



## Report to Classis (Spring 2020)

As spring brings for new life, new beginnings and new hope, yet this spring has changed things for the Ministry. Although, as of the end of March 2020, 295 ships have been visited, March visits changed dramatically compared to what they were. No longer can the chaplains board the ships. They talk to the seafarers from the bottom or top of the gangways and no further. Seafarers are not allowed on shore and the Mariners house is now closed due to Covid-19. David is visiting the ships, doing shopping for the seafarers and bringing it to the ships. Michelle is working from home and both she and David are making virtual visits with the seafarers.

Patty, the Ministries office manager, is also working from home because of Mariners house closure by the Quebec Government. Even though the lockdown has forced closures and social distancing, the ministry still continues through technology. The foresight of having a ministry app created last year, is helping the chaplains distribute devotionals and other support for the seafarers.

Michelle is continuing another unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. She is hoping that everything will be completed by the end of this year. Michelle has also attended the Classis Eastern Canada Classis meeting at the beginning of March. The Chaplains were planning to attend the NAMMA conference in Ottawa this April but that is postponed till a later date.

The board meeting planned for April will proceed, but will be done virtually on the Zoom platform.

As the future remains unknown to all of us, may we trust that it is God's hands and that we know that God is our refuge and strength and will never fail us.

Yours in Christ

Bert Wissink

Secretary Ministry to Seafarers Board