

Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

October, 2007

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



Greetings fellow servants. May I first ask for your prayerful concern for my own family? August 12th eight of my older brother's family were involved in a serious accident. Four were significantly injured when the truck left the road and rolled over. Wife (Diane) has had three surgeries for broken bones; youngest daughter (Autumn) sustained head injuries. Another daughter (Becky) is dealing with lower body paralysis – appearing permanent. Son (David) punctured a lung but, thankfully, had only a short hospital stay.

God didn't cause this. I believe that "life happens" and has natural consequences. I also believe God can – and does – act in miraculous ways. God did not save His own Son – who cried out from the cross. Rather, His "allowing the event" has brought us the miracle of resurrection to life eternal WITH Him.

Blessings have already been recognized. Would you pray, with me, that the family may be strengthened for the road ahead?

Membership support. You may recall I asked for the old Saints In Service newsletters in our last edition. It is my great pleasure to thank Col Lewis (Lew) Weigand who sent along a box of Armed Forces Newsletters and Saints in Service Newsletters covering the period from October 1976 to June 1990! This is a treasure that adds so much to our long-term knowledge and continuity. It may take a while but my aim will be to copy these all into Adobe (.PDF) format and post them to the Association website. Perhaps we could even provide the occasional historical anecdote for our current newsletter. Dare I ask if anyone has copies that go back further than '76?

Service Challenges. I have been involved in a pretty good challenge recently. USAF is working to reshuffle some activities in an effort called the Air Force Forces (AFFOR) Command and Control (C2) Enabling concept. In support of the readiness exercising portion

Pentagon (A.K.A. "Puzzle Palace") in early August to work as part of a "Tiger Team." Our job (continuing ever since and based on our knowledge of exercising) has been to craft a new structure that enables USAF to best meet the needs of the Combatant Commanders. We've had a good bunch of action officers working in our group though, and our intent has been to avoid politics and seek to put together what's best for the Air Force. The Major Commands have had their first "hack" at the appendix we drafted for the Program Action Directive (PAD). The good news seems to be that no one said "go back to square one"! ...yet. Our group will have gotten together again at Nellis AFB for additional appendix co-ordinations and deliberations by the time you read this. If we can improve the service's mission readiness we will call our efforts successful.

What's going on in our Association? Getting the word out (to the broader Community of Christ population on supporting our military membership) remains a cyclic need. I'm working on an article for the *Herald* and will hope to get that approved and published in the days ahead. When I last spoke with the International Church on *Herald* Subscriptions to military members I was told: "The *Herald* is supplied free of charge to Community of Christ members actively serving in the armed forces. The First Presidency is deeply committed to supporting the members of Community of Christ who are faithfully engaged in the practice of Christian discipleship, witness, peacekeeping and conflict resolution through the selfless service in national armed forces." This free subscription covers any periods in which you [Regular, Guard, Reserve – including Coast Guard] are serving on active duty and is based on the assumption that a person not actively serving is gainfully employed or otherwise has a support system connected with the church. We deeply appreciate the Church's efforts. Help us keep apprised of your status in keeping the free *Herald* subscription

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

rolls updated. In general names would be added or removed from the subscription list when one of four things happens: 1. The Association is notified; 2. The Military Ministries office is notified; 3. Herald House is notified; 4. The monthly issues are returned with no forwarding address.

Here's a gentle prod: We'd like to be able to let the membership know what's going on with you and your military and Christian service. Please drop us a few words you wouldn't mind seeing in print. It doesn't matter whether it's a routine update or a very special announcement; if we have room we'd like to print news about "you!"

And may God Bless all Peacekeepers. In Christ – Victory. Tim



As promised in the August/September newsletter, Chaplain Scott Jobe's article will be completed in this installment. Details on Chaplaincy appeared in the last newsletter. I have chosen to repeat the first paragraph below as an introduction to this installment.

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.

At Minot Air Force Base, I recently served as the Gospel service pastor. The vibrant music of the African American tradition enriched this two-hour worship service on Sunday which nurtured military members, base personnel, and retirees. As a military chaplain, I have had the privilege of serving some ordinary military members doing extraordinary service. I am sincerely impressed with the dedication of our military members who continue to go above and beyond in service to others. They put others before themselves in service of something that is much greater than themselves. I am thankful to be a part of an organization that espouses three core values of "Integrity, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do."

