



A VISIT OF THE DREDGING PASTOR

For more than 60 years, the “dredging pastor” has been visiting ships and dredging projects at home and abroad, in order to pay attention to the humans that do the hard work. Over the years, the position has evolved from a Church orientation to that of a general conversation partner or chaplain. We serve the personnel of companies engaged in dredging and marine construction, but also other activities such as offshore wind.

The dredging/offshore pastor is employed by the SPWO Foundation – Pastoral Care for Workers in Dredging and Marine Construction. The chaplain is not on the payroll of any of the companies, so his position is independent. Since December 2012, Pastor Stefan Francke has served in the post. Older employees might remember one of his predecessors, such as Toon van de Sande and Henry Bouwman.

WHY DOES THE DREDGING/OFFSHORE PASTOR VISIT YOU?

The dredging pastor wants to keep in touch with what is happening in the fleet and on projects. This is best done by personal visit. His position is that of an independent counsellor.

During normal visits, we lay a foundation of trust in case a traumatic incident should occur on a project or on board. The past has proven that a visit from the dredging pastor will have a positive impact in such a stressful situation.

"WHY ARE YOU HERE?"

Even though the dredging/offshore pastor is not unknown, it is still a frequently asked question: Why are you here? The answer is very simple: to listen and to talk to you. The dredging pastor will talk about anything and everything: work, football, life in general, personal matters. For those who want, he can organize a spiritual moment. For example, a “prayer meeting” is often organized with the Filipino crew members on board.

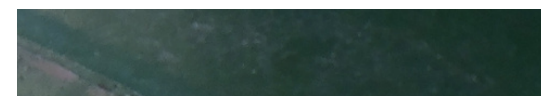
The conversations with the pastor are confidential. He does give a general report to the companies about his encounters during his travels, but not the names of the people he speaks with or the details of the conversations.



More than just sand



Pastoral Care for Workers in Dredging and Marine Construction



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

The dredging/offshore pastor likes to use the moments of hospitality on board or on a project for talking to as many people as possible. Sometimes he stays overnight, depending on the size of the ship or project and their possibilities.

If several units can be visited, he plans in advance how many days the visit will take. Upon arrival, a more detailed planning follows and other practical matters are arranged.

Regarding PPE: in the Netherlands, the chaplain brings his own equipment (except for a life jacket). He usually only takes his safety shoes with him abroad.

VISIT AFTER AN INCIDENT

Sometimes, in the event of a traumatic incident or calamity on board or on a project, the presence of the dredging/offshore pastor is requested. This does not mean that the ship or project management does not provide mental support itself, but it is intended to supplement mutual support after an incident. The pastor offers an extra and independent listening ear. He also has time to listen when the ship or project management has to prioritize other matters as well. Sometimes we agree to organize joint meetings to handle mentally and spiritually any trauma that has occurred.

Pastor Stefan is certified for "psychological first aid".

The SPWO can call on two substitute chaplains if Stefan is not available. In addition, the SPWO has contact with a partner in the Philippines. Colleagues worldwide can also be contacted via the network of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA).



Further Information

The trustees of the SPWO consist of representatives of various Dutch dredging and marine construction companies, the Dutch Association of Dredging Companies and various religious denominations. Chairman is Govert van Oord (Van Oord DMC) and secretary is Lodewijk Wijngaard (Koninklijke Boskalis).

More information can be found on the website: www.spwo.nl

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