

Dear friends

Sea Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

In Hong Kong, the harbour and surrounding waterways are filled with ships, some going just a short distance, some leaving here to go halfway round the world, others arriving from Europe, America, Singapore or closer to home from the Philippines or Vietnam. All of them are essential to world trade and bring the world to our doorsteps and supermarkets. All of the ships have one thing in common; they are driven and manned by seafarers from all over the world.

Some have faced great danger and difficulty in carrying out their tasks, many have faced storms, bad weather and some have risked their lives in the face of piracy not only in the South China Seas but off the coast of West and East Africa. But above all in these times many are not being able to be repatriated due to the travel restriction brought about by countries across the world faced with the challenges of COVID-19.

Over 95% of all the worlds' commodities are shipped by sea and yet to many the face of a seafarer will never be seen. Their lives are often far removed from the public gaze and old reputations of misdeeds and a girl in every port have been replaced with seafarers from the developing countries of the world, sending money home to provide for their families in the Philippines, Myanmar, India, Africa, Russia, Indonesia, and China.

The life of a seafarer is very hard; often they are away from family and friends for 9 months at a time. They may have little time to go ashore when their ship is in port as the pressure on modern shipping is to speed up loading and unloading of cargo. The modern-day life of a seafarer is one of loneliness and isolation. These lengths of stay are now even greater due to COVID-19, with many seafarers having to stay on board for over a year until their reliever can be found.

On Sea Sunday which this year is on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the church remembers all who work at sea to bring our daily needs to shore.

In Hong Kong, The Mission to Seafarers in association with The Apostleship of the Sea, The Danish Seamen's Church and The German Seamen's Mission work together to make the lives of seafarers visiting Hong Kong a little bit easier. Through our two seafarers' centres one at East Tsim Sha Tsui and the other in Kwai Chung we offer facilities to make visiting seafarers feel at home and wanted. By offering them hospitality, access to good telecommunications to get in contact with family, the internet and looking after their particular needs the Mission's together seek to address the loneliness that has become so much part of the modern seafarer's life.

Your prayers and support for the ministry of The Mission to Seafarers, The Apostleship of the Sea, The Danish Seamen's Church and The German Seamen's Mission in Hong Kong will be very much appreciated, and please pray for all who earn their living at sea as we join together in our prayers for seafarers from all over the world this Sea Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Yours sincerely



Rev Canon Stephen Miller

Senior Chaplain

The Mission to Seafarers

二〇二二年航海主日  
(2022年7月10日)

在香港的港口和環島的水域，有絡繹不絕的船舶，有些作短程穿梭，有些離港他去，遠涉重洋。有些來自歐、美、新加坡，或鄰近的菲律賓或越南。它們承擔著國際貿易的重任，把世界帶到我們的門前和超級市場內。所有的船隻都有一共通點，它們都是由來自世界各地的海員駕駛和操作。

多少海員為了履行職務曾身歷險境、幾經艱辛，或面對風高浪急的天氣，或遇上恣肆南海或東非洲沿岸的海盜。更為甚者，乃因世界各國現正忙於應付新冠病毒的挑戰，限制過境，使海員們有家歸不得。

全球的貨運有百份之九十五經海路進行，但海員多居幕後而不被關注。他們的生活狀況未被重視，人們對海員的陋習和冶游的舊觀，已被現實取代。來自菲律賓、緬甸、印度、非洲、俄羅斯、印尼和中國等地的海員，常匯款回家以資生計。他們的生活艱苦，每每遠離親友可達九個月之久。他們的船雖已泊岸，但現代航運裝卸貨物流程緊迫，海員鮮有時間登岸。現代海員的生活往往是孤單和寂寞的，亦因為新冠疫症，於今尤甚，他們常需留守船上長達一年多，待找到海員接班，始可離船。

本年七月十日被訂為航海主日，教會將關注為我們運送日常所需到港的海員。

香港海員之家，聯同海員宗會、丹麥海員教會和德國海員教會共同為海員服務，使他們在訪港期間，生活能夠從容一點。我們透過在尖沙咀東和葵涌的兩個中心，提供設施予海員享用，使他們有賓至如歸和被關愛的感覺，給他們殷勤的接待、有效的設備和家人通訊、互聯網和照顧個別的需要，我們致力於排解現代海員生活的孤寂。

我們十分感謝你們的支持和為海員之家、海員宗會、丹麥海員教會和德國海員教會代禱，並請於航海主日同心合一為所有海員和在海上謀生的人禱告。

主內



苗時敏牧師  
主任牧師  
海員傳道會