I have served in the military since 1982 as both enlisted and as an officer, and I am proud to have had the privilege to serve. I was first an infantryman in the Army National Guard for six years, getting the

opportunity to train in the Philippines once. I then served on active duty in the Air Force as an avionics specialist and worked on F-15 jets. I served in Bitburg, Germany, and Nellis AFB, Nevada. While at Bitburg, I got to see the Berlin Wall fall and deployed to Turkey during Operation Desert Storm, I transitioned from that career field to serve in the Air Force Reserves back home at Scott AFB, Illinois, as medical administrative technician and then NCOIC of Social Actions/Equal Opportunity, before becoming a chaplain candidate and then a chaplain. As a chaplain candidate, I served summers during seminary at Seymour-Johnson AFB, North Carolina; Falcon AFB (now called Schriever), Colorado, and Hill AFB, Utah. I have served as an active-duty chaplain since 1998, serving at Eglin AFB, Florida; Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan; Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas; Minot AFB, North Dakota; and now Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

Ordinary military members doing extraordinary service is the theme that comes to my mind when reflecting upon my privilege to serve with other military members. I could tell you of many who have gone above and beyond to serve, but I will limit my discussion here to just a few ordinary people providing extraordinary service whom I observed while stationed at Minot Air Force Base.

The first person was a security forces airman at Minot AFB who was working during an exercise one evening about three years ago. It was bitterly cold (it easily reaches sixty below wind chill in a winter evening), and yet when I approached the airman, he snapped to attention and had his rifle at the ready. Beneath the layers of clothes, you could see his face that was literally frosted over from the cold weather. As a ministry of presence, I asked if there was anything I could do. He told me that I could pray for warmer



weather. I laughed with him and told him that I had been praying but that the Lord was solely responsible for areas of production. I asked, instead, if he would like a hot drink, to which he affirmatively replied. I got him a hot cocoa. He appreciated the warm drink and short conversation as he was guarding his post. Yet the almost frozen face of this airman, I will never forget. Now, that is dedication to duty, I thought to myself, and what a privilege it is to serve beside someone of this character!

Another person was the aircraft maintainer who was fixing the aircraft on the flight line that was being guarded by the security forces airman. This military member, in greasy overalls, with a large toolbox at his side, was also out in the cold to make sure the plane was ready for the exercise flying mission within a few hours. I offered this person a hot drink and conversation also,

and tried to provide a ministry of presence, which may often lead to confidential counseling.

I observed another group of ordinary military members doing extraordinary service when I deployed from Minot Air Force Base in 2005 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I was at a location in which our bombers were flying operations in support of our military members and allied forces on the ground in Afghanistan. As the aircrew prepared for flight into a combat zone, I came in and did devotional prayers to remind them of the peace of Christ and his presence with them before they departed on their missions. Sometimes I would even fly in the refueling aircrafts and talk on the radio with them before they flew into hostile territory. Everyone has a call sign, and the one they gave me was "Shepherd." I was touched by this call sign and by the continued sacrifices of these men and women who were leaving family behind and were going above and beyond in flight. Some would fly very long missions over hostile territory, sitting cramped in uncomfortable combat gear, knowing in the backs of their minds that they may not come back.

The final ordinary military members doing extraordinary service whom I will describe are the missiliers at a Missile Alert Facility (MAF). Down in a hole somewhere, these military members are routinely "deployed in place" for days away from their families. They eat and sleep in this hole, monitoring the equipment that is before them. Their specialized training and Top Secret security clearance allow them to serve in these highly secure facilities. As I would visit them and even stay overnight (in accommodation top-side), I reflected on how these missiliers continually went above and beyond in service. It might sound strange to some, but in service to military members, I have seen the eyes of Jesus within the eyes of military members who were going above and beyond.

I have recently left Minot Air Force Base and have been assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. I have had assignments all over the world and have been thankful to serve within the military as a chaplain. It has been a wonderful journey, and I have seen many ordinary men and women in the military service in all branches provide extraordinary service. As a military chaplain, I encourage them in the Lord. They, in turn, continue to amaze me!

Curt's Column



Here it is October already. I was told when I was a young man that as I grew older the time would pass much faster. It always seemed to me that time was slowly marching on but now that I am 80 it seems to just

fly by. At least the Lord has given me reasonable health and an opportunity to enjoy life.

I feel really blessed that I have the opportunity to live in Independence where the world headquarters of the Community of Christ is located. Not only do I have the opportunity to visit the temple and associate with a great number of people of the same faith, and worship in one of the many congregations, but have an opportunity to sit under the ministry of the First Presidency.

