

Vancouver and New Westminster - Port Report

by George Verwer

The Vancouver and New Westminster Port Report highlights the successful ministry activities, community engagement, and transformative experiences during the ship's visit.

Duration: 59:58

Scripture: Psalm 126:5-6, Matthew 6:33, Mark 16:15, Luke 10:2, 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, 2 Corinthians 9:6, Galatians 6:9

Topics: "Healing Testimonies", "Salvation Stories"

Description

In the video, a lady purchased a Jesus film in English to watch with her family. As she watched the film, she became aware of who Jesus Christ was and decided to give her life to the Lord. She also prayed for healing from her cancer. When she went back to the doctor, the cancer was no longer present in her body. This testimony highlights the impact of the Jesus film in bringing people to know the Lord and experience healing.

Transcript

Great, well, welcome to the Port Report for Vancouver. And for those listening on the tape, we're actually sailing between the Orca and the San Juan Islands on our voyage from Vancouver to Seattle. Today is the 8th of April and it is a beautiful day outside.

Total contrast to our arrival day, if you remember back to our arrival into Canada Place, we were actually sailing up the same channel and it was snowing. Remember that? It was beautiful, absolutely it was beautiful, but you couldn't see the view, but now we can see the view around us and that's just tremendous. God is good? All the time? Great, I'm feeling gum as lines, but anyway, great.

Well, again, we arrived to Canada Place, which as you remember is the downtown cruise terminal, very premier birth of Vancouver. And we were there from the 15th until the 21st of March. And then we moved over up the Fraser River to New Westminster Quay.

And that was from the 21st through until today, which is the 8th of April. Vancouver is actually our 140th port of call and it's a new country for Logos too. We've never been to Canada before, 58th country.

And again, I think we all testify that it's been a great port and just looking forward to hearing your testimonies of what's been happening. And again, if you've got some stories, testimonies, we're gonna have a time at the end that you can hear. First of all, I'd like to ask John Satterley to come and share about

the book exhibition and what happened there back on, or rather the book fair as we've been calling it in North America.

Well, when we first arrived in Vancouver and it was snowing outside and the weather was really cold and wet, we wondered how it was gonna go in the book exhibition, whether we were gonna have many visitors. And I really say praise the Lord because we had a great number of visitors. The weather improved tremendously and we had over 40,500 people come to the ship during our 23 days that the book fair was open.

Majority of those came to visit the ship in the second place in New Westminster. We saw over 41,000 books going off the ship as well. So that was more than one book per visitor.

And just to give you some kind of comparison to how that was to other ports, it's four times more visitors than we had in Los Angeles. And when the ship was in Europe in 1995, the best port for attendance was Swansea in the UK where we had 18,000 visitors. So really Vancouver and New Westminster were just really excellent as far as attendance was concerned.

And of those books, 76% of them were Christian books, which just really goes to show that the Christian books were in big demand. And probably the best selling books were the ones that we had right at the entrance to the exhibition. We were able to have a lot of books at just 75 cents and \$1.50 Canadian.

And we're working very closely with OM Lit in Waynesboro. And so we were able to make them available. And one of the things that we've been telling people is that our pricing policy here in North America is basically the same as what we'd have if we were in the Caribbean or in South America or in any other part of the world.

We just really want people to understand that Logos 2 is where they can get very inexpensive books. It was really great to see good numbers of people coming in from the Chinese, Korean and Spanish communities. We sold a lot of those books as well.

And it was exciting to see key titles like Operation World serving as senders, not only in English, but also in Chinese and Spanish and even in Korean going off the ship too. While we were in Canada Place, we loaded 125,000 booklets in Spanish, the greatest story ever told. We work very closely with Living Bibles International and they have their headquarters in Vancouver.

And so we were able to load those on board for our time in Mexico and in Central America. And it was also exciting to spend quite a bit of time with the folk from Campus Crusade for Christ. They are the ones that have been helping us with the Jesus videos.

And we were able to load 15,000 more Jesus videos in Spanish, English and other languages. And also we put an order through for the Dulos. So there's gonna be about 13,000 going off to Dulos in the next few weeks.

So that was really thrilling that we could work so closely with Campus. They also gave us a lot of other materials from their warehouse. They just moved into some new premises and we're clearing out a lot of their stocks.

So it was really great that we could be there at that time to help them out. And then again, just really, it was a great answer to prayer as well, how the weather just really improved these last 10, 14 days have

just been excellent. And over the Easter weekend, we even had 12,000 visitors coming in just four days.

So we're really encouraging. One just little story that is exciting as far as the Jesus video distribution goes is one lady came on board and purchased one of the videos in English so that she could take it home and watch it with her family. And as she watched the film, she was again just made aware of who Jesus Christ was and that he could really do something in her life.

She was suffering from cancer and decided that she wanted to give her life to the Lord and also at that time prayed for healing. And when she went back to the doctor just several days later, he was able to report that the cancer that had been in her body was no longer there. And so she was just really thrilled and we rejoice with her as well that she has come to know the Lord through watching the Jesus film and her and her family have really been impacted.

So we give thanks to God for that. Next report is from Yvonne Ackermann from the Netherlands from the program room. It has been a very, very, very heavy port, especially the first week in Canada place.

