

IN MEMORIAM
Commander
A V Kempthorne OBE
RNZN (Rtd)



We record, with regret, the death, in February, of Viv Kempthorne at the age of 92. On retirement from a successful career in the Royal New Zealand Navy Viv joined the Board of what was then the British Sailors Society, and served for many years in various capacities including as President.

He retired from the Board about 15 years ago but maintained a keen interest in the Society and its work.

We extend, to Viv's family, our sincere condolences and we offer our heartfelt thanks to God for the contribution that Viv made to the work of the Sailors Society.

A charitable organisation working in the name of Christ in the ports of Auckland for the welfare of all seafarers

The Sailors' Society is a non-denominational Christian body which is a partner, with the Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) and the Apostleship of the Sea (Catholic), in the Auckland International Seafarers Centre, www.aucklandseafarerscentre.co.nz, 114 Quay Street, Auckland. The Society contributes the services of a part-time chaplain, some volunteers, & members to the Board of the Centre, and modest financial support. The Society's Board includes representatives from the Auckland Baptist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army churches.

The Sailors' Society, Auckland - Replacing Isolation with Belonging

Published by the Sailors' Society Auckland © 2011

AN APPEAL

The accounts of the Society are currently being audited and the results will be formally reported following the AGM later this year. They will show a modest operating loss, though reserves will cover this. We are aware that there are many funding demands and requests being made to publicly minded folk such as our supporters at the moment, and it may seem a little crass to be talking of money at a time of the great personal and financial losses suffered by the people of Canterbury – shared by many, if not most, New Zealanders – and overseas in Japan and Australia. However we believe the work that we do is important and worth funding. We work hard to ensure that our overheads are extremely modest, thanks in no small measure to the voluntary efforts of our Board members and volunteers and to the support of some private trusts and others like Lion Foundation, to whom we are very grateful.

Will you help to support our work? The Society is a registered NZ charity and all donations are tax deductible. Some supporters make a small regular monthly payment by automatic payment and this is a great help. If you would like an AP form and/or to make a donation please complete the enclosed form and forward it to the address shown on the form.

Think of those at home

"Those who know the work of the Sailors' Society are all too aware of the difficulties and hardships suffered by seafarers forced to be away from home for long periods. But what about their families? Women forced to live like single parents for up to a year at a time, who give birth alone, bring up children alone, sometimes dreading the homecomings, short tense times spent with someone who has become a stranger and who may not understand the decisions you were forced to make [in their absence]." – Bridget Plass.

This is why a major part of our ministry is in facilitating family contact. Please pray for seafarers' families.



NEWSLETTER

Mid Year 2011

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whose support has made the production and distribution
of this newsletter possible

The Chaplain writes...

I read this comment on the Canterbury earthquakes recently: "Once the shaking stops and Christchurch city is repaired, Cantabrians will be left with a minute of their lives they will forever share." I thought of this when I visited the crews of two ships recently. These ships were carrying food and various supplies from Brisbane to Lyttelton for earthquake recovery operations. Captain Cabico was in reminiscent mood as we talked together at the mess room table aboard his ship. The captain said he had alerted his crew about the earthquake and the loss of life of many Pilipino nurses there. We also talked of his own family back in the Philippines and thought of the loss that the missing Pilipinas' families must be feeling.

Ship visiting is a core part of a seafarer's chaplain's ministry. In early April a steward was delighted when I appeared in the mess room. He said I was "a gift from God for him". As he tidied up after lunch he told me that he was concerned about a disparity between his pay and that of fellow crew members. When he had finished his duties I took him with me to the Seafarers Centre where we connected him with the local representative of the International Transport workers' Federation (ITF), Grahame McLaren. I understand that the matter has been dealt with and a satisfactory outcome achieved.

SEA SUNDAY – 10 JULY 2011

Join us to celebrate the way
seafarers enrich our lives and the
Church's ministry to them
Holy Trinity Cathedral Auckland
SUNDAY 10 July 2011
Commencing at 2pm
(please note the changed time)

Seafarers of course spend long periods away from home and the different 'pulls' between family and work can be very stressful. Joe Tukana is an able seaman on the SOUTHERN EXPRESS. He always manages to bridge these two worlds with a large SMILE! The ship is on a regular run and I am always encouraged whenever I meet Joe - his smile lights up my day! Joe told me that one should always "be joyful and smile". "It brings joy to my heart", he says, "to know that wherever I am God is there and whatever I go through, God is with me. He is all we need in times of hardship and trial." Being at sea is not easy for the seafarer or for their family. Thus another of our important ministries is to help the seafarer to keep in touch with home.

