

Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

October, 2004

Curt's Column



Ben Stein {Hollywood Actor-Comedian-Emcee-Writer} terminated his column "Monday Night at Morton's" on the online website to move on to other things in his life. Reading excerpts from his final column is worth a few minutes of your time.

"How Can Someone Who Lives in Insane Luxury Be a Star in Today's World?"

... I loved writing this column so much for so long I came to believe it would never end. It worked well for a long time, but gradually, my changing as a person and the world's change have overtaken it.

... A man or woman who makes a huge wage for memorizing lines and reciting them in front of a camera is no longer my idea of a shining star we should all look up to.

How can a man or woman who makes an eight-figure wage and lives in insane luxury really be a star in today's world, if by a "star" we mean someone bright and powerful and attractive as a role model? ...

A real star is the soldier of the 4th Infantry Division who poked his head into a hole on a farm near Tikrit, Iraq. He could have been met by a bomb or a hail of AK-47 bullets. Instead, he faced an abject Saddam Hussein and the gratitude of all of the decent people of the world.

A real star is the U.S. Soldier who was sent to disarm a bomb next to a road north of Baghdad. He approached it, and the bomb went off and killed him.

A real star, the kind who haunts my memory night and day, is the U.S. soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street near where he was guarding a station. He pushed her aside and threw himself on it just as it exploded. He



left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad.

The stars who deserve media attention are not the ones who have lavish weddings on TV but the ones who patrol the streets of Mosul even after two of their buddies were murdered and their bodies battered and stripped for the sin of trying to protect Iraqis from terrorists.

We put couples with incomes of \$100 million a year on the covers of our magazines. The noncoms and officers who barely scrape by on military pay but stand on guard in Afghanistan and Iraq and on ships and in submarines and near the Arctic Circle are anonymous as they live and die.

... There are plenty of other stars in the American firmament. The policemen and women who go off on patrol in South Central and have no idea if they will return alive. The orderlies and paramedics who bring in people who have been in terrible accidents and prepare them for surgery. The teachers and nurses who throw their whole spirits into caring for autistic children. The kind men and women who work in hospices and in cancer wards.

Think of each and every fireman who was running up the stairs at the World Trade Center as the towers began to collapse. Now you have my idea of a real hero.

... I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters and that it is my duty, in return for the lavish life God had devolved up me, to help others He has placed in my path. This is my highest and best use as a human.

—Ben Stein

Got Internet Access? Check out the US Armed Forces News Service web site: www.usafns.com. You can check out who is in the news in your home area! FREE!

The Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel is dedicated to bringing ministry to military members on active duty throughout the world.

Have You Ever Wondered?

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge in the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

Today, I found out. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.



The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles'.

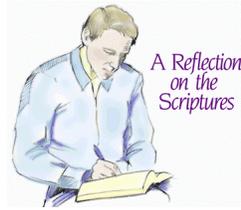
So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish.

—Bruce Sargent

Hearing the Voice of God

If we look at the three scriptures carefully, we see many references to hearing the voice of the Lord.

In fact, it appears that the Restoration Movement was established with this in mind: to raise up a people that would live comfortably in communion with our Savior.



“Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men: yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together.”

Doctrine and Covenants 1:1a, b

Section one states clearly that God is bringing forth a people who will “speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world.” Why? It is for these reasons: 1. that faith also might increase in the earth, 2. that mine everlasting covenant might be established, and 3. that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world and before kings and rulers.

That faith also might increase in the earth. That means it’s up to us to *show* our faith to the world.

That mine everlasting covenant might be established. This covenant is simply our ability to “abide in Him.” It is an intimate relationship with the Lord. It is the kind of intimacy that Jesus had with the Father as written in the Book of John, Chapter 17:21.

That the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers. The fullness of the gospel is our ability to: call on the name of the Lord, hear his voice, obey what he says or speak in the stead of Christ. That is heaven operating upon the earth on every generational level.

That would include children, teens, young adults, and adults.

Bronze Star Awarded

On August 29, 2004, Co-Pastors Doris & Roy Giltner asked our East 39th Street Congregation, in Independence, Missouri, to honor Master Sergeant John T. Mallas in recognition of his award of The Bronze Star Medal. John and his family are long time members at East 39th Street. The following is the statement of the citation.

“Citation to accompany The Award of The Bronze Star Medal to John T. Mallas.”