We had every day, we had kind of an official tour type opening kind of reception with a lot of preparations, a lot of work. But number wise, we really have been encouraged. The same of what the book X, what John shared, a lot of people came to attend the different conferences.

In total, we had about 45 different meetings and 4,705 people came to visit the different meetings. That is an average of 104 per meeting and that is really good. To break it down, for teaching conferences was 2,423 people came, evangelistic meetings 1,282 and other meetings 1,000.

So that was actually very, a big encouragement for us. We have two official opening types of conferences, one official opening and a welcome reception when we moved to the next birth and a lot of diplomats came and also a lot of leaving people from the community. So we could share the ministry, but also we could share the gospel with them.

We had two schools of evangelism, one in Canada Place and the other in New Westminster, consisting out of three evenings of teaching and the fourth evening was an outreach. And there was actually quite, there was hardly any dropout of people who didn't come anymore. And for the first set of school of evangelism, we had Mickey Walker who came over from Ireland.

So it was excellent to have him here. And feedback from the people was, it was very informative, very practical and it was great to see them involved, just listening to the different workshops or involved in just learning some of the rope illustrations. And yeah, that was very good to see.

You know, you think that Christians come to do these kinds of conferences. Actually, one man came to the school of evangelism and after three days, he came to one of the organizers and said, well, I would like to accept Jesus as my savior. So that was not something you expect, but praise God for that.

Another lady who attended the school of evangelism, she asked for prayer at the end of the meeting and she shared that she had been working in Brazil and a spell was spoken out of her, kind of a curse. And she really struggled when she was going to church and some of the speakers and organizers could pray for her and she was set free from that. So praise God for that.

We had a businessman luncheon here in the main meeting room and it was quite overwhelming. Over 200 people came and just sitting here with their plate on their lap, eating and enjoying the program. It was

quite a number of non-Christians who came to that meeting.

And Myles was linked up with one of the non-Christian businessmen at the end. And you could lead him around through the ship and share a little bit more about the ministry. And this man shared that he was really touched by what he saw.

Further, I don't know what he did in his life, but pray for it, that God will really use the fruit, sorry, that God will use the seed what is sown and that God will really continue to use that. We had a Chinese cultural night and oh boy, we didn't know how many people would come. Would they fit in the main and in the aft meeting room together? Would more people come with one ticket, taking their friends with them? And did we need to say, I'm sorry, we don't have any place for you.

But thanks to God, we really saw his grace that everybody who came fitted in the rooms and that was really a praise point. Something else for the businessmen luncheon. Sorry, I see I skipped that.

It was the first time that actually five different groups who are working among the businessmen, reaching out to them in the downtown area of Vancouver, were working together. And pray that that will continue to happen. So there was really a networking for them as well.

Use the life. Also another conference where we used the aft meeting room for an overflow. So we used video cameras, but also we could use the big video projector.

So we had a big screen in the aft meeting room where everything could be seen what happens here in the main meeting room. And it was excellent. George Fur was speaking there in this meeting and over one third of the people said, yes, I would like to choose.

I would like to live a radical life for Christ. So it was very, very good. Okay, then we had African night on shore.

The whole organization was quite a challenge. I heard from Hannah. But the worship band who took part in that meeting, later on they reported back to Hannah.

And they said when they went back to the church, two people expressed their interest in getting no, getting, getting, getting, okay. Again, two people said they wanted to get to know more about Christ. So yeah, a lot has been sown.

We had five school meetings in total and 681 kids came and 26 church teams went out. And thank you very much for all your help and your participation. You know, I thought it was Canada we were supposed to be in.

But when you think we had a Korean night, a Chinese night, an Indian night and an African night, you know, sometimes you begin to wonder where actually are we? But it was great to walk into the Indian meeting, which was here in the main meeting room and see the Indians at the front, just singing away in a, I don't know what language it was, but they were singing in this strange tongue. But, and also to see Elon Alva. I don't know if he's here, but come up and give his testimony and share in that meeting.

And that was really great too. Of course, another part of the North American tour is the tours. And again, the tours have been very busy.

This port and Andy Julef is going to come and share what happened with the tours department. Well, I think expectations were exceeded so much in this port. And as far as the tour department is concerned, that was exactly the same for us.

We had 8,308 people that came on tours in the ship. And that equates to over 130 individual tours that were done. Notice we never tell our tour host these statistics before we do them, because I think it would really frighten them off.

But 8,308 people came on tours, over 130 tours we did, which was a much, much larger real number than we expected. Our tours were quite full a lot of the time. There were several times when we were really quite under pressure to get people onto the tours.

This Chinese, infamous Chinese night has been mentioned, and that was also a problem for the tour department. We had 250 people turned up. All of them were expecting a tour.

So in the end, we put 120 on the tour, 110 in the aft meeting room, showed them a video, and the others went into the book exhibition. And then a further 150 to 200 people also turned up afterwards hoping to go to the conference. So that was a bit of a logistical nightmare.

We were particularly pleased though by the numbers of non-Christians that came on our tours. And it's always difficult to gauge how many there were, but our tour hosts sort of kind of ask people questions just to get an indication of how they found out about the ship. And we had pretty good information that there were a large number of non-Christians that were on our tours, which we really thank God for.

And they heard the word of God. Some of them were very, very challenged by the personal testimonies, particularly that our tour hosts gave. And that was really something that we thank God for, that so many non-Christians could come onto the ship and just find out what is so different, what is so unique about this very special ship.

