

# SHIPMATE

Newsletter of the Christian Boaters Association

## Conference Information

### NEW CONFERENCE DATE

As of DECEMBER 2020

2021 CONFERENCE

JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> – JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>

ONCE AGAIN, we have had to reschedule our upcoming CBA Conference due to delays from unforeseen difficulties, (including covid) with the companies responsible for the disassembly of the ship that sank off the coast of St. Simon, Georgia. (SEE BELOW excerpt from letter of explanation published In Last Shipmate.)

Dear John & Annette,

Unfortunately, we will not be able to host your group in October as scheduled. The Covid-19 situation has been devastating to hospitality industries and specifically Epworth By The Sea. We have surpassed 4 million in losses for 2020. Epworth was approached by the companies responsible for the disassembly of the Golden Ray ship that sunk in the sound over a year ago to work out an agreement to host the crews for the remainder of the year. In order to secure Epworth's future to be operational in 2021, a tough decision was made to make the agreement... (Tiffany Flavell, Conference Coordinator, Epworth by the Sea).

WE rescheduled the conference to February and then to May... AT PRESENT the expected time of the completion of the ship's dismantling is June 1st. We have again rescheduled for

**June 10th (Thursday dinner) Thru' June 13th (Sunday Breakfast)**



**PLEASE HELP US:** If You "PLAN" To Attend the 2021 CBA Conference, Even before you pay registration Fees, TEXT OR EMAIL your name and address to: Annette (912-659-1235/ Sasserseaworks@comcast.net. So that we will have an idea of how many **PLAN** to attend.

Rates include lodging for 3 nights, all meals and Meeting room:

Single - (1 person) \$400.79

Couple - (2 persons) \$515.00

Early Night Arrival - \$120.69 (ROOM ONLY)

PLEASE REGISTER BY April 1, 2021

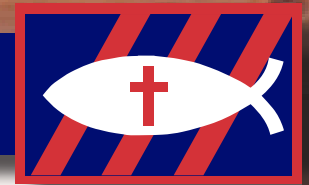
Send Registration to John & Annette Sasser... 112 Marshview Rd., Savannah, Ga., 31410

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Driving \_\_\_\_\_ Flying \_\_\_\_\_ (Flight Info) \_\_\_\_\_

I'd Like To Share At The Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Day and Time \_\_\_\_\_



## THIS IS OUR HOPE

January 2021



Greetings in the Name of Jesus,

I pray that you and your household are well - prospering spirit, soul, and body.

We are doing good, despite a little battle with my back, which has been affecting my walking. Our expectation is great! We believe and expect to see the manifestation of my healing soon, according to God's Word, which is truth and life! (Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24) Please agree with us in prayer.

It has been an unusual year. I've heard many say, "It's just the signs of the time." I agree. We do see Bible prophecies coming to pass. But I also believe that there is a Spiritual "Storm" (a great awakening/revival) already beginning! It is time for the Church, believers, all who are redeemed by the Blood of Jesus/Yahshua, to RISE AND SHINE!

Isaiah 60 tells us that when darkness (spiritually) has covered the earth, and deep darkness (spiritually) the peoples, we are to RISE and SHINE for our light (Jesus in us) has come. And the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us. We are ambassadors of the God of heaven and earth. Our God is God! He is the Great I AM - YHWH (Yod Hey Vav Hey). All things are possible in and through Him.

Jesus says in John 8:12 that HE is the Light of the World. But in Matthew 5:10-16, He says that WE are the light of the world, because HE, Who is greater than he that is in the world, lives within us. Jesus instructs us that just as a city set on a hill can be seen, and a candle out in the open gives light; so we, in the same manner should let our lights shine before men so that they may see our good works and GLORIFY our Father in heaven. (I Jn. 4:4)

**The "good works" that glorify our Father in heaven are the same works that Jesus did when He was on the earth.**

As children (and even as adults) most of us have sung, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine." But I wonder how many of us fully understand what it means to truly "SHINE". One dictionary meaning of this word is to "have a bright glowing appearance." The Hebrew meaning in Isaiah 60:1 means "break of day, glorious, give or show light," and "set on fire."

