

SHIPMATE

Newsletter of the Christian Boaters Association

“...and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.” — Genesis 1:2b NASB

Rise of the Ichiban

By Ray Pittman, Fiji Islands

A few years ago a young couple from San Diego sailed into Wailoaloa Bay, Fiji on a 1972 Columbia 34' MKII named the “*Ichiban*”. The boat had green, yellow and red stripes and the phrase “Planet Earth” across the stern. Looking at the boat, you might think it was captained by the ghost of Bob Marley himself. They had been sailing for a couple of years, making their way across the Pacific to end up in Fiji. This adventurous couple had left California with \$400 in their pockets and thousands of miles later arrived in Fiji with a lifetime supply of amazing stories. The second-hand Universal Atomic 4 engine had given up the ghost and, unable to afford a replacement, they were ready to sell the *Ichiban* and head home to settle down together.

This series of events answered a prayer and finally put into reach a dream of mine. My dream for a sailboat ministry had been developing over the 15 years our family had been missionaries in Fiji (and even before that growing up as a missionary kid in West Papua). I had a vision for a yacht that we could take to the outer islands; both as a means to disciple college-aged students, and also to evangelize those islands and assist with community development.

We have been running study abroad programs and short-term teams in Fiji with an emphasis on missions training and development, but I longed to get out to the more difficult

poverty-stricken places, and we needed a boat for that. My wife and I had relatively little sailing experience even though we had lived in a remote part of Fiji that was boat access only, with no electricity and no running water. We had several years of running motorboats and lots of experience with the sea but had never owned a real sailboat before.

With some help from family and our savings, we bought the *Ichiban*! Our purchase of the boat led us into an adventure that we knew was going to be challenging, but we didn't know how challenging. Let me just say it's challenging to keep a car running in Fiji much less a sailboat.

Unfortunately I don't know much about engines and it took us almost a year to get the right engine shipped to Fiji. Then we went through 3 marine mechanics before it was finally installed. I'm still not positive it was installed correctly, but it's mostly working! There were numerous other problems with the boat: the electrical system, the gauges, the batteries, antifouling, paying import duty on the boat, a life boat, the dinghy, and just attending to all the wear and tear. Two years has gone by now, and I continue to plug along on the *Ichiban* to-do

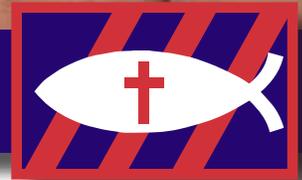
list, in spite of limited resources. We struggle with inexperienced tradesmen here in Fiji as well as the financial means to get it all up and going. But whenever we would run out of money, the Lord would send someone along to help us out. Whenever I couldn't figure out what to do, someone would eventually come along and help.

In the meantime, I was



(continued on page 6)

A Word From the President



Greetings Fellow Christian Boaters,

pray that you are well and experiencing the riches of God's Kingdom!

The Bible tells us Jude 3 that we need to "Contend earnestly for the Faith". Contend means: "To struggle in opposition, to contend with the enemy for control of the port." A port is a place where persons or merchandise are allowed to pass. So I think it would be accurate to say that the mind could be considered—spiritually—a personal port.

Our adversary, satan—the devil—continually bombards our minds with thoughts from the earth cursed system to keep us from focusing or meditating on God's Word and His promises. The enemy does not want us to truly know who our God is; or who we are in God. He continually fills our minds with doubt, fear, and unbelief, and all manner of fleshly emotions and attitudes.

Thus, Holy Spirit tells us in Jude 3 to "CONTEND for the Faith." If we truly desire to walk and live in all that God says He has for us in His Word, we have to know what His Word says. And then we have to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12) or as we read in the book of Jude, CONTEND—oppose the enemy—in such a way that he cannot gain control of our minds – our thought life and emotions.

