

Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

February, 2005

Curt's Column

Where in the world has the time gone? Probably for all of you it has passed very slowly as so many of you are away from home and your loved ones. Joyce and I have been enjoying the warm climes of Arizona again this winter. However, we have a much cooler winter and also one that is much wetter than the last few years. But this also shall pass.

It was quite a shock this year to have President and Prophet Grant McMurray resign. To us he was surely what was needed in the time that he spent in that calling. The calling of a new president and prophet will take some hearing and listening to the will of the Lord. There is no doubt that the Lord is still in this work and we have much to do for Him. It is with extreme confidence that we look to the quorums and the First Presidency to act according to the Lord's will in filling the office. You may already be aware that a special conference will meet June 2 – 5, 2005, to finalize this decision.

What an awesome task to put before mortals. The only way that it will succeed is because God will direct each individual to come to the same conclusion. As we look to the individual that is chosen, we see the difficult task that lies before them. With our society of permissiveness and so many distractions before us, we as individuals must attune ourselves to hear His ministrations to us.

If all goes well we will hear before our next issue who has been selected. From that time on until June it will be our responsibility to lift that person up in prayer and personally receive our confirmation of the rightness of the call.

I was selected as a conference delegate after the revelation came forth calling women to the priesthood. I was totally opposed to the concept. My goal at the conference was to vote against any proposition that would support it. I knew that my vote wouldn't change the outcome unless there were many others that felt as I



did. A Sunday before I left, at our small church, I was in charge and had two ladies in our congregation read some scripture. While I sat in the front, a voice spoke to me and said, "I'll take care of it don't worry." I immediately felt relieved because I thought for certain that I was right. At the conference nothing went as I thought it would. At the last session I felt a very dark cloud settle over me. Joyce, who was in the balcony, sensed something was wrong and lifted me up in prayer and made her way to my side. While on her way down the cloud lifted and a ray of light illuminated the platform. It was at that time I realized that I had been in error. By the time she reached me all was different. What an experience.

It is my hope that we can all be in accordance with the quorums of the church in this matter.

In talking with President Ken Robinson, he has stated that tithes are not coming in as they used to. While many of us old people still follow the law that we were taught as children, we're getting fewer in number. It's up to the young bucks to pick up the torch and keep the fires burning. Look to the Bishopric for guidance. Teach your children the importance of keeping the financial law. Know it yourself. The adage "Give till it hurts" does not apply. The adage "Give until it feels good" is appropriate.



Be a Good Steward

May the Lord Bless and keep you all from harms way wherever you are. We thank you for what you are doing for us and will be forever grateful.

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

Introducing Steve McCrosson, our Churches Military Ministry Coordinator.

Several months ago I was asked by the First Presidency of the Community of Christ to be the Coordinator of Military Ministry. Being a retired Warrant Officer, and now the manager of Herald Publishing House, I was thrilled at the chance to be working with all of you. I know how difficult your service can be and I want you to know that I appreciate everything you do.



It was not clear in my mind exactly what was being asked of me so I began a quest to define the role of Military Ministry within the church. I must tell you that this is not complete yet. I am trying to grow this position. In my heart I believe that there are many ways in which the church can reach out to you as you serve your countries worldwide. This is not only an American ministry. There are church members in many nations serving their countries.

I was privileged to meet Curt Heaviland, your association's president. Our discussions have led to some changes and updates to our communion with you. There are also many volunteer members of your association that put in a lot of hours creating this newsletter and trying to keep track of you. I thank every one of them.

I am humbled by the work our Air Force Chaplain, Capt. Scott Jobe, is doing. Along with the position of coordinator, the church has asked me to function as Chaplain's Endorser. This is another position that I am thrilled to hold. Anyone who is interested in a career as a Chaplain can contact me. It is not an easy job. It is challenging and takes very special people to be Chaplains. Scott is providing very special ministry.

Let's talk about web sites. If you visit the World Church web site (<http://www.cofchrist.org>) you will find that in the top pull-down menus, the "Ministries" tab lists "Specialized Ministries." When you select this menu you will find "Military Ministries" now listed as a Specialized Ministry of the church. If you select this path (<http://www.cofchrist.org/militray/>) you will find information about our Chaplain ministry and soon there may be news about what you are doing also. Please send me your stories.

If you haven't been to the Association's web site (<http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>) recently I would suggest that you take a look. It has been updated to look more consistent with the church's web site. We

have added the newsletter in Adobe Reader format so those of you who have access to the Internet can download a copy instead of waiting for it to come in the mail. We have also placed links to provide information about local congregations and groups meeting near military installations.

