
Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

December, 2007

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

In the season that this newsletter covers I am very mindful that it takes us through the end of the 2007 portion of our roller coaster ride and into 2008. Some of you reading are doubtless much closer to the lands of the Bible than the rest of us — and not always by first choice. Even so, I hope you will be able to keep in focus how what may seem barren to our sight is part of God's creation — and full of potential. Where mankind sees desolation the Lord may raise up boundless blessings. Sometimes the only thing the equation may seem to lack is the faith we need to go forward with Him. That said, I am reminded how, in our scriptures, those who are documented as being God's instruments, with but one exception (Christ alone), may seem decidedly flawed by worldly standards. Even so, and in spite of shortcomings and sinfulness, God clearly shows us in the testimony of scripture how *He can use us if we will but be repentant and then — in faith — be His instruments.*

In the news. I hope you might have spotted that the October 2007 Herald had some points of particular interest to military personnel in the Snapshots and Snippets section. On pg 38, entitled "Supporting the Troops" was a photo of some women from the Otter Lake, MI congregation who had sewed neck wraps for the 144th Military Police Company serving in Iraq. Our thanks to those ladies for their blessings to the troops. Also on pg 40, entitled "Military Chaplain Graduates" our own Scott Jobe was shown in his educational robes, having recently graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. Congratulations Scott on this recognition, a reflection of your diligent studies and perseverance. We pray that the ministry you provide may be enhanced all the more by this additional education.

Retreat! On October 19-21 my wife (Sheila) and I enjoyed the great blessing of participating in the Western



Ohio, Bountiful and Eastern Great Lakes combined Mission Center Priesthood Retreat at Kirtland, Ohio. I cannot fathom a more perfect weekend — and that's just speaking of the weather (we had deep blue, virtually cloudless skies, leaves turning, and crispness to the air — but which still allowed shirtsleeves in the daylight hours). More importantly though, ministers from across the region had an opportunity for *being ministered to* and to get a recharge. Guest ministry was provided by President David Schaal and discussion focused on Doctrine and Covenants Section 163. If you have not yet begun a study of this most recent guidance to the Body of Christ I highly encourage you to begin an exploration of its depths and height. And, if you have any chance to visit Kirtland Temple and the new Visitor's Center *please do*. The Lord's work is proceeding in Kirtland!

Brothers and sisters, my humble prayer for you this season is that, wherever you are — and possibly in the midst of daily duty and conflict — you may still look upon your location, and the people you are in the midst of, with awe and hope. God is with you and you may be the instrument that, in His hands, brings new light to your "current corner" of creation. From the Kunzweiler family, and on behalf of the rest of the Peacekeeper officers and supporters, may I offer you our wishes for a very *Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyful New Year.*

In Christ — Victory and may God Bless all Peacekeepers. Tim

The Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel is dedicated to bringing ministry to Community of Christ members serving on active duty world-wide.

George Farnell tells us a nephew of his (goes by "Trey") recently went to basic training at Great Lakes and the family would appreciate it if the church could include him on the Newsletter. Also, if anyone is in the area, might they be able to visit him? His address at Great Lakes is:

SR Jacobs, Noah
Ship 14, Division 022
3410 Sailor Drive
Great Lakes, IL 60088-3510



From military resources an FYI. "Holiday Deadlines for Troop Support. While the holidays may still seem far away, Americans hoping to show their support to deployed troops must be aware of some rapidly **approaching deadlines**. According to the Military Postal Service Agency, mail going parcel post must be sent by November 14, while first class mail must be sent by December 10 to arrive by December 25. In addition to deadlines, several other factors must be considered when sending mail downrange. For example, each country has customs regulations that apply to all incoming mail, pertaining to everything from food items to reading materials."

