.



Dmitriy Volkov is 😊 feeling thankful at Port de Montréal Mgt Racine (Section 59).  
 April 8, 2020 · Montreal, QC · 🌐

Thanks to Ministry for Seafarers- Montreal and priest David for visiting and rendering assistance for crew on board in time of Covid19 restrictions. Even we cannot invite on board and share cup of coffee ☺️ Crew of Nysted Maersk appreciated the help.

175 People Reached      60 Engagements      Boost Unavailable

## The encouragement was mutual!

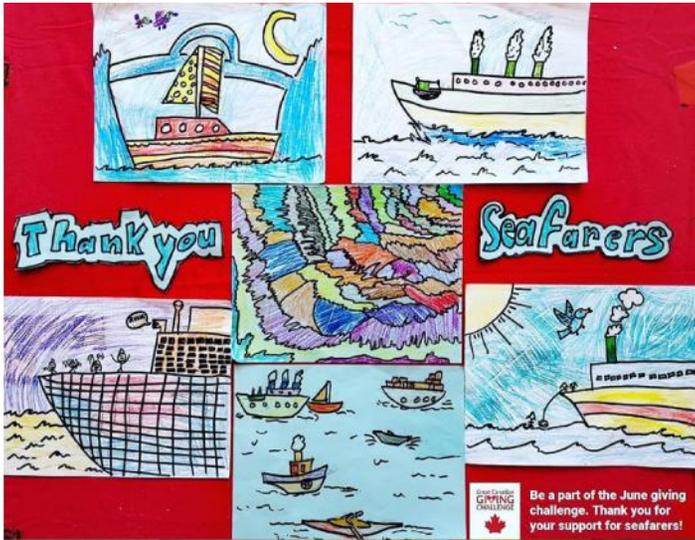
- 

**Krishna Kasturi Katak**  
 You'll are a blessing for us seafarers!!! Thank you!!! 🙏🙏  
 🙏  
 Like · Reply · Message · 44w      2
- 

**Sinned Bhea**  
 Thank you my friend David Rozeboom for always there to our needs specially to send money for our love ones enjoy your vacation god bless  
 Like · Reply · Message · 35w
- 

**Vinay Nair**  
 Nice to see you all. Been very helpful for all seafarers to coming port of Montreal. 🙏🙏🙏  
 Like · Reply · 31w      1
- 

**CaptKishor Dinde**  
 Thank you all at Montreal Seafarers center for your kind assistance as always. Always ready to help tbe sailors.  
 Like · Reply · 1y      1



## June 25<sup>th</sup> - Day of the Seafarer

In previous years we threw a party at the Seafarers' Centre.

This year we made up gift bags and delivered them.

## July 7, 2020 – A Great Day!

When the Seafarers' Centre reopens in July, there is a new and essential step...online check-in.

This is just one of the new safety protocols designed to keep everyone safe.



## One of our most memorable moments of 2020

Helping a seafarer reunite with a family member after 2 years apart.

Hello Good Morning David  
Thank you so much for your help.  
It was the best thing that  
happened to us during this  
pandemic.  
We hope you have a great day  
everyday..Take care



09:28



Seafarers continue to amaze us with their positive attitudes. Most of them say 'We keep doing our job and hope that things will improve in a few months.' This crew had not been ashore in 7 months.

