

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

January – February, 2017

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler

Parking Problems. I don't seem to get into large parking garages very often these days. Alas, a church friend is in the hospital right now and so I've become familiar with one of the garages affiliated with the hospital complex.

I've been surprised at how often ministry may be accomplished in such a seemingly mundane place. So far, during several visits in a single week, I've been able to provide service twice and have been the recipient of aid once myself!

As is typical of high-rise garages, the floors are sloped and the parking spaces are angled for nose-in parking. Coming back to the garage after one hospital visit I found two young ladies asking for help to get their car out of the complex. Somehow, they've gotten their vehicle backed the wrong way into a slot and were very close to scraping the side of an adjacent vehicle. Maybe, after years of flying, I'm simply blessed with spatial relationship skills. In any case, my approach was timely and the driver was quite pleased to receive verbal coaching for how to turn the wheel and maneuver. In a couple moments they were happily on their way out of the garage and no damage had been done.

Yesterday I was driving in to visit my friend and spotted two young men working to push a disabled vehicle up a ramp so they could position it to be able to coast down to the exit. At 50-something I am not the image of fitness. Even so, in dress shoes and hair turning shades of gray, I was happy to leave my own vehicle and add a shoulder to the work. The car was heavy enough but its weight was



increased since it also contained two young ladies and a baby!

The garage normally charges a fee for use. It was a blessing for me when one attendant, realizing that I had been to the hospital for a ministry visit, waived the fee for me. I handed her the money and, with thanks, said she could help someone else who might come up short.

As we continue to serve, may we recall "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Matthew 22:37-39 NRSV*

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler

WELCOME OUR NEW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT!

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler

With the start of 2017 I offer my hearty congratulations and well wishes to the new Peacekeeper Association President ó Ryan Pitt.

Congratulations also to our re-elected Secretary, Jennifer Redfern! We're very grateful for Jennifer's willingness to continue in this role.

From this point forward my plan is to continue supporting the Association and its leaders (at least) in this manner: I'll (of course)

Welcome

remain a paid sustaining member. I'd also assist Ryan with information and anything he'd like to discuss about further developing the ministry. I'd be pleased to continue offering articles for the newsletter. And, for now, I'd continue to fund the website (though I encourage the association to get a new POC to maintain the website).

Looking back at my tenure with the Association I'm grateful to have been a recipient of the ministry while serving on active duty. I'm also humbled by the opportunity I was provided to, in a small way, provide ministry too, honoring our intent: Dedicated to bringing ministry to Community of Christ members serving on active duty world-wide.

With us, you know there is so much more that can be, and that *should be* done for our service members. I simply encourage each Association member to invest the time and effort to make the Association function to its full capacities in the days ahead.

My prayers are with and for you. Tim

KEEPERS OF PEACE

by Ryan Pitt, President

"You are called to create pathways in the world for Peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness. Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ's vision of the Peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace."

—Section 163 3a - b

In honor of Remembrance Day and the 163rd anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, I was recently invited to visit Gettysburg National Park with a friend from church. While I had toured the park before, this trip was different. This time instead of staying within the Visitor's Center, my friend offered to be our tour guide. It is one thing to look at artifacts held in glass cases, but it is another to walk hallowed grounds, stand in the shadow of towering statues, hike to the peak of Little Roundtop and stare down at the Valley of Death. Little did I know, accepting an invitation to

Gettysburg was also an invitation for personal reflection.

That day I learned July 3rd, 1938, 75 years after the battle at Gettysburg, 1,800 Union and Confederate veterans attended the dedication of the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, or Peace Light. With a base comprised of Maine granite and body of Alabama limestone, the Peace Light shines over Gettysburg. The 47 ½ foot monument symbolizes hope in midst of societal tension and warfare as it shines over the battlefield.

Just as the Peace Light pierces the darkness of Gettysburg, the *Peacekeepers* are an extension of Christ's vision for the Peaceable Kingdom of God. Section 163 calls us to be courageous in our actions and respond faithfully. We illumine realms of hostility by embracing Christ's peace and embodying holistic relationship. I pray my involvement the *Peacekeepers* will help share this light in new ways as we continue to respond to make Christ's mission, our mission.

KID'S STUFF

by Mary Yocum

Well our boys had birthdays in December and January. Dominic is now eleven and Ian is five. Both are still full of vinegar and sweet smiles.

