

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



# The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

November/December 2015

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

I trust you and yours will have enjoyed a blessed and peace-filled Thanksgiving (U.S.A.) and that we will all receive joy remembering the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Wherever you are, you are never alone and you are lifted in prayer.



### There are no Missed Calls and No Wrong Turns.

One Saturday morning, not very long ago, I headed southeast to support a meeting of our area's church campground board (I'm an alternate board member). As is a habit for me, I asked the Lord for safety on the journey and, since I had time available on the road, I tried to call and check in with a couple of my congregation members. I reached "John" but only got a ring for my older friend "Carl." At that time I felt sorry to have missed him but decided I'd try calling "Carl" again on my way back home from the board meeting.

When the meeting was over (and as is also my frequent and joyful habit) I elected to take a non-direct route back home. I glanced at my handy Ohio gazetteer map and chose a path that guaranteed seeing some new terrain. It was raining a so I needed to pay a bit more attention to my driving than to the map. In consequence I took an unplanned turn and, after a few miles, needed a period of study to recognize "about" where I was. I finally realized I was headed east on a State highway and so turned around to be headed west.



After a few miles I rolled into a medium sized (for rural Ohio) town and decided to accomplish two things: I'd get a cup of coffee and try to call "Carl" again.

What happened after that is the reason for this testimony. First: I was miles from anyplace familiar and certainly hadn't planned to pass through this town. This time when I dialed "Carl" he picked right up. I mentioned to him where I'd been and where I now found myself. "Oh," he said. "My son "Mitch" lives right in that town!" I'd never met "Mitch" (an older man himself) but knew the family did not get to see him often so I asked "Carl" if he thought it'd be OK for me to pay a courtesy call. "Yes, I think that would be fine." He replied "Carl." He passed me an address and some general directions and, after getting the coffee, I headed into the side streets to find "Mitch's" home.

With very little trouble I found the address and hopped out of my truck. There was a note on the front door telling callers to simply go around back and, since it was broad daylight, I didn't feel too uncomfortable about that detour. At the back of the house I ended up at a storm door and could see several people sitting inside a breakfast room, just off the kitchen. I knocked and the person who would turn out to be "Mitch" simply waved me right in. I introduced myself and mentioned how I'd just spoken with "Carl." We exchanged a few minutes of small-talk about family, my congregation, and the day's meeting and (since I was an unexpected pop-in guest) I mentioned I should probably get back on the road. However, before taking my leave, (and as Christ's servants are best to do) I also asked if there were any needs I could add to my prayer list.

At that, ðMitchø wife, ðGladys, spoke up and explained a matter the family actually did need prayer for. As his wife now spoke ðMitchø simply sat in silence, looking toward the floor. ðGladys let me know that ðMitchø had just received a serious cancer diagnosis and how there was soon to be a flurry of significant medical activity. She made it clear they had no idea how to prepare for much of what they knew they were to face and that they had no real clarity on what to expect at the far end either.

Frankly, it was challenging to find the right words to use after hearing these concerns about a very uncertain future. Nonetheless, the family had trusted me, a virtual stranger, with their heartø concerns and so I made sure the family had a way to contact me for any support I might be able to offer during this trial. Mitch and I shook hands on that promise before I resumed my journey home. Iøve certainly made this concern a matter of prayer since and have written the family a note of encouragement.



Iø'm not sure how many of my past articles you may have read but this one cements a theme for me: Be ready to have God direct your path if you are willing. After the fact, Iøve been able to see how everything I mightøve just chalked up to bad luck, or to driving mistakes, more appropriately reflect Godø timing and desires coming together. I didnø miss a call with ðCarlø earlier; it just wasnø the right time to connect. I took no wrong turns; I ended up right where the Lord wanted me when I reached ðCarlø. All I had to do was go forward in faith. My prayer is that you will be rewarded as you, in faith, seek to do the same.

(\*The names have been changed to protect family privacy)

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim øK9ø Kunzweiler, President.



9-11 Memorial in Beavercreek Ohio

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## ELECTIONS AND CONFERENCE REMINDER

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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Reminder: Weø'd be holding elections during our Association meeting at World Conference and, in this timeframe, Iø'd (regretfully) have to decline if nominated for an additional term as an officer.

You have a call to consider stepping forward, with vision, to be nominated for the role of President of the Association. Iø'd be grateful if youø'd contact me to discuss your willingness to serve the Association in this role.

I also understand the current plan for Conference is to move the traditional booths to an area on the plaza outside (perhaps under a large tent).

We hope to have permission for a Peacekeeper booth again and will be blessed if Association members will sign up for manning shifts. I will be a conference delegate and so wonø be able to spend time at the booth during business sessions and other times when delegates are expected to be participating in Conference activities.

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## Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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By the time this goes to print Dominic will have turned 10 years old, and Ian will be a month away from turning 4 years old. They are growing faster than Grandma can keep them in jeans and shoes.



Ian has been down with some kind of stomach bug. He came home from school yesterday, threw up a few more times, and both boys spent last night with us. Ian was sick off and on all night. We took him to the Doctor this morning, got a prescription and Gatorade, and sent him home with Mom for the night. Dominic is spending another night with us.

I was putting Ian in the car after getting the script filled. I opened the door and asked him to hop in. He climbed into the floorboard, looked at his car seat and said, "Sorry, I can't. My tummy has an owie."

Poor little guy I really felt sorry for him. The good news is after the meds and some Gatorade he was looking and feeling much better by the time he went home.

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## Rejoice by Steven Shields of Lee's Summit, Missouri USA

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*... And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb... For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

—Luke 1: 41 – 42, 44 – 45

Most everything about Jesus' birth was ordinary, simple, commonplace. Joseph and Mary were nobodies. Just an ordinary, working-class couple.

Joseph worked hard for a living and had no prospect of ever being rich. Mary, an unwed mother, had no hope for a life at all except for

Joseph's grace and generosity to go through with their marriage.

Much is said of Jesus' humble birth, but the retrospective from a modern, economically developed cultural viewpoint assumes things that are not true. In Jesus' time, almost everyone was poor. In Jesus' time, almost all babies were born in abject poverty. Jesus' birth was no different from most other babies born that same day in Judea.

The only parts of Jesus' birth that were not commonplace were the angelic heralding to a ragtag band of shepherds and the prophetic messages given to those close to Mary. Even so, the guests were common, ordinary people.

Of course, who Jesus was and is gives us cause for great rejoicing. But what really makes it special is that everything about him was common, ordinary. Just like most of us. Jesus was born just like all of us. He grew up playing with the neighborhood children and learning to work; he never had wealth and status. Jesus is for everyone, regardless of any of the social trappings humans find so important and spend lifetimes seeking.

We rejoice because Jesus was and is one of us. Everyone has access to the Divine. That is precious in a world of status symbols. We can simply reach out and take all that Jesus offers. We rejoice in God's unconditional grace and generosity as revealed in Jesus Christ.





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**Calling for your updates and stories:** Peacekeepers needs you to keep us updated with your newsletter delivery information and we highly desire information appropriate for the newsletter (stories, testimonies, updates to share with other members).

**Available in an E-mail and a “snail mail” edition.** Active-duty military members who join the association can receive either edition for free. Non-active-duty sustaining members receive either edition with a paid Association membership; those dues are **\$10.00/yr, due in April (multi-year discounts available)**. Archive newsletters are also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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