

The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

August, 2011

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President



In our part of the world its "back to school" time again. Last weekend we experienced the typical flurry of activity associated with our college-age daughter Rachel's departure for the fall semester. She quickly packed away summer piles and packed up what she considered "essentials" for starting her second year of bio-engineering. Saturday, August 20th, we trucked her up to Toledo. Since I needed some time to dwell on the scriptures I'd selected for the following morning's sermon, I rode "shotgun" on the way up from Dayton. Sunday's theme was "Who do you say that I am?" and I'd been looking forward to the address for quite some time. In many respects, this talk was both a chance to testify about my own faith *and a test of it!* Yet, *man of faith* is what I am and I take great delight in scripture as a guide for life. Here is but a bit of my testimony to you.

As a follower of Christ – and seeking to be guided by the Spirit in this – the premise of my faith walk is that the words of scripture about Jesus are true – including what is available for what he said about himself. These words provide me building blocks for my journey on the path of the disciple. It may sound elementary but I believe all disciples must *seek to understand* who Jesus is – represented (both) as the Son of God (our example in human form) and represented as God (God among us) – in order to be able share the knowledge of who he is. I don't believe Jesus' message is only



a social one – nor only about peace. But I do believe that an embracing of the Gospel message best guides social interactions and can bring about peace. When Jesus said he was leaving his Spirit to be with us, I believe he was speaking as God – and the Spirit was not the [s]pirit of a man – but the Holy Spirit person of the eternal Godhead. My encouragement to all of us is to be a *people of scripture* – and of all good books. In saying that, I also affirm how we all also need to be discerning of what is "of" God and what might just be somebody's agenda to reshape individual and cultural thinking. Agendas may support God's plan for his creation – or they may not. Many are still good to discuss and to evaluate. In any case, the path of the disciple needs to be aligned with an eternal view – not merely a socio-economic or psychological one. I believe God wants us to explore what the calling of the Gospel – and the example of Christ – means to every age. Consequently, I also believe the Gospel calls to people in every age – no matter what civilization, culture or technology they may be a part of. I'm encouraged when a church, like ours, seeks to provide God's continuing revelation to us – to help a world that remains in need – no matter what the era. Let me also be a voice of encouragement since we continue this journey of discovery together. Here is a reminder of the guidance we've already received from our Lord and Savior: Luke 18:16-17: ^[16] But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to

The Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel is dedicated to bringing ministry to Community of Christ members serving on active duty world-wide.

such as these. ^[17] I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” Brothers and sisters, let us go forward – as children of faith – with the Master!

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, President.

For Your Information:

No changes to military retirement any time soon, officials say. For further information see <http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=46278>.

Scott Jobe shares: There is also a website at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home> that will allow you to e-mail the VIPs (President, Vice President, Congress, etc.) and express your views about how they should not change military retirement and create any more loss of benefits and entitlements to the military. I found it quite helpful and utilized it. They give you some suggested words you may use but you can change it up however you like to make it more your own words. I found it on <http://www.moaa.org/> which has a very good video explaining what is on the table currently concerning possible changes to military retirement. I would encourage you to make your voice known also with your elected officials in power. I did.



Also: Any retirement changes won't affect currently serving military. <http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=46335>

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

Where has the summer gone? In the next week school will be starting here in Independence. I'm from the old times when school started after Labor Day. The days were still quite warm and the buildings, for the most part, did not have air conditioning. Things have really changed since I was a youngster.

Transportation to school was not an item that we had. When I lived in Idaho I rode a horse five miles to school. I didn't mind this except on cold winter days. Neither the horse nor I liked the bad weather.



When I lived in Walla Walla, Washington I had to walk a mile and a half to school. We didn't think much about it because that was the way it was with all of the students. Even the girls were subjected to the same requirements.

Times have changed. In most states, if you live more than a mile it is required that bus transportation is furnished. Also, it is no longer safe for a girl to walk alone to and from school, no matter the age. Our society has degenerated to the point that school children are not safe. In smaller communities this is not the case as the residents look out for one another.

Almost every day, in the urban areas, there are shootings which may result in death. It seems that there is no rhyme or reason for most of the shootings. Innocent kids can be sitting in their house and become a victim. I empathize with the people that have to live under these conditions. If everyone would follow Christ's teachings wouldn't it be great? If we could reach everyone in the inner city and get them to follow Christ the area would surely change for the better.

Those of you who receive this newsletter and are in the poorer parts of the world have an opportunity to share Christ's love with those around you. It starts with you and as you are observed it can spread. If you are known as a person who follows Christ you become an example. The question always prevails, what kind of an example are you? It is my hope that you are an outstanding example.

Since I started this article my address files have been hacked. You may have received a phony message that I was in Scotland and needed money to get home – it's not true. I've had to change my e-mail address to bncmdr11@sbcglobal.net

GOD BLESS,
Curt

Greetings by Jennifer Redfern

Greetings fellow Peacekeepers. I cannot believe an entire year has passed since my retirement from active duty. My plan to keep busy so I would not miss my previous work has paid off. I filled a position as a camp counselor for our high school age church camp last year and again this year at the beautiful Samish Island campground located in the

San Juan Islands, Puget Sound, Washington. Never thought I would be able to relate to this age group but I have been blessed as well as having had the opportunity to be a blessing.