God says that ALL of His promises are "Yes and Amen" (II Cor. 1:20). Everyone who has received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior knows that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." But not every believer understands or knows all that everlasting life includes. Jesus came to give us salvation from hell and a home in heaven, yes. But that's not all He came to give us! He came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly—to be able to cease from our own labors and enter into His rest.

(Jn. 10:10; Hebrews 4:10)

Over the past few years I have been increasing in faith concerning God's promises in His Word and the "Rest" that God has provided for all believers. At times I've been stretched because of having to CONTEND with some preconceived ideas and indoctrinated opinions that I've either been taught or thought were right.

I encourage you to seek the Lord with me—to CONTEND for the Faith by opposing enemy lies, doubts and unbelief. We could have wrong thoughts, and/or beliefs that have come through well meaning teachers and preachers. Or we might be clinging to our own personal interpretations derived from our opinions or circumstances. We need to know how to enter into God's rest and walk in ALL (not fall short or miss anything) that He has provided for His children.

"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:9-11)

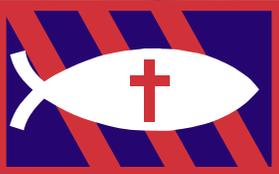
The Anchor Holds

John Sasser, President

E-mail: Sasserseaworks@comcast.net

912-659-1230





KNEE-MAIL

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

■ Please keep John and Annette Sasser in your prayers. They had a fire on Feb. 26th at the Marina next door to their Ministry & Seafood Dock. They are grateful to the Lord that no lives were lost and they avoided a major disaster.

John recently was diagnosed with pneumonia and was hospitalized. Before John was released from the hospital and was able to come home, Annette started feeling bad was diagnosed with a severe sinus infection AND bronchial pneumonia!!

John was then released from the hospital but due to still not feeling well had to see a doctor at Urgent Care. Both John and Annette were treated with shots, breathing treatments and then antibiotics.

Please lift them before the throne and ask that God surround them with His arms and give them complete healing.

Please also pray for all of our CBA members who have been battling health and other issues. Pray that God gives each person strength of heart and His wonderful peace.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

⚓ Captain Raymond Bideaux
Cross City, Florida

⚓ Phil Faris
Spokane, Washington

⚓ Howard Lewis
Snohomish, Washington

⚓ John Scudder, Jr.
Pavillion, Wyoming

⚓ Stanislav Sedler
Beer Sheva, Israel

⚓ Phil Vandermespel
New Zealand

BOAT NEEDED

Pastor Bill Kruse of Ft. Pierce, Florida is looking for a sailboat 27 feet or longer for ministry work. If you have any suggestions, please contact bill at 291-863-8255 or bto@hushmail.com.

2017 CBA Conference Registration Form

October 12 th - 15th, 2017
Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island, Georgia

CONFERENCE FEES:

Couple: \$450.08

Single: \$340.08

Includes all meals (Thursday dinner through breakfast Sunday)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:

AUGUST 31, 2016

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Drive Fly

I would like to share at the Conference.

Send Registration form and Check (Payable to CBA) to:

John O. Sasser

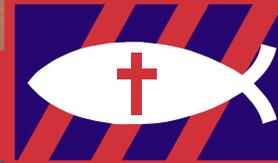
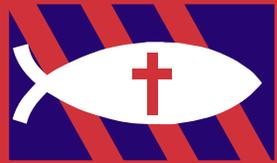
112 Marshview Rd.

Savannah, GA 31410

For further information call John or Annette Sasser (912-659-1230/912-659-1235).

Everyone is encouraged—especially the board and advisor—to start making plans to attend this yearly event.

Please try to register by August 1, 2017.



Divine Encounters

When we set our hearts toward Jesus we never know where we will meet him or in who.

Just how much do we trust Him, the words of Jesus tells us in the book of John that the Holy Spirit will guide us in all truth, it doesn't say some or part of the truth it says ALL Truth.

How do we measure that in human or worldly terms? How far will our Faith take us in understanding "All Truth"

Remember Jesus said, "I am the way, the TRUTH and the life, how do we compute that in our limited understanding of God?"

