

Ministry Report
September 19, 2017

1. Comforting Philippine seafarers

I visited ship named "Independent Concept" at Penn Terminal on August 9. There were 16 Filipino crew and 6 Russians officers. During the conversation I have learned that one of the Philippine crew lost his younger brother due to the storm recently passed his home town. He was a deck crew named Jose from Mindanao, Philippine. He was 22 years old, had 2 years experience on board.

His family was so poor that Jose as a first son came out to sea to support his family. Especially Jose wanted to support college tuition for his brother. They were really close brother who liked each other. His brother like Jose so much and proud him because of Jose's courage and sacrifice for the family.

When I met him at his cabin, he couldn't speak for a while, and I also could not say anything. After some time I shared God's mysterious providence with him from the passage of Roman's 8:28, and prayed for him to understand and accept God's sovereignty at the same time for God's unfailing love and care toward him and his family.

2. Helping 22 detained Chinese crew

I visited ship on September 14 at Waste Management, on Bucks County. Ship's name was "Ocean Star" which brought steel cargo. There were 22 Chinese crew with no shore pass because nobody had US visa. When I visited ship, I could remember that this ship came to Philadelphia last March.

In the mean time while I talking to the crew at gangway, Captain and chief officer came out to see me asking, who am I and why am I visiting the ship. This was an unusual occasion. So I identified myself as a pastor from Mission to Chinese Seamen to visit the ship to help the crew in many ways. After that I asked captain, why asking this. Captain said his ship came here a couple month ago and at that time SCI charged \$200 for the service. That's why he wanted to check with my identity and whether any charge with this ship visit.

So I clearly spoke to him that I came from different organization and there is no service charge for the help. After confirming this, Captain allowed me to visit the ship. Ship was scheduled to stay here for a week to discharge, and most of crew had a big shopping list to buy. So I did shopping errands that afternoon and two more days I visited ship and helped.

She sailed early this morning(9/19) and I visited ship last Monday once again before she sails. Most of the crew welcomed me and took me to Captain's office. Most of the ship's officers gathered together and expressed gratitude what I did for them, and gave me a big hug, saying, thank you for your unconditional love and help for them who were detained in remote port in US, and disconnected from the society, but they were cared and connected by Korean stranger from MCS representative. In response to them, before leaving I preached Gospel to them and asked them to believe, and prayed for the safe sailing, crew's health, and the family.