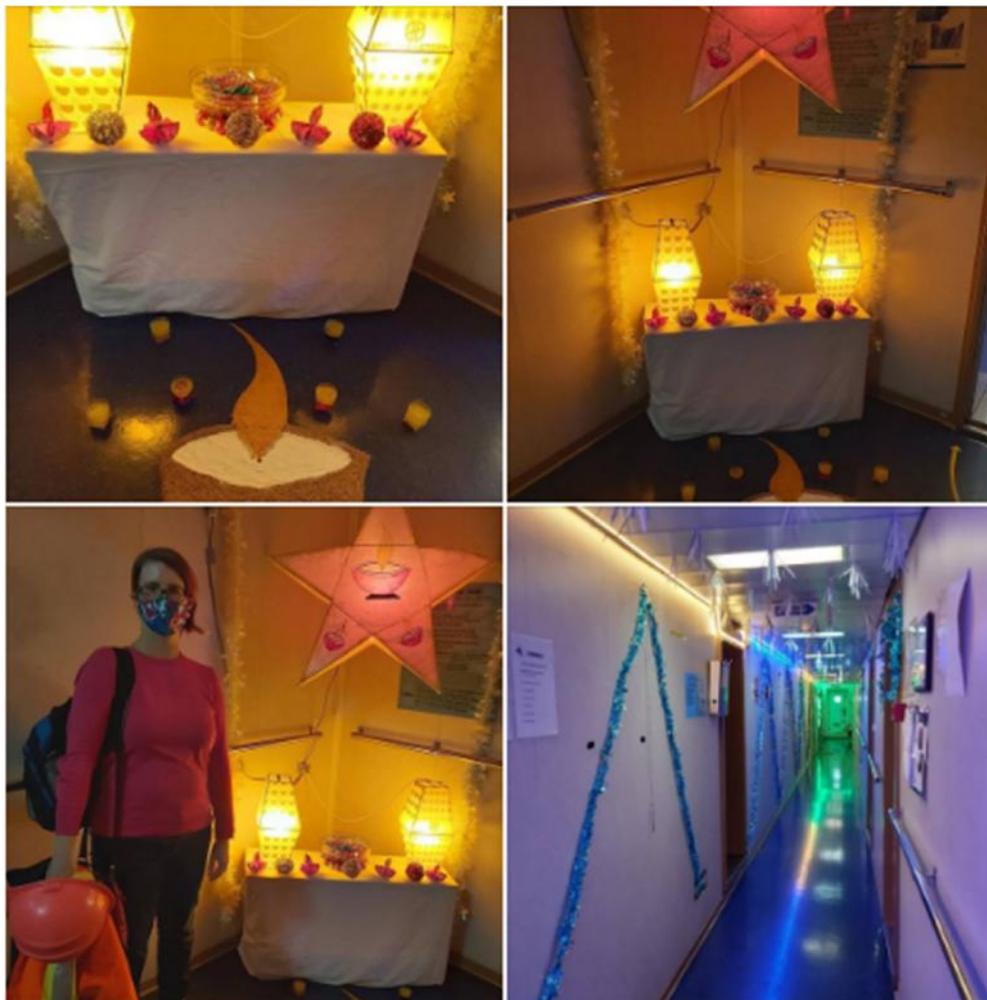




## **Pumpkin Carving**

Not all ideas work.

We didn't want to give up on our annual pumpkin carving event so we delivered pumpkins to the ships instead. But we received no pictures back from seafarers to show us their creations. Thankfully, Hans & Cathy, two of our volunteers sent us a picture of their creative carving!



## Visiting Ships Again

Michelle was able to visit a ship during the Indian festival of Diwali.

Despite the long year of confinement, crews aboard are making the best of their tragic and unjust situations.



Bringing pizza to a crew without shore leave.

**More Shopping, Shopping, Shopping!**



## Spiritual Content on the M2S App

We expanded our app offerings by including Hindi content for Indian seafarers, developed by *ReFrame Ministries* (formerly Back to God Ministries International).



THE MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS

Available in App Stores



## Spiritual Content on M2S Social Media Sites

Doni, our 2019 summer intern, stayed on as a volunteer through much of 2020 to continue content development such as recording scripture and writing Bible studies. We posted her work to our app and on our social media sites.

And...



**Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal**  
Published by Donielle Hart Owens Goad · February 28, 2020 ·

King David was confronted by the prophet Nathan after he committed adultery with a woman named Bathsheba...and intentionally caused her husband Uriah to be killed.

What does a person do when he finally sees the adultery and murder in his heart? ❤️

Psalm 51 shows us what repentance looks like. You can listen to it for free on our free app. Our Psalm 51 journal starter will walk you through applying this psalm to your life...sometimes it feels like there is nothing scarie... See More



**A Pure Heart**

Psalm 51

92 People Reached      3 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

Chaplains Michelle and David videoed messages of hope at Easter and Christmas.

 Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal  
Published by David Rozeboom · April 10, 2020 ·

He was insulted by all...