Thank you for supporting us in our work as we minister to those who have been called "the invisible workforce."

May you be richly blessed.
David Millar

Auckland International Seafarers' Centre - the future

Early in April, construction work commenced in the old Sailors Home, the upper part of the building at 114 Quay Street. The Britomart developers have decided to delay any plans to demolish the building to use the site for an hotel and are now converting that part of the building for use as offices. Thus the uncertainty which, for a number of years, has been hovering over our future there has dissipated and we understand that there is at least a ten year period of 'grace'. The Seafarers Centre Board (upon which representatives of our Society serve) has not been able to proceed with

refurbishment plans while the 'sword of Damocles' has been hanging over us. At a recent meeting of the Board it was decided to develop plans for refurbishing the Centre including replacing the floor coverings, and furniture, installing a purpose designed internet setup (along the lines of an internet café) and ensuring that the layout of the Centre is fit for our current and future needs. The Sailors Society is represented on the refurbishing committee. It is hoped that grants may be sourced to cover the costs involved.

Pirates. It is not just the personal toll on seafarers ...

Somali pirates have driven up shipping costs in the Indian Ocean, resulting in world economic losses estimated at \$US 7 to \$US 12 billion a year, a study by One Earth Future Foundation said.

Armed with AK-47s, pirates in rickety skiffs have carried out brazen hijackings, seizing massive oil tankers, cargo vessels and luxury vessels. Along with the personal cost to seafarers threatened or taken hostage, the main direct costs of piracy include ransom, piracy insurance premiums, rerouting of vessels away from risky waters, zones, naval deployments by countries fighting piracy, piracy prosecutions and organization budgets aimed at fighting piracy, the

Colorado-based think tank said in the study on the costs of piracy.

Navies from the US, EU countries, China, India, Russia, Korea and Japan have been deployed in joint efforts to fight piracy, adding expenses to their national defence budgets. The study said Somalia-based pirates are considered responsible for 95 percent of the cost. The recent wave of piracy began with seizures of vessels off the Somali coasts in 2005. The pirates have since been emboldened, targeting larger vessels including tankers on the high seas. Other areas of piracy risk include the Gulf of Guinea, the Malacca Straits and off Nigeria. The study, issued in January by the London foreign-policy think

tank Chatham House, said some 1,600 acts of piracy have been recorded since 2006, causing the deaths of more than 54 people.

Source: OtcStockExchange quoted in DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2011 - 016

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Estimates vary, but the Ecoterra website (<http://bit.ly/ePwWST>) states: "Today, 21. April 2011, 21h30 UTC, at least 51 foreign vessels plus one barge are kept in Somali hands against the will of their owners, while at least 801 hostages or captives - including a South-African yachting couple as well as a Danish yacht-family with three children and two friends - suffer to be released."



Sharing earthquake news.



AB Joe Tukana.

SNIPPETS, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Around **10,000 seafarers** visited the Auckland Seafarers Centre last year. In the first 3 months of this year around 2500 seafarers used the Centre's facilities and 54% of the overseas ships in port were visited, our own chaplain making about a third of these visits.

We are extremely grateful for **your** continuing support - both prayerful and financial. We thank those who have recently made donations to the work of

the Society and to **Magic Balloons Design Studio** (www.magicballoons.co.nz) who provide a credit card facility, allowing us to accept donations in this way.

To request a copy of our brochure please contact us at the address above.

We would be happy to address your group. If you need a speaker please contact us.

Our thanks to **C R Stead Trust** who are subsidising the design, printing and promulgation of this newsletter.

Our newsletter is designed by **Emma Love** emma@cetech.co.nz. Thanks Emma.

We are grateful to **BetterPrice Hotels** (www.betterpricehotels.com) for sponsoring our website www.iss.org.nz.