



The Ministry to Seafarers Of The Christian Reformed Church

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Greetings,

Welcome to The Ministry to Seafarers! Maybe you have known about our ministry for many years or maybe you've just heard about us for the first time but either way we believe that you will discover that The Ministry to Seafarers (also referred to as M2S) is a unique ministry with a unique calling. We hope that as you review the contents of this package you will be able to come to a greater understanding of who we are, what we do and if you are ready to join us in the exciting work that God has called us to.

Enclosed you will find out more about us – what we believe, why we do what we do, and give you a glimpse at the bigger picture of our ministry. You will find out more about volunteering – what it includes, what we are looking for in a volunteer and how volunteers contribute to the ministry. When you've had a chance to review all of the aforementioned information we hope that you will spend some time in prayer and see if this is a ministry that you feel equipped and ready to partner with.

May all glory and honor be to our Father God!

In His service,

The Ministry to Seafarers Team

The Ministry to Seafarers

History, Mission, Vision, Goals & Values

A Short History:

Port ministry in Montreal started in 1862 with the founding of the protestant Montreal Sailors' Institute, followed by the formation of the Catholic Sailors' Club in 1893. These two organizations amalgamated in 1968 to form Mariners' House of Montreal.

The Ministry to Seafarers (M2S) began informally in the late 1950's and early 1960's when young adults from the Montreal Christian Reformed Church came to the port on Sunday afternoons to sing for the seafarers. Many of these young people were recent immigrants from the Netherlands and enjoyed the opportunity to sing for the Dutch seafarers who were in port. In 1965, M2S was formally incorporated with Rev. Hans Uittenbosch as the first chaplain. At first, M2S worked in conjunction with the other port ministries in Montreal, but Rev. Uittenbosch had a vision of having his own Seafarers' Centre, so he travelled throughout Ontario visiting Christian Reformed churches raising money to buy a building in Old Montreal. By the mid-1980's the building was purchased and M2S started operating their own Seafarers' Centre, often in competition with Mariners' House.

In 1992, Rev. Uittenbosch left M2S and by the mid-1990's, the boards of Mariners' House and M2S started discussing a possible merger because of changes in the shipping industry which made it impractical and unsustainable for two competing organizations to be doing the same thing for fewer seafarers each year. Mariners' House underwent extensive renovations and expansion the winter of 2001, and in April 2001 M2S left its building and moved into Mariners' House. Both organizations have separate boards, separate supporters, and separate staff, but work together meeting the needs of the thousands of seafarers visiting the port of Montreal each year.

Our Mission:

The Mission of The Ministry to Seafarers is to reflect Jesus' love to seafarers and others in the Port of Montreal.

We serve Christ by seeking to make disciples of all nations in obedience to his command, by presenting Jesus to those who do not know him and building up the faith of those who do, that in him all may find rest and the hope of eternal life.

Our Vision:

The Ministry to Seafarers (M2S) of the Christian Reformed Church seeks to proclaim the Gospel and see all seafarers come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ and to equip them in their daily walk with God and equip them to tell others, thereby advancing the Kingdom of God.

Our Goals:

We serve Christ by serving seafarers in his love. This includes:

-) Visiting seafarers on the ships, as well as in hospital or prison if necessary.
-) Serving them in whatever capacity may be needed –emotionally, spiritually or physically.
-) Encouraging and equipping seafarers for shipboard Bible studies.
-) Joining in the work of a centre where seafarers find personal contacts, hospitality, recreation, telephone and internet, postal services, a convenience store, reading material and regular worship opportunities.
-) Offering Bibles and devotional resources in various languages at no cost.
-) Looking after the well-being of all seafarers, regardless of creed, race, or nationality.
-) Distributing Christmas parcels, winter coats and scarves and hats.

We serve Christ by serving his church. This includes:

-) Providing employment or internship opportunities for qualified persons.
-) Providing service opportunities for qualified volunteers.
-) Providing educational opportunities for seminary, college and university students, Christian youth groups and other interested groups.
-) Working cooperatively with other Christian groups in port ministry.

