

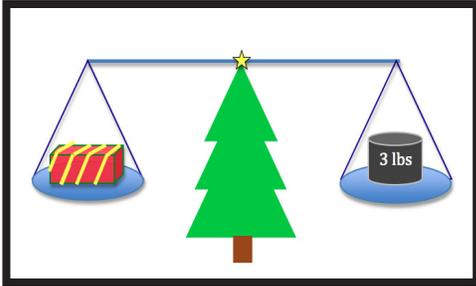
# Comfort and Joy: From Donors to Volunteers to Crews

--"I haven't spent Christmas at home for eight years. I try to get vacation then, but the company can't find a reliever for me."

--"Thank you for bringing us Christmas boxes. No one on our vessel had time to buy anything for Christmas."

--"I can't call home now [a few days after Christmas]. It's one A.M. in the Philippines. We have two little children, and my wife will be sound asleep. But I have two hours free to go online at your center and see my family's Christmas pictures on Facebook."

Christmas is the hardest time of year for seafarers. A thousand thanks to those who provide over 1500 Christmas gifts each year for us to distribute to crews docked in Baltimore.



Christmas is also the hardest time of year for BISC's hard-working volunteers! How to keep gifts moving from your car to our storeroom to our vans to vessel gangways—and keep enough energy for homesick seafarers who need us to be at our best?

TWO thousand thanks to those who keep their boxes under 3 ½ pounds, so we can carry bags of 5 gifts each. Please omit hardback books, buy shampoos etc. in small sizes only, and focus on the following:

>Paperback New Testament in easy English. (If your workplace won't permit Bibles, an uplifting calendar is encouraged.)

>A warm hat.

>And some of the following (you choose!): post cards of Baltimore or D.C., warm socks, warm gloves, playing cards, pen and pad, flash drive, small sealed toiletries (gender-neutral or men's), such as quality lip balm, hand cream, etc. No food, please.

Please wrap shoeboxes (not oversized) securely, with no bulky decorations. You can also line dollar-store boxes with red or green tissue (so contents will be a surprise); secure lids with tape. Ditty bags are a third option, if they can be closed tight.



The Rev. Tony Hollis, left, holds a box too large for easy storage and delivery. The Rev. Linda Hollis, right, holds five boxes which are "just right."

**Please call 410-685-1240 to make sure someone will be in the office to receive your generous deliveries.** And know that seafarers around the world will bless you!