 The leaders

 The soldiers

 Those passing by

 The robbers on both sides

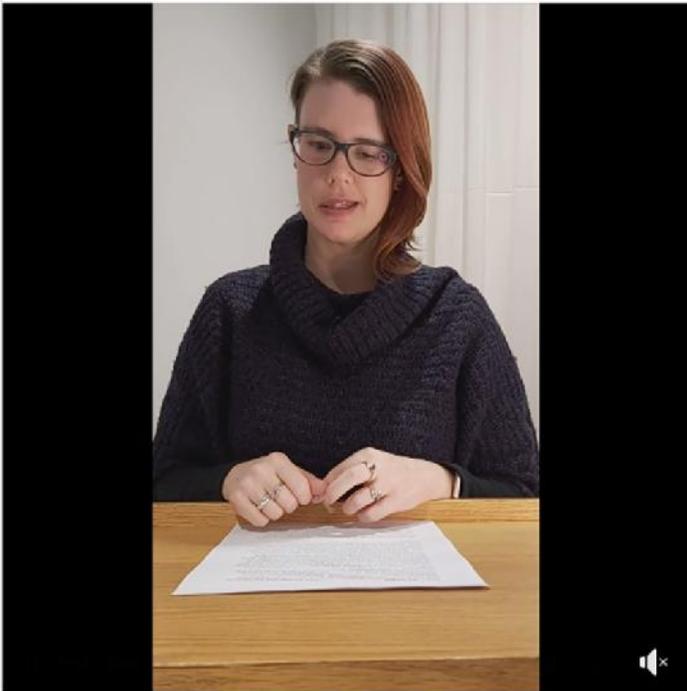
185 People Reached      13 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

  You and 2 others      1 Share

[Like](#)      [Comment](#)      [Share](#)

 Comment as Ministry To Seafarers - Montr...    

 TodayforSeafarers shared an episode of Advent 2020.  
Published by Patricia Sarazen · December 22, 2020 ·



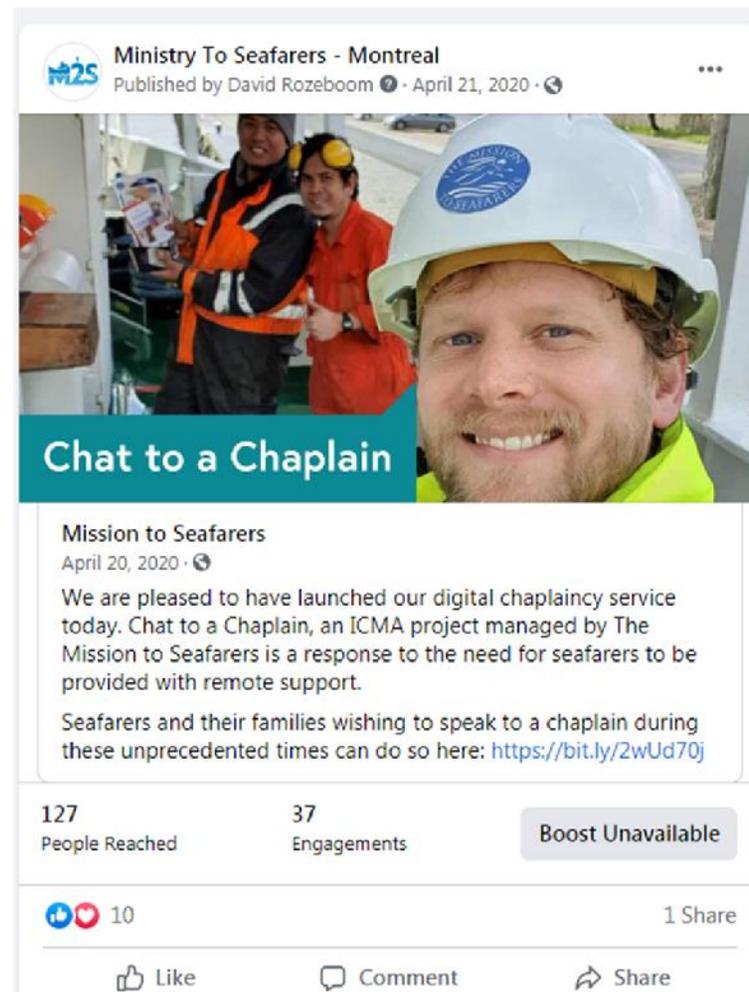
Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal posted an episode of Advent 2020.  
December 21, 2020 ·

December 21, 2020 is the night of the Great Conjunction when the planets Jupiter and Saturn will be the closest they've been in 800 years, separated by only 0.1 degree. Many seafarers will have an enviable vantage point to view this phenomenon, out at sea and unhindered by light pollution. We hope to see spectacular photos!

