



Report to Classis (Winter 2020)

Winter has settled into Canada and of course the Port of Montreal, but that does not mean that the work of the ministry slows down. During the fall months both port chaplains were able to attend the International Christian Maritime world conference in Taiwan. Both David and Michelle were extremely blessed by the conference. The centre was not unstaffed during this time as both volunteers and interns filled in, visiting ships and manning the centre. Seafarers were happy to see Michelle and David return as relationships that have already been built continue to grow.

In November, the busyness of the Christmas season began for the Centre. The annual seafarers Christmas parcel drive and distribution had begun. Many parcels both from Classis Quinte and Eastern Canada began to arrive at the centre. When it was all over, approximately 1550 parcels were distributed to 73 ships. Eleni, the intern, also held 2 games nights which were appreciated.

November 17th saw both Michelle and David speak to, two different churches about the ministry on chaplaincy Sunday. Michelle continues to take a clinical pastoral education unit as part of the requirement for CRC endorsement.

The M2S app (under Ministry to seafarers in the android and apple store) that was mentioned in the previous report, has been downloaded by many seafarers and is being used by them.

During the course of 2019, 992 ships were visited with contact made with 1369 visits. Our chaplains have been busy.

The ministry gives praise to our God with answered prayer. The ministry was able to purchase a new van, through donation, to help transport the seafarers from ship to the centre. The old van was on its last legs and the new one is much appreciated. The port of Montreal is 26 kms long and many seafarers would not attend the centre if it were not for the vans.

Many volunteers have worked at the ministry this past season. Volunteers are not just from traditional CRC backgrounds but are now expanding from places like the Catholic Womens league, a group of girls and chaperones from and group home and a group of woman from an organization called Disarm. They are in the work against human trafficking.

Volunteers continue to be blessed in serving at M2S. If you are planning to visit Montreal and would like to volunteer, M2S has an apartment available and access to public transit. Why not sight see during the day and late afternoon and evening volunteer at M2S. Contact M2S through the new app or the website.

Yours in Christ

Bert Wissink

Secretary