We were also very encouraged by the numbers of churches that got involved, the numbers of Christians that came on these tours themselves. And so many just came back to us and thanked us and thanked the tour hosts and said what it really meant for them to come on this tour. It was a special thing for them rather than just maybe just coming onto the ship, having a look at the book exhibition, a special thing that is, but it just really gave a unique dimension to them to have an hour on the ship where they could really meet a member of the ship's company and interact with them a bit more deeply.

And many of them said how much they valued that. And we also know of a number that was so challenged that they decided to go on and talk to members of OM Canada staff and met with them in the aft meeting room in the hospitality area there, really quite interested in getting involved and looking into areas of further service. So when we look back on a time in Vancouver, both in Canada Place and in New Westminster, we really do thank God, I wanna praise him for the way he worked through the tour department, through the tours that were going on and the whole ministry of the ship.

And we thank him for the many, many people that were very, very challenged. Hey, this is Manuela from Germany. And I just want to tell you, I'm one of the tour hosts for those who don't know.

And I just want to tell you some of my experiences. You know, one of the goals of the tours are to get shipmates or to mobilize people for mission. But the fact that I really like is there are so many people, we had altogether more than 8,000 doing tours in the times.

There are just amazing many people who are praying for the ministry now. They tell us afterwards, we are going to pray. It's just so good.

We've seen the ship, we know what it is. And I had one group of old people, you know, I came to the ski site and I saw my group, then I thought, oh Lord, I really prayed. You know, they were like standing there.

Every time we walked there, I prayed like crazy, I tell you, and some got out during our time. But in the end, they were like all so thankful and really kissed me a thousand times. There was this big man, really tall, and he gave me this big hug, and I just smashed against his head.

But they all, these old people, they had tears in their eyes and they thanked me, and I thought, whoa, you know, especially for giving testimony and really making it kind of personal, the ship. And this man, he just said, oh, you're my sister, I'm going to pray for the ship, and I'm praying. They're all praying, it's just, you know, just be aware of this, so many people.

And another thing is what Andy mentioned, that we had non-Christian in our tours, and I had one man, just to give you one example, his name is Brian, and he was obviously not so much into all this, so he was like, oh. But then he got really, he heard all this, all what we say, like testimony and clear evangelism message, all this is in our tours. And in the end, he was standing outside, and we talked a bit, and he looked at the ship, like, whoa, this is such a great thing, hey, I'm really thinking, this is like, whoa.

And then he told me that he's doing magic stuff and making himself magic healing things and all this, but he was really touched by the ship and thinking about it, and you can pray for him, his name is Brian, so. Thank you. Ingen from Norway.

As Manila was sharing, there's so many things happening in the tours, and like, each time we leave a tour and we come back to the tent, we're like yapping to each other and telling what happened, you had this worst tour, you had this best tour. And the day of a tour guide really determines whether you have a good tour or a bad tour. And one of these days, I had four tours, and three of them were just the worst.

It's just one of those you pray every minute. And I thought, Lord, I really need a good tour, it's my standard this day. And I come out of the tent, and I see my group, and they're all drug addicts, or former drug addicts, and I just thought, it can't be true.

And I was really, really discouraged. So I walked up the gangway with them, and they ended up being just the neatest group I've ever had, because the enthusiasm they showed for the ship and how they just looked around and they're so excited about the ship, just encouraged me more than anything else. So it really taught me not to judge by my first impression.

And you guys can pray for us, because to do a tour one after another, after another, after another, it's exhausting, it might seem like a holiday job sometimes, but it's exhausting. But it gives a lot too, and especially when we feel like we can't go on, God really knows how to encourage us through that too. Okay, my name is Marta, Marta Ardila, I come from Colombia.

And I want to share also something about tours. I was giving a tour on Sunday, and as I came to the bridge wing, the port side, there was a couple from Guatemala, so they were in a tour, they were just sitting there, and I thought, what are they doing here, you know? It's not a place that they should be. But I felt in my heart, like, I shouldn't reject them, or I shouldn't tell them, go back to the book exhibitions.

So I told them to join my tour. And they came with me, they were with me until the end of the tour, and then, I was tired, it was Sunday, and we were giving a lot of tours, but I felt like to ask them questions, and realize if they were Christians or not, so finally they were in Christians. So I asked them to come another day and take lunch with me, and I was talking with them, they received the Lord, and I asked them to come another day, and I said that I would buy a Bible for them.

Okay, I bought a Bible for them, and they didn't come. Finally, I found them, and they came, and they were so happy that I found them, and I have a Bible for them. So when I was talking with them, I realized, or they told me that they were so sad here in Vancouver, because his son, they came because they have a son living here, and the son brought them here, but he's rejecting them now.

Like, he feels ashamed about his parents, and he feels that they are less than him now, and they are so sad, and they felt that I was accepting them, and the Lord really taught me something. It's like, in that moment, the first moment I saw them, I felt like, what are they doing here, you know? And sometimes we think that people are in the wrong place, but maybe they are in the right place in God's eyes. So they were in the right place for God, and now they became Christian, and I put them in contact with Spanish-speaking people here in Vancouver.