During the month of August, the First Presidency held a series at the Stone Church dealing with section 163, which was made a part of the Doctrine & Covenants at the last World Conference. There is so much in this section that we need to study and understand. To have the Presidency take time go over it with us is fantastic. I know that because of this I have a better understanding about what the Lord is trying to get us to do. Because of this, my hope is to do a better job daily in the world today. I have the opportunity, working as a security officer, to insert calmness into the problems that beset many in our society.

I checked with the authorities at the Stone Church and found out that if there are any of you that are interested in having your own set of the series, they are available on DVD. There are seven in the set. The total is \$30.00 with postage and handling fee of \$3.00. If you want the set, send your check made out to the Stone Church to Greg Savage, Stone Church, 1012 W. Lexington, Independence, MO 64050. He said they would be available in October even though the series ended in August.

I, personally, have been really impressed with the effort put forth to bring us the wishes that God would put upon us. 163 points us in the direction He would have us go and outlines our responsibilities to His will. In my opinion, and after further study there is no doubt in my mind of the fact that this is of divine inspiration. To go along with the series the Central Mission has put a study guide on their web site. If you want it go to centralmission.org. There you will find a link to the study guide.

I wish that each one of you could have had the opportunity that I have had. It is my earnest desire as editor of the newsletter that I can get together those things that will bring the Spirit of God to you, no matter where you are in the world and no matter what you find yourself having to do. Just remember, we love and respect you for your efforts on our behalf.
GOD BLESS,
Curt

Suzzane by Curt Heaviland

Suzzane is a member of the Mesa, Arizona congregation. Joyce and I got to know her and her

testimonies while we attended that congregation. We persuaded her to share with us.

I didn't become a member of this wonderful Church till I was thirty six years old. I always went to church with my husband who was a member his whole life.

I heard some inspiring sermons and I felt the Holy Spirit on many occasions. When our missionary, Cecil Robbins, came to Niagara Falls branch, I attended all his classes and sermons. I was so inspired when he preached. He had so much to say about the Church and his testimonies were real and I felt them all.

My family always went to reunion and my children went to all camps and Zion's League, we were involved.

I became quite active, singing in the choir, solo's, women's department and helped at the church's public suppers. I wanted to help in anything that was going on in the church.

I went to women's retreat and when a group of women said they were going to Kirtland, Ohio to a women's retreat at the Kirtland Temple, I said I wanted to go.

We went to classes and services across the street in the church, which were wonderful and I met so many women from all over the state of New York.

On the last day, a Sunday, the service was held in the Kirtland Temple. I was excited, as we went through the doors of the Temple and when I saw over six hundred women inside this feeling came over me and surged through me. I could hardly breathe and was overcome. I felt weak and my heart was pounding. I remembered what the Book of Mormon said. "We will have a burning in our breast, that will acknowledge the truth." I could hardly sit in a pew.

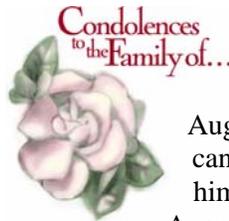
When everyone stood to sing the hymn I started crying and couldn't stop. I felt God was saying "Come and be a part of us." (I'm sure I shall not pass again this way). I've had many wonderful experiences over the years, but the one in the Temple was it for me.

I felt so full for the rest of the service, I knew what I had to do. I could hardly wait till we got back to Niagara Falls, to call our pastor and ask him to arrange my baptism, which was the next Sunday. My baptism is another inspiring testimony, which if you like I can send you later.

Suzanne LePine, Mesa, AZ

(We will ask her for that testimony)

Death Report



Condolences
to the Family of...

The Peacekeepers are sad to report: James Gordon Veazey, father of Stephen M. Veazey and father-in-law of Cathi Cackler-Veazey, died about 5:30 am, 8 August, at home after a long struggle with cancer. Steve and his brother, Randy, were with him when he passed away. Visitation was August 10th at McEvoy Funeral Home in Paris, Tennessee. A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 11th at the Paris Congregation of the Community of Christ. Burial was in Walker Cemetery, Henry County, Tennessee, with military honors. Memorial gifts may be made in memory of J. Gordon Veazey to Community of Christ, Paris Congregation or Henry County Medical Center Hospice, 311 East Wood Street, Paris, Tennessee 38242.

"Our family deeply appreciates the support of our world-wide faith community over the past months. We have felt your love, concern, and prayers as we have journeyed with Dad through a difficult extended illness. He passed away as the morning sun was rising. Our testimony is that in life and death the risen Christ brings light, strength, and peace." —Stephen M. Veazey

The Peacekeepers wish to express our deepest condolences to the entire Veazey family and our great appreciation for James Gordon Veazey's service to the United States of America.



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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