We are the product of tradition, understanding, teaching, divine encounters and the word of God. Everyone is different, thank God! Think about it, look at your own life what part does each of these categories play in your Christian walk and to be truthful each has some influence on us. If we blindly follow tradition we can be in trouble and that can be said for most anything for the Word of God says we are to test the spirit in these things, But do we?

Our understanding is directed by the will of God, you may disagree with that statement but if we believe that the Holy Spirit will guide us in All Truth then it is true. We only have one flaw in this—our free will! Because of tradition and teaching we can be influenced by falsehoods and half truths, again we need to test the spirit.

Now let's look at "Divine Encounter's", what do we mean? We are talking about a point in time where we come in contact with someone or something that God has predestined for us

to have a spiritual influence on us as willed by our Creator. This can come thru another person, events, encounters or objects, never put God in a box! He will kick the side out of it every time.

I have had two times where a license plate was a divine encounter, once on a truck and once one standing against a fence post beside the road. God can speak to us anyway he wants, period!

Yesterday we had one of those Divine Encounters, we went to a restaurant we have been to once before with our family and weren't too impressed. Sunday afternoon we walk into the same restaurant, just a few customers so we went into the back section next to the doors leading out to a patio. Two other couples were just leaving so we were the only customers in that section.

We started a conversation with the waitress which went on for about 30 minutes. As our food was coming out, an older lady was walking across the room. We spoke only to find out she was the owner of the restaurant. Our conversation continued as we found out the restaurant was God inspired. She came over and sat down as we shared many things that happened in each of our lives. We shared some tears as God spoke thru each of us. Our hostess had traveled the world with many of her treasures hanging on the walls of the restaurant and her poetry which she would recite to us, was divinely inspired.

God has a way of making a by-chance encounter a divine encounter. We only need to be open or we might miss a real blessing.

God Bless...

— Olie



Hey Captain



— *By Captain Keith Houseknecht*

Rule 5 states: **Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.**

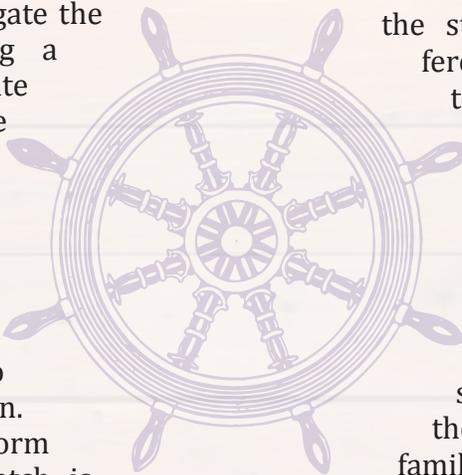
“At all times maintain” is a big deal. Even if you are in the middle of a thunder storm and you can’t hear anything but the howling wind and you can’t see but a few feet off the bow you still need to maintain a lookout. It is worth noting also that you can’t delegate the responsibility for maintaining a proper lookout. You can delegate the function but not the responsibility. So how does that look for Brenda and me in the middle of the night, when she is on watch and I am sleeping? We have the luxury of me being able to sleep in the cockpit and available to Brenda if she has a question. Maintaining your post in a storm and establishing a proper watch is usually not a big deal. The real problem seems to be when the weather is clear and the winds are fair.

How many times have you seen a boat go by with no sign of life? How many times have you been the stand on vessel but had to take evasive action to avoid a collision while a life form in the back is oblivious to your passage? 20 years ago Brenda and I charter a boat, captain and

chef in the BVI with another couple to celebrate our 25th anniversaries. In a crossing situation we were the stand on vessel. I asked the captain how much room to give the burdened sailboat whose captain was lounging in the stern. He said a boat width should do. I gave him a little more but when I yelled “STARBOARD!” I could see his eyes suddenly get as big as saucers.

