

Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

August, 2007

Tim's Service by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President



Friends. As I write I note that more than half another calendar year has passed by already. I must have misplaced a few days because things certainly seem to be zipping along. If you are currently deployed I sincerely hope that your time doesn't seem like it's dragging. I've been there and know the desire to be with family and home remains strong – even as does the willingness to serve away in time of need. Sheila has been spending some time up in Michigan recently, enjoying the deep woods and seeking to listen to the Lord in a special way. We'd both appreciate your prayers for us and for the kids ... come to think of it, Alex and Rachel especially need prayers whenever I am playing CINC-HOUSE! ;^)

What's going on in our Association? With the different/new names associated with three of our officer positions we have been discussing some impacts on our operations. One such discussion topic covered the Association Web Site. If you go there now (<http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/index.html>) you will already see that some tweaks are being made. The current officers have been updated (...and, by the way, don't be alarmed if you try to e-mail me and get a "mother may I" message back; our SPAM filter is on "high" and blocks senders not yet in my address book. Please follow the instructions because I DO want to hear from you). You'll also find that we have a bit more comprehensive application form at the MEMBERSHIP LINK. You can download a Microsoft WORD or an ACROBAT READER version and apply for membership – or update your info for us – using the form. The PDF version can be printed, hand-filled and mailed to us; the MS WORD version can be printed, hand-filled and mailed to us (or) saved, electronically filled, and e-mailed back to us. Double click the grey checkboxes and update the



"default value" option to "checked" for those boxes you wish to select. Both open pretty fast – even for my dial-up. We're considering resuming an online WEB FORM version in our future for those who may wish to accomplish things that way. Did I miss any critical content on those forms? Let me know. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Steve McCrosson for his service in the Web Site update arena – Thanks Steve!

Witness at work. Over at HQ Air Force Materiel Command, where I endeavor to serve the needs of the Command's readiness exercising program, I sit adjacent to a retired Chief Master Sergeant (a Purple Heart veteran at that). Now, like myself, he is also a Department of the Air Force Civilian (A.K.A. "still serving"). He and I will occasionally take the time to bolster each other as *brothers in the faith*. The other day he caught my attention when he mentioned to me the name of our Church (people DO listen!) and, interestingly, in connection with Arlington National Cemetery. He then passed me a website address to check out. Here it is:

http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/funeral_information/authorized_emblems.html. I had been unaware that the Community of Christ emblem was authorized for

tombstones at Arlington (and so maybe also at other U.S. national cemeteries). I am quite proud that our emblem happens to be right at the top of the page in this era – and right next to our Christian Cross. I'm learning I don't necessarily know what to expect when I witness to a fellow traveler on the journey – but I think I'll keep it up!

Case in Point. Let me tell you a story that a personal friend of ours relates:

Testimony: In the late 80's or early '90's I was going through a divorce and I was depressed beyond measure and to some extent

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

dysfunctional. I felt like I had failed my children and my parents, my wife, and the church. I hid in a cave, so to speak, just like Elijah. During our divorce my wife had the house and I actually lived in the basement of my practice, hardly doing anything for a long time but eating, sleeping, and seeing patients. I hardly left the office for almost a year. I felt like I wanted to die and even thought to myself at one time that if I had a gun I would just take my own life and make it easy on everyone. You know, sometimes God tests us in strange ways. I was not attending church much but was going out at noon on Friday for my civic club meeting –



probably because I paid my dues quarterly though the practice and those payments included the meal. During this depressed period there was to be a shooting contest scheduled between the bow hunters and the pistol shooters of my civic club. I had maybe mentioned to someone that I had qualified with a .45 during my military training and did pretty well with a pistol but couldn't participate in the contest because I didn't have a gun. One day, about noon, in the midst of my deep depression my receptionist called me to the front of the office and said one of my friends had something for me. I came to the front office and he handed me a small parcel wrapped in a blanket and said they wanted me on the pistol team. It was just the night or two before that I had thought about taking my own life and I can remember the terrible feeling when I unwrapped the blanket downstairs in the privacy of my office and found a .38 caliber revolver and some bullets. I wrapped it back up and put it in my desk drawer and it stayed there for about a week haunting me. It was only a few days after this that a "Thinking about you" card arrived for me in the mail and my receptionist put it in my in-box.

