

# Anglican WORLD

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## Welcoming the Stranger

We are all migrants  
on this earth

## Bridge-builder for the Lord

Meet the new Secretary  
General of the Anglican  
Communion

## What's in a name?

On (compass) roses,  
*koinonia* and communion

ANGLICAN  
COMMUNION

IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES





THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Insert: Justin with crew members.

# Bringing light to the darkness

YASC volunteer Justin Davis tells about his life-changing service as a Mission to Seafarers chaplain's assistance in Hong Kong harbour

## Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Justin Davis and I am currently serving the Mission as a chaplain's assistant. I am 22, from Richmond, Virginia, in the USA, and I can honestly say that The Mission to Seafarers has changed my life.

**"The Mission to Seafarers has transformed my life and I see it transform the lives of those at sea"**

## How did you end up in Hong Kong?

I am volunteering for a [missionary] program of The Episcopal Church called the Young Adult Service Corps, or YASC for short. They send people all over the world and by the grace of God I ended up in Hong Kong.

## Were you familiar with the shipping industry?

Before coming to work for the Mission I didn't even know that the shipping industry existed. I just assumed that all the goods we have come by plane and magically appeared in stores. What a mistake that was.

I have not only been humbled by the sheer exposure to the shipping industry but also the friends I have

made who work on ships, and God's place within this enormous and fairly unknown business.

## What have you been doing since you arrived?

I have helped with fundraising for the new launch boat, *Dayspring*, in Hong Kong, stuffed and delivered bags with Christmas presents for seafarers, and on a daily basis visited ships in the port of Hong Kong.

Ship visiting has helped me gain a deeper understanding of God and has helped me develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

One ship stands out. These guys are in Hong Kong every two or three weeks so I have had the opportunity to develop a close relationship

➡ with them. [They are] all from the Philippines.

### Are you able to communicate well with the seafarers?

At first it was just small talk, but as we got to know each other it turned to the Bible. We have discussed our views for an hour and a half before. Even though our ideas on interpretation are different, we often walk away from the conversation having learned something new but agreeing to disagree.

The conversation is not always religious though. Sometimes I hear the struggles of guys from Ukraine and how they feel about what is going on in their country. [Recently] there was a big buzz about the Manny Pacquiao vs. Floyd Mayweather boxing match.

I believe that regardless of what the conversation is about, the most important thing [for the crew] is contact with a new face that is not there for business.

The seafarers see ship agents, owners, port state control, etc all the time. The Mission is the only organisation that is solely there to say hello and care for their pastoral and spiritual wellbeing.

### How else do you help the seafarers?

When a ship comes into Hong Kong, [it] is only there for 24 hours [at

most]. If a ship [arrives] at 1am, the seafarer has virtually no time to come ashore.

That is where the Mission comes in.

I bring newspapers and phone cards to the guys. I have had seafarers tell me it's like Christmas when I come on board. Considering very few ships have reliable wi-fi, the Internet cards are essential for being able to contact their families at home.

### Can you tell us about *Dayspring*?

In February the Mission in Hong Kong launched a new boat named *Dayspring*. The name is very symbolic for the work of the Mission. Luke 1.78-79 talks about the dayspring



Inaugurating the new sea-going motor launch *Dayspring*.

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

## The Mission in Hong Kong has been providing a launch to visit ships at anchor since 1891

Source: The Mission to Seafarers

from on high bringing light to the darkness.

I believe that this truly sums up what the Mission does and stands for. *Dayspring* is much faster than the previous launch and lets us get to more ships in the anchorage, and to ships that are anchored further out.

### What are your lasting impressions of The Mission to Seafarers?

The Mission to Seafarers has transformed my life, and I see it transform the lives of those at sea on a daily basis.

I am forever grateful to the Mission and especially to the Revd Canon Stephen Miller and the rest of The Mission to Seafarers staff here in Hong Kong. Without them I wouldn't have been able to experience everything that I have over the past year – and those at sea who need support in Hong Kong would have a much harder time.

Volunteering for the Mission was one of the best decisions I have made and I hope there are many that follow in my footsteps.

Interview by The Mission to Seafarers. This article first appeared in Flying Angels News.



THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Bringing fellowship and light to seafarers today.