



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

June, 2011

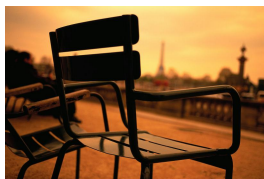
Tim's Service

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

There are no *wrong turns*. As a man of faith I *love* come to believe that. Having been to an Aunt and Uncle's 50th wedding anniversary in Missouri, I was now driving home to Dayton, Ohio. This was Monday, 6 June, 2011 (and it was really too hot for this time of year). As I *am* sometimes prone to do, I took the *by-way* and so was traveling eastward on U.S. 40 instead of on Interstate 70. Just before entering Ohio I found myself in Richmond, Indiana and, because of a detour, made what I first considered to be a *wrong turn*.

Suddenly I was just on a city street and headed perpendicular to my intended course. I made a couple additional turns that, under normal circumstances, might *have* been expected to vector me back to my road of choice. Instead, my path took me into a city park. At no time during this zig-zag did I have the slightest sense that God might be working His purpose out (maybe that's why I typically characterize myself as being a man of faith vs. being a man of spiritual discernment).

Nonetheless, the man of faith can be an *effective observer* and so, while passing through the park, I noticed a man on a road-side bench *and* looking downward *and* noticeably *pensive*. Here is where the Lord sometimes prompts the man of faith. I slowed, turned my car around, and stopped in front of him. My first question was an honest one: "Can I get back to Highway 40 by going this way?"



In honor of Independence Day *of* USA (July 4).



His response was cordial and helpful (yes, I could expect to get back on course). I knew this was not the time for me to just thank him and depart so I went the step further and simply told him I was a minister and asked how he was doing. There was, of course, some risk in being this blunt but something in his demeanor told me that he was willing to communicate. His invitation was immediate and sincere. He was at a cross-road in life and, if I had a few minutes, he'd be happy to talk.

I parked and soon got to know "David" a little better. A planned *few minutes* easily transitioned into half an hour but (as you may well understand) the Lord's timing is much better than my own. I didn't need to say much and often just affirmed that I was hearing and understanding what David seemed to need to share out loud *of* issues about a failed marriage, children now grown, military service and another career now behind him, recent health problems, lack of a permanent home and questions about where to go and what to do now. So many examples of the Lord's guidance for us could *have* been shared in witness. Among all the choice scriptures that could *have* been applied what seemed to rise to the fore *of* and what seemed to make the most difference to this seeker *of* was my reminder that *all are called*. It matters not what our time or place in life is; if we know *whose* we are in any moment our lives can be a reflection of the Christ. This seemed to be the reminder David needed.

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.

We both parted certain, there are no wrong turns and there is every good reason to go to a park to think and to wait on the Lord.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.
Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

Request – add Community of Christ Chaplain Major Scott Jobe (USAF) to our prayer lists. He, and his family, are in need of our prayers as he prepares for surgery. This surgery is recommended to relieve pain and provide healing from an injury suffered in September of 2010. The surgery has been postponed but he's hoping to get cleared to reschedule it in near future.

Peacekeeper prayers go with Apostle James E. Slauter and his family. In support of family needs, Jim will be granted release from the Council of Twelve Apostles and early retirement from World Church appointment, effective August 1, 2011. Jim: We have been so blessed by your ministry ó and, in particular, by your testimony at the last Peacekeepers banquet in conjunction with World Conference. Our prayers will continue for you and your family.

The First Presidency also announced that, effective August 1, 2011, Apostle Scott Murphy will be Director of Field Ministries, World Service Corps and Military Chaplains. Peacekeepers welcomes Apostle Murphy to this new role and will be pleased to also lift him up in prayer and support for this new roleö!

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

As I look around I am amazed at the power of nature. We, here in Missouri, have experienced a devastating tornado in the Joplin area. At this writing we are awaiting the results of this Missouri River climbing out of its banks. Projections have placed this flood to be worse than the flood of 93. The one good thing is the fact that the Corps of Engineers have given ample warning to those places down river that will be affected.

The times in which we live are turbulent. We see revolts and attacks on various populations with devastating results. God has given us many examples of how mankind should live, but from the very beginning of recorded history we find that there has been conflict in one form or another. It seems as

though civilization does not yet know how to heed the word of God.

It would seem that mankind would look at World War II and resolve that never again would we find ourselves in this kind of strife. It is beyond my comprehension how one person can live with



themselves and treat those who would follow so horribly. The leader should try to lift the level of the followers at every given opportunity.

I found, during my stay in the army, that the most important assets I had were the people that were placed under my command. Their welfare and conditions came first in my book. I found that much more could be accomplished with good words and appreciation for the efforts put forth. I did not appreciate the negative attitudes displayed by many officers while I was under their jurisdiction as an enlisted man.

My entire rambling today is to get us, no matter our position in life, to respect our fellow man and be of help whenever we can. Display a positive attitude and be thankful to God that you are in the position you're in. Your attitude will carry over to those around you. It doesn't take any more energy to be positive than it does to be negative. Whenever someone asks me how I am, I tell them öfantasticö and then add I woke up this morning and the Lord has given me another day to live.

May God bless each one of you and may all those with whom you come in contact be appreciative of the job you are doing.

Curt

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

Dominic is beside himself ó he's finally going to be a big brother. He's been asking his Mom for a baby since he was about 2 years old. Beth is prone to miscarriages and hadn't wanted to tell him yet ó at this point she is about 9 weeks along. However, the Doctor says she is down to only a 5% chance of losing the baby.



Recently they were discussing whether or not to take in a Sunday afternoon movie. Dominic said that Mark (this baby's father) would have to come with them because he can't stay at home alone. We all

laughed and Beth asked him if he thought Mark needed a babysitter.

