

Community of Christ



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

August, 2004

## Curt's Column

Where is the summer going? We, here in Missouri have had cool months of June and July. The month of August promises to heat up some but for one month we can stand that. Joyce and I had coffee with Dale Cleland, who is currently stationed at Ft. Leavenworth (we had coffee he had coke) and had a really nice visit. He reiterated a feeling that came from one of our other recipients. He suggested that he would like to know the addresses of the various service members. At this point I am not willing to print the complete addresses of all our active duty members. What I plan on doing in our next newsletter is to print the general location of the person, for Example: Ft. Lewis, WA.

This would give you a chance to see if there is someone in the area that you could get in touch with and perhaps meet together or what ever. Those of you that are in FPO or APO's we would list the number but not the unit designation. If however, you are interested in getting a more specific address you could contact me and we can go from there.

Tim Kunzweiler and family moved into their new home on 25 July in Dayton, Ohio. Tim is now a very happy Air Force retiree and is working at Wright Patterson AFB. He tells us that he and his family have found a branch and have already been involved. We wish the Kunzweilers the very best and hope all works well with them.

Captain Scott Jobe and his wife Kim, at this writing, are zeroing in on Minot AFB, North Dakota. Kim tells us that it is going to be a drastic change from Eglin AFB (Florida), Okinawa and San Antonio (South Texas). She says it's a good thing they are going to be there in the summer and give them a chance to become acclimated to the cooler temperatures. Kim and Scott have now arrived in Minot and by the time this newsletter is out they will be in their quarters. Kim we'll think of you and Scott when we are in Arizona this winter.

Received a note that Peter Young AB is at Lackland AFB in Texas. We understand that Col Wayne Talcott is in San Antonio. Patricia Kellinger and her husband



Bruce are in Billings, MT. LT Sam Young and his wife Tara are stationed in London, UK. We understand that Ray Lunger is now retired from the Air Force. Way to go Ray. Lucio Saraiva is serving aboard the USS John F. Kennedy while Nikolas Saraiva is currently at Ft Bragg. Sgt John Hensley is in Iraq. This is the latest update on personnel that has been sent to us by families.

We will have this newsletter and one more in October before the elections in November. If you haven't already made arrangements to vote in the elections, please get whatever you need together so that your voice can be heard.

We have a new contact at World Church. It is Steve McCrosson. He is a retired CWO and has had a tremendous amount of experience. We have hopes that he will be able to keep abreast of happenings in the World Church through a regular column in the newsletter.

May the Lord bless and keep you all from harm's way. Our prayers are for each one of you.

—Curt Heaviland, President,  
Community of Christ  
Ministry to Military Personnel

Oh by the way, I have 25 King James version bibles. I will send them to any active duty person requesting one. E-mail me at [armr77@netzero.net](mailto:armr77@netzero.net).

## What Power do You Have?

It was a warm California evening, quite typical for this time of year in Los Angeles. I was an Army Chief Warrant Officer with a specialty of communications/electronics but tonight my uniform was a business suit.

I had become pretty accustomed to being in a suit. For nearly five years I had been assigned to the White House to provide communication to the president and his staff. Most of my time was spent traveling from one location to another arranging for office automation, communication for National

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is dedicated to bringing ministry to active-duty military members throughout the world.**

Security, support for the Secret Service, and provide control at events.

This night I was in charge of a California Visit. It was going to be a fairly normal sequence of events. The president would arrive by Air Force One and travel by Motorcade to a Hollywood nightclub where supporters were to gather, then on to a private residence where he would participate in a fund-raiser. And on to another event eventually arriving back at the airport for departure.

These events were always coordinated well in advance and everyone would be waiting, not so patiently, for his arrival. We had done our preparation and I had my military team members prepared to provide lights, sound, and anything else that would support the valued image of the Presidency at each location.

The motorcade came to a stop just outside the stage door of the nightclub. I knew inside there was a young Army captain named Cathy that I had put in charge of this event site. She had been working closely with the White House staff to provide everything they needed to make the event look good. Even the lectern that the President was to stand behind was crafted, transported, and installed by our military team members. I was sure that this, along with all the other events that would occur tonight would be perfect.

I went ahead of the staff as I always did. I wanted to make one last check that everything was in working order and that everyone was ready to do an outstanding job. I paced the hallway as quickly as I could to get to the stage entrance. There was Cathy waiting by the microphone just off stage.

I stopped momentarily to discuss the final checks as the President rounded the corner and came up the stairs followed by his staff, some of the most influential people in the world. As the President had done so many times in the past, he headed right for the stage.

I saw the realization in Cathy's face that the President might not stop at the off-stage microphone before going on to the stage. This was to allow the music to stop and an announcement to be made. I stopped dead in my tracks as Cathy raised her finger, pointed directly at the President and said "Stop"!