Our Values:

The Ministry to Seafarers believes that;

-) We mirror the Father's desire to reach the lost.
-) We obey Jesus' command to be His witnesses, proclaiming the gospel to all peoples.
-) We depend on the Holy Spirit's power to transform individual and community life through interaction with the triune God.
-) We proclaim that Christ is sovereign over all things and that He is the only way to be reconciled to God.
-) We proclaim the Word in faith that God, through His Spirit, will use this proclamation to penetrate cultures and enable people to accept the gospel.
-) We serve God from a reformed world-and-life view.
-) We value the image of God in all people and the humility that opens us up to respect, learn from and grow with them.
-) We hold peace and justice to be integral parts of the good news and essential to the witness of the Church to a world in desperate need.
-) We maximize ministry through partners and networks, wherever possible.
-) We promote constant growth in Christ-likeness.
-) We develop excellent skills in the roles to which God calls us.
-) We practice creativity and innovation in ministry.

So What Does an M2S Volunteer Do?

There are a couple of different aspects to volunteering for The Ministry to Seafarers. There is the practical aspect – the daily activities you will be participating in, and there is the spiritual aspects – which is more subtle, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, more self-directed.

For the practical side there are a couple different roles for a starter volunteer. There is the role of driver. A driver goes out each evening with the ministry van and does the pickup and drop off of the seafarers at their ship. Directions and duties will be explained and one of the staff will take the volunteer on a tour of the port before they are asked to drive it on their own. If you are coming alone it is this role that we would ask you to take on. The other role is that of worker at the centre. At the centre the volunteer will help serve them at the counter of our souvenir/tuck shop and be a help where help is needed. All duties and aspects of the work will be explained and demonstrated by a staff member. At no time will a volunteer be expected or asked to do something that he or she is not comfortable doing. Besides these two definitive roles we also ask that the volunteers be helpful in and around the center as needed. (e.g. cleaning & maintaining the center, helping out with mailings etc.) Volunteers work from 5pm until around 10-11pm. (The center closes at 10pm after which volunteers help driving seafarers back to their ships and closing up the center.) We are open every night of the week but volunteers work on a 4 night on one night off rotation.

The tasks listed above are important to the service of the seafarers but it is not the primary goal of M2S. M2S is here first and foremost to see God glorified – and yes, He is by the love we show the seafarers in helping them where we can – but He is most glorified when people are brought into a relationship with him. God is the hope of the nations – and the hope of each seafarer – even if they do not know it yet! Our prayer is that our volunteers, while they go about the tasks set before them at the centre, will open themselves up to those around them – seeking opportunities to be a friend, to lend a listening ear and, by the Spirits leading, to be a witness of the gospel through words. How to do this will also be discussed during a volunteer's time here.

As mentioned, the above work description is for starter volunteers. This is because M2S is in the process of developing a curriculum of sorts to allow any interested volunteers to grow in their understanding and personal capacity with the aim of one day joining the chaplains for ship visits and even doing ship visits on their own. The full extent of this possibility will be explained once your application has been received and approved. For the moment, [it does need to be said that all volunteers will be required to an online course to prepare them for the work whatever that will be. The course, created in collaboration by two seafarers' interest groups is a good introduction to the world of seafarers, ports and ship visits. The course cost of \\$30 will be the responsibility of the individual volunteer.](#) More information on this course will be given at a later time.

Although all this info may seem overwhelming at first, we hope to assure all our volunteers that experience will make them more confident. We pray that as a volunteer they make the most of their time here and let God use them however He can.

A Volunteer Profile

Interested in Volunteering? Take a moment to reflect on the following;

Our heavenly Father has created each of us unique and blessed with certain gifts and abilities. He has also deemed it wise that not everyone is called to all things! The Ministry recognizes and believes that desire isn't and cannot be the sole reason someone becomes a volunteer. For the well-being of all people involved, for the well-being of the ministry and for the integrity of our role in the work of the Kingdom of God we look at all volunteers and see if they are "right for the job".

So what are we looking for exactly?

