

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



# The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

January/February 2016

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

Let Us Pray For One Another.

One day at work I happened to meet a lady in the hall who I'd worked with in times past. She has known of my relationship with the Lord and took the opportunity to invite me to participate in a weekly gathering of believers. I'm now pleased to try to make it to the headquarters chapel to share in a short scripture study and a time of prayer with a few other Christians Wednesdays, at 11:30 A.M.

The composition of the group varies with work schedules but all are welcomed to participate - whether they are "regulars" or just the occasional drop-ins.

I'm not sure of the current leader's denominational background (it's not important and, frankly, denominational issues are not the focus) but he's very scripturally literate and that knowledge helps his discussion of any particular scripture being considered for the day.

In this forum it's been my privilege to both request prayers for others and to offer them with the group. The norm is to have members relate current needs they're aware of and then to ask for volunteer individuals to vocalize prayers for each need.

Two recent concerns of mine have been Ernie and Sharon. This couple is not affiliated with Community of Christ but I was asked to check in on Ernie while on a hospital visit with a church friend who knew Ernie. Upon learning who I was, and who I'd been visiting, Ernie welcomed me like an



old friend. I learned that Ernie was facing brain surgery for a cancerous tumor. That was significant enough but I also learned that his wife (Sharon) was dealing with cancer herself. She was actually receiving treatments, but in a different hospital. In such a troubling time, two people who have committed their lives to one another couldn't even be together for mutual support! That first visit was short, but others have followed.

Ernie's since had his surgery. The focus was on extending life, not offering a cure. While the surgery was successful for what it attempted the road to recovery has been rough for both Ernie and Sharon. He remains weak on his left side, his emotional control is affected and he has had other difficulties. He just started radiation treatments today (27 Jan 2016). After Sharon's treatment she'd spent every waking hour with Ernie. But, again, just as he starts this new treatment, Sharon's confined to a different hospital to endure her own.

Today, when I joined with other believers in the HQ chapel, we lifted up the needs of our brother and sister, Ernie and Sharon. We asked wisdom for the family and for the medical community. We asked for God's special care. And we asked for the Spirit to grant them each the peace that passes all understanding. Ernie and Sharon may never cross the door threshold of any of our church buildings but we commit to be with them on the path of the disciple. Let us pray for one another.

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

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## ADDITIONAL ELECTION AND CONFERENCE REMINDERS

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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Reminder: I trust you're already preparing for the elections we'll hold during our Association meeting at World Conference. Here's the reminder: You have a call to consider. You are asked to step forward, with vision, to be nominated for the role of President of the Association. In those words you may recognize that no one else has yet contacted me. I'll be grateful if you WILL contact me to discuss your willingness to serve the Association in this role.

An additional reminder is related to our hope to have permission for a Peacekeeper booth again. Our blessing will be if Association members sign up for manning such a booth during the available shifts. I will be a conference delegate and so won't be able to spend time at the booth during business sessions and other times when delegates are expected to be participating in Conference activities. Will you be willing?

Agenda items for the Association meeting are still in the formation stages. I don't foresee a need for any immediate BYLAW changes but I believe we should be looking for additional support in two Association "operating" areas.

One particular concern is upkeep of the Association web site. I believe we need a member willing to be the full-time contact for web site support. That said, I've made the annual New Year updates for copyright verbiage. I've also revamped the Newsletter issue area a bit, placing a significant number of earlier editions into the archive area. You may note that we "may be" missing a few issues of the Peacekeeper – but I'm not sure. If you have editions beyond what you spot let us know. We still also have paper copies of the forerunner military ministry newsletters we desire to scan and post (after removing Social Security Numbers!).



The other concern is with active publicity and seeking contacts with our military members. The officers, acting alone, have not been able to pursue these activities with any degree of success. Members of the Association – we need you to do

more than just pay dues! Will you participate in Association operations?

Yay "Team!"

