



# SHIPMATE

Newsletter of the Christian Boaters Association

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

## BLUE WATER SURRENDER



**B**lue Water Surrender of the Florida Keys gives God our praise for a successful yard sale with the purpose of blessing youth. A big thank you goes out to our community for their support and to those who came out shopping for treasure.

The real treasure is that the proceeds provided Christmas Dinner for 50 at Casa Hogar Achiam a safe house for children in Guatemala. And also to Camp Rio Dulce to provide transportation for those who attended along the Rio Dulce water ways. Her many small tributaries go deep into the lush jungle of Guatemala, which hides many remote village tucked away among the beautiful land of rich dense green vegetation.

God calls us by air, land, and sea to go out into the world and be his hands and feet to help the poor and oppressed, and to share His gospel. Jesus loves the little children.

Blue Water Surrender joined and supported Titus International Ministry this past January, along with Camp Rio Dulce. The camp is composed of all the Rio Dulce Churches regardless of their denomination.

The camp is in a remote village called Creek Cuatro Cayos, located behind Cayo Largo in the Golfete. Three hundred children from the region came to this annual event, along with 50 adults made up of Pastors and leaders to supervise. The pastor wives prepared food.

Those who participated were transported daily by water from 17 different villages, and returned to their villages at night for safety since the camp does not have sleeping quarters. The children came and experienced the love of Jesus through activities-worship, games, Bible study, story telling from the Gospel, arts and crafts, and food!

This is what is happening on the water today! Blue Water Surrender has founded Casa Agua Azul as a safe home for children on the shore of Lake Izabal in Ensenda, Guatemala. Our mission started when the Gordon family set sail on a Voyage of Faith in 2007. Relations were established as we waited out hurricane season before heading to explore Central America and into the South Pacific.

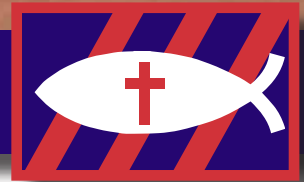
God has a plan, which he is faithful to fulfill. We encourage you to step out in faith and actively join in the dream God has placed within you from before the beginning of time.

Blue Water Surrender provides Adventure with Holy Spirit Mission Trips, by land, air, and sea!

Thank you for your prayer support, Gail Gordon



# A Word From the President



## CBA is Flourishing!

### We're so Glad You're a Piece of the Puzzle-a Part of The Plan.

God is so good. He is a good, good Father! It is my prayer that all of you are doing well, trusting the Lord, and pressing on, living joyously in His Kingdom. Annette and I are blessed!

Over the past few months in particular Holy Spirit has been revealing Himself to us in fresh new ways. We have an increased desire to know Him in a deeper, more intimate way than ever before. I've found through the years that I've walked with the Lord that I can never become too passionate for Him.

There were many people in the Bible who were passionate for God: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Ruth, Debra, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Elijah, Elisha, Dorcas, The Apostles, Paul, Silas and Timothy. All of these saints, as well as many others, too numerous to list, had passionate faith in God.

God is seeking passionate believers – those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. I've found that passion for Him increases as we spend more time in His presence. Spending time with the Lord increases our faith and trust in Him. Our hearts become more pliable – less stubborn, and tenderer. And like David, this enables us to become men and women who are known for having a heart after God.

David was not without sin, but he hated sin. He was quick to repent and return to the Lord with all of his heart. He chose to receive forgiveness, leave the past behind, and continue on following hard after God – seeking His presence.

We all know that satan tries to deter us, especially when he becomes afraid that we're about to receive an answer to prayer or complete or embark upon a God ordained mission. Perhaps he knows that an awaited harvest, that we sowed seeds for – maybe quite some time ago - is about to mature and come knocking on our door!

When the enemy sees us growing in faith and beginning to embrace God's truths and revelations with greater wisdom and understanding, he tries to bring discouragement, depression, hopelessness, murmuring and complaining. This is a continual effort he makes hoping to sabotage what God is leading us to do.