A M2S volunteer should meet the following "criteria"

-) Is in a committed relationship with our heavenly Father – to do so you must recognize our need for Christ's salvation through his death on the cross and our need for repentance for all our sins.
-) Is experiencing and seeking spiritual growth. This can only be done by actively seeking God through prayer and Bible Study and asking the Spirit to continually renew our hearts and minds so that we experience the transformation that comes from knowing and loving our Savior.
-) Is willing to serve their neighbour. Humility is a key aspect of service. Recognizing that God has chosen us by grace should cause us to live by grace in our relationship to others – no matter their nationality, religion or life's choices.
-) Is both mentally and physically able to complete the task at hand. If we have experienced great loss or have experienced a major life set back then we must give ourselves time to be restored. It is important to practice wisdom at these times to know if we are truly ready to start or return to ministry.
-) Is aware of what the ministry does and how they do it. In light of these, we need to ask ourselves if we have the needed gifts and strengths to fulfill what we are called to do. Of course, it is important to remember that sometimes God calls us out of our comfort zones and do what we think we can't in order to show His power – think of Moses being called to lead the Israelites. Knowing the answer to this depends on our walk with God – recognizing His leading. It is always good to seek the council of several wise and trusted friends and family.

So Where Do You Go From Here?

If, after reflecting and praying over what you have learned in this packet, you still desire to partner with us in The Ministry to Seafarers and volunteer your time here in the Port of Montreal then we ask you to fill out the enclosed application and mail or email it the M2S office.

Mail: The Ministry to Seafarers
PO Box 128 Place D'Armes
Montreal QC H2Y 3E9

Email: info@ministrytoseafarers.org

After we receive your application we will contact you to discuss your application and possibly set up an interview. We will contact your references and if it is believed that you are a "good fit" then we will organize the dates that you will come and serve with us here in Montreal. Before you arrive a Handbook will be sent to you either by email or by mail, this will give you a lot of helpful info you will need in preparation for and for during your time as volunteer. You will also be asked to take an online course called "Online Ship Visitor's Welfare Course". The cost of this is \$30 and we do ask the volunteer to pay this cost. However, if this cost is too great (we all live with different budgets) please do not let this be a reason to not volunteer – arrangements can be made.

If you have any other questions now or later please feel free to contact us at the aforementioned email or by phone (514-849-3234) and someone would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about the ministry and about volunteering with us.

Thank you for your time and may God be glorified in and through us all.

Sincerely,

The Ministry to Seafarers Team

We invite you to visit our website (www.ministrytoseafarers.org), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/theministrytoseafarersofthecrc/) and our Instagram feed (@m2smtl).



The Ministry to Seafarers Volunteer Application Form

1. **Date of Application:** _____
2. **Name:** _____
First Middle Last
3. **Occupation:** _____ Present Previous
4. **Status:** (*check one*) Employed Unemployed Semi-retired Retired Student
 Other If other, please explain: _____
5. **Permanent Home Address:** Street address: _____
City; _____ State/Prov; _____ Zip/PC: _____
6. **Communication:**
Home Phone : (____) ____ - ____ Work Phone : (____) ____ - ____ ext. ____
Cell Phone: : (____) ____ - ____ Email: _____
7. **Availability:** Please specify preferred dates: (dd/mm/yy)
First choice: From ____ / ____ / ____ To ____ / ____ / ____
Second Choice: From ____ / ____ / ____ To ____ / ____ / ____
8. **Driver's License?** (*circle one*) Yes No
9. **Languages Spoken: (other than English)** _____
10. **Church membership:**
 - a) Church Name: _____ City; _____
State/Prov: _____ Phone: : (____) ____ - ____
 - b) **Do you regularly attend this church (most Sundays)** (*circle one*) Yes No
 - c) **Are you active in your church?** (*circle one*) Yes No
In what way? _____

11. Person(s) to contact in case of emergency:

Name: _____ Phone: :(____) ____ - _____

Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Phone: :(____) ____ - _____

Relationship: _____

12. References: List two persons other than relatives. One reference should be from an employer, pastor or other leader who has mentored you.

Name: _____ Phone: :(____) ____ - _____

Relationship: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: :(____) ____ - _____

Relationship: _____ Email: _____

13. Photo consent

Do you grant permission for use of any photo taken of you for promotional purposes?

(circle one) Yes No

14. Do you have any criminal convictions/cautions, with the exception of fixed penalty traffic offences?

(circle one) Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

15. Please tell us a bit about yourself. _____

16. Why are you interested in volunteering with The Ministry to Seafarers? _____

(Feel free to add paper if you need more space.)