Later that afternoon I found the card from a sister of the faith who didn't even live in my town any longer but who somehow knew I was hurting and had sent a note of encouragement to me. In that note Sheila told me in her own words that "God loved me" and that she and Tim were praying for me. That note awakened me to God's love and was a part of God's nurturing me back into His service and into renewed life in Christ.



That testimony reached me on a Saturday as I was still preparing for delivering the next morning's message. Being a person of faith, I will have to believe that our friend – who had used that testimony in another morning's message – was listening to the Lord's Spirit and perhaps felt impressed to pass it along then – though maybe not even knowing why. The theme for the day I spoke was "Reap What You Sow." My wife, Sheila, sowed some good seed many years ago, but the harvest is still being richly gathered in with that friend of ours and he has resumed his place as a sower in his own right. Listen to the Lord's Spirit; I believe He will use us as tools according to the willingness and faith we show. And don't be fearful of reaching out to another of the Lord's children – you may never know the impact you have but, then again, a testimony may flow forth in years to come.

On the lighter side. I ran across a version of this next piece a little while back and must admit that it both tickled – and humbled – me a bit. I searched for the composer on the Web but, for now, have to offer this as "author unknown." Perhaps Peacekeepers can relate to the good reminders:

Psalm 23 for the Workplace

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want. He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me. He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining. He reminds me that he is my source and not my job. He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do. Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I still will not stop – for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me. He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go. His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check. His retirement plan beats every 401k there is! When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that, I WILL BLESS HIS HOLY NAME.

Finally a request: Do you have any of the old Saints In Service newsletters? If you could scan them and send them along to us we wouldn't at all mind having archival copies. In fact, if you have any documentation at all that relates between our denomination and the military I would appreciate the chance to review those. I'd like to

remind our members that this is an International Association and Ministry too. I may talk primarily about the U.S. military, because of my personal experience, but we endeavor to reach out to all our military members no matter which nation they serve. We all serve the same Lord in the Legions of the Saints.

Hmmm ... anyone good at hymn writing?

May God bless all Peacekeepers. In Christ, Victory.
Tim

Curt's Column



I have found out what it is like to have nothing to do. I just recently underwent a heart cath to see if there was some problems with my heart. The doctor said everything seems to be OK but you're not to lift over 10 pounds nor can you drive for three days. Man that puts the kibosh on you when you have plenty to do at home and can't do much of it. My bride and I went to breakfast this morning, and she drove, but when we got home all I could do was take a nap. That's not good for me.

I sure can see what retirement does to some people. I guess that's the reason that I have signed on as a security officer. Also the fact that I'm trying to keep my hand in as editor of the newsletter. It gives me contact with you out in the field. It also gives me something to work towards, and for you thanks heaps.

My request goes out again. Send us some news about what you are doing, where you are and just in general things that concern you. We really want to be able to share the experiences of life with all that we come in contact with. I know this to be true as almost every morning a retired chief petty officer and I have coffee together. We are able to share things we did while on active duty as well as things that are taking place in our lives today. These things are of interest to all of us. Some of the best services at church are when the minister shares some personal experience with the group. I challenge you to send material to us. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece but something you can share.

If you feel you can tell it, but just can't write it – Mary Yocum has offered to help put the words down for you. She can be reached at mary50nfine@comcast.net, or 2116 Aqueduct Place, Independence, MO 64057. My e-mail address is armr77@sbcglobal.net. Or my home address is 1228 S. Scott Ave, Independence, MO 64052-3818. Please let me hear from you.

GOD BLESS,
Curt



United States Air Force Chaplain Ministry

by Chaplain, Captain Scott Jobe

The ministry of Jesus continues to thrive in my service as an Air Force Chaplain to military members, their families, and friends. My family and I are continually sent to new places and allowed new avenues of service in new communities. I will attempt to describe some of it, as I did when being the guest speaker at last World Conference military ministries dinner. Yet no words can describe the wonderful ministry journey that I am having as a chaplain within the United States Air Force. In fact, I should have written an article long ago, but I have been so very busy in the day-to-day business of ministry within military life that I have scarce opportunity for anything else.