Negative thoughts from satan are only thoughts. Greater is He that is in us – God's Holy Spirit! God's presence can chase away the negative thoughts. The more time we spend with HIM, the more passionate we become for HIM. Passion for Him enables us to say with the Apostle Paul, "This I desire (my greatest passion) is that I may gain Christ and be found in Him..." Phil. 3:8-10

Anchored in the One Who died for me,  
John O Sasser, President

912-659-1230

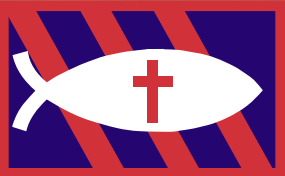
Sasserseaworks@comcast.net

May the God of Peace Fill You With All Joy and Peace, As You Trust in Him So That You May Overflow With Hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 15:13)

P.S. We would love to hear from you. The deadline for all articles and/or reports for the June Shipmate is May 6th. Please email them to the email address below.



E-mail: Sasserseaworks@comcast.net  
912-659-1230



## BLESSING OF THE FLEET

ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA

Report by Marlin Simon

On January 1, 2019, Marlin Simon, along with three other ministers, took part in this year's Blessing of the Fleet in Islamorada, Florida. "About one hundred boats were blessed this year," said Marlin.



The boats, which are made up of all kinds and sizes go out to the head of Whale Harbor Channel and then file in one at a time. "As they approach the bridge, they radio in the name of their vessel, the captain's name, and any special prayer requests they may have," said Marlin. "In turn, we bless each boat and their crew."



Although none of these pictures reveal the number of boats that participated in the Blessing of the fleet this year in Islamorada, Marlin shared that the line of boats went on for a couple of hours! "It was really special."



Marlin participates in blessing the boats every year not only as pastor of Spirit and Truth Ministries Church, but also as a Christian Boater's Association member. "I wear my CBA shirt and hat," said Marlin. "I would really like to encourage other CBA'ers to institute a Blessing of the Fleets in your areas at appropriate times during the year. It would be great to see as many pastors and CBA members as possible get involved with this wonderful ministry in each of your communities."





# HAITI / ISRAEL ADVENTURES



The short version on this particular adventure to Haiti began when I received a phone call from Ray Bideaux's wife, Kathy. The tone of her voice said, "My husband could use your help."

Ray was returning from an aborted attempt to make the long passage along the Cuban coast by way of the old Bahama channel. By the time Captain Terry, Elijah, and I arrived in Marathon as a substitute crew, at least most of his woes were under control.

There was a particular experience on the approach to the Ile-a-vache. We were heading north when large Squalls hit. The compass said NORTH, but the GPS said EAST. It was a tense moment there! After many serious debates as to why we were moving so slowly, we discovered upon arrival that the propeller had not been fully cleaned. I would like to meet with the diver... PAID IN FULL!

We delivered much needed supplies to Ile-a-vache-- Haiti, including generators, water makers, and real sails for their native boats. The sails were a lot better than the flour sacks they had been using! This was all sponsored by Islander Evangelical Missions.

Our return to the U.S. was another adventure. Haiti was in the aftermath of a long coup. (President Ouster). O Kaye is one of the largest cities in the country. But there is no electricity and no water in the whole city. We had to stay there to meet transportation out of the country. We missed the boat that was going to take us back to the States.

I recently returned from another trip to Haiti with Ray. Those of us involved in this mission feel that this is a "God-called" mission that we will continue to be involved with. For you who may not know, Ray Bideaux is a missionary evangelist, sailboat captain, and master diving instructor. He and his wife live in Les Cayes, Haiti. He is president of Ministeres Evangelique des Isles.



At this time I am installing new keelbolts in the "Sunshine Too". We made a great videotape at <https://youtu.be/RDGuSK7K9ZE>. Please watch it because I think the Haiti trip will be tacked onto it. I used the voyage to check out Elijah, a potential crew member for Israel. I believe he will do fine. At this time we have other possible crew members as well.

