

An interview with Fitzzy (and parents)

Ian: Tell me about the next two years, Fitzzy. What are you going to be doing?

Fitzzy: Well, I'll be going on board the MV Logos Hope, a Christian Sailing Bookshop, and it will be visiting different countries. One of the ministries is the Bookshop, so people come aboard, have a look at the ship, visit the bookshop and that gives us the opportunity to speak about our beliefs. Another ministry is the programs that they run on board like, for example, a program for the blind where blind people come on board and we have a special program for them with the gospel message. Also, there's an 'English Café' which is for local people to come on board and practise their English and that also gives us the opportunity to share the gospel message.

Ian: Do they have any services in the places the ship visits?

Fitzzy: They have an international night at every country the ship goes to, not on board but out in the community. All of the crew on board do little presentations about their own country and a preacher shares the message with people. It's like an entertainment night with the gospel message.

Ian: Does the ship tend to visit countries which are predominantly non-Christian?

Fitzzy: They go to a mix of countries; sometimes Moslem countries, sometimes Buddhist countries and some Christian countries. Some are developed countries, some are still developing. Quite a mix. One of the ministries is to go into countries and try to encourage and motivate the churches, so every Sunday we'd go out to a different church in the country and share with them what we are doing to encourage them in their local mission.

Ian: How old are you Michael?

Fitzzy: 19

Ian: So, why are you doing this? Many people would think that a 19 year old guy must have so much in his life to do. Why this?

Fitzzy: I feel really led to do this. There have been a few instances leading up to where I am now, where I have seen God leading me in this direction. I went on the MV Doulos for two months last year and when I came back I was searching for what to do in life; work, university, or go on a longer mission. I felt that God wanted to train me in some way, perhaps through the church, maybe Bible College, or the ship. I couldn't see myself in Bible College but I could see the ship as an opportunity to really serve and dedicate my time to God. I want to do what God wants me to do and I want to set my mind on things that are important in this life and I thought this would be a great opportunity. I'm young and this will become a foundation thing in my later life. I don't want to lead just a normal, ordinary, life: I want to do something for God.

Ian: How many people will be on board the ship?

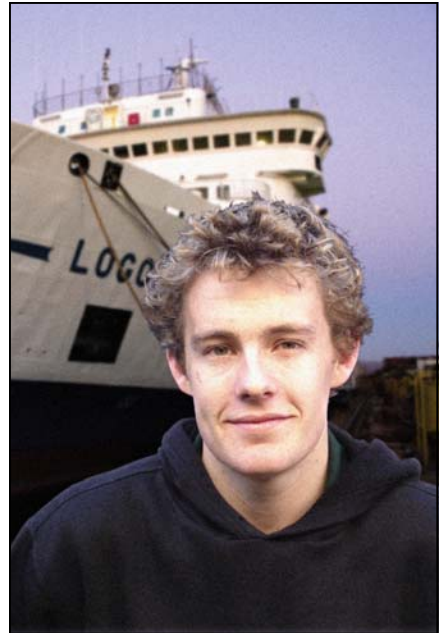
Fitzzy: 500. There'll be 350 permanent staff and about 150 visitors and church leaders.

Ian: And the church has been supportive?

Fitzzy: Oh yeah, the church has been really supportive. When Lloyd, the director for OM in Western Australia, visited LBC he was amazed to see how supportive people are being and how lucky I was to have a church that would send me and pray for me and support me financially.

Ian (To Veronica, Fitzzy's mum): How do you feel about it, Veronica?

Veronica: Oh, it's really exciting. I just believe that God's in it. It's going to be a blessing for Michael and it will also be a blessing for us. It's interesting that Betty Hackwell came up to me at the church so excited that she was almost jumping for joy as she and her late husband and Jack



Arnott (also now passed away), had been praying for nineteen years for someone to go out on mission work from this church . Now, Michael is 19 years old, and she believes he's really the first one who has gone out for any long term mission. It's a real affirmation for us to know that they had been praying for this for nineteen years, starting around the time that Michael was born.

Ian: That's amazing. He'll be almost 22 when he gets back. He'll be a different person.

Gary (*Fitzy's dad*): He will. We noticed a change in him after he spent two months on board the Doulos last year. He came back with real spiritual discipline especially in terms of his devotions, his Bible reading, and a real sense that he wanted to practise those spiritual disciplines. It will be interesting to see how this longer mission impacts on him.

Ian: When do you leave, Michael?

Fitzy: New Year's Day.

Ian: Well, many people are praying for you and we'll look forward to continuing to hear from you over the next two years. Thank you.