

Steve Loader – March 2018

In the first week of January, Matt Coomes and Jean-Phi met with Steve on the docks. They were able to talk through what Steve's days were looking like and the real answer is that it really changes from one day to the next! We live in a highly connected world and we saw (so can you on the video) our very own mountain of scrap metal, all collected from the UK, ready to be loaded up and shipped around the world where it will be recycled. The scrap metal you can see was on that day loaded up on an Indian ship which will take its cargo to Turkey where it will be transformed, ready to be used again!

You can learn about the role of a Chaplain on the Bristol docks by watching the video. Pray for Steve as he is a rare point of contact for seafarers, who would typically work on a ship for around nine months before having a few weeks off, going back to their countries of origin, their families and friends. The gospel addresses injustice and Steve has seen situations where fairness in employment conditions was a real personal struggle for isolated seafarers, sometimes unpaid for months or even years.

Matt and Jean-Phi were also able to board a Filipino vessel with Steve when they visited. Steve had a few presents for the crew, could explain the reasons for the services he was providing, all in the name of Jesus. The Seafarers Society offers at cost good value telephone cards which allow crews to maintain contact with families. The crew had a very positive response to our boarding their ship (you can see the photos) and we were even invited for lunch before they set off to Antwerp, then Rotterdam, Oslo, Boston, Shanghai...

Pray for Steve's witness, the work of the Seafarers' Society and the welfare of crews.

Pray for individual seafarers who can be stranded, abused or unpaid by unscrupulous employers.

Pray for all people working on the Bristol docks, a mission point right next to us, with seafarers from all over the globe, local Bristolians, the port police force and security staff, welfare officers and chaplains like Steve.

Pray for seafarers, in jobs that imply months and years apart from families, spouses and communities, will not give up on social contacts and will meet Jesus in their odysseys.