As far as our May/June departure- I met with Captain Brad Whipple briefly last night. It was a meeting orchestrated by God! Brad left for Puerto Rico this morning to help deliver a vessel. Please pray with us for God's timing on the Aliyah mission. The departure for trans-Atlantic must be May/June 2019 if we are going to make it this year. At this present time this is our goal. We covet your prayers and trust God for His timing. Captain Keith McFarlane

# FROM THE DESK OF MICHELE NICOLE

To all of our beloved CBA brothers and sisters,

I am starting the who's who of CBA's ministries and their history over all the years CBA has been in motion. It will look like a year book but much more extensive. I would greatly appreciate any information anyone can submit to be included in this massive project. We would like to include all the faithful servants who obeyed God's command and sailed off to co-labor with Him-to answer His call.

CBA was started in 1979. We are working on a new website and there will be a tab for the history of the organization and its past and present members.

Please send any information you can recall of all the CBA faithful servants that heard the call, and answered it:

## **Stories**

**The saints involved that assisted those out to sea or at ports, that made it possible**

**Boats and their history**

**Please pictures , pictures, pictures with captions**

**Any projects that were accomplished**

**Locations that the great commission was shared, etc.**

**Personal testimonies of God's miracles, souls saved, etc.**

I realize many of our founders of CBA are gone, but any information you can e-mail or send to me at my home address will be appreciated:

**Michele Nicol  
3478 Lantern Bay Drive  
Jupiter, Fl 33477  
mobile -561-371-6900 - fax 561-575-9536 - cbajupiter@gmail.com**

Please relay this message to anyone you know that can help with this project. We do not want to miss anyone!!!! I am praying for your dedication and support in this enormous endeavor. Blessings to all of you and may the Lord give you abundant peace and wellness, Michele

## **SHIPMATE VIA EMAIL**



If you would like to receive your copy of the Shipmate via email, please send your request to Annette Sasser at [sasserseaworks@comcast.net](mailto:sasserseaworks@comcast.net).

Also any address changes can be sent to this address.



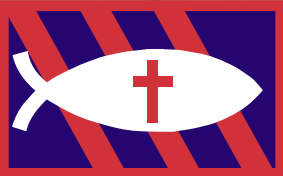
# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

God has protected us and our boat “Jubilee” in incredible ways. One such incident began one evening when Sue mentioned to Mike that she wanted to “REVIEW” some boat emergency procedures. Mike decided that the first and most important to immediately address would be “smoke or fire aboard”. We spent the next thirty minutes reviewing the emergency procedures we would take in situations dealing with smoke or fire detection.

The following morning our alarm went off as usual. We awoke and immediately smelled something burning - like an electrical fire. Sue was closest to the door and saw smoke in the main cabin. She called out, “We’ve got smoke and this is not a drill.” Because the emergency “REVIEW” was fresh in our minds, we calmly went through and accomplished what we could do aboard the boat in a situation that involved visible smoke, but no visible fire. With smoke increasing, we looked but saw no evidence of the exact source of the smoke. We then took care of the “take off-board” procedures. We notified our first neighbor (Efte - former Cyprus Olympic team sailor) who is normally aboard his boat every day from sunup to sundown. The dock manager (Stathis) was having coffee with him at that very moment!! They are both well-versed in handling these kinds of situations and ran to assist. As you can imagine, the dock manager’s worst nightmare is smoke/fire on one of the boats in the marina.

Within forty-five minutes the smoke had cleared enough to investigate. There was still no apparent sign of the source of the smoke. And we weren’t able to spend very much time in the cabin because of the lingering smoke. It was puzzling. But it was clear that the emergency was over. We waited for the smoke to clear and for the marine electrician to arrive. A few minutes later, however, a couple of friends here, father and son (Dino and Adonis), who have done a project or two for us, stopped by to see if we were okay (small marina in a small village - word travels fast). Adonis was able to crawl into a space that we hadn’t completely investigated (Oh, to be 30 again!!). He found the culprit! One of the lithium batteries for our electric bikes had cooked off!