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

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## ALL IS SACRED by Greg Savage, Lee's Summit, MO USA

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*Let them do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and God's ears are open to their prayer*  
—I Peter 3: 11 – 12 NRSV, adapted



Sacred space for me is wherever I have spiritual experiences. Most often this has to do with the church in some way, such as places like the Stone Church sanctuary with its inspiring stained glass windows. It might be where a specific event takes place like a youth camp, reunion, or conference. I have also experienced sacred space in nature. Many times it is a view looking into a valley with mountains all around – clouds hugging the peaks. As I come around a bend in a trail and discover a waterfall and creek, I know I am in a sacred space. Often there are animals in the scene such as deer, elk, or turkeys.

While ministering in the Florida and Southeast Mission Centers, I saw gorgeous and dramatic sunsets of all colors. I would come across a nearly hidden wild flow with a hummingbird or a bumblebee giving it its full attention as nature ordained. Created by God, I consider all space sacred.

One fall, medical testing determined I had the beginning stages of prostate cancer. The radiation procedure required several 25 minute sessions for nearly three months. During treatment I had to lie as still as possible.

It was during this time I found myself thinking of people, groups, and concerns for which to pray for God's blessing or guidance. Most often I didn't know how God would bless the people I prayed for, but I knew that a blessing would occur. With ten days left in my treatment, I received an e-mail request for prayers from Derrick, a church brother, who would undergo knee replacement surgery. For the rest of my treatment time, I used the sacred space of the treatment table to focus on my prayers for his surgery and recovery. I prayed not only for Derrick and his family, but also gave thanks for the giftedness of his doctors and all medical personnel caring for him.

I have learned from this experience that wherever I find myself on life's journey, I will encounter the holy – even on a radiation treatment table.

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## KID'S STUFF

by Mary Yocum

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Well, the boys have each had another birthday. Dominic is now 10 and Ian is 4. What imaginations! Ian told his mom and brother the other day that he *needs* his sister – he doesn't have a sister.



Beth asked him what his sister's name is – he said it was Michael. She asked him what Michael looked like and he said he didn't know. Bubba started picking up toys and such and asking, "Is this Michael?" Eventually he said yes. It was a set of cleats that school bus drivers attach to their shoes in winter.

Ian said, "It's broken. My sister is broken." Then he clutched the cleats like he hugs his brother.

We were on our way to Dominic's favorite restaurant in Lee's Summit and just before we got there Dominic pointed out the window at a tractor dealership.

I said, "Look Ian, over there – the green tractors with the yellow deer on them."

Ian said, "Hey man that's really cool." He has quite a vocabulary, but Head Start put him in a class for children with communication problems. Oh

well – he gets to play with other children and loves singing the songs.

Sometimes he makes up songs, or stories, or just talks to himself. So what, I talk to myself too. I've told many people that I'm the only one who knows the correct answers. Someone advised that I should take note if I started asking myself "Huh? What did you say?"

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## NEW YEAR by Curt Heaviland

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The year 2015 is now history. I wonder how the historians will treat this year. For me it has been a good year. I have not had any serious health problems and at my age that in itself makes the year a good one. I did have some surgery on my forehead that has left a scar. It was a minor cancer. The scar has not improved my looks but the surgery was a success. What more can I ask for?

As I watch television and read the newspaper I realize how the Lord has blessed me this past year. I'm not a youngster by any shape or form but I am still able to get around and my health is in a stable condition. Sure, I've got heart problems but that only slows me down and has not been a fatal factor. So at this point in time I can only thank God for what he has given me.

I thank the Lord daily that he has given me the privilege to live in this country. Sure, there are things that I am not happy with but as I look at other countries I recognize how fortunate I am. I could go over a long list of things for which I am thankful but I won't bore you with those.

The one thing that stands out to me above all else is the Community of Christ Church of which I am a member. I'm thankful for the members that show me love and concern. That being said I have the same privilege – to show love and concern for all my fellow members.

In our East Alton Congregation we have a group of older men called "The Grumpy Old Men" that meet once a month for breakfast, we now meet with our companions as well. This meeting is one where we get to share and renew fellowship on a regular basis.

In any event it has been a great year and I for one am looking for another good one to follow.

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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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