

Reaching every *Nation*One *Ship* at a time.



A Gaping Hole On Tuesday, March twenty sixth, at approximately 1:30 in the morning, the 983 foot long container ship "The Dali" lost power and collided with the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore causing the bridge to collapse killing six people. Two months ago, the ship sailed into our port for major repairs. We asked you to pray that God would open up a door for us to preach the gospel to the crew onboard. You prayed, and God answered and opened that door. As I approached the ship for the first time, I was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the damage. The gaping hole in the ship's starboard bow seemed to demand my constant gaze. But little did I know just how open that door would be.

An Open Door After the first week of daily ministry to the crew, I received an invitation from the Captain to come onboard the ship on Sunday for a specially prepared Indian dish. There was just one problem. I would have Haylee and two visiting friends with me and none of them were on the security access list. We went by faith. As we approached the main gate, all of the Longshoremen working to repair the ship were gathered around the entrance on lunch break. Then one of them, a tough looking woman in orange coveralls approached the van screaming at us. "What are you doing?!?!? You are not supposed to be here!" I informed her of our ministry and that we had a lunch appointment with the Captain. This did not seem to convince her and she told us to turn around and park outside the facility while she spoke with a supervisor. We prayed, and God worked. She came back out to us on a golf cart full of apology and that she thought we were the press coming back for another story. We jumped in the golf cart and she drove us RIGHT THROUGH the security gate! We were in! Praise God! No steps, no stories.

The Escape Room We were warmly greeted by the crew and they escorted us eleven floors up to the very top level called the bridge. The Chief Engineer gave us a grand tour of the bridge, offices, and living quarters. Then we ate some delicious Bilyani with the officers. Next, the engine crew took us thirty feet below the water line, through a long, dark tunnel, and into the massive engine room. The engine itself is three stories high and is repaired and maintained from the inside! After viewing the heart of the vessel, we came to the escape room. "What is this?" I asked. "This is the way of escape in case of a fire. It takes you straight up and out to safety." As I looked at the ladder leading up to the light above, I asked, "How many of these escape rooms are there?" To which they replied, "Only one. There is no other way of escape in case of a fire." Now overwhelmed, I began to use this moment as an opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to my new Indian friends who are steeped in idolatry and often cry to gods that cannot hear and do not answer. Hallelujah!

A Cry for Help The U.S.C.G. recognizes nearly three hundred and sixty commercial ports in the United States. To my knowledge, there are only FOUR gospel preaching port ministries! I am challenging you to ask God why you should not rise up and surrender to help!



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SENDING CHURCH

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