

Community of Christ



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

April, 2007

## Curt's Column

Today World Conference finished and while I was happy that I was able to attend I'm happy that it is over with as I realize I'm getting to be an old man and I'm tired. I can imagine that the delegates are tired as well as they were required to attend meetings which the rest of us did not have to. The one innovation that I enjoyed most of all was being able to sit in front of my computer and receive services. My big complaint is that the sound system, for me, is a problem. I have hearing aids and the echoing words are often lost to my hearing. It would be wonderful if the auditorium were equipped with a wireless system so we could pick up the sound and tune it to our own particular needs. Those who need translations have this capability but I guess us old ducks will just have to suffer.

The usual banquet was held at the East Alton Congregation and as usual our caterer did an outstanding job with the food. Thanks Don and Mary. At this meeting I had the distinct pleasure of having my grandson Timothy Morrison lead us in the pledge. He is a Master Sgt in the Civil Air Patrol. When he finishes high school his desire is to go to the Air Force Academy and fly. We'll have to work on that appointment.

Tim Kunzweiler graciously accepted the job of being president. He asked if I would be willing to serve out his remaining term as vice-president. This will entail fewer duties so I agreed and was elected to serve his remaining term. As it appears right now that will be for three years unless there is a United States Conference (which was mentioned as a possibility) as our next World Conference will have a three year interval. Lehman Heaviland will serve as treasurer until the next conference. Kim Jobe asked to be relieved as Secretary and the request was honored. Jennifer Redfern CWO5 was elected to replace her. This was Jennifer's first meeting



with the group. Thanks for accepting the position Jennifer.



Steve McCrosson, our World Church contact, addressed the group with comments about his role as well as how we are being accepted by the World Church Officers. Steve has been a real asset to us in his position. He is a retired Warrant Officer who served a good share of his time in Washington, D.C. Captain Scott Jobe, our only active duty Chaplain gave a testimony about the service he has been able to perform in his duty as chaplain. He tells us he will be traveling to England come July for a PCS. Right now he is in Minot, North Dakota. I have heard the slogan "why not Minot" which seems to be appropriate.

As part of my duties I'm going to continue to edit the newsletter and I send my usual request to all of you who receive it **PLEASE SEND ME ARTICLES FROM THE FIELD...** I hope to get a few articles from International Headquarters, but I'll need to write them a letter and remind them of their willingness to give an article for the military. I feel certain that with the press of all they have to do it has just slipped their mind(s). Especially when they were asked miles away from home. We do have a copy of an article by Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes, which she wrote for the back of the bulletin cover. We also hope to hear from Kris Judd, Diane Kyser and Barbara Howard.

Just a thought from me — I realize how fortunate we are to have President Steve Veazey at our head. He fills the bill as Prophet/President. The words of inspired concern for the World Church and which will become officially a part of the Doctrine & Covenants gives direction for us to follow. Many of the things which have crept into our society as being permitted now which were taboo years ago have been addressed. We need to carefully explore the divine counsel as given to us and apply it in our lives.

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

Just remember no matter where you are and what you are doing you can run but you cannot hide. This has come to me very forcibly in the past few years. As most of you know I work as a security officer part time. I had the opportunity to perform a marriage ceremony for a couple at the center. Now most of the people who work there know that I am a minister. I do not have to broadcast it but it's evident. Whether you are members of the priesthood or not you will stand out in a group. May I say God Bless you in you work and service not only to the country but also to the Lord that you serve.

Curt

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## Family Service in the Military

by Alvin Coop

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My family has a long military record dating back to the revolutionary war. The service that I am going to share is from my father, Orion Coop and his descendants. My father and his brother Zelca both served in the Marine Corps during World War I. My father was sent to France and was scheduled to go to the front lines just as the Armistice was signed to end the war. My uncle Zelca was sent to the Philippines.



The next family members to serve in the military were my brother-in-laws Robert Murdock (Army) and Vern Castile (Navy) and my uncle Gilbert Carlson (Army) all of whom served during World War II. The descendants of Robert Murdock's who have served in the service are a son, two grandsons and two son-in-laws. Three of them served in the Navy, one in the Marines and one in the National Guard. The descendants of Vern Castile who have served in the service are a son, and one grandson. Both served in the Navy. Two of my second cousins, Ronald and Joel Balcom served in the Navy. Joel was killed in action in Vietnam during the war there. Ronald also served in the Coast Guard to finish out his military career.



My brother Gail served in the Army and his son-in-law is in the Army. I served in the Coast Guard reserves for eight years. My son Sherman and my daughter Emma have both served in

the Air Force. Both of them have retired from the Air Force one with 20 years service and the other with 24 years of service. My son-in-law Brian also served in the Air Force. My granddaughter Kathleen Coop is in the Air Force and my grandson Josh is planning to enlist in the Air Force when he graduates from high school in 2008. The total years of service for my family including my Father is 168 years and counting. My son Sherman made three plaques of our military family tree, for presentation at his retirement in March 2007. Two of these he presented one to his sister and one to his daughter.

I would like to share some pictures of our family. One is my father and his brother taken in 1918 before they left the states. One each from my son and daughter's retirements. The other picture is the plaque showing our military tree.