What is a military chaplain? Chaplains provide absolute confidential counseling, a ministry of presence, and advise their leadership on morale and other issues of concern regarding military members and their families. They do all the things that a civilian minister does except that they work within the specialized field of the military. Military chaplains are required to be physically fit (as are all military members), have a 90-semester-hour graduate degree, and be ordained, have at least two years pastoral experience, be endorsed by their denomination, and be able to minister to people within a pluralistic faith environment.

To be endorsed by the Community of Christ, one is specifically required to have a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from an accredited seminary (since most Protestant chaplains have this) and be an elder (so they can administer all the sacraments). A primary role of a chaplain is to facilitate the free exercise of religious beliefs that are guaranteed to all by the Constitution. Most chaplains are assigned to specific units on a base as their "pastor," to provide "industrial ministry" in the workplace. This presence often facilitates another key role of the chaplain, which is providing confidential counseling to airmen and their families who may or may not have a faith tradition. Military chaplains all serve beyond their faith tradition. Currently, there are Catholic, Protestant, Episcopal, Jewish, and Muslim chaplains. I serve primarily within the Protestant community, though I am called from time to time to serve within mixed-faith communities. I strongly encourage anyone who meets the church and military qualifications and has a heart for military ministry to consider military chaplaincy! (For more



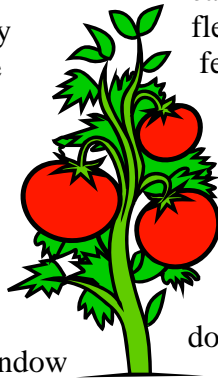
information, contact the church's endorser, Steve McCrosson.)

Space does not permit the full article as Scott wrote and shared. We will share the rest of it in the October/November newsletter.

Tomatoes by Jennifer Redfern

Hello family. Been busy with work and staring at boxes that need to be unpacked. Took off this week with the intent of squaring away the house. So far, I have worked at relaxing; and getting sunburned while working out at the pool.

I finally solved the mystery of the partially eaten tomatoes. Initially I thought the damage was from the many birds that hang out in my tiny backyard. Sunday I finally put a sheer curtain panel over the plants until I could get some netting. The birds were getting my tomatoes just before they were ready to pick. Yesterday afternoon I went to my bedroom window which faces out the front side of townhouse. Scrunched up inside the storm window panel against the window screen was a brown bat hiding in the shade. That got me to thinking ... at night after dark when I would take my dog out the backdoor by the tomato plants (which are in pots)



there would be something flying away. Don't know many little birds that fly in the dark.

Yesterday I got some garden netting to cover the plants. This morning the almost ripe tomato was pressed against the netting and already had a small pecked hole in it, was about half eaten and the netting was pressing into the exposed flesh. Directly below the plant was unusual dark looking droppings that did not look anything like what the birds leave behind. I guess the netting gave my midnight guest more places to hang out as there was this same type excrement on several zucchini plant leaves below the tomato plants. As I looked closer at the now half eaten tomato I could see tiny bite marks in the outer flesh ... So now I am getting my tomatoes fertilized while they are being eaten. At least there are only a few tomatoes the midnight winged visitor can reach now.

See God does deliver blessings in all shapes and sizes ... At least now I can go back to trusting the feathered winged visitors in my back yard (at least while I am looking at them). I do love the little creatures that bless me with their presence at the bird baths and feeders. What a blessing their presence is to me. Yes, even the bat and the rat

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/>

Officers:

President: Tim Kunzweiler, Maj, USAF (Ret); cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net
Vice President: Curt Heaviland, Lt Colonel, Army (Ret): armr77@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Jennifer Redfern, CWO5, Army: Jennifer.redfern@us.army.mil
Treasurer: Lehman Heaviland, SGT E5 Army (Discharged): CatOprr1@aol.com (or) KGHRN1@aol.com
Newsletter Support: Mary Yocum; mary50nfine@comcast.net