## Chat to a Chaplain

Chaplain Michelle joined the *Chat to a Chaplain* team, providing seafarers with 24/7 access to a chaplain anywhere in the world.

Seafarers have shared burdens about finances, home, family life and more. They have received prayer, support, and have been directed to organizations that can help them further with their needs.



The image shows a Facebook post from the page "Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal". The post features a photo of a man in a white hard hat with the "Mission to Seafarers" logo, smiling. In the background, other people in orange safety gear are visible on a ship. The post text reads: "Mission to Seafarers April 20, 2020 · We are pleased to have launched our digital chaplaincy service today. Chat to a Chaplain, an ICMA project managed by The Mission to Seafarers is a response to the need for seafarers to be provided with remote support. Seafarers and their families wishing to speak to a chaplain during these unprecedented times can do so here: <https://bit.ly/2wUd70j>". The post shows 127 people reached, 37 engagements, and 1 share. The "Boost Unavailable" button is visible.

**Ministry To Seafarers - Montreal**  
Published by David Rozeboom · April 21, 2020 ·

**Chat to a Chaplain**

**Mission to Seafarers**  
April 20, 2020 ·

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127 People Reached      37 Engagements      Boost Unavailable

10      1 Share

Like      Comment      Share

## **#WhatISeeAtSea**

Seafarers take the time to enjoy nature and find refreshment while sailing.

We love when they send us their pictures and we share them on our social media with the hashtag #WhatISeeAtSea.



# 2020 Christmas Parcel Campaign

The virtual parcel option was so popular because it meant that people didn't have to physically shop.



2020  
MERCi ~ THANK YOU!  
Campagne de dons de Noël  
Christmas Parcel Drive



 **1499**

Cadeaux virtuelles  
Virtual  
Parcels

**\$9010**

Many of our supporters survived the pandemic by knitting such beautiful toques and scarves!

We were so proud to include them in our parcels.





We could not have done all the shopping, packing, checking and delivering of parcels without our volunteers.

Thank you for the support and love for us seafarers.

We are very delighted that many people appreciate what we do, especially you 🍁

You can assure that we will continue the best we can to deliver goods safe from all over the world.

Again thank you

Fr. Bulk Curacao Crew 🇨🇵🇵🇪



# **VISITORS:**

**Seeing ministry in action**

Clarisse flew all the way to Montreal from Winnipeg to visit her childhood friend who is a cadet on the Maersk Patras. Alas, the ship was delayed and she had to return home mission unaccomplished. She popped in and asked us to deliver a gift to him when the ship finally arrived. With time to kill before her flight departed, she rode shotgun with Chaplain David as he went ship visiting. She was so pleased by the experience and now better understands the life her seafarer friends are living.



1,664  
People Reached

685  
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

   You and 53 others

4 Comments 6 Shares

## Our Only Student Group Visit of 2020

We served the group lunch, talked to them about how we share our faith in our unique context and then we took them on a bus tour of the Port.

At chapel afterwards, they enjoyed Doni's Spoken Word presentation.

*"I can't thank you enough for today. Please thank David and the others also. May the Lord bless you and your ministry." Laura Wilson*



Students connected to the Station 7 Youth Drop-in Centre in Chateauguay with team leader, Laura

# **VOLUNTEERS / INTERNS**

**Thankful for each one.**

Catholic Women's League – Daniel Girard – Doni Goad – Mandy Kaur – Eleni Lacopo – Ophélie Legars – Bryan Manning – Paul & Sheila Margerrison – Martin Mudde – Heather Purdie – Rob Whitley – Teen Haven – Ping Zhao

# **PARTNERSHIPS:**

**Deepening relationships for more effective ministry.**

## **Mariners' House and M2S Partner to Expand Operations to Sorel, QC**

The president of the Sorel seafarers' club retired in September and turned over operations to us. We look forward to launching a new initiative when the restrictions are eased. In the meantime, seafarers benefit from free Wi-Fi while in port but must stay on board their ships.



Seafarers were welcome to enjoy shore leave at a local pub but we envision opening a space dedicated to their needs.