If there's ever been a time to SHINE, it is now. This doesn't just mean to do good, behave well, and "talk about truth". It means to RISE AND SHINE Like The Break Of Day. It Means To Show

Forth Light, To Be SET ON FIRE doing HIS business, LIVING in HIS Promises that are ours as citizens of His Kingdom. It means making a dramatic difference in the earth by believing that GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, and WE ARE WHO HE SAYS WE ARE.

Jesus says in Matthew 28:18, "ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and earth has been given me. Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations. For Christ is the head of the Church (of the believer). And He has raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in Heavenly places. He says that by faith we can move mountains out of the way. That we have the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the power of the enemy.

Despite how things may "APPEAR" to be, I encourage you to believe the report of the Lord. Psalm one says **"blessed is the man(woman) who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stand in the WAY of the sinner, nor sit in the seat of scorners, but His/Her delight is in the law of the Lord."** If we fully comprehend the AUTHORITY we have in the Name of Christ Jesus (Yahshua Hamashiach) we are able to change things through HIS Word.

We listen to ungodly counsel when we watch and listen to news media that speaks lies and propaganda. We are to delight in the Law of the Lord! God is speaking through His Word, through His people/ministers/prophets, not through the counsel (opinions and words) of the ungodly. Let him who has ears to hear... HEAR. Let him who has eyes to see... SEE. We can and must take a stand and Shine forth with the Authority GOD HAS GIVEN US... Faith moves mountains! (Lk. 9:1; Eph. 2:6; Heb. 1:3; Matt, 10:8; Pr. 18:21; I Jn. 4:4; Mark 16:17).

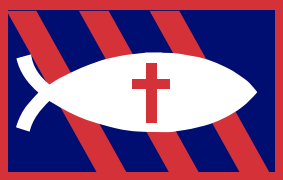
As 2020 comes to a close, and we walk into the new year of 2021, I pray that each of us will seek the Kingdom of God first by seeking to walk in ALL His glorious ways. I pray God's richest blessings upon you and your household. "May the Lord bless you and keep. May the Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and grant to you His Shalom.... His peace that passes all understanding!

Love and Blessings to All,

John O Sasser, CBA President







## FIJI REPORT

Thank you so much for praying for Fiji! We have survived Cyclone Yasa. There were winds of 240km/h - with gusts as high as 345km/h. It went further north of us than expected. We live just above the letter "R" so we weren't hit by the center. We are safe!! Yet, the scale of devastation across Fiji is not yet fully known. Power is on and off but there is minimal damage in our area, all things considered. Our house is standing, we are safe, and we are so thankful. We truly appreciate your prayers.

While we are glad the cyclone veered north of us, we are still waiting to hear back on the damage from the northern islands (we were in the worst hit area during our travels just last week). We are also waiting to hear back from Uncle Tomasi and other friends that live in the north of the main island (this is the area that was hit the worst in Cyclone Winston, when they lost their home along with many others). We know there is severe flooding in their area. Please pray for all of those who lost their homes or were flooded out.



There is widespread damage and flooding throughout Fiji, and so far one confirmed dead in Labasa. According to the news update regarding Labasa this morning, "Some people had to flee as their houses disintegrated in the wind. Video shows sheets of torrential rain pelting the ground, and roofs being lifted by the sheer force of the gale. People have had their houses flattened; have escaped with the clothes on their back and are sheltering under beds, and under houses as they await help... help that most probably will come when the winds die down." A state of disaster has been declared and there is a national curfew.

## GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

As Ray was taking the boards off our windows this morning, he looked out across our 17 acre farm and saw this rainbow sitting right on the edge of it. It is such a personal and amazing reminder of God's faithfulness to us through this storm as well as through the years. The last time we faced a category five we lost all crops and the coconut trees looked like sticks with no palm fronds left on them. This time, the crops will be fine (at least in our area).

May some of our favorite verses from Psalm 91 encourage you, as they have us:

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in Whom I Trust. If you say, 'The Lord is my refuge, and you make the Most High Your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent'. For he will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways"....

## EDEN'S TRAVELS

We are still waiting on news regarding Eden's flight on January 22nd. We assume that it will go as planned since the airport was not badly damaged as far as we know. Please pray for the hospital to open for covid testing in time for her to meet requirements for her travel (especially through her transit and layover in Jakarta). Also pray for her adjustment to living in the dorm at Hillcrest School in Sentani, West Papua. She will be in a two week quarantine over Christmas and into the new year. Please pray that time goes smoothly for her as she begins school January 11, 2021. This will be the first time she has attended "real" school since she was five.

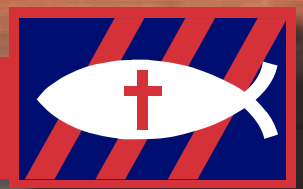
## CLOSING REMARKS

As we close this update, let us take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Christmas lit up by eternity, full of the hope and glory that far outweighs suffering, pain, and storms of life. We all have so much to be thankful for as we consider Christ's birth and the hope of eternity that He brings to all of us no matter where we live in this world.

We always say that we work on the "other side of the postcard" here in Fiji, and it's true that most of Fiji doesn't look like the photo above! This year we were blessed to take a boat out to the Outer Islands of Fiji and enjoy that typical "Fiji postcard" scenery to take our Christmas photo. May you have a blessed New Year

Because of Him,  
May, Laura, Eden, Elani, and Isla Pittman





Dear Christian Boaters,

The fellowship of boating believers is an awesome one, and our relationship with one another is ongoing. We must encourage one another each day, as we see the time approaching.

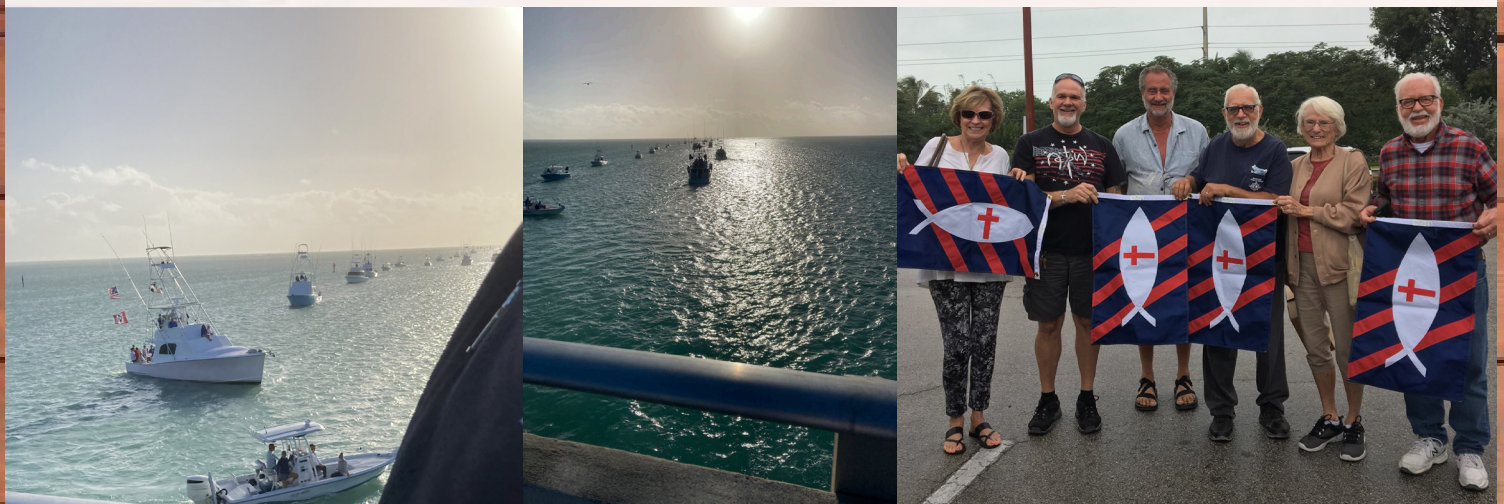
The ministry, on and off the waters of the earth, continues here in the Florida Keys. There always seems to be activity and avenues to proclaim God's goodness. In recent weeks we saw Ted and Gail Gordon sail their catamaran off to minister to the people of Guatemala. They actually left the keys as the most recent hurricane was about to make landfall with winds of cat 5 strength. They arrived in Guatemala five days later. The thirty inches of rain that had fallen upon their area had just finished. The rivers were very high, and much destruction had occurred. They went right to work, sharing the love of the Lord, ministering to their Children's Home, and to many in the countryside around them. Their pictures of the dug-out canoes, filled with bags of food, medical supplies, and such, was a blessing to hundreds of people. We are blessed to have them flying the CBA flag.