Some husbands need to apply Rule 5 to their lives. When the storms of life come by they need to stand their post no matter what direction the storm is coming from or how ferocious it gets. Some of us need to keep in mind that as husbands we are held responsible for some family roles even when we delegate to our wives. How many families do you see cruising along with no sign of a dad in the picture, maybe too busy or maybe he abandoned ship. The one I worry about the most is the last situation. The family is cruising along everything seems fine, I know the rules, I know what I should be doing I am at my post but I am oblivious to a real and present danger.

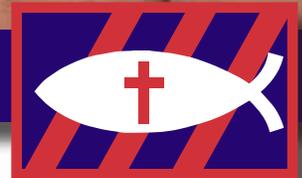
Husbands let us all take 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 to heart as we man our post. This is a great reminder of how He designed us and what He expects of us. “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love”.



Captain Dave's Boat Cruises For Special Kids

www.captaindavescruises.org

This 501 C3 non-profit organization gives free boat rides and fishing trips to needy, homeless and at risk children. Including those who are handicapped, seriously ill, have special needs or have lost one or both parents due to death, divorce, neglect, abandonment or military service. We also provide a free sailing school for children and are a wish granter for the make a wish foundation. This three minute video shows what we do: <https://youtu.be/vZ7C-EAzdF8>



(continued from page 1)

able to take some classes and get a basic bare-boat skippers certification, which I'm really thankful for. I look forward to the day when the *Ichiban* is in working condition and all my paperwork is in place to take her out and put her to good use.

There is still a fair bit of work to be done on the boat. I'll be repainting her this month and hopefully getting Fiji registration and then insurance. Just when we began to see the end in sight, we got word our main supporting church has called into question our logic as far as the need for a boat for our ministry and it looks like they may cease our missions support because of this. Despite this setback and further concern about how to keep it all going, we still feel called to the vision.

The vision, which is to take young people out to the far reaches of the Fiji islands (and who knows, maybe beyond one day) to be challenged and grow deeper in their faith, to be disciplined and to participate in the great commission by reaching out to the needy in tangible ways in the outer islands. I've been to the

outer islands and have seen that they are pretty cut off with infrequent visits from government boats and services. We believe that God gave us this vision and brought the *Ichiban* to us for such a time as this, and while the old song line comes to me, *"though none go with me, still I will follow, no turning back, no turning back"*, it doesn't make it any easier. We feel very alone in our vision now, with the church abandoning ship so to speak. But we have decided to press ahead because we don't believe God has brought us this far to let us down at this point. We believe the Lord will bring along like-minded people in his time. We will see this through, the mighty *Ichiban* will rise again, and lives will be changed for eternity and for the glory of God.

We're very thankful for a couple from CBA who shared this verse with us, Habakkuk 2:3 *"This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."*

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP

CBA has a new closed Facebook group, recently approved by the CBA board of directors at the 2016 annual meeting, and all members are invited to join! In a closed group, administrators must approve members and only group members can see posted content. (Non members can only see who is in the group but may not join in.) Given the fact that CBA members are scattered throughout the world, Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends--and make some new ones.

To join in the conversation type "CBA: The Group" into the search bar at the top of your Facebook page. When the page comes up, just click "JOIN NOW." An administrator will quickly approve you and you're all set. Here's the group's description:

"Welcome to the Christian Boaters' Association closed Facebook Group. Whether you own a boat or simply have an active interest in boats, this page should be both helpful and fun. It is a members-only group and no one will see our posts except other CBA members who have joined this group.

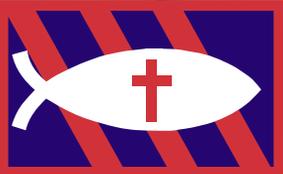
The primary goal of our group is to develop positive fellowship and to provide mutual support and encouragement among CBA members. Feel free to post ministry and outreach reports, both boating and otherwise; inspirational posts or links; ideas for starting boating ministries; prayer requests; requests for your ministry such as prayer, materials, supplies, and needed crew requests; and celebrations, too! Let's share our adventures, trips, photos, and help each other when we can.