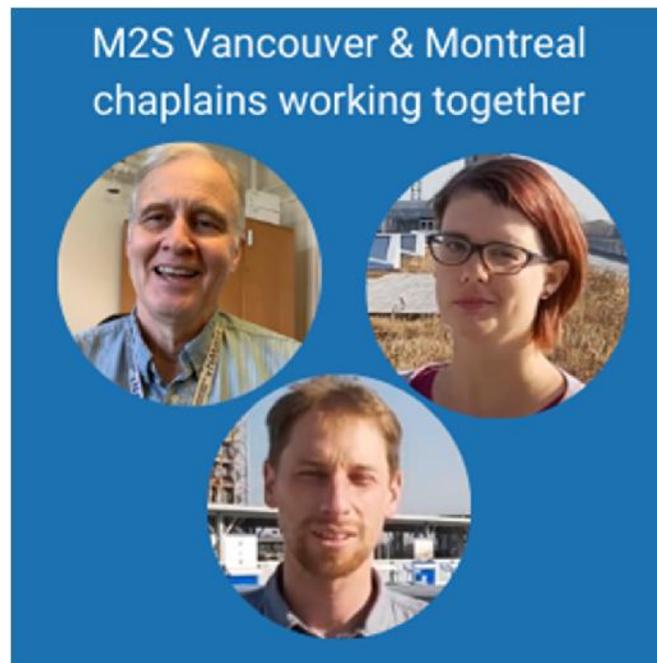
## **Newly Formed Canada Seafarers' Welfare Board**

We have representation on this newly formed board. The Board acts as a forum for coordinating seafarer welfare in Canada, promoting seafarers' access to recreational, cultural and medical services, as well as shore-based welfare facilities. The Board also advises the government on policy and regulatory issues such as shore leave and crew changes.

Members include representatives from labour unions, marine missions located in ports across the country, ship owners, terminals, ports, and agents representing foreign vessel owners in Canada. Transport Canada provides coordination and support for the Board's meetings and activities.

## **Celebrating Chaplaincy and Care Sunday in the Christian Reformed Church**

We partnered with our sister organization, M2S Vancouver to spotlight the work of chaplaincy.



# Thank you to NAMMA

We wish to thank the *North American Maritime Ministry Association* for the grant received for the Christmas Parcel campaign.





# **MARINERS' HOUSE (SEAFARERS' CENTRE)**

**Partnering with Mariners' House and  
working together for our mutual benefit**

## Enlivening the Seafarers' Centre

We congratulate Mariners' House on a job well done. While the Centre was closed, they painted various areas.



# **STAFF MILESTONES**

**Moments of celebration keep us moving forward.**

## Chaplain Michelle's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We had to keep celebrations small to respect the guidelines. But that does not lessen the wide impact Michelle has had on seafarers.



