

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 7

Walking on Water

Amanda Solosy: Logos Hope

Welcome to the Eastern Caribbean!

On September 27th, we left Dominican Republic and headed for the Lesser Antilles, in the Eastern Caribbean. The Logos Hope, known here as the 'Bookship', is extremely popular, and well-known from OM Ships' previous visits. Our line up has been something like this:

Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis :	29 th September – 4 th October
St John's, Antigua & Barbuda :	4 th October – 17 th October
Castries, St Lucia :	18 th October – 30 th October
Vieux Fort, St Lucia :	30 th October – 6 th November
Bridgetown, Barbados :	7 th November – 19 th November
Kingstown, St Vincent & Grenadines :	20 th November – 5 th December
St George's Grenada :	5 th December – 15 th December



A piece of home

As the ship approached the beautiful island of **St Kitts**, we could see exactly why Christopher Columbus was so taken by the island. The tumbling green hills could have been the Scottish highlands, but the colours and friendly people could be nothing but West Indian. Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, I've seen plenty of the 19th Century British architecture standing proudly alongside the vibrant Caribbean homes, and it's clear to me why Bajans call **Barbados** 'Little England'.

While I was in St Kitts, I had the privilege to attend a local Anglican church. There's something very special about singing familiar church songs alongside brothers and sisters across the globe. There's something even more special when those brothers and sisters just happen to be the relatives of my own Pastor Glen from Romford Elim Church. What an unexpected blessing it was to meet them and share with them. I thank God for this opportunity and for Glen's gracious and faithful family.

Destruction and devastation...

Throughout our time in the Caribbean we have really experienced hurricane season. Our schedule took us to **Antigua** shortly after Hurricane Irma had left **Barbuda** 95% flattened. We were blessed with the opportunity to team with Samaritan's Purse; an organisation with skills and first response training but very little man-power. We are a team with 400 willing and able bodies but no training. God provided for us, for them and for Barbuda. We met with the evacuated families who were living in a shelter in Antigua. We invited them to theatrical events onboard in the hope that this could restore some normality to their lives. We also sent teams across to help clear the site and remove debris to stand alongside Barbuda in a practical way.

I had prepared myself to meet overwhelmed people, whose every worldly possession had been destroyed. This group of Barbudans taught me a lesson, however. I don't think I spoke to a single person who was dwelling on their loss. Each woman, man or child I spoke with was grateful for what they had, and ready to do whatever was needed to rebuild their home. My experience in **Antigua and Barbuda** left me wondering, how would my faith stand up in such circumstances?



To anchor or not to anchor...

An ongoing prayer request over the past few years, amongst the Marine Operations Department, has been for a permanent Captain. In my first 12 months, I count no less than 8 Captains. In September 2017 we welcomed Captain Sam and his family to join us longer term.

In **Grenada**, our last Port of Call in the Caribbean, Captain Sam drew our attention to an answer to prayer which had completely escaped my notice. Upon taking the reins in September, he was told that we would have to leave our berth up to 11 times over the next 7x ports and wait outside of the berth on anchor (to make way for more profitable cruise ships to berth). This causes many operational issues, but most of all stops us from ministering. Captain Sam pointed out that despite being warned of this high and expensive number of anchorages, we have indeed been forced to anchor just once. God is good indeed.

A new year...a new continent...

As we mark the end of 2017 and move into 2018, the Logos Hope has left the Caribbean behind also. It's been an incredible journey meeting people, experiencing cultures, but most of all meeting with and experiencing God together.

The final 2017 numbers are yet to be released, so I can only speak for my department. God used us to create **386 events** – conferences, dinners and theatre shows onboard this year. We ministered to **65,274 people** in these events. What a humbling thought.

As the Logos Hope moves into Latin America for the next 2 and a half years, Ship's Company will go through a dramatic transition in culture, language and purpose.

Please pray...

For God's protection and blessing over the ship during our time in Latin America.

That the believers we connect with throughout Colombia will be mobilised into missions through praying, giving or going to and for the least reached people of the world.

For myself as I approach the end of my time onboard that I would finish well and persevere through to the end.

Events Crew Update

As many of you may know, onboard I work as the Events Manager. My job is to oversee all ministry opportunities onshore as well as the events we hold onboard. I get to hear incredible stories of crew members coming back from ministry days and the things they have seen God do, but my absolute favourite part of my job is working alongside a team of talented and courageous Event Coordinators.

God has put me in a position to lead and guide this team. Sometimes I get it right; sometimes I get it wrong. Sometimes they make mistakes, and sometimes they create fantastic platforms for God to work. I want to thank God for these godly men and women, who work hard (often 14/16 hour days) to make special experiences for the public. I also want to thank you for your prayers. I have requested that many of you pray for the recruitment and training of this team. Thank you!



Where next?

Colombia:
Santa Marta
Barranquilla
Cartagena