This is NOT a platform for discussing politics, religious views or social issues, and it is not a place for advertising products or services.

Please remember that only CBA members are allowed to belong and share information here. Since some people are working in politically sensitive and potentially dangerous areas of the world, we do not want to compromise anyone by unknowingly sharing sensitive information. For this reason, please share ONLY information about yourself, your own family and your own ministry. If you have a need to share information regarding someone else, please FB message the administrator who will determine the appropriateness of the post.

Let's celebrate our life together! "...and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters."(NASB)" Looking forward to seeing you on our new closed Facebook group soon!

Susan and Alan Schroepfer (CBA advisors/ Facebook administrators)



Boat Delivery to Mazatlan, Mexico

About 16 months ago I contacted Charlotte and Zeus Ebio (agmaritimemissions.org) to welcome them as new west coast CBA members. This created a series of back and forth emails which lead to me, my wife Jessie and our 13-yr-old daughter Ellie to join them on a journey. So last month we met their family, daughter Chatallier and son Noah aboard their 70+ year old 155 ton 100 foot MV Amazing Grace. We expected an approximately two week delivery from the San Francisco delta area to Mazatlan, Mexico. On January 30 we joined the Ebio's and USCG 3000 ton Capt. Ed Payne, Capt Brian Priddin and Chief Engineer Gerry at their berth on Bethel Island near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The next day we moved the vessel to Richman on the east side SF bay for a Bon-voyage party with 30-40 supporters and well wishers. The following morning we motored MV AG under the Golden Gate Bridge and out into the Pacific for the first time in almost 20 years. We had the blessing of the Lord and beautiful fair weather most of the way south past Point Conception and on to Ensenada Mix to go through our Customs, Immigration, and Port Captain check in. We also picked up about 25 cases of motor oil as the "vintage" engines were going through almost as much oil as diesel fuel. We ran 4 hours on and 8 hours off watch schedule and the kids got a great lesson in Professional watch standing including logging and plotting hourly fixes and recording noteworthy sights, weather conditions and sea state. We saw many migrating whales and pods of dolphins.

After weathering some large following seas clocking better than 8 knots per hour speed over the ground, we made the turn at Cabo San Lucas and started our last leg across the bottom of the Sea of Cortez. But it was not to be, at least not for a couple of days as we ran into 6 foot seas at 5 seconds on our beam. After shaking the crew and furniture to the breaking point, Capt Brian prudently pointed out that our new average speed over the ground was down to 2 1/2 knots per hour and we calculated that we

didn't have the fuel to continue the pounding. The crew got a well deserved two day break back in Cabo San Lucas as we waited for a weather window with flat water to Mazatlán. We made the most of the favorable dollar to peso exchange and put a dent in the store of seared Aji at my now Favorite Restaurant in Cabo!! The final 20 hours or so to Mazatlán saw beautiful Green Sea turtles every few miles and a 20 min breaching waving Humpback whale show.

The welcome into our slip at Marina Mazatlán was Presidential. We had a film crew come out in a 20 panga boat together with an aerial drone overhead and approx 150 YWAM Mazatlán students, staff, and locals waiting at the dock and on shore. They are already underway doing the work converting the Amazing Grace into a Mobil dental surgery and completing other projects the Ebio's have been working on for the past 17 years. To get a more full flavor of the work they have been and will be doing go to their web site.

Our family has now returned to our boat in Newport Beach but we now have a very tangible taste of how we can one day sail our own boat down to join In the work reaching the poorest and most isolated people of Mexico's Sea of Cortez. YWAM Partnership is a program where Christian Boaters can come alongside the many YWAMSHIPS.ORG around the world and help carry the good news.

There are many videos and photos of the trip and crew and the ship on the Facebook page for YWAM Mazatlán.

Mike Fleming
Western states Director
Christian Boaters Association
USCG Master 100 tons
714-323-9447

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