Our Father God is AWESOME! We had JUST gone over the safety procedures, so we were prepared. Our minds were fresh in knowing what to do. Second, the alarm clock woke us before the smell of smoke did, which provided us additional time to get out before the smoke got too bad. We had smoke detectors and checked them regularly - fresh batteries. We were puzzled as to why they didn’t they go off. Perhaps it was because they were old — new ones forthcoming! Third, it was during normal work hours so marina staff was able to immediately assist. Fourth, it was a sunny, calm day so we could throw open every port light, hatch, window, and door. Fifth, we were able to immediately reach the marine electrician who was on his way (not a small feat in Cyprus). It turned out we were able to stop him before he made the trip here because we found the actual source of the smoke. Sixth, there was not a boat problem! Seventh - and this one is really big - while there was a very minor amount of damage to Jubilee, there was no good (natural) reason why the situation stopped before we found the problem, There were 2 batteries side by side yet the second one didn’t explode or cause a large conflagration. It didn’t spread to nearby combustible materials, etc. When the locals came by to help, they saw the melted and charred battery, adjacent toolbox, and floorboard under the battery. They couldn’t imagine how it didn’t spread. We were able to give them an extremely plausible explanation — and at least one of them agreed - “MIRACLE”. Our Great Father God covers us and protects us in so many ways - even when we don’t see it! Love and blessings, Mike & Sue Wernette



# CBA MEMBER REPORTS

## A MESSAGE FROM FIJI...

Hi John, Annette, and Fellow CBA Members,

Thank you for being a driving force behind CBA. We pray that ALL of you will continue to keep the boats sailing into all waters of the world.

The harvest is always plentiful. We need all hands on deck as we sail through all kinds of weather. There are some boat ministries that are active in the Region of the South Pacific. The beauty of CBA is that individuals have dreams and aspirations and are busy doing what God has called them to do in the various fields around the globe.

My wife and I are involved in many outreaches in the region through various denominational ministries. I always mention the good work you guys are doing in your part of the world and outside the USA.

We would like to come during this year's CBA Conference and continue being part of you guys. We will contact you later for the letter of Invitation you have extended to us as we prepare for our Visa Requirement. We still remember your Worship Team in one previous Conference. May God continue to bless you all.  
Jone M Kata, Fiji - South Pacific.

## A WORD FROM OLLIE TEETER

Blessings to Everyone! We have all had our trials and tribulations over the past year. But we have also all been blessed. Bonnie had open-heart surgery (valve replaced) on December 4, 2018. She is now on her way to recovery. The medical staff couldn't get over how fast she progressed. The doctor who did her surgery (Dr. Nelson) said it was his 4,378th surgery, and that Bonnie's surgery was one of the best.

I also have had some physical challenges like many of you. We continue to pray for all. It seems as we get older so many things change. I never thought we'd be taking care of our parents as well as other family members. We have not been able to go off anywhere for about seven years. At present we are still taking care of a great aunt.

Our association with CBA over the past twenty plus years has been a blessing. We've gained many friendships all over the country. We consider you part of our family! Due to our situation, I felt it best at this time, in the interest of CBA, for me to step down from the board and become an advisor to the board. We've desired to attend the conferences but have been unable to do so in the past few years. Hopefully in the future we can.

I have been writing a book over the past year about my Christian walk and some of the issues I see in the Church as a whole. It is a challenge. But I hope to finish it sometime this year. Our prayers go out to all of you for direction, provision, and healing. God bless, Ollie

### **SUPPORT YOUR CBA**

Please send all contributions to:  
John O Sasser/112 Marshview Rd. Savannah, Ga 31410

### **PRAY AND MAKE PLANS - CBA 2019 CONFERENCE**

Thursday evening (Dinner) Nov. 14th- (Breakfast) Nov. 17th  
Epworth-By-The-Sea, St. Simons, Georgia...  
(More details in Next Shipmate)

## CBA Officers

**President:** John Sasser (2020)

**Vice President:** D. Annette Sasser (2020)

**Secr/Tres:** Michele Nicol (2019)

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Keith Houseknecht (2019)

Glen Haines (2021))

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