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## "Victory! Jesus Lives! - Easter by Jim Hannah, Independence, Missouri

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*"Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?'"*

*-John 20: 15 NRSV*

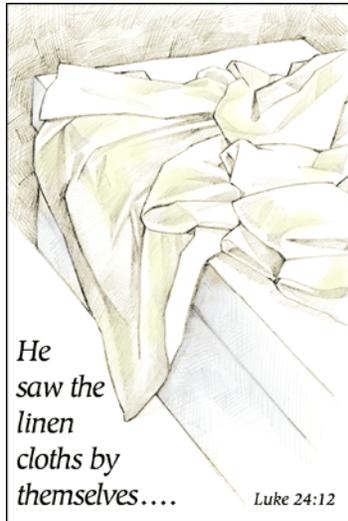
That's much the same question the earthly, incarnate Jesus put to his first disciples at the beginning of his ministry: "What are you looking for?" (John 1: 38). How like Jesus to ask rather than declare! So much of his teaching was not the imparting of knowledge but the invitation to "know in relationship," to know and be known intimately.

Perhaps nowhere is this invitation more vital than in connection with the Resurrection. For two millennia, controversies have swirled around this event and its interpretation. Was Jesus resuscitated or resurrected? Or was it all a hoax? Is its truth symbolic or actual? And how can *we* know *for sure*? German theologian Dorothee Soelle offers the valuable insight that Resurrection "must be understood as a process and it

happens afresh, again and again .... Some people have already risen from the dead; if we remember them, we nourish our own hope for the resurrection” (*Essential Writings*, p. 135).

Perhaps the strongest testimony of the Resurrection is not in the facts of the empty tomb (although we should be cautious in dismissing these simply because they may not fit our Western scientific views). Rather, it is in the reality of confused, cowering disciples who experienced resurrection power in such force that they went on to give their lives in joyous service and witness. Have we not known people similarly “raised from the dead” through the gospel message? Have we ourselves been “born anew” through the touch of love?

Ultimately, Dorothee Soelle writes, “the only possible proof of Christ’s resurrection and our own would be a changed world, a world a little closer to the kingdom of God.” Here is a call to resurrection not only in the *hereafter* but in the *here and now*. As we seek with Christ to establish the cause of Zion, we ourselves *become* resurrection power. Victory! Jesus lives!




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## Do Not Doubt but Believe by Richard A. Brown Herald editor

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*“Jesus said to him [Thomas], ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’*  
—John 20: 29 NRSV

Poor Thomas. Through much of the past two thousand years he’s become the poster boy for doubters. In fact, the term “doubting Thomas” carries a dictionary definition of “an incredulous or habitually doubting person.” It’s hard to live down a reputation like that. And so it shouldn’t be surprising that doubters, questioners, and skeptics have often been looked down on throughout the history of Christianity as second-class believers. But such a characterization is simply unfair.



Maybe it’s because doubt is so often thought of as the opposite of faith. It’s not: Doubt is the opposite of *certainty*. Jesus had plenty to say about certainty, especially as it related to the religious leaders of his day the scribes and Pharisees who loved to show off what they knew to be their preferred status before God. They were absolutely certain their practices, beliefs, and understandings were 100% in line with God’s law and will. They knew without a doubt that God loved them more than obviously lesser beings—sinners, lepers, Gentiles, and women. Their religion was all about certainty; as a result their life was orderly and simplistic.

For some unknown reason Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to the group. When Thomas arrived, he simply asked for some visible proof of their testimony of the risen Lord before he, too, could join their belief. In that he was no different from the other ten: *Seeing is believing*. Could there be anything more certain than that? Yet Jesus once again turned everything around: *Believing is seeing*. *Believing is understanding*. Belief begins with questioning, with healthy skepticism, and, yes, a measure of doubt. Jesus’ point is not so much to criticize Thomas as it is to offer a blessing to those future disciples who would use his example as a starting point.

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## Act in the Name of Jesus by Mary Jacks Dynes, Council of Twelve Apostles

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*“[Tabitha] was devoted to good works and acts of charity.”*  
—Acts 9: 36

In the first century, just like today, widows were on the bottom rung of society without anyone to represent them or to protect them. These are the ones to whom Tabitha (or Dorcas, “the Gazelle”) has given life. She headed a welfare program among the poor at Joppa.

She merited the only use of the feminine form of the Greek word for “disciple” in the New Testament. This along with her personal profile—“she was devoted to good works and acts of charity”—indicate her substantial reputation in the church. Her death had caused a crisis in the community, so the most vulnerable ones had no one.



The noted Methodist scholar and bishop William Willimon states it this way: “Surprise! Death will not have the final say. In this community widows will not be left to perish. Tabitha is restored to them by Peter’s bold word and act in the name of Jesus. This story says this name belongs to widows and others who have no hope nor power except this name of Jesus.”

I found myself in Honduras teaching a class to our ministers in May 2004 after the suicide death of my husband in November 2003. I wasn't going to go because I was in such a depressed state. But I received the "good works and acts of charity" from my good brothers and sisters from five Central American countries. It was especially the women who were so attentive to me and prayed *for* me, *with* me, and *alongside* me during my time there. What I received as



these sisters acted in the name of Jesus was beyond words. Surprise! Death and depression did not have the final say to me, a widow. I felt deep, deep love and was restored to life, claiming the hope and power found in the name of Jesus.



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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: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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