So I'm so glad that now they have somebody to talk with, and I hope that these people will help them, because they want to go back to Guatemala. They don't want to stay here, and they need to find out a job or something like that. So I ask you to pray for this couple from Guatemala.

Thank you. You know, it's so good to hear that, you know? People are coming to Christ through these tours as well. Yes, we want prayer partners, supporters, but people are coming to know the Lord through these tours.

In each of the conference rooms after those tours, we have what is known as the tour closure meeting. Sort of round it all off, and OM Canada have been managing these meetings while we've been in Vancouver. And Dave and Janet Hendry, who have been seconded from OM USA to OM Canada, are sailing with us, and they've been very much involved with these tour closure meetings.

And I asked Dave if he would just come forward and just give us a little bit of feedback. What's been happening in these meetings, and what's the sort of atmosphere that he's sort of felt in the meetings at the end of these tours? The tour closure meetings took about 15 minutes. We didn't feel that it was appropriate to keep people longer and put them under any pressure at all, but we could tell by the time they finished the tour and sat down and some of them nodded off that we needed to keep this short, keep it moving.

That included the four-minute video. So that was our goal, to keep it in 15 minutes. What we were doing there, we were doing three things.

We were asking people to pray for the ship, to commit that to a prayer on a daily basis. We were also asking people to become shipmates. And we were doing some recruiting as well, asking people to consider this if they felt the Lord leading them that way.

It was very interesting. I think, and a big surprise to me, were the number of people that were asked for applications, both for the STEP program and also for the one- and two-year program. And I think we gave out between 75 and 80, and that's in New Westminster alone, because that's where I joined the ship,

March 23rd.

So about 75 to 80 applications went out, and who knows how many will come back. I know we got some came back already, some were turned in, and actually there's been some gonna join further down the coast for the STEP program. For prayer, people were interested.

People checked that off on the little ticket. All the time, people were turning those back in. The shipmate program, we gave away about 200, as far as I can calculate, about 200 shipmate packets.

And we don't know, we don't have numbers at this point about how many have been returned because they're coming into Port Colborne in Ontario, the OM Canada office, as well as some were turned in here. And that was the commitment for people to give. The suggested amount was \$300 a year, or \$25 a month for the next three years.

It was a busy time, you can tell by the numbers. In between tours, we spent our time, and there were five of us there all the time, talking to people that were interested in finding out more about how to join the ship, how to join OM Canada, how to join OM, about salvation. Sometimes just personal matters that they wanted to talk with you about and to spend time with someone praying for them.

I was surprised as well with the number of returnees, people that came back, and that's not reflected in the numbers that came on board, but there were a number that came back and they said that I was here last week or I was here two days ago, and I've been thinking about that shipmate packet and I want one now, I want to take one home. So I think that was a surprise to me, but it shows that maybe culturally, Canadians might move a little slower, but I think once we get there, we're with you to the end. Great, thanks Dave.

Just reading in the brochure, the Logos to Vancouver brochure that was given out to the churches and the public, and the mission statement is slightly changed. Again, our mission statement in coming to North America was to raise up a new generation of world Christians. Now, I know I don't need to remind you of that because you've learned that, but the Vancouver team added to that slightly and it said partnering with churches to raise up a new generation of world Christians, beginning in the local community.

And from the ship, we had a number of evangelistic opportunities and Janice is just going to come forward and just share a little bit of what happened with the evangelism from the ship. Yeah, we had no E-team or A-team, sort of people set apart just for the port visit to do evangelism. So we basically put up lists on the kiosk notice board for people to do evangelism during their non-working time.

And I think it was great to see names going up day after day of people who were willing to give up, I suppose what we could call their free time, their non-working time to go out and do evangelism. We had Mickey Walker with us, as has been mentioned, so Mickey took people out. Unfortunately, it rained quite a lot of the time, but the time wasn't wasted because he set up sketchboards and did some sketchboard training so that people could go out again in the future.

Some churches came with their people. Some gave up their Saturday mornings and came. The School of Evangelism participants came and our people went out with them.

Also did some of the volunteers as well. When they came, they actually went out and did some evangelism with them. So a lot of evangelism took place.

I heard lots of good reports. I heard one report about some people going across town to a church to meet up with an evangelism team. When they got there, there wasn't one and the church didn't know anything about them.

But I mean, that was a lesson in itself, I think. They could do evangelism on the way back on the Skytrain. But there were a lot going on.

There was a lot of people led to the Lord. We can pray that those people who received literature, tracts, had personal conversations, that the Lord will continue to work in their lives, that often it's plowing the ground and planting the seeds. And we might not see the fruit here and now, but I'm sure in heaven we will hear of the fruit as a result of that visit.

I'm gonna ask Carla, if Carla's around. Carla went out quite a bit and she's gonna share one experience she had on the evangelism team. Yes, this for me was one of the best parts I've ever been.

We met at church and it was about five minutes walk from the ship. And they were working among the people on the street, the drug addicts, the homeless people, for 24 hours a day. And every evening at seven o'clock, they had a service.

And then the whole night, the drop-in center was open. So Marta and I and some other people, we joined them and we spent a lot of time with these people and just to get to know them and share our life with each other. And we heard amazing testimonies of how they came to know the Lord.

And they said, the devil is 24 hours a day open, so why shouldn't we? And I learned a lot by listening to these people and to get to know them. And last Saturday, we've been out on a Skytrain station with another guy. He was from the church.

