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International Sailors Society Southern Africa Corporate News Brief

Greetings to all!

In this newsletter we make mention of plans for the Christmas season and the 2010 World Cup Soccer.

What has happened to 2009?

Although the past 9 months have passed rapidly, the Sailors' Society hasn't been caught off guard. The Society in fact moved faster than the year! Plans and projects which were mooted during business planning meetings in 2008 have all come to fruition. Some have been completed and others are progressing well. Despite the economic climate which has affected every business, none have had to be shelved.

We trust you will be interested to read of achievements over the year to date.

NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MARITIME ASSOCIATION

ICMA – SA Regional Conference

The biggest project for 2009 was the above conference which was held from 3 - 6 August in Durban at the Frere Road Presbyterian Church. Forty-nine Chaplains representing the Southern African region which includes Mauritius, Reunion, the Comoros, Madagascar, Kenya, Mozambique and Angola as well as a number of guests.

Referred to as the Trauma Counseling Conference, it was hosted by the SA Region of ICMA **Dr. Marion Gibson** representing the International Crisis Prevention Committee presented the course which focused on:

- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Individual Crisis Intervention
- Peer Support.

At the conclusion each candidate who completed the course was awarded a certificate.

This important event opened with a session on "World Shipping Today" which proved to be an exceptional presentation delivered by **Mr. Ivan Clark**. This received a standing ovation from the multi-national audience of chaplains and a number of guests who joined on the day.

The Conference was preceded by an Initial Training Course for new chaplains led by Rev. Boet van Schalkwyk and port missionary Paddy Percival. A ship Welfare Visitors Course for 19 chaplains was also held where Boet was the lecturer.

As is traditional, the ICMA SA Region annual Meeting also took place during the conference where the Regional Co-coordinator and member organizations presented reports.

We are proud to announce that Rev Boet van Schalkwyk received a unanimous vote for re-election as regional co-coordinator for a further three years.

Fr. Bruno Cicero from The Vatican conducted the Induction Service during which he conveyed the congratulations from ICMA international Chairman, Mr. Douglas Stevenson and AOS Vatican on a successful conference.

This conference was certainly a highlight of the Sailors' Society's many activities and its impact will be evident for years to come as it dealt with real issues of the day and also offered the opportunity for representatives from different countries to share their



knowledge.

The conference reflected the truly multi-national spirit of ICMA, it promoted a new network for the counseling of traumatized seafarers and, last but not least, it introduced a conference model which will be recommended to ICMA for future use.

Congratulations to the organizers and participants.

Sea Sunday Service: July 2009

Annual Sea Sunday Services are held world wide on the second Sunday of July and in Durban the service was held at N shed in the Port on Sunday 12 July which enjoyed an increased attendance this year.

The theme of the sermon, led by Dean Rod van Zuylen was "Who is your neighbour" and "Faith", which indeed is a possession we may all hold onto during the troubled times we as individuals find ourselves in: the financial recession, illness, loss of jobs, strikes, crime, the list is endless. However we must remember that despite all the troubles which often overwhelm us we can put our trust in the Lord.

The music segment was once again a blessing!

A Zulu choir (right) from the Catholic Church, Montclair, participated. The theme of the choral work they performed so beautifully was Peace, Faith, Hope and Love. They did not know what the theme of the sermon was - it was no coincidence, as with God there are no coincidences.



Capt Rufus Lekala, Port Captain of the Port of Durban requested the "Port Blessing", an important aspect of the Sea Sunday Service. (left)

The Army band was in attendance again. For so many years they have participated enthusiastically; indeed the service would be the poorer without their uplifting renditions of the hymns.

On a sad note, we said farewell to bandmaster Sergeant Major Vusi Gebashe (right) who retires later this year. We wish him well.



After the service refreshments were served and members of the congregation could "socialise". This fellowship at the close of the service is always enjoyable.

The maritime profession, whether it entails working on vessels as they cross the oceans, or working in ports, at sea or on shore must be one of the most demanding and often dangerous professions, particularly bearing in mind the recent piracy attacks. This commemoration is therefore very apt.

L-r, Rev Ron Burgess, Mrs Muriel Adams, Mrs van Zuylen, Rev. Rod van Zuylen, Mrs Jane Welch, Mrs Avril Burgess and Ms Ellie van Leerdam.

Thanks go to the various missions and maritime organisations which made the service possible as well as the Transnet National Ports Authority of SA, Port of Durban, for providing the venue.



Wall of Remembrance

A recent innovation at the Durban Bayhead Mission is a Wall of Remembrance where granite plaques are affixed to commemorate those, now deceased, who have rendered meritorious service to the Bayhead Mission and the Sailors' Society. Dedication services in their honour were held during June 2009.

Reverend Father Angus McKinnon

At a dedication service held on 14 June 2009, Rev. Fr. Angus McKinnon OMI of the Apostleship of the Sea was honoured.