I could see my career flash before my eyes. This had become a pretty regular thing for me as this job created many opportunities to be one step away from being back in a foxhole. I realized that no one was breathing. There was the undisputed leader of the free world, one of the world's most powerful men, hanging from the end of a young Captain's finger.

The music stopped, over the loud speakers I could hear the familiar voice of an Air Force Sergeant "Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States." Cathy looked directly at the President and said "Now, Mr. President." He smiled and took off as though nothing had happened.

It was a great event. Lots of cheering and laughter and then off stage to the rope line so the President could shake

hands with his supporters. I had a few minutes to thank my team members for a job well done and then back to the motorcade and off to the next event.

As I pulled away in the motorcade, I reflected back at how much power our service members have. We can change the world for good, or for bad, in a heartbeat. It is a lot of responsibility, which we accept daily. Next time you look at the tip of your finger remember you may be in a situation just like that young Captain someday. And whether your finger is on the trigger of a rifle or at the nose of the President of the United States you will have great power. Use it wisely.

—Steve McCrosson  
Coordinator to Community of Christ Ministry to  
Military Personnel for the World Church

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## God Is Busy

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An East Coast Ivy League atheist professor was teaching a university class and he told the class that he was going to prove that there is no God.

He said, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

Ten minutes went by all the time taunting God, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting." As the last minute approached he smugly smiled.

A young US Marine just released from active duty and newly registered in the class walked up to the professor, hit him full force on the chin sending him flying from his platform and crashing to the floor.

The professor struggled up, badly shaken and yelled, "WHAT's the matter with you! Why did you do that?"

The Marine replied, "God was busy; He sent The Marines"

Life is good.

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## VOTING: AN ACT OF FAITH AND CITIZENSHIP

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Members of the Community of Christ have a long tradition of seeking ways to express the love of Christ by taking actions in their communities. We believe that we can work with governing bodies and charitable institutions to be a leaven that will help establish God's kingdom on Earth that we know as Zion. Voting is certainly one of many ways that we can act on this part of our faith.

While on active duty as an officer in the United States Air Force, I had the Privilege of serving several years as a voting officer. At every opportunity, I stressed the importance of being a good citizen especially while serving in uniform. I also said that it didn't matter how you voted. Vote your conscience and let the politicians who control your wages and benefits know that the military members actively participate in the electoral process.

Your right to vote cannot be taken for granted. A number of years ago in Texas, some local officials tried to limit military voting to federal offices only. In the last presidential election there was an organized effort to eliminate as many military absentee ballots as possible in Florida. For military personnel serving in remote locations, the postal system is sometimes slow and ballots arrive after Election Day. I recall that during my service in Korea, I often received monthly magazines out of sequence. One solution, register and send in absentee ballots at the first opportunity. Don't wait until Election Day is near.

Fortunately, action has been taken to preserve the right of military personnel to vote. A recent Air Force Association release said "General elections are approaching. Air Force officials have joined others in reminding everyone to register to vote. The Department of Defense recently announced that it has worked out a plan with the United States Postal Service to get absentee ballots to overseas members faster but registering to vote is the first step to acquiring a ballot. Deadlines and state specific rules on voter registration can be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site at <http://www.fvap.gov>. Don't let this opportunity to be a good citizen and a faithful member of the Community of Christ pass you by!

—Lewis M. Weigand  
Colonel, USAF Retired

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## SNAPSHOTS OF COURAGE

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Snapshots of courage. This past year I've spent a great deal of time examining what courage means. Amelia Earhart said, "Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace." Winston Churchill was Quoted as saying, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

*Courage to Be* was the theme for SPECTACULAR 2004, and leaders, teachers, and campers alike spent time before this event thinking about what courage means. T-shirt designs depicted to Cowardly Lion from the Wizard of Oz. Over the last year, life was viewed through a microscope of courage.

In February a story was aired on the CBS Sunday Morning television program regarding a basketball player who wanted to play for the NBA and was drafted by the European Basketball League. He played for Ireland, and after this stint in the European League, he saw a need for children to learn to play together. Irish children were enamored with this American sport of basketball.

He began to form youth leagues, approximately ages 7-12, bringing Protestant and Catholic children together. As they learned to play together, they learned that all children were just children. They crossed religious boundaries and formed friendships. Soon he had had an impact on the lives of over 75,000 school children in Ireland.

Someone heard of his story and asked him to go to South Africa and create this same program. In a few years he had built thirty-seven basketball courts and touched the lives of over 100,000 black and white children.

His brother, seeing the need, quit his job and formed a foundation out of their father's law office in Washington D.C. and *Playing for Peace* was officially born.

There is a long journey between viewing this story in February, and playing the story for the SPECTACULAR 2004 camp during the Monday morning celebration. However, following the viewing of this story, Sean and Brenden Tuohey walked out on center court and were introduced through thunderous applause to SPECTACULAR!