In November I became involved with Outreach International as a mission center advisor. At the same time my home congregation began supporting the local homeless population in a program called Freezing Nights. Every Monday night from 1 Nov through 1 April our sanctuary became a sanctuary for those who had no roof over their heads. This ministry brought several of our church families together who did not attend church services regularly but felt led to support us in this activity fulltime either in interaction with our guests, cooking meals, or donating clothing and bedding. This has been a true blessing not only for those we serve but for each other.



We no longer look past the faces on the street. We know many by name and even know their likes and dislikes. Through this ministry we have found great joy in also serving with other churches in the Puyallup area and are involved in developing the city's strategic plan for the homeless population in our community. This is a population that is expanding not only in quantity but also in demographics as more and more families lose their homes to foreclosure.

In November our congregation hosted a community based homeless coalition meeting open to the public regarding the need for temporary housing for our homeless population and accepted donations of food for the local food bank. Delivering the supplies to the food bank led me to volunteer two days a month making appointments for clients to receive food.

In January I began training as a Master Gardener with Washington State University. I knew there would be volunteer hours but never realized how much. I have been quite busy over the past months working in the demonstration garden planting, fertilizing, watering, and harvesting vegetables as part of my team's intern project. Little did I realize when I started how this investment of time would further be a blessing to the population our congregation helps to support year long, until our team asked what was to be done with the fruits of our labor. We were advised that

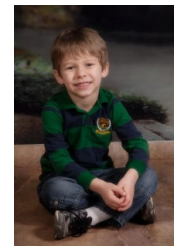
all produce harvested was to be taken to the local food bank; the same food bank that feeds our low income and homeless populations; the same food bank where I volunteer twelve hours a month. And the garden was planned not only by my fellow interns in the master gardener program but also had input from some of our Freezing Nights guests during the winter months. The seed catalogues opened a dialogue amongst some of our evening guests and we found several young men who were raised on farms raising food crops. What a blessing all around.

My plan was to continue to serve once I retired from military service. I left the means of serving in God's hands. God has led me to serve my neighbors who are challenged financially, physically, socially, and mentally. I am busy, have a lot of social interaction and use the skills the Army helped me to develop. I am blessed and I pray that my actions will continue to be a blessing in the years to come. I reported to the Blessed Master, "Here I am, Send Me Forth" and He did.

May God Continue to be forefront in your hearts as well as in your service to family, community and neighbors throughout the world.

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Well, school has started as I write this. Dominic is very excited about his "real" school, with busses and everything. He's officially in Kindergarten now and he loves it!

We took a brief vacation to Branson, Missouri the week before school started. We have found over the last 38 years that we almost always have some kind of pre-vacation snafu. We had several years where our sewer backed up just as we were packing. One year we had to go buy new suitcases because the sewer had ruined ours. We've had last minute car problems, health issues, etc., and we almost always have at least one major argument – just the typical vacation blues according to many magazines and talk show hosts. But this year ...

On Wednesday, August 3 I decided to put gas in my car, which we were planning to drive to Branson. The pump started its thing and eventually shut off. I quickly glanced at the pump as I pulled

the nozzle out of the car. I noticed it said it had pumped over 13 gallons and the cost was over \$40. Just about normal so I went on my way. However after a half mile or so I noticed the gas gage wasn't registering the fill-up. So I went straight to my favorite auto garage. They took out the back seat and tried to test what they could and everything registered that the sending unit was fine. They recommended that I take it to the Subaru dealer, which I planned to do as soon as we returned. We left Don's car at our friendly neighborhood garage instead as his needed more work than mine.



So off we went with our daughter, Beth, her boyfriend, Mark, and Dominic, after a couple of delays, leaving on Monday afternoon instead of the morning as we had planned. We got a few miles down I-70 when the car chugged and died. (I can hear you laughing you know. Just because you've already figured it out don't spoil it for others). Anyway, we called the tow truck and had it towed to the dealer. We called our son and he gave Don a ride to the Blue Springs rental lot. We rented an SUV to take the trip, called the Dealership with a heads up and went on our merry way.

After our usual stop in Springfield at Lamberts, we arrived Monday night. Don started having

stomach problems Tuesday afternoon and got up several times during the night with Montezuma's revenge. We went to the Legends of Kung-Fu Tuesday evening and as we started to settle in that evening, Don said he thought he needed to go to the Emergency Room. After several hours with him there, we went back to the room with prescriptions and orders to stay on clear liquids for 24 hours and a BRAT diet for the next 24 hours. (That's bananas, rice, applesauce and toast). We rode the DUCKs on Wednesday, and yes, these are the water/land military vehicles used on D-day and several more times before they were retired.

On our way back from the Kung-Fu show Dominic was very excited. He kept talking about what he loved best, what he only liked, what was better than that ... well, he babbled. After several minutes of chatter he stopped, looked at his Mom and said, "I talk too much, don't I?"

When we returned to Independence on Friday, we found that Don's car was fixed and mine had only needed a tank of gas. (What?) That's right, just gas. According to the dealership the gas I put in on the preceding Wednesday had been fumes – the gas gage was fine, the car runs fine, we didn't even get charged for the gas I thought I had pumped in on August 3rd. I think this tops the other 38 years.

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 also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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God Bless and Keep You!