Rev. Fr. McKinnon, a priest in the Catholic Church, was a legend. He had a wonderful understanding of people resulting in his popularity with those from all walks of life whom he also entertained with his many stories.

He virtually grew up in the Port of Durban, his father being a Port Captain. The McKinnon's resided in the Point area, near to the ocean, which must have had an influence on the young Angus to render assistance to the seafaring community.

His Eminence, Cardinal Napier gave the address and unveiled the plaque together with Mr Terry Whitfield, Director of the Apostleship of the Sea. (pictured)



Another dedication service in the honour of other devoted members was held at the Bayhead Mission Chapel on 28 June.

Rev. Millen Adams (left) led the service and thereafter unveiled the plaque.

Those commemorated are:

Capt. Carl Larson who was a seafarer through and through. His career comprised duty on a whaler until the demise of whaling. He then joined Unicorn Lines and when he retired Carl was appointed as a Port Missionary which duties

he undertook for many years.

Rev. Ken Edgar was an ordained minister. He was approached by the Sailors' Society with regard to becoming a chaplain, which tasks he embraced fully. He served as a Chaplain for more than 10 years.

Ms Sybil Hill was a devoted member whose background was a career of 37 years with P & O Lines.

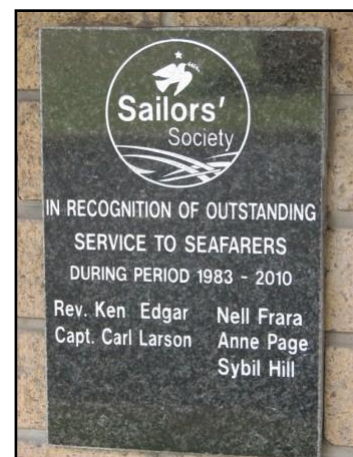
Sybil worked in the Sailors' Society Office every Tuesday as a volunteer for over 13 years. She was also involved in the Ladies Guild and other Sailors' Society events. She also helped out at the Seafarers' Centre when it operated from Point Road, Durban and later at Bayhead on Wednesdays for many years. Amongst others she will be remembered for her good rapport with the visiting seamen with her sharp sense of humour.

Ms Nell Frara, a stalwart of the Seafarers' Centre had the responsibility of managing the shop on the premises of the Centre. She worked closely with Mrs Muriel Adams who ran the kitchen for many years. Nell also was involved in Sailors' Society events for many years.

Ms Anne Page, who died some 15 years ago, was also commemorated. She put in time at the Seafarers' Centre for many years, undertaking various duties.

All these past members devoted time and energy to a cause they believed in thereby making life just that bit easier when those at sea came ashore after so many weeks and months at sea.

We pay tribute to them.



NEWS FROM THE PORTS

The work within the ports under the jurisdiction of the Society is conducted in a partnership arrangement with sister organizations. These include The Apostleship of the Sea, The Mission to Seafarers, the German Seaman's Mission, the Korean Seaman's Trust, the Christian Seaman's Organisation and Biblia.

Local

Visits to centres

Rev Van Schalkwyk has visited various centres to remain informed regarding developments, to check progress on projects and to establish whether they are experiencing – let's not call them problems, but challenges. He is happy with ISS ministries and mentions the following:

- **East London**

The Society is grateful to the West Bank Presbyterian Church for supplying space for the Society to provide facilities for the Seafarers. The Society's vehicle is in regular use providing transport to and from the port and the Centre.

- **Port Elizabeth**

This Mission continues to provide adequate facilities and services in the port.

- **Cape Town**

Chaplains work out of the Mission in Cape Town although the Society does not have full representation on the management committee.

Chaplain Vincent Harry has involved himself with the small harbours of Hout Bay, Kalk Bay in the Cape Town area as well as the Port of Saldanha. He also oversees Cape Town and has taken his ministry to the fishing fleets along the West Coast of the Cape

Let's now cross the river into KZN.

- **Richards Bay**

The Mission in the Port of Richards Bay continues to be in demand by seafarers and the financial situation has improved steadily.

- **Durban**

Branches and Mission

Bayhead Mission

This mission is run by the combined committee of the Sailors' Society, Mission to Seafarers and the Apostleship of the Sea. Mr Roy Turnbull and Rear Admiral Peter Fougstedt serve on this committee and have been responsible for the incredible turnaround of the financial state of the Mission. Together they have put in many hours of hard work, assuring the facilities are now considered to be one of the best in the world.

FIFA 2010 Project

The Mission will also experience the excitement of the 2010 World Cup Soccer. This project which aims to upgrade the HDD TV system for the 2010 world soccer cup is nearing completion. The facility will offer visiting seafarers the opportunity of not only being able to view the various matches live but also view those which they have missed. Facilities for recording and screening games played when seafarers are on watch are also included, i.e. while 3 matches per day are being played. This facility will cost in excess of R60000 and is expected to draw a very large response from seafarers during the World Cup period.

More will be forthcoming at a later date, so..... "Watch this space".