Dominic replied, "He's not a kid so he needs an adult sitter."

Mr. D. has already picked out a name for the baby: Skelator. Now for those of you who have never heard of this character, he was on a kids' TV cartoon show when Beth was growing up called "He Man."

Dominic has also added a new kind of hug to his repertoire. There's the "real" hug (around the waist), the "hair" hug (around the shoulders), the "air" hug (as in air guitar), and now he's added a "baby" hug (where he rubs Mom's belly).

Lest you think this five and a half year old is turning soft, he can often be heard (while playing video games or getting tickled in the car), such things as "Gimme a break," or "I'm gonna bring out the big guns now," or "You want a piece of me?"

Yep, our little guy sure keeps things rolling, and just think, next year there will be two of them.

Standing on the Promises

by Scott Jobe

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-8 (NIV)

When I read today's scripture, it made me think of the Prodigal Son's older brother. I'm sure you're familiar with the story. When the Prodigal Son realized the error of his ways and repented, he turned around and went back to his father, and the father heard sinned against by squandering what the father had given him, and the father forgave him *extravagantly*. He restored him to being a son and gave him a new robe, ring, and sandals for his feet and ordered the fatted calf to be killed to celebrate his son's homecoming.

Now, the older brother, the one who'd never left home, the one who had continued working on the family farm while his younger brother was out partying, was *seriously* annoyed. He refused to come in to the party. In an echo of the father meeting the Prodigal on the road home, the father went out to the older brother to plead with him to come in. The older brother complained:

"Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you

never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends."

"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

You are always with me. Everything I have is yours. You realize, don't you, that that's the **promise** that God makes us when we become Christians? Yet how many of us realize that?

My first point is that we need to **KNOW**. We need to **KNOW** our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has saved us from our sins. But once we've got our **salvation**, do we stop there? No! We also need to **KNOW** His promises to us. Are we **"standing on the promises"** or are we just **"sitting on the promises"**?

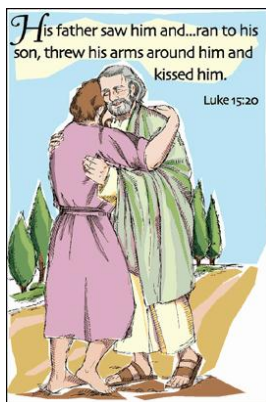
I'd like to tell you a modern-day parable. It was told to me as a true story.

In west Texas there is a famous oil field known as the Yates pool. During the Depression this field was owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates was not able to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family, like many others, had to live on a government subsidy. Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling west Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would be able to pay his bills.

Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told Mr. Yates that there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease.

At eleven hundred feet they struck a huge oil reserve, giving 80 thousand barrels a day. In fact, thirty years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed that it still could flow 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land, he received the oil and mineral rights. Yet he was living on relief! A multimillionaire living in poverty: What was the problem? The problem was that he did not know the oil was there. He **owned** it, but he did not **possess** it.

In today's scripture reading, Peter isn't talking to people in need of salvation; he's talking to people who are already Christians, and to the people who already own the ranch. They **KNOW about** Jesus. They



KNOW He as their Savior. But do they KNOW Him as their Lord?

For the complete sermon go to <http://cofchristpeacekeepers.org/newsletters/Articles/20110626standing.pdf>.

Invited to the White House

by Steve McCrosson

During my military career I was privileged to have worked at the White House with the White House Communication Agency and spent many hours at the Old Executive Office Building, now the [Eisenhower Executive Office Building \(EEOB\)](#). Earlier in February I was privileged to receive an invitation to attend a conversational round-table with other faith-based representatives to discuss a White House-led program being developed to support military families and Veterans. In May of 2010 [First Lady Michelle Obama announced a Presidential Directive on Military Families](#). This conversational round-table was to include the faith-based community to be a participant in that directive. This is quite an honor, not only to represent the Community of Christ but to be personally invited to participate.

I joined the group gathered in room 430. There were representatives from a number of program agencies such as VA, DOD, HUD, HHS, DOL and others of the agencies that we love to use abbreviations, initials and have acronyms for. The Red Cross and several denominational representatives were present as well.

The conversational meeting was led by Joshua DuBois, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the White House Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Trooper Sanders, Deputy Director of Policy and Projects for the First



Lady and Kirsten White, Policy Director to Dr. Jill Biden were co-hosting the conversation.

Our purpose was to identify the ways that faith-based groups are already supporting military families around the country. We were also asked to develop tools to expand this support to thousands of additional congregations and nonprofit organizations. The Obama administration realizes that often the only person a Veteran, service member, or family member might turn to for help or ministry is their local pastor. They understand there have been many resources developed by the faith-based community as well as governments departments; however, there is no centralized place pastors can find the information they need. Director DuBois led his discussions through the programs that are working to understand the best practices of the group.

As I took part in our discussions I wondered what made Community of Christ special enough to have a seat at this table. Was it that we have a unique [Mission Statement](#) and that the message we present has been noticed by many unknown to us? Does our expression of [“Enduring Principles”](#) demonstrate our belief in the worth of persons and so establish us well for an advisory role? Or does the rich heritage we bring forth in our [“Basic Beliefs”](#) position us for leadership in discussions of ministry?

We will hear more from the White House in the coming months about this initiative. Information may include a pastor’s tool kit for care of the Veterans and their families. It may include resources for training pastors and clergy, or, it may include a challenge to get involved in Veteran support. The Community of Christ is now a participant in this initiative and we will have a voice in future discussions. I pray that we will be included in other discussions at the White House as well.

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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