Some of Ian's quips (often while in the car) are: "My hands are in the air and I just don't care," which is a quote from a favorite animated movie *Home*. "Call paw patrol," (favorite cartoon characters), "it's an emergency. I need water or I'm gonna DIE!" And another: "I'm a five year old man. Dominic is an eleven year old man." Grandpa Don chimed in with "I'm a 64 year old man." Ian was not impressed.

Ian was talking one day about a bunny. He said the bunny is named aggravation (which he pronounced abiation.) "Aggravation has eyes, he eats carrots, and he hops." He also says the Boogie Monster eats buggers. "Well a cookie monster eats cookies, right?"

I went to breakfast one day with Beth, Dominic, and Ian. Ian wasn't eating his cinnamon raisin biscuit. Mom started feeding him and couldn't eat her own breakfast. She asked Dominic if he minded



feeding Ian since he was already finished eating. Dom started saying things like, "you want an airplane? Want a train, bus, truck, etc.?" He then decided everyone he knew was bringing a bite to Ian's mouth. "Here comes Dominic, Dad, Richard, Mom, Grandma and Grandpa." Even though they missed breakfast with Santa they had more fun with the family at Hardees.

One day Ian was blowing raspberries over and over again. I asked him to please stop making that noise. So he started making a pop, pop, pop sound with his lips. I looked at Beth and said, "well, he stopped making *that* sound."

I took Beth and the boys out to dinner last week to Ian's favorite restaurant. He wanted breadsticks, and breadsticks, and grapes, and more breadsticks. We were just finishing our salads when a couple was seated at the table behind Beth and Ian. The woman was shouting into her phone and dropping "F bombs left and right."

Her companion took out his phone and started to record her. She reacted with more cursing and belligerence. As her voice and cursing escalated, Beth got up to seek out the manager.

The manager came, quietly asked the woman to lower her voice and watch her language. Of course the lady didn't like it and fired off a new and more abusive string of curses toward Toni.

Toni moved us to a table on the other side of the restaurant and called the police. It was some time before the police came, and the verbal abuse continued with Toni's wagers, bus boys, and a cook or two backing her up. They weren't taking any chances that she might get hurt. Within a few minutes several tables of customers went to join the staff in backing up the manager.



Dominic asked if we could say a prayer. Of course we agreed. Following the expected "bless the manager, and bless the servers, and make sure both of them get their tip." Dominic added, "and bless that poor lady. Maybe you can make her calm, or get her a doctor, or make sure she gets help. She must be sick, Lord, so please help her."

Beth and I looked at each other and wept. It was so sweet, his concern for the belligerent (possibly drunk) woman causing all the trouble.

The police came, she was arrested, Toni will have to go to court, but the problem is solved for

now. She reduced our bill and everyone calmed down.

Beth and I were left with a warm glow, seeing how our 11 year old is growing up.

Quote Corner

- ❖ God help humankind to find peace that will be right and just, a peace all nations and all people can place their faith and trust in.
ô Harold F. Mohn
- ❖ A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.
ô Robert E. Gibson
- ❖ Our critical day is not the very day of our death, but the whole course of our life.
ô John Donne
- ❖ There's one thing for which you should be abundantly thankful ó only you and God have all the facts about yourself.
ô Anonymous
- ❖ One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who have only interests.
ô John Stuart Mill
- ❖ The greatest of all mistakes is to do nothing because you can do only a little.
ô Sydney Smith
- ❖ The deepest wisdom man can attain is to know that his destiny is to aid, to serve.
ô Abraham Joshua Heschel
- ❖ The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
ô Eleanor Roosevelt
- ❖ The more time I spend keeping my eye on who God is, his perspective, his goals for me, the more fun I have, the more joyful I feel, the more peace I have.
ô Michelle Akers, soccer star
- ❖ If you are not generous with a meager income, you will never be generous with abundance.
ô Harold Nye
- ❖ A good gift is one that has a positive effect on the spiritual life of the giver.
ô Brian Bauknight in *Right on the Money*
- ❖ The world is wide, and I will not waste my time in friction when it could be turned into momentum.
ô Frances Willard
- ❖ If the only prayer you say in your life is "Thank You," that would be enough.
ô Meister Eckhart
- ❖ Humor and laughter are a resurrection; they allow us to rise again and again.
ô Harold Wessel

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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