And he became a Christian there at the Skytrain station because a girl was there standing with a coffee urn to give out coffee. And that's how he became a Christian. And now he is standing there by himself and working among these people.

And it was just, I don't know, it's just to hear and to hear many sad stories, but it was really encouraging to see Christians working among these people and give their whole life to them, not only their free time, but 24 hours a day. It was awesome. Thank you.

Thanks, Carla. Thanks, Janice. That's great to hear.

Of course, one of the other major evangelistic outreach programs that we, or many of us on the ship are involved in, is International Night. And Bernice Nickel is just gonna give us an update from the New Westminster International Night. The MacPherson Convention Center was the venue for the International Night this time in a city which itself is international.

And I think that was a very interesting dimension to the International Night this time. The venue is also the Burnaby Christian Fellowship, and we were really grateful for their cooperation in providing, giving us the venue. And also their sound technicians were extremely helpful to us, as well as it meant a lot of extra work for them to pack our chairs and reset everything on Saturday night for Sunday morning.

So we're really grateful for the cooperation of local Christians. The venue, 1,800 people, 1,200 people attended the International Night. And as I said last report, the focus for this one was evangelistic.

And I really challenged you to pray that the Lord would give us fruit from that International Night. And I've really felt that we should trust the Lord for definite results, not just guesstimates of how many people were touched or hoping that people would be touched, but really trusting God for fruit. And so the program, we got together to coordinate.

We had a new backstage manager in Andy Julef, and we got together to put the program together, and it all went so smoothly. And I said, uh-oh, now wait a minute, I'm suspicious. Something must go wrong.

We've prayed that the Lord will use this event, and then it doesn't go smoothly, that's for sure. And of course, something did go wrong. On Friday, we found out we didn't have a speaker.

On Saturday, we found out we didn't have a lighting technician. And of course, that tummy bug hit the ship, and we had a lot of people completely out of it. And so it really is that for this International Night, true that we can say Ebenezer, hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

And really, the Lord did pull us through this International Night. No one threw up on the stage, it was a plus. Peter Mead did the challenge, and a good job he did of it too.

Jurgen, after seeing one International Night, did the lighting, and he did an excellent job as well. And I really am grateful for all the people who stepped in to take the roles, even unrehearsed roles of people that had fallen out because they were ill. And I especially want to mention Harriet, and Anne Louise, and Tamara, who stepped in to take places that were left.

Some others soldiered on, especially need to be mentioned. Nick, he performed his tales, and then I saw him afterwards lying flat out in the dressing room, he was completely zonked. And it's really great to see people with that kind of commitment in spite of illness, being there to do what they feel the Lord wants them to do.

And I think, I really felt this time that it's true, when we can't, when we cannot, that's when God really does it for us. And I really experienced his tremendous help. And it was worth it.

We prayed for fruit, and I'm told by Joelle that the counselors had eight people come forward and commit their lives to Christ. And they have the details of those people, names, addresses, they'll be followed up by local churches. So we want to praise the Lord for eight people who came to know him through the International Night.

And each of them received a Jesus video as well as a gospel of John. Pray for that material that they've taken with them, that that would continue to help them to grow as they start their Christian walk. And then a further eight videos were given out to other people who came forward, not for commitment to Christ, but other people who made some kind of response.

Peter Mead had an interesting conversation with a lady afterwards, a lady who was a Unitarian. And he gave her a copy of the video, A Man Without Equal. And I'd like you to pray for her as well, that as she takes that video home and watches it with her husband, that the Lord would really sort out some of the buckled theology that she has.

But really, let's praise the Lord for what he's done. I think he did wonderful things. I was amazed.

I was totally worn out, still am. But eight people came to know the Lord. God's kingdom was extended.

That's what it's all about. And I want you to pray for those new disciples and particularly pray for the lady who received the video. Thank you.

You know, you could almost say it was the Peter Mead show, because it seemed that Peter was involved in, he was the emcee. He came on to a number of dances, including after the 50s dance, he came on with the dark sunglasses, which was amusing. And then he was also the speaker, so it was sort of like he was on and off the stage in these different roles, wearing a different outfit almost every time.

But OK. Germer told me when he got back to the ship, he had a phone call from a lady that was at International Night. And she's actually Iranian, and she's in Vancouver.

And she just shared with him how she was touched by his testimony, Germer's testimony, because her son is a drug addict addicted to drugs, and he's living in Denmark. And she expressed prayer for him living in Denmark there. Well, the lineup team, you remember the lineup team was George Barathun, former Dulos personnel manager and, I think, associate director on board there.

Mark Ko, again, former Dulos lineup, and also just studying there in Vancouver, and just happened to graduate at the right time to be available for lineup for Logos 2. Joanne So, from Singapore. Julie Hart, who came to be with us for a short time in the Caribbean, and our own Joelle Torres. Well, that was the lineup team in place for well over a year, Joelle joining them just the beginning of this year.

Now, they're not sailing with us, but we do have a few words from them on the video. And so, we're just going to switch the lights off a moment, and just to hear what they have to say about the port. They're in Vancouver with the lineup team preparing for the ship to come.

It's quite hard to see the ship sail away. You probably all know me by now. I'm Julie, Julie Hart from England.