I also had a call from Ray Bideaux, from Marco Island, who needed a mainsail for one of the three boats going to Haiti. I gave him all the sails I had, which included 11 Optimist Pram sails. John and Annette Sasser sent down 4 large CBA flags for the boats to fly. They were taken to Marathon by Terry and Earlene Hatt, and Mike Ryden. The boats left for Haiti December 14th where they will engage in ministry on the waters where there is great need.

Here in the keys we look forward to the Blessing of the Fleet, where about 100 boats come every year to receive God's blessing for the new year. On January first, the local pastors gather on Whale Harbor bridge, carry up a ship to shore radio, and bless every boat as they come down the channel to the bridge. The boats call the bridge, give their name, and any special needs to be prayed for. The pastors bless each boat. It is a beautiful time to share God's love and blessings on the boats and waters where we live. I highly recommend that other communities begin such a tradition of their own.

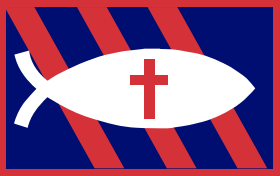
Meanwhile, we pray God's blessings on one and all, from the frozen north to the warm waters of the earth. May you have a wonderful Christmas season and a fantastic new year.

Marlin Simon,



Blessing of the Fleet: January 1st 2021  
Islamorada, Florida





# CBA Correspondance

December 14, 2020

We are making our annual voyage back to Ile a Vache. We have four sailing vessels

Each loaded with aid for the people of Haiti. We are carrying in two complete solar systems, generators, Bibles in Fr. Creole, school supplies, help for the feeding program.

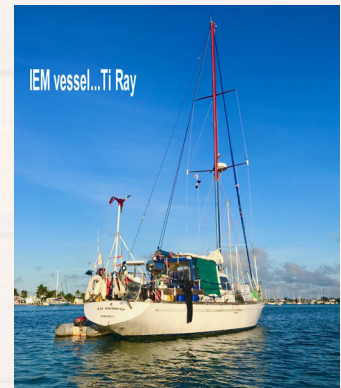
With the help of our friend and Associate CBA Member, Captain Keith McFarland, along with Jacob Budow, who are sailing the Ti Ray, which is much needed for our shuttle boat back and forth from the mainland.

Onboard our flag vessel, La victoria, Associate Captain Jeremy Lawson and son Austin are crewing with us. This will make Jeremy's fourth voyage with us .

Long-time friend Larry Hurley, along with crew member Matthew Graulich, are sailing the Sand Blast.

Our friend and full-blooded Cajun, Keith Sisson, along with crew member, Emaniste are sailing the Lost Explorer loaded with aid . Emaniste is from Ile a Vache and has crewed with us in the past.