Table VIII by an Attack Pilot

Recently the 1-135 Attack Recon Battalion (Apache Helicopter Unit) from Whiteman AFB, MO deployed to Ft. Carson, CO for AT (Annual Training). For the aircrews AT is always centered around completing aerial gunnery qualifications in the AH-64 Apache helicopter, and this AT was not going to be any different. I found myself paired up with the newest WO1 just back from the Apache Qualification course (his moniker is Fuzz). As one of the senior instructor pilots it was probably rightfully so that I would have Fuzz for my CPG (Co-Pilot Gunner). Fuzz and I were up second for Sunday night's shoot. Gunnery is conducted at night using the Apache's NVS (Night Vision Systems). The NVS uses infrared technology to create an image that we use at night for flying and shooting. The targets range from 1200 to 6000 meters and the furthest targets get really hard to see through the NVS. This is more than challenging.

This year's competition included some very formidable crews shooting for the Top Gun Award. Two of the other senior instructor pilots had very experienced CPGs with approximately 500 hours of flying Apaches. In other words their CPGs were well experienced, unlike my CPG, aka Fuzz; Fuzz, had a couple of things going for him. He is a sharp, hard working young man, but most of all he is a Christian.

Sunday morning I went to chapel service conducted by our Battalion Chaplain. I noted that I was the only aviator at Chapel services that is until Fuzz walked in about five minutes late. Now there were two aviators at chapel services.

That afternoon I had my choice between two helicopters. Tail numbers 257 and 238. I prayed to God to help pick the better shooter of the two aircrafts. That is right some helicopters shoot better than others. A voice in the back of my head told me to go for 238, but I kept going back to 257 because it has stronger engines. I don't know why I was going back to 257; the stronger engines don't have anything to do with the aircraft being a good shooter. I must not be much of a prophet because I was too hard headed to listen to God when he was telling me to take 238. (Ironically, this is like a decision we all make in our own lives everyday, which is failing to listen to God or even asking him to guide us). Because I was too hard headed to listen, God took 257 out of the picture with a maintenance issue; thus leaving me with His choice of 238.



That afternoon I met up with Fuzz and went over the gunnery engagements. I told him how we would shoot each engagement focusing on how we would range the targets. That evening we went to the flight line where we conducted our preflight inspection of 238; then flew to the FARP (Forward Arming and Refueling Point) to get the Rockets and 30 millimeter ammunition loaded. While we were sitting in the FARP Fuzz and I had a little more discussion about the engagements. Then Fuzz and I prayed asking God to be with us that we would have a safe flight and a successful gunnery table VIII.

So we flew off into the dark and found our targets where we engaged and hit all 12. We were the only crew to score a hit on all 12 targets and racked up 1143 points. The second closest crew went 9 for 12 and scored 952 points. For Fuzz and me this was like our own scaled down version of David and Goliath.

We asked God to be with us; and he was. We didn't ask to be the Top Gun but the Lord blessed us abundantly. God will be with you if you ask him. This doesn't mean God will give you the winning lottery ticket if you ask him. He knows that would be counterproductive to our Christian lives.

Curt's Column

The winter and holiday season is upon us. For those of you who are far away from home and family it is probably not the most pleasant of times. Yet, we here at home are grateful for your effort and dedication to keep us free and away from those who would destroy our way of life if they were given the chance. You are making a difference in our lives and we thank you for it.

Have you ever thought — have I made a difference in someone's life? This thought came to me recently as I have attended church. I don't remember the theme for that day but I do recall that question in my mind. Let me relate an experience to you.

Joyce and I were living in the St Louis area and I was teaching fifth grade in the Normandy School District at Lincoln School. There were three fifth grades, and if I recall correctly, I had the middle group of kids. It was an integrated school system and my class was no exception. They were all good kids and were usually easily motivated. However, I had one student; his name was Eddie, who delighted in disrupting the class. I put up with his antics as long as I could and one day I told him that if he pulled his stunts again he would get paddled. We could do it in those days. He quieted down and was good for a few days, but time got away from him and he was back to his antics.

I called him aside and asked him if he remembered what I said. He said he did but there was a smile on his face. It disappeared as we left the room and went into the hall. I went across the hall and called another fifth grade teacher out of her classroom to witness the paddling. Three good swats are all he got. He took it well and only sniffed a little bit as he went back to the classroom. The swats could be heard in all the fifth grades.