And I spent a month on the ship in the Caribbean, and then spent the last year with the lineup team here in Vancouver. I've been doing several things, but mainly concentrating on publicity for the ship visit. And I've had a great committee to work with, all men, but they've been just great.

We did a lot of things. We had a big publicity strategy, including postcards, press coverage, radios. I'd just like to share one or two things that I think have been real highlights.

We've been tremendously encouraged by the Christian radio stations, particularly The Bridge, Kerry, and Praise 106.5 FM. And I'd like to thank all of you who've been willing to be interviewed by these radio stations. We've had tremendous coverage.

We had a big advertising campaign with the three radio stations before the ship arrived. And it's partly thanks to that that we had so many volunteers recruited that gave Joel a nightmare and a headache to look after them all. So I thank him for that.

We've also had fairly good coverage in local newspapers. Thanks to a lot of help from me, from Phil Hood, who's worked with me in publicity. We've had articles and adverts and some pictures, and also in the Christian press.

We've also had quite a lot of filming going on on board. Thanks again to those of you who've been interviewed, giving your testimony. And we're hoping to get that shown on local television after the ship

sails away.

I won't bore you with all the details of other things, but I'd like to thank everybody for all you've done and for the privilege of working with you all. Thanks. Wait, it's not finished.

It's finished. Okay, ready. Hi, I know all of you know me.

My name is Joel Torres, and I'm from Puerto Rico. I have been your lineup here in Vancouver. I hope you really enjoy your time here doing evangelism, outreach, and different things.

Too noisy. You see, this is not on. I at least learned something.

Sometimes things happen, sometimes things don't happen. But I'm really thankful for the Lord that all of you took part in this lineup, and you made it yours, and that was the most amazing thing. Thank you so much, Hannah, for all the church team.

Kisses from you and all those who are watching. Don't get jealous, guy. She treated me so good.

She goes the extra mile every time with me. Angela, thank you for the final things. You will have some more later on.

What to say? Well, see you guys somewhere. May the Lord bless you. Bye-bye.

Sorry, it's me back again. Anya, forgive me. Thank you for your tremendous work, and Irene as well, for the 91 volunteer.

You know, there's always one thing that we need to work out most of the time, but thank you so much for all your input in it, and may the Lord bless you. Bye-bye. That was a P.S. there.

Okay. Hi, I want to thank Gary, who's filming me right now, for all his tremendous abilities in the mimes and dramas. It was really added to the program, so that's been fantastic.

Thanks, Gary. I want to say thanks to Tamara, to Yvonne, to Louisa, to Daniela, to Kiersey, everyone in the program room, for all your hard work in implementing the programs. I have just been very excited by the response and the people who have come and all that have happened.

I just want to read, sorry, this is Joanne from Singapore, here in Hongkouver, as some people call it, with tons of people from Hong Kong coming over to Vancouver. It's been my privilege to work with the program and prayer task forces, and that has been a real privilege. I just want to reiterate what one of the pastors said recently, he used the word ship, that there'll be many, many spinoffs from this visit to Vancouver that we would not be able to count, and only in eternity will we be able to realize all that's been accomplished.

Secondly, hope. You have reminded the churches here that one of our missions is to bring hope to the peoples in our community. Thirdly, into the world.

Thank you, ship people, for fleshing out missions and expanding the horizons, the world horizons of the churches here in Vancouver. And lastly, P for prayer. Thank you for reminding churches here of the power of prayer and the ministry of prayer.

So thank you one and all for also making me feel very much a part of the ship community, and that's been very special for me. Thank you for your friendship and encouragement, and just for your smiles in big and

small ways. I am really thankful to God for this time, and particularly for all that he's done for the Chinese churches through the ship visits.

So thank you for going the extra mile. Oh, thanks to us people for going the extra mile with regards to the hundreds more Chinese and Koreans who've turned up, so thanks. Bon voyage and have a great time in Seattle.

That's the man on the ship. Okay, you're on. Boy, one of my highlights in Vancouver Port was to see Gary up there doing his pantomime.

To me, I would have paid millions just to see that. I think I need more people to do it. I wanted to show the mug right here in Vancouver, right here, this is our port report of the final part of Vancouver visit.

I think one word to describe this entire port that kept coming from the people that came, from pastors, from the committee, and even from the ship people, and that word is exciting. This was an exciting port from the very beginning, and we saw that with the numbers of 40,000 people coming and visiting the ship. We saw that with overbooked conferences.

We saw that with overbooked tours. We had a great committee. I personally got to work with the finance committee, and we tried every creative way to earn finances for the ship.

We had these little white boxes that people could turn in money to help support the ship to come to Vancouver. We also had a luncheon with Dale Roton, came and flew out and spoke, and we also just raised money by having a ship cruise late in November, and many people there got to know the ship and its ministry. I wanna thank you, as a crew, for doing an excellent, superb job, and to go and see some of the mail that has already come and just the enthusiasm that has happened in this ministry.

I think many seeds are sown, and some seeds we will see bear fruit within a couple of months, others will take years, but it's because of you and God that we give all the glory to for making all this happen. Praise God. Just get Vancouver again, there.

Jordan, you're on. Okay, folks, if you don't recognize us, Vancouver there. Do we get to keep a video of this? It's your turn.