We have three churches/Community Centers at Ile a Vache, and the feeding program: Manje se Lavi. At Ile a Vache all the crews will be helping with the feeding programs, water projects, solar project, and the Jesus film. Keith Sisson will be also working with the local water Taxi captains on a safely project.



## SHIPMATE INFO



[www.christiansboatersassociation.com](http://www.christiansboatersassociation.com)

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.

Please submit Shipmate articles as an attachment in Word or PDF format. Pictures should be attached separately as jpeg files in the same email. Thank you.



# CBA Correspondance

To all our CBA family with the everlasting love of Yeshua,

It has been a great privilege to serve among those who have spent their lives giving hope and love by showing kindness to those in need. Whether it's humanitarian work, evangelizing, or just praying for the ones on the front lines who are fighting the spiritual war against the enemy – the one who tries to rob the true and precious gift of our Savior, our everlasting salvation - we thank you, we thank God for you.

Bill and I had a special conference planned last spring for those in Aliyah ministries who are doing God's will for the end times by preparing the return of God's chosen people to their homeland in preparation for the return of the Messiah. But covid caused the shut-down of the hotels and foreign travel. Since many of our scheduled speakers were from abroad, the conference was put on hold until we can freely resume activities. Watch for the updates as we all walk through these tumultuous times.



I want to thank our present president, John Sasser, who has continued to serve as a guiding light for all who know him, even as he struggled through personal health issues. He is a man who never speaks of his challenges but stays in a place of relying upon the Holy Spirit for physical and emotional healing. John, you are an inspiration to ALL that serve under you as we watch you stand firm on the rock of our foundation, Yeshua. We pray for you as you continue to persevere to do the Lord's will and rely on His wisdom. I think I can speak for all of us when we say, we love you and will continue to stand with you to accomplish all that God has for CBA.

I want to thank Annette, our vice chair, who has been the glue to keeping things moving for CBA by standing by her man during the challenging times, creating our newsletters, coordinating events, and helping him with calls and e-mails to the board, etc. But most of all I want to thank you, Annette, for your friendship and hospitality; your sisterhood in Christ, and the love you have both poured out to us as you've supported our ministry by traveling to Jupiter for our events. We are looking forward to our next get-together. Much love to you, sister!

Of course, we must never forget the many years of service rendered by our President, Emeritus, Marlin Simon. His leadership was "our constant" through all those years. I have always said that Marlin is like the human GOOGLE as he puts together people, events, and any happening that the Lord's hand is in. That little church in the Keys with the three simple crosses that mirror the cross that Jesus hung on says it all; simplicity, humbleness, divine leadership, loving discipleship, and a spiritual father to all of us. We have always told others, due to his laboring hands and constant prayer, his church gives out more humanitarian aid than most of the big churches we know. And of course, you always know a good man by the loving wife behind him. Marion, we thank you for always being there to run the ministries in your church and for giving so much of yourself to CBA by participating, hosting guests, and just loving on all who know you.

To all of our present and past board members that are too many to mention and address, I speak for the entire board, when I say we could not have kept CBA thriving without you!!

Since this term of office has started, we have implemented many new things. We started a new functional website. Donations can be given online and we have a section on our website to honor all the ministries that have served CBA throughout the years. We wanted to honor our seniors that spent their lives serving the Lord by bringing the gospel across the world, through grey skies, rough seas, broken ship parts, and spiritual warfare. We are thankful that they were willing to obey even if it meant giving up the (permanently or temporarily) luxury and comforts afforded most Americans.

Thank you to all who have participated in sending us material, pictures, etc. If you have not seen your "stuff" online yet, know that we are still processing all the material. Please continue to send us all you can as there is no limit to our content.