Eddie changed after that episode and became a good student. Needless to say my class was a group of model kids. It wasn't long until school was out for the year and Eddie disappeared from my life.

A number of years passed, more than I can remember, and while sitting in front of my computer the telephone rang and I answered it. The voice on the other end said, "Mr. Heaviland" and I answered "Yes." "Did you teach at Lincoln School?" Again the answer "Yes" "Did you have a student in your class by the name of Eddie?" The answer again was "Yes." The voice said "I was that Eddie."

We went on to discuss how he had found my name and telephone number. It seems my daughter-in-law works with him in the same department and he was intrigued by the spelling of her name. We discussed the

incidents in that class and near the end of the conversation Eddie wanted to thank me for the paddling he received that day. I was astounded that he would remember it as well as thank me. His statement was that on that day his life was turned around. He went on to become an "A" student in High School and graduated from college with bachelor's degree.

If I had not cared about what he was doing and wanted to see his best he may not have turned out as he did.

He made my day and I was glad I had a part in helping become a success in life. We do not often have that chance to know what we have done. That's why it's important to live a life that Christ would have us live.

From Germany

I just returned from a short trip to Germany where I had a wonderful and productive time. Didn't get much sleep — I was only there Sunday through Wednesday night and returned on Thursday morning so my sleep schedule was messed up. I met a few wonderful soldiers and civilians currently serving in Iraq. They were wandering around Frankfurt airport waiting for their flights home. One was on emergency leave; another on R&R but he was not sure if he would have a wife there to meet him ... great exchanges with both. I am sure it was not "accidental" that I felt compelled to engage in conversation with either one. They were not in uniform but the distinctive backpacks were a hint they spoke English.

Had a wonderful conversation with a Croatian businessman now living in the US and resentful that he could not hold on to his family's farm in Croatia thanks to the former regime there. His testimony of freedom was moving. He said yes, he was free to move around now but still the joy is tainted by the great loss of family history — not being able to claim the family ground in Croatia.

I had a wonderful conversation with an Iraqi immigrant now serving with the US forces in Iraq. He too exuded with joy for the freedoms he and his family experience in the US — but extended family is still lost somewhere in Iraq. In my interactions with these immigrants, it was very clear that one thing they thought kept us from being a great nation was all the STUFF we Americans insist on collecting. May we identify the stuff we do not need and remove it from our closets so we too may enjoy fully the blessings bestowed upon us.

Your neighbor, friend, daughter, sister, cousin, etc,
Jennifer Redfern



God Is With Us!

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."
—Matthew 1: 22-23 NRSV

At this time of year we habitually turn to the familiar stories told by Matthew, Luke, and Old Testament prophets, particularly Isaiah. Many people know them by heart. Sometimes all it takes to transport our minds and memories is the mere mention of a detail: a manger, shepherds, an inn, frankincense, angels, a new star in the east. All these individual stories come together to form one story. Now, in the flesh, God is *with us*.

For twenty years I have edited the devotionals that appear in *Daily Bread*. Simple multiplication shows that more than seven thousand have been published during those years. Add to that thousands more devotionals that didn't make it in because there wasn't room in the book and the scope of it all becomes overwhelming. Consider, too, that *Daily Bread* has been published by Herald House for more than sixty years. Certainly, the Holy Spirit has

been busy in the lives of our contributors. How many more thousands of readers have been inspired, uplifted, or comforted by the telling of these stories? How many more testimonies have been shared? How many lives have been changed?

I don't have answers to any of those questions. But this I know: All of those testimonies borne, all of those stories shared, all of those encounters with the Holy Spirit — they *all* eventually lead back to the wonderful story we share at Christmas. Once more we recount as generations before have done: "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord" "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus" "And there were shepherds abiding in the fields" "In the time of King Herod, wise men came from the east" "And the angel said, Fear not!"

Richard A. Brown, Herald House



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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