Sean doesn't say it took courage to do what he does. He sees a need to make the world a better place and does it. That morning he challenged the 1,100 campers and leaders to set their dreams high. They might not reach the pinnacle of what they thought their dream could be, but the courage in the journey along the way will change our world!



At the communion service on Thursday evening the presider presented a word picture of what the steps of courage look like. These are: show up, listen, tell the truth from your heart, and let go of the outcome.

SPECTACULAR brings together youth from all walks of life and backgrounds. The Oklahoma delegation brought a group of African American boys with not much experience with church or a group of people that truly cared where they were, what they did, and what they planned to do. Throughout the week it took courage from these leaders to interact with these boys. They misappropriated golf carts, were loud in quiet moments, said inappropriate things, were hard to settle down at night, and by the end of the week the leaders were at their wits end. Comments were heard like, "We just can't bring them back next year."

God gives us courage when we least expect or understand it. God is prompting and moving us in ways that are beyond us, but if we trust in a living God, and live out our faith, this world will be a different place.

But on the last evening one of the boys sat down next to his leader. He said, "Sir, I want you to know that I wasn't the one who stole the golf cart. I was with the group, but I didn't do the driving." The leader responded that he understood. They sat in silence for a minute and then the boy asked, "What is the name of your church?" The leader told him "Community of Christ" "How big is your church?" was the next question, and the leader responded, "Oh we have church members all around the world." "No, how big is YOUR church?" The leader quickly understood that the boy was asking about his own congregation. "We have about thirty people on Sunday morning." Quietly the boy asked, "Do you think I could come with you?" The leader responded, "I'd be happy to pick you up. Just let me know when you want to come." And the quick reply was, "I'll be ready this Sunday."

Community of Christ has recognized people of courage, people of peace and justice for the last eleven years with the International Peace Award. On November 6, James Lawson is the recipient of the eleventh Community of Christ International Peace Award. Going from organizing lunch counter sit-ins, Lawson helped coordinate Freedom Rides in 1961 and the Meredith March in 1966. A Methodist pastor in Memphis, he played a major role in the sanitation workers strike in 1968. Courage? Yes, it took courage, and probably many times, it was just the thought that it was the right thing to do. It was the action to make this world a better place.

Community of Christ has been on the leading edge of making communities of joy, hope, love, and peace from the days of Kirtland and Nauvoo, to the lands and people who are touched by Outreach International.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world! Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” This quote from Margaret Mead has been the challenge and the encouragement for each one to reach out and make this world a better place.

SPECTACULAR committed itself to making a difference in this world. Campers and leaders committed to raising \$525,6000 between now and SPEC 2005. They see a need in this world and they are committed to making a difference. By the end of the SPEC week over \$11,000 had been put into the account by campers and staff alike.

Outreach International, Playing for Peace, and the International Youth forum will be the recipients of this sacrificial offering. One-third of this money is 20 percent of playing for Peace’s annual budget; one-third of this money will go a long ways to helping youth from around the world experience the church and each other in the various International Youth Forum events.

Someone would doubt and ask, “how is this possible?” But the numbers are telling. Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred dollars can be raised by 1,000 committed people who individually can raise \$525.60 each – it’s a \$1.44 a day. Steve Dimmitt, one of the SPEC directors, committed his \$1.44 a day for one month. Some are asking instead of birthday and Christmas presents that money be given to the twt600 challenge. A group is setting up an all night three-on three basketball tournament to raise money. The ideas are numerous.

This money is not being given in place of offerings to the church, or monies given to other good causes. This money is a sacrificial offering of this group of people and anyone else who would like to join in making a difference in this world. A website has been established to track this offering and to share ideas on how many can be saved. Calendars have been created and are available by donation to this 525,600 Fund. You can read more at [www.SPEC5256000.org](http://www.SPEC5256000.org).

Courage. It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else. (Erma Bombeck) Playing for Peace, a boy from Oklahoma, steps of courage, Outreach International, James Lawson, Mahatma Gandhi, Mattie Stepanek, you...me...snapshots of courage. We will make a difference. Together we will change the world.

—Susan Naylor  
Public Relations Director for Community of Christ

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## How Do I Love Thee?

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God has given each of us a place and time to be – or not to be all that God knows we can be. What we each do with these opportunities is up to us, as individuals. NO one can force us to be anything but what God gave us in the beginning of our lives. Peer pressure ... Terrorist’s ... ‘uncouth friends’ ... False leaders ... Our own selfishness ... not even fear can drive us into doing the wrong thing if we keep the mission foremost in our mind, and God in our hearts. Love will conquer all in the long run of life.

—Bruce Sargent, MSG, ret USAR

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**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 members receive either edition with a paid membership, **\$10.00, due in April**. The newsletter is also available on our Web site: [www.geocities.com/CofChristPeacekeepers/](http://www.geocities.com/CofChristPeacekeepers/)

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