Hi, how are you doing? I hope you're having a good voyage, or probably you have arrived in Seattle already, but just wanted to say thank you very much for coming to Vancouver and giving all your support to make this program really a very good one. We have seen great response here. Over 40,000 people have come during the ship's visit in Vancouver, and all the good feedback we have heard is only because of all what you have done on behalf of the ship's visit here to Vancouver.

I think a lot of credit also goes to the committee of pastors and leaders who represented the Logos II before the ship arrived in Vancouver, and their unity and the credibility that they brought together was a big plus factor in helping us to get the program widely distributed as well as to see things happen when the ship was here in Vancouver. And I think some of the highlights of the program for me personally was the two receptions when the ship was here. First at Canada Place, we had the opening reception there, and about a dozen diplomats came from different consulates.

They heard probably the gospel for the first time as to why such a ship like this is sailing today. And then, of course, the reception here in Westminster Quay where we had the fire chief, and then we had the chief

of police, and many other leading people in that reception. Again, once again, they heard why this ship is different, and so a witness has gone out to them.

I think when we were in Canada Place, the business luncheon where we had about 225 people there, that was a response I don't think even the organizers even expected. So I think that was, although the majority there were Christians, a sizable group were non-Christians, and I think that reception was really a good one and where many heard also about the Lord Jesus Christ. I just heard this morning a story that a lady who has been praying for one person for five years came for that business luncheon, and she heard the testimony of Ryan Walters who testified at that luncheon meeting, and this person gave his life to Christ at the end of that meeting.

And stories like that means a lot. Well, thank you very much again. I could be here a long time sharing with you.

Just want to thank the program department for their support and involvement in carrying out the program, and thank you for making such a memorable visit to Vancouver. Thank you. Today was a big response of the volunteers.

They brought their family members and friends along. So we had about 200 volunteers at the farewell party, but I actually don't want to start with the farewell. I want to start with the beginning.

And why did we have so many volunteers in this part? The reason was, I think you know that all, that we thought that in a book exhibition we can have only Canadians. So the lineup team who did an excellent job, I have to say, everything was really good organized, they really took 91 volunteers on. As it turned out, the book exhibition didn't need that many volunteers.

So Anja and me, we were really stressed, stressed daily to find some work and to really keep these people organized. But they were really great, great, great people. And about 30 made a response to the mission challenge and we will probably see some of them on the ship.

So that was really excellent as well. And in this part, it was also great to have so many good speakers and well-known speakers. And so we could have in our training sessions all the good speakers there who really did also an input in their lives.

So that was great too. Our main focus was on missions. So they had many, many missions talks.

Sadly, also we had to expel, and I think that's in every part like that, we had to expel one volunteer of the program. But if you think of 91, it's really great. I want to thank you all who helped us with the volunteers because you also make a big input in their life, especially Galleon Pantry this time.

They had really a major impact. People were quite overwhelmed there. So that's actually what I wanted to say.

And we had also a whole group of Bible students who were with us the whole week. They did evangelism as well. Chinese didn't say that, but they went with Chinese out as well.

And some of them did practical work. And that was also very good for us. Thank you very much.

Great, thanks, Irene. Okay, again, before we close, we want to hear from you. If you have any personal stories, we would love to hear from you.

Again, to make the ship visit possible, it wasn't just the lineup team that were in place. There was a committee, a very large committee. And yesterday we had a committee meeting, evaluation meeting, and Peter was emceeding that meeting.

And he's just going to come and just share a few highlights from that meeting yesterday. Although he was away for most of the port, he's still back with us. Your guest director, Peter Nichol.

It's great to have been there at the beginning and to be back at the end and to just see the results of the time. You know, one of the things that we experienced on the ship is we do not see the whole picture. The planning for Vancouver started at least three years ago.

And I remember visiting these berths in February, 95, looking at these berths, meeting some of the people who were on the committees to discuss what was going to happen when the ship came at that stage in 96. And then the ship's visit to this part of the world was delayed by a year. And to me, the most exciting thing in Vancouver was how many different churches, how many different organizations were willing to work together.

We had people on the committee from other Christian organizations willing to invest their time and energy in OM and in the visit of Lagos too. And I think that God will always bless where his people are willing to work together. And so that was a thrill.

We had a committee of over 40 different people, six different groups working on prayer, on program, on evangelism, on government relations, on publicity, and on finance. These guys raised, where were we, something like 83,000 Canadian dollars, and their budget is 94,000, and they are sticking their necks out to say they're still gonna raise that next 11,000 Canadian dollars in order to cover their share of the budget for the ship's visit. So these folk are not just saying, well, this is a nice little hobby.

They're saying, I'm willing to commit myself to this. The lady mentioned last night how many hours of prayer they've got people organized to pray, and I think it was in the thousands, hours of prayer for the sake of this visit. And so when we stand up and you share testimony and somebody comes to know the Lord, you think, you know, how did that happen? Well, there are stacks of people who've been praying for this to happen.

And so these people have been a crucial network preparing the way for us in coming. I think one of the exciting things was the guy who's been leading the committee in terms of program, Pastor Gary Lagerl, I think his name was, he expects his daughter to be on Logos 2 in the near future. So we look forward to that.

So here, one of the fruits of our visit that he had to share was say goodbye to his daughter for a while. So that was very exciting. And then you need to keep praying for them as they, number one, look to the Lord to be able to follow up all those who were counseled and the Evangelism Committee are taking responsibility for that.