Master Sergeant John T. Mallas distinguished himself by outstanding achievement as Electronic Warfare Systems Technician, 706th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Group while engaged in combat operations against an enemy of the United States at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait from 10 April 2002 to 12 July 2002. During this period, Sergeant Mallas inventoried electronic warfare assets and devised proper counter measures systems programs incorporating all assets into highly effective, yet easy to use and understand sequential cockpit displays specifically tailored to fit Afghanistan theater threats. His extensive system knowledge and common

sense troubleshooting techniques allowed him to quickly and thoroughly repair all discrepancies, thus all sorties were met on time with electronic warfare systems operating at one hundred percent capacity. During one seven day period at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Sergeant Mallas worked countless hours as the only qualified electronic warfare technician assigned and quickly resolved any problems regarding electronic warfare systems and ensured they were functioning flawlessly. He noticed a trend of defective electronically fired chaff and flare squibs and working in concert with munitions technicians, large numbers of defective squibs were removed from the inventory and procedures put in place to closely monitor them, thus significantly improving the effectiveness of chaff and flare systems. As one of only two advanced aircraft electrical, communication, navigational, and guidance control systems technicians in the southwest Asian theater, he assisted other technicians in repairs resulting in perfectly functional systems on all assigned aircraft which allowed the unit to execute real world aircraft response alerts. The exemplary leadership, personal endeavor, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Mallas in this responsible position reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



The following two articles are from the same person.

“Forming Company Veteran Associations”

The Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that approximately 1,869 American veterans die each day. The number of Americans who enlist each day in the Armed Forces comes nowhere near this number. As a result, membership in our oldest and best known veteran organizations is rapidly declining. VFW, American Legion, and AMVets Posts in many cities have closed. The American veteran community is fighting a war of attrition.

To better promote military service and respect for veterans, all employed veterans are advised to establish a veterans association among your company employees, however small that number might be. Veterans should encourage their employers to support your association by soliciting federal tax relief and other company federal benefits for hiring veterans.

(Important Note: Because the majority of military, war service and medal recipient wannabes make fraudulent boasts or claims among their fellow employees and/or to their neighbors, company veteran associations should require that all members submit a copy of their DD-214 to their company’s personnel office or to the association membership committee.)

From: Military Stars
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2004
To: Eary Mary Civ 22 MSG/CCS
Subject: DOL “Hire Vets First” Campaign

Dear Veteran,

The Department of Labor and the President’s National Hire Veterans Committee has launched “Hire Vets First” campaign. This campaign will strive to heighten employer awareness about the employability of veterans.

Military Stars is currently working with hundreds of employers who understand the value of military experience and want to hire the best candidates upon their departure from the military. We are committed to helping our veterans keep their career on track by presenting exceptional career opportunities that best complement their background, talents and goals. Our goal is to assist veterans in growing and developing a long-term career with a reputable and respected company.

If you should find yourself or a fellow veteran in career transition, please visit our website at www.militarystars.com. We offer FREE services to veteran job seekers that include several Military Career Fairs each year that feature some of the top “military friendly” employers in the country, as well as job listings from hundreds of employers on our website.

Best Regards,

Military Stars
Candidate Services



Bruce Sargent’s Column

Charlotte and I Pray often for the safety of everyone, everywhere and for the good outcome to the activities our military is involved in at home and throughout the world.

FAITH allows us, no *causes* us, to believe in GOD and to follow Christ’s teachings. Keep the Faith!

HOPE is our belief that God’s Plan for the world and all his children {all people} will come to pass as God planned. We Hope that we are able to serve as his best representative(s), in all that we endeavor to do!

GRACE among all men and women, in all situations, is granted to each of us as our faith and hope gives us the understanding and quality of attitude. Pray for God’s grace every day!

CHARITY {giving of one’s self in service to others without expectations of reward} is the lynch pin that binds our belief’s together. Be unafraid to do God’s

biding in the quiet, simple everyday activities of life and especially in the difficult times!

Tell your positive stories well, with meaning and in full light of Christ's teachings. Write home and give interviews with this positive attitude.

I have followed the theme that "Relax and Smile" will get more good things done than the opposite will! After all, all my compatriots and I survived all the military could

hand us using that idea as a cornerstone in our life! I learned this as a youth and began practicing it in American Legion Baseball as an eleven year old! Really helped when I had to give the Gettysburg Address in Ninth Grade!

May God Bless You and Keep You in all things.

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/

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