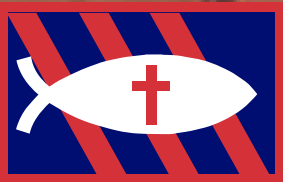
We want to send all of you a special blessing for this holiday season. And we pray God's hedge of protection around you and your families for continued health, safety, and all He has for you, during this upcoming New Year.

Remember to continue to pray for our country. Remember God has this!!!!

Rest in His perfect peace and Love!!

Michele Nicol, CBA Secretary/Treasurer (Bill Nicol, CBA Officer/board member)





## Greeting friends,

2020 will surely be a year to remember. Personally, I have found much to be thankful for in all this craziness. I think the true colors of some people are finally coming out. Even though I don't particularly like the colors, at least the truth is showing up more clearly.

2020 has caused many people to slow down and think about what is really important. Perhaps it has even given them a chance to contemplate what God is doing in their lives. Like the RV dealer I talked to in Michigan. We had much in common. A stroke in the last year or so, and love of faith, family, and friends. We never did talk about RVs, But we did call and text a bit after my visit. On a phone call I asked about what he thought was required to go to heaven. His emphasis on works allowed me to talk about God's grace. Now I know why we never got around to talking about RVs.

2020 has messed up so many routines. Like being able to wait in a hospital waiting room. When I was told, "You can either go to your car or stay outside", I wasn't too surprised. So I sat on a bench outside. It wasn't long before a sharp young lady sat down on the bench next to me. We chatted on a wide range of subjects. Then I noticed that she had the word Faith tattooed on her arm. I asked her what she had faith in. She gave a questioning look and said, "No one ever asked me that before." Then she said, "You are a man of faith, what is your faith in?" I was delighted to answer her question. A few minutes later I asked her if she would like to receive Christ as her personal Savior - to which she replied an enthusiastic, "YES!" I Really love 2020... Keith Houseknecht, CBA Advisor

## Greetings from David Chin

In this year's test of resilience and steadfastness, who would ever think that toilet paper would be a more precious commodity than gold? Ahh, but our Hope in the Lord and life everlasting is even more valuable, as exemplified by so much despondence this year mainly due to the pandemic, and the real "cure". While blessed, that many of our friends and family remained healthy, void of the Covid Virus; it has been common to find many afflicted with the COVID "Funk". It is my prayer that in our efforts to shore up and share with those we meet, the love of Christ and all the concern and care we can muster, even when perhaps a bit poured out and desperate ourselves, that we are fulfilled and refreshed daily with His provisions for us, "Keeping us, in our going out, and coming in, now and forever more"... Love and Peace to all, this Christmas Season!

*David Chin, Commodore, Virginia Maritime Ministries, & First Mate, Terry Chin* David R. Chin, CBA Advisor  
W(757) 258-1689 Direct H (631) 495-8654 Cell

## Greetings From Mike Fleming

In this time of the world where so many people are separated into two opposing camps based on their own biased point of view, many times the same facts with certain crucial points left out of the narrative, is so like the biblical creation Darwinian evolution debate... both camps arguing over the same facts based on what their faith tells them about how we got here. We do well to remember who it is we have faith in. Those who oppose us will only come to know the truth if they can meet the One who helped us become set free by knowing the truth. Our contribution to this situation is how well we reflect Christ's grace. and how they might see Christ in us. And if we are the ones who need to know the truth, let us turn to the Holy Spirit and listen and pray.

*Mike Fleming USCG Master 100 tons,,3419 Via Lido #295*  
*Newport Beach, Ca. 92663...714-323-9447*

## **CBA Officers**

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

**Secr/Tres:** Michele Nicol (2022)

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Glen Haines (2021)

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**Christian Boaters Association** Founded by  
Jeff Rooks in 1988

**SHIPMATE** (ISSN 1044-095X)

is a quarterly Publication of Christian Boaters  
Association. Postage paid at Savannah, GA.

### **Christian Boaters Association**

www.christianboatersassociation.com



*Address Service Requested*

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Savannah, GA 31410