Telephone system

A VOIPT telephone system has been introduced which gives seafarers a cheaper rate of communicating with their families. Webcams for Skype are being installed for seafarers to use in the Mission.

These are just a few examples of services offered by the Bayhead Mission.

Upgrades

Upgrades at the Mission are in progress; garage extensions are nearing completion and upgrading the toilet and lighting systems are under way.

Durban Branch Committee

Many will remember Rhoda Lamb, who so enthusiastically and loyally carried out many duties for the Sailors' Society by contributing her famous home-made jams and various baking specialities at the various activities. Always willing to help, her bright personality and sense of humour was evident at every meeting!

It is with regret that she has had to stand down as a member of the above committee as a result of a deteriorating health condition. The Society as a whole will miss her.

International

Ports beyond South Africa's borders are also included in investigations regarding the setting up of ISS mission stations.

Luanda

Rev. Van Schalkwyk, accompanied by Rev Des Vaubell from Missions to Seamen, visited Luanda earlier in the year as the port of Luanda was identified as a "point of need" by an ICMA survey, for targeting as a project to establish a Seafarers' Mission.

Investigations are ongoing with the view of a mission facility being established.

Mozambique – Maputo

The proposed new mission facilities in the Port of Maputo are well advanced and will be in operation during the year ahead.



FUTURE EVENTS

Annual Golf Day

In the last newsletter, we requested readers to diaries this annual event for 13 August. However, closer investigation revealed that during August there was a preponderance of golf days! Beachwood could accommodate us in November, so we repeat our request!

Please diaries **10 November 2009** for this important event on the ISS calendar.

The golf day will be held at the Durban Country Club Beachwood golf course. For more details kindly contact Capt. Brian Hoffman on Tel 031-312 0736. If you and/or your company can participate in sponsorship, kindly also contact Brian. Or the ISS office on 031-3013380.

The Sailors' Society apologises for any inconvenience – we hope all those who had prepared for August, will support us just before the end of year holidays.



Christmas Events

20 November: Share your Christmas with a Seafarer (SYCS) launch when parcel packing will commence

13 December: Carol Service in the Mission at 19h00

23 December: Distribution of gifts in the harbour (SYCS)

24 December: Distribution of gifts at outer anchorage (SYCS)

25 December: Christmas Day service in the Mission at 19h00

BUSINESS

Annual General Meeting covering April 2008 to March 2009

Some aspects of the "Chairman's Report" presented at the meeting held at the Bayhead Mission on 20 September 2009:

Administrative matters

Five meetings of the Board of Directors and four of the Executive Committee were held during the year which were all well attended.

Mr Graham Dunnington, the Treasurer presented the financial report for the last time as he will be stepping down as Treasurer but has agreed to remain on as a Director and on the Finance Committee. Mr Dunnington was thanked for his many years of service.

Mr Jack Mussett, a Chartered Accountant, was welcomed to the board and will take over as treasurer and chairman of the finance committee.

Service to Seafarers

Improved facilities in the port have enable cargo handling to be effected more rapidly resulting in turn around times in the port being reduced from days to hours. However for crews on board there is less time to visit the Mission facilities thereby placing an additional burden on Chaplains and Missionaries.

The Chaplains around the SA coastline were thanked for their devotion to the chaplaincy work. The Principal Chaplain, Rev. Boet van Schalkwyk was commended for his commitment in developing models of ministry to overcome the changing difficulties in ministry to seafarers.

Thanks were also extended to Mrs Linda van Schalkwyk for her hard work with respect to office administration and support of the work of the chaplains. The workload is expanding as the responsibilities of the Society extend into the future!

Mr Stephen van Schalkwyk who will be joining our ranks in August 2009, training will be undertaken prior to joining the Chaplaincy team in Cape Town. This will supplement his training as a volunteer Fire Brigade Emergency Service Chaplain.

Attention was drawn to the piracy situation which has become a real threat to Ship Operators and the crews on vessels sailing on both the East and West Coast of Africa. This is a constant item on the Agenda of Board Meetings and Boet has paid special attention to this concern and is busy setting up special trauma counselling training for the Chaplaincy teams to support seafarers surviving the result of a hijacking, and those entering a danger area.

Finance

As is prevalent in so many other organisations, the Society has experienced a year of concern as a result of the world recession but fortunately the needs have been met to fulfil the requirements of the business plan.

Thanks were extended to the many donors who have generously supported the Society, in particular The Grindrod Group and the Sailors Society (U.K.)

The investments of the Society are in the hands of the Ewing Trust Company Limited who have increased our capital investments.

LAST WORD

The ISSSA depends to a large extent on you for its continued operations.

We thank those who support our projects and constantly show interest.

If anyone wishes to make contact with us for information or who wish to make suggestions, please contact the ISSSA on tel. 031 3014380 or e mail office@saiss.co.za

Until next time!

Barry Haley
National Chairman, ISSSA