As they seek to raise up the \$11,000, that is still outstanding in terms of their budget. And just to praise the Lord for the way that they are encouraged. One of the ladies in the committee just shared how encouraged her church was because the team came and worked and did evangelism together with them.

And as a small church, that was really a great encouragement for them. So we were able to minister to them. And then I think the other thing I'd ask you to pray for in terms of the committee is more for OM

Canada that the Lord would really give wisdom as to how they're going to follow up on the incredible open doors that this visit has given them into the Christian community.

OM Canada has had really limited exposure in this way, although they've had people in BC for a long time, they've not really got that many people on their mailing list, not really got into that many churches and really pray for a God-given strategy in following up on the ship visit. So we praise the Lord for these many people who have given so much of their time to be a part of the ship visit. Thank you.

Okay, I just wanna again, give the opportunity if you do have a testimony, we are running out of time, but if you do have a testimony, we'd like you just to come to the front and just to know, thank you, just come forward just so I know how many people we have. Try and keep it short, but we would like just to hear what you've seen God do in Vancouver. Well, this was a very exciting port for me.

It was the first time in 17 years with OM Ships to be in my own country with the ministry that I work with. So it was really a part of our home assignment here in Vancouver. And we just were overwhelmed.

Patty and I are both exhausted because every time we thought we had a minute free, we'd get paged again and there would be another relative or prayer partner there. And we all together, we had about 160 people in our cabin for coffee with us during the time. And people were beginning to comment that I had joined the tour department because most of the time I was to be seen showing people around the ship.

And even though it was exhausting, it was for us just a wonderful opportunity to show people what we've been doing, to show them our home and to show them the ministry that we're involved in. We're not from British Columbia. We're from the next province over the other side of the Rockies from Alberta.

But many people, family and prayer partners came over to visit us during this time. And of course, many of them made the trip just to see us and they would spend three or four days in Vancouver. That's wonderful.

But it was a tremendous pressure on us because we were the purpose for them coming there. But it all worked very well. Somehow the Lord coordinated the schedule because I don't think anyone went away disappointed and feeling that we hadn't spent enough time with them.

So we praise God for that. We had on Easter weekend, we had a busload of 37 people come over from our churches, from our three sending churches and it was just wonderful to share the ministry with them. They went away so encouraged, so blessed.

And of course, this means a tremendous blessing for us and prayer support and financial support in the years to come. Was just excellent. I'm really excited about the whole visit.

It was wonderful to work together with OM Canada. Was just a tremendous partnership. We could never have accomplished what we did without that tremendous working relationship that we had with them.

And the same was true in Los Angeles with OM USA. It's this kind of partnership that we have is just exciting. It doubles our effectiveness.

So we can praise the Lord for that. Thank you all for the friendliness that you showed to our guests. Many people commented on what a tremendously helpful and happy crew we had on board.

So you were also a blessing to me. Thank you and God bless. And let's pray Seattle is a little more restful.

At least for me, at least for me. This time it's Tina's turn. Okay, if the tape's still running, my name's Yian from Great Britain and Wales originally.

Thank you, Melanie and Andy and others. This port for me was the most exciting port I've ever been in as yet. My parents were here.

I had lifeboat training. And eight days ago, I met with a 13 year old girl outside the ship called Bailey. Most of you will have seen her in the dining room at various times.

She wouldn't look at anybody and she wore a nightcap and broken arm and fractured wrist on the other end and a busted leg. And she actually made a commitment to Christ eight days ago. She ran away from home.

And now five weeks ago, her mom's boyfriend broke her wrist and he abused her in a lot of different ways. She's been on every drug imaginable except for heroin, which started two years ago now. And it was a real privilege just to witness to her and spend time almost every night over the last eight days with her.

And there's been lots of people involved, Sam, Annetta, Celia, a whole bunch of people from the ship. And I think she was really touched just by people showing her love and concern for her life. And she realized that she was loved and important.

And it was just so amazing. And I wanna thank everybody who was involved just for the time or the smile that you gave her or the hug or whatever, because it really touched her life. And it was really hard to leave her back on the quayside today.

She cried all the way back from the ship yesterday. She booked herself into a safe house and she's booking herself into rehabilitation within the next month, which is really good. If you could please pray for her that she'd keep going on with Jesus.

And she still struggles. She gave me a razor blade the night she became a Christian. She was planning to commit suicide.

She gave me drugs the next night. And then again, two nights ago, she gave me drugs to dump over the side. She has nice friends that give her these drugs.

She doesn't pay for them, so it's not a problem. If you could just pray for her to keep strong and away from people that are gonna supply her with these drugs, but also that God would provide the right Christians to be with her and disciple her. Not just that she's a Christian, that she would become a great disciple.

And just really pray for her mom. Her mom's an alcoholic. Her mom's boyfriend abuses her and a lot of other kids as well.

And Bailey went home. Sorry, I got a big lump in my throat. Bailey went home three nights ago and her dad, her mom's boyfriend, sorry, beat her with a baseball bat.

And she has a big bruise from here down to here. Just really pray for this man, that God would touch him and change his life. And maybe use Bailey as an example.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/15/SID15447.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/vancouver-and-new-westminster-port-report/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net