One of the links I like is the one that takes you to updated information about what is going on in the church. The "10 Minute News Report" provides a quick overview of church events in the world. Of course on your association's web site you get updated information about what your association is doing as well.

For those of you who would like to join on-line discussion groups we have provided a link to the church's chat room. This can be a very uplifting experience for those of you who have no other church members close by. It provides a forum for discussion about faith and beliefs and other open topics.

Now let's talk a little about this Specialized Ministry. We will soon be adding military information to the Church Administrator's Handbook that will be released later this year. We will also standardize procedures for priesthood calls for our transient military. There are many other things we can do. **Here I need your help.** Please let me know what you need from your church while you serve. The goal is better communication and that might be what you need the most.

God bless you in service to your country, and thank you very much.

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Useful Military Warnings

"Aim towards the Enemy." —*Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher*

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." —*U.S. Army*

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground." —*U.S.A.F. Ammo Troop*

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." —*Infantry Journal*

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your Unit." —*Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.*

“It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.” —*U.S. Air Force Manual*

“Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo.” —*Infantry Journal*

“Tracers work both ways.” —*U. S. Army Ordnance*

“Five-second fuses only last three seconds.”
—*Infantry Journal*

“Bravery is being the only one who knows you’re afraid.” —*Col. David Hackworth*

“If your attack is going too well, you’re probably walking into an ambush.” —*Infantry Journal*

“No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection.” —*Joe Gay*

“Any ship can be a minesweeper—once.” —*Anon*

“Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.” —*Unknown Army Recruit*

“Don’t draw fire; it irritates the people around you.”
—*Your Buddies*

(And lastly)

“If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.” —*U.S.A. Ammo Troop {I usually outran ‘em. Bruce}*



Share a Smile—
It’s Contagious

Some other useful sayings:

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited—until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes, gnats and such, come close.

When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there.

Opportunity may knock once. But temptation bangs on your front door forever. {and how!}

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you and I couldn’t belong.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should we?

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them ... He’ll clean them.

If God is your co-pilot—move over, you’re sitting in the wrong seat!

God doesn’t call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Don’t give God instructions. Just report for duty.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

Peace starts with a smile.

We don’t change the message. The message changes us.

Excerpt from Community of Christ Council Bluffs Iowa Web Site

www.men4god.org

Listen to these remarkable words found in Psalm 68 verse 5:

“A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His Holy habitation”

In today’s society, we often forget those who are without family. God never forgets them. God knows every single parent and their children. He understands the needs of every child who is missing a parent(s). He cares and is ever faithful. Read all of Psalm 68. Get to know him with a daily bible reading. Love his Word. Be ever vigilant in your love of all God’s children. We have the best opportunity to show God’s Love the Each First time. [Redo’s are really difficult to make happen. Bruce.]



“Don’t let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.”

Do you seek great things for yourself?

—Jeremiah 45- 5

Are you seeking great things for yourself, instead of seeking to be a great person? God wants you to be in a much closer relationship with Himself than simply receiving His gifts — He wants you to get to know Him. There is nothing easier than getting into the right relationship with God, unless it is not God you seek, but only what He can give you.

If you have only come as far as asking God for things, you don’t understand the least bit of what

surrender really means. You have become a Christian based on your own terms. You protest, saying, “I asked God for the Holy Spirit, but He didn’t give me the rest and the peace I expected.” You are not seeking the Lord at all; you are seeking something for yourself. Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you ...” (Matthew 7:7). Ask God for what you want and do not be overly concerned about asking for the wrong thing, God understands your needs. And besides, as you draw ever closer to Him, you will cease asking for things altogether. “Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). Then why should you ask? It’s part of learning to communicate, like a child asking for a drink of milk. Parent’s have to train their children *how* to ask — God needs to see if we’ve learned *what* to ask for as well as *how* to ask.

He is not concerned about making you blessed and happy right now, but He’s continually working out His ultimate perfection for you. “...That they may be one just as We are one ...” (John 17:22).

Bruce's Prayer



Dear Lord bless our homes and families. Lord you’ve called us here from our world of stress and tension, teach us love that conquers fear. Help us learn to love each other with a love that stays constant.

Lord teach us when we face our troubles that love is expressed in many ways. When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that is ours to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours. When our way is anxious or we are walking in a harrowing path, teach us trust in one another, oh gracious God.

From the homes in which we were nurtured, with the love that has shaped us, teach us, Lord, to claim as family everyone whose life we share. And through all that life may offer may we remain in your love. May the love we share with our families be alive to praise your name, wherever we may be. Amen

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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