



"Sometimes we are lucky enough to know that our lives have been changed, to discard the old, embrace the new, and run headlong down an immutable course. It happened to me ... on that summer's day, when my eyes were opened to the sea."

Jacques Yves Cousteau, Oceanographer

Volume one, Issue two

The International Sailors Society of Southern Africa



Sailors on the HMS Somerset celebrating Christmas at sea

Merry Christmas one and all...



Once again the International Sailors'

Society (ISSSA) is preparing for the annual 'Share your Christmas with a Seafarer', which will take place in Durban, Cape Town, East London, and Richards Bay from 23 December to 25 December 2013. The collection, packaging and delivery of gifts to all the vessels in the harbour on Christmas day has been taking place for the past 26 years. In 2012 over 2 000 gifts were handed out in Durban harbor, which gives us an approximate figure of over 77 000 gifts that have been distributed out to grateful seafarers over the years.

No matter what your belief, we are sure that being on board a ship in a harbour in a foreign port on Christmas day is a lonely experience to any seaman.

In the past The International sailors Society of Southern Africa (ISSSA) has had a Father Christmas, transported by a fire engine, but the new Port Safety regulations mean that Father Christmas can only go to Maydon Warf while the Society's Chaplains visit the rest of the harbour with the gifts.

The Big Day, 27 November, is when the Chaplains and their societies and all the volunteers gather at the Mission in the harbour to pack the gifts – all donations; some in kind, some bought with cash donations and then the precious beanies and scarves and gloves, knitted through the year by citizens in our communities. In many instances, the knitters are senior citizens who often find times hard themselves, and we are particularly grateful for their generosity. We would like to add to the gift packs for the seamen, and are asking you to please consider donating to this special festive cause. These are some of the items we need to make their Christmas day a special one:

- hand knitted scarves, socks, gloves, mittens
- stretch socks (sport socks)
- handkerchiefs
- tooth brush and tooth paste, soap
- cookies that will keep
- gum, sweets, peanuts
- playing cards, music CDs/DVDs, pens
- jigsaw puzzles, other kinds of puzzles and games (travel size)
- nail clippers, sewing kits, ashtray, lighters
- shaving equipment, razor, aftershave lotion, shaving cream or foam, cologne
- pocket diary, calendar, address book, small photo album
- handwritten Christmas card from you or from your group or organization

For more information about the Sailor's Society's Share your Christmas with a Seafarer, please contact Linda van Schalkwyk office@saiss.co.za

How YOU can make a difference!

- ✓ Volunteer your services at the ISSSA
 - ✓ Donate!! The ISSSA is dependent on donors in order to do their work, every cent helps, donations can also be in the form of gifts in kind – items such as razors, toothpaste, shaving cream, soap, washing powder, air time vouchers, towels, blankets etc all make a difference to a stranded mariner
 - ✓ Consider making the ISSSA a beneficiary in your will, leaving a legacy that lasts
 - ✓ Assist with office equipment and other items required by the ISSSA throughout the country
 - ✓ Become a Corporate donor
 - ✓ Help us to meet others who are interested in the Society so that we can grow our organisation
- For more information log onto our website : <http://saiss.co.za> or email padre@saiss.co.za

Did you know ...?

The longest mountain range in the world is under water. Called the Mid-Oceanic Ridge, this chain of mountains runs through the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and into the Indian and Pacific oceans. It runs more than 35,000 miles long, has peaks higher than those in the Alps and it comprises 23 percent of the Earth's total surface.





Philippine disaster

Nearly five weeks after Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines, the government now says more than 6,000 people have been reported dead. Nearly 1,800 more are still missing.

The new death toll figure represents a sharp increase from the approximately 4,000 deaths confirmed by the government just three weeks ago.

More than 27,000 people have been reported injured, the county's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported Friday.

The storm forced 3.9 million people from their homes, the agency said. While many might think that the disaster was limited to the Philippines, ISSSA representative, Pastor Paul Richardson, visited ships at the Durban harbour and prayed with a young Philippine cook aboard the MSC Methoni. The young man cried when he saw images of the storm on TV. Luckily none of his relatives had been affected as he lives in Manila, some distance from the disaster. From there Pastor Richardson visited the Maersk Senang and prayed with a further four Philippino sailors who were also lucky enough not to have had family injured in the storm.



Above: The storm which ripped through the Philippines left 6 000 people dead and more than 1 800 are reported still missing. 3.9 million people have lost her homes in the tragedy.



The Mission of The International Sailor's Society of Southern Africa

- To minister to the needs of Seafarers on the South African seaboard irrespective of nationality, gender, culture or faith, through a Christian ministry that is relevant to the ever changing maritime environment.
- Operating centres and facilities in South African ports in conjunction with other such organisations for the comfort and needs of the seafarer
- Maintaining Chaplains and Port Missionaries in ports in Southern Africa who are specially selected and trained for this unique ministry.
- To offer a holistic service to seafarers at no cost to them



Wrapping Day at the Mission

Wrapping day is when everybody, their friends, relatives and amazing volunteers turn up to wrap all of the generous donations turning them into gift parcels. During a Christmas service and Carol Service the Gifts are dedicated to the Lord before they are handed out to our seafarer guests.



Reverend Boet van Schalkwyk and the staff of the ISSSA would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Our thanks to you for your support over the past years and we look forward to continuing our work, with your assistance, in 2014 and beyond.