# **FUNDRAISING & FINANCES**

**Efforts to raise funding and awareness  
about M2S included...**

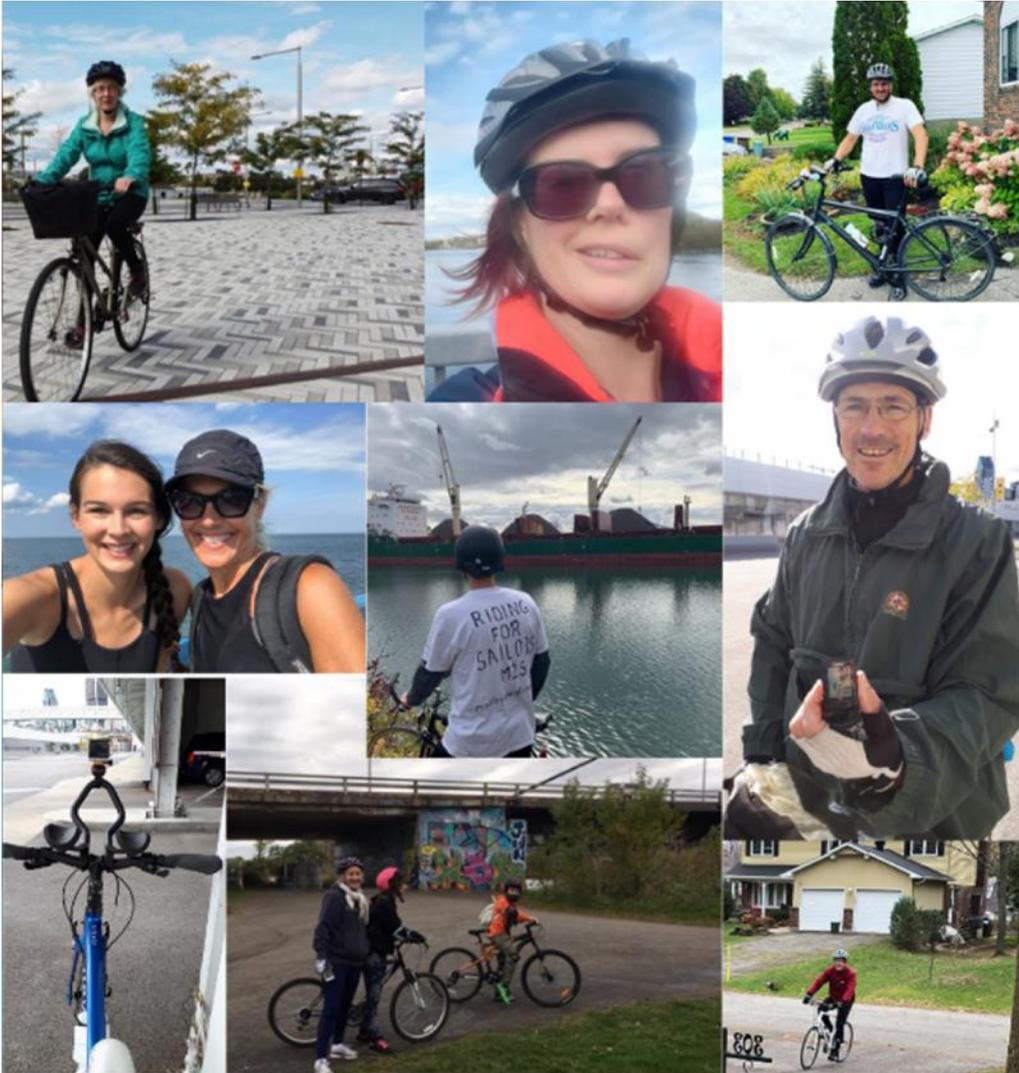


## Seaway Bike Tour

We had to convert the event into a virtual event but it was still more successful than we imagined.

We had 13 cyclists riding in Michigan and Montreal. Riders rode 25, 50 or 100 KM.

**Total raised: \$6329**



## Seaway Bike Tour Participants

Everyone was asked to cycle near water to keep with the spirit of the campaign.

We learned that a 100 KM ride was no sweat off some riders' backs!

## Annual Revenue and Expenditures for Year Ended December 31

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Church support	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Donations	57,009	46,570
Investment income	45,058	64,788
Designated funds	2,000	13,423
Undesignated funds	6,000	4,000
Other income	1,539	1,065
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (note 6)	<u>4,003</u>	<u>342</u>
	<u>170,609</u>	<u>185,188</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries, benefits and housing	148,615	155,833
Seafarer programs	15,471	3,731

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**2020****2019**

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**EXPENDITURES**

Volunteer expenses	9,781	11,985
Amortization	5,918	2,678
Office	5,667	11,560
Vehicle operating	5,355	9,540
Mariners House support	5,125	5,000
Professional fees	4,786	4,770
Investment counsel fees	4,253	4,253
Telephone	1,957	1,750
Insurance	1,531	1,891
Professional development	1,514	6,734
Bank charges	680	646
Travel and committee	82	1,217
Intern expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>1,841</u>
	<u>210,735</u>	<u>223,429</u>

	2020	2019
NET EXPENDITURES	(40,126)	(38,241)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,086,381	1,124,622
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,046,255</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,381</b>

# Thank you to our 2020 Board

- George Zekveld (Chair)
- Sonja Verbeek (Vice Chair)
- Bert Wissink (Secretary)
- John Luimes (Treasurer)
- Gerard Bondt (Volunteer Liaison)
- Sandra Penner (Staff Liaison)
- Bernhard VanderVlis (Spiritual Oversight)

# Thank you to our 2020 Staff

- Michelle DePooter (Lead Chaplain)
- David Rozeboom (Associate Chaplain)
- Patty Sarazen (Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator)

*We are thankful that God has kept us safe and healthy throughout the pandemic so that we were able to serve seafarers to our full capacity in 2020.*