
Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Newsletter

February, 2008

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



Greetings to all and I trust that, wherever you may be while reading this, you know the Lord is with you. As I write (20 January) it's now the thick of winter – at least in Dayton, Ohio. We have enjoyed quite a reasonable mix of weather so far this season but, (alas), on what is traditionally the coldest day of the season, we are indeed hitting low readings. It's sunny but I saw temperatures as low as three degrees Fahrenheit during our drive to the Sunday morning service. The good news: Midwest weather doesn't hang static long. Also, as I've gotten older I've learned the value of wearing the proper amount of clothing and so I don't mind the colder temperatures "quite" as much (at least when the humidity is down and the wind isn't blowing!). All the same, I will be happy when spring makes its annual reappearance.

You may recall that eight of the ten family members of my brother's family were involved in a vehicle accident this past summer and that three were seriously injured. I am pleased to be able to relate that all family members have been reunited at home since early December 2007. There have been some long-term challenges remaining but a great Christmas joy was simply having all the family members alive to love.

Even as I speak of Ron's family's challenges I am reminded how life is full of challenges for everyone (as most of us can testify) and they don't all arise from accidental situations. Because of what we face in life we may wonder how we can even face the day, sometimes. A look at the



cross of Christ reminds me that perspective counts – I've never had to face the sins of the entire world! At work, I also have a symbol that visibly reminds me why I willingly face the challenges of today's military need (A.K.A. "still serving"). That reminder is a triangular wooden box, with a glass front, that carries the United States flag presented to me the day I attended my father's funeral (he served the USAF back in the late 40s and early 50s). I have placed that box next to my desk and gaze into it as I begin my work day. In that gaze I see two things: one is the flag of the nation I serve; the other is my own reflection in the glass. By that I am reminded of what our country's flag stands for and (because of the funeral) how many of our brothers and sisters in arms have gone home during – or after – service to that flag and its people. I also remember those – like you – who are also still serving. And finally, I am reminded of my own role – called to be one of the building blocks that, ideally, contributes to a firm and enduring foundation. Pick a reminder to help you meet today's challenges!

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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.

Peace Colloquy

Hello My Sisters and Brothers,

A few weeks ago I ventured out to Independence, Missouri to attend the 2007 Peace Colloquy sponsored by the Community of Christ. I arrived with excited anticipation and hopes of meeting a woman I have quietly admired for many years – Delores Huerta. I have always wished I could bring myself to such willing sacrifice to serve a greater good. For those of you who do not know her, Delores Huerta assisted Cesar Chavez in uniting the migrant farm workers many years ago. I was not disappointed as she gave her acceptance speech and later participated in panel discussions. She is still committed and ready with a message. She is charismatic and speaks with determination. It is difficult not to fall in behind her. Delores was a school teacher, newly divorced and raising several children when she quit teaching school to devote her time to seeking basic rights for the migrant workers in California. On Friday evening she spoke for 35 minutes and had the spire of the temple filled with the chants of all participants – “Viva Community of Christ! Viva Father Elonzo! Viva Peace”! The other surprise of the evening was the power of the spoken word from Father Vigilio Elonzo. In six short minutes he clearly and softly articulated his commitment to the message of Jesus Christ and the urgent need for all to answer the call to Peace, to acceptance of the rejected, to uplifting the rejected. We must restore justice to have peace. Father Elonzo provided a wonderful keynote address on Saturday – he filled the entire hour with an equally powerful message, again in a quiet, calming but power packed voice, paired with an equally entertaining sense of humor. The workshops I attended continued the theme of peace through justice. This was a fitting continuation of the work started or rather reemphasized, at our World Conference this past April when Prophet Veazey read the Letter of Counsel, now known as section 163. The call to action within our congregations was very evident in April and that theme echoed through all the key note addresses and workshops at this Peace Colloquy. It is quite evident that call is not only to



the Community of Christ, but to all Christians. If we are to take on Christ's name then we are to follow his example – reach out to all, invite all to share in the message of Jesus Christ, serve one another rather than being served, and willing to share our blessings.

I look forward to 2008. May we open our eyes to the needs of those around us in our communities of work, school, neighborhood, family and congregations, with an eye towards uplifting and encouraging all to respond to the Lord's call to action where ever we are sent.

Godspeed,

Jennifer Redfern

Curt's Column

We're rapidly advancing into the New Year and no matter how we have prepared, it is upon us. As of 2 January I decided to cut back on my hours as Security at the Independence Center. I am only going to be scheduled two days a month. I will still be on call in case there is need. To say the least it is going to be different.

In case you haven't noticed, this is an election year. While sitting in a priesthood meeting recently a thought came to me. Each one of you in the military and those of us who have served have a unique opportunity. Where else in the world do the members of the armed forces of the nation have an opportunity to have a say in who is going to be their commander-in-chief? We may not get the one that we want but at least we can express our preference. It becomes increasingly important for each one of us to look at the individual, their experience, their thoughts for our future, their position on various issues and their integrity.

After we have looked at all of these qualifications we then need to make certain that we are qualified to vote according to the laws of our state, or in the case of those serving overseas, and absentee ballot. It is not too early for us to become ready to cast our vote come November.

I don't know what it is like where you are but in our state of Missouri we are constantly bombarded with political ads. The TV stations, that in their newscasts are supposed to be unbiased, report



things that are happening and even the most naive among us can see the bias of the station. I wish that they would just report what is happening without them trying to think for us.

My coffee buddy, a retired Navy chief, and I have some lively political discussions as well as our lamenting over the football Chiefs latest loss, our opinion of the coach and general manager. At the very least we can say that the coming year will give many of us much to discuss, some of which may be helpful.

Wherever you are I hope you are looking forward to spring with the same anticipation as we are here in the central part of the nation. May the Lord bless you and keep you from harms way is my prayer.

Curt

Ministry for members in the Ft Campbell/Clarksville, TN/Hopkinsville, KY area:

If you serve in or around Ft Campbell, KY please contact Larry Keller (Teacher) at (931-552-8833), Clarksville, TN (or) Ms. Paula Williams (Elder) at (931-552-7603) to discuss the Community of Christ group meeting times & locations for Sunday services. Mission Center is Mid-South USA Mission Center (www.midsouthmc.org/); Mission Center President: Terry Williams.

Kirtland, by Sharon Clothier, Independence, Missouri

In June, 2007, we traveled from our home in Independence, Missouri, to Kirtland, Ohio, to attend the dedication of the Kirtland Temple and Spiritual Formation Center. Like many others, we were excited to see the new facilities and to experience the joy of the dedication activities.

Nearing our destination of Mentor, Ohio, on Interstate 75, the car's left rear tire hit a pot hole. A loud noise, followed by thump, thump, thump told us we had a flat tire. Bob slowed down and steered the car to the side of the highway. After stopping, he cautiously got out of the car to survey the damage. The tire was indeed flat and would need to be changed.

As cars whizzed by on the interstate, he opened the trunk and removed the spare tire and jack. Surgery two years prior had left him with some limited disability and the tire change would be a difficult process. As he got down on the hot highway surface, with cars rushing past close by, I stood near the rear of the car and offered a prayer asking for help with changing the tire and safety while it was being done.

Moments later, a car pulled ahead of us and stopped. A young man, walking toward our car. Asked if he could be of help. I asked him, "Do you know that you are an answer to a prayer?" His answer was that he didn't like to see people in distress on the side of the road. In our conversation while he worked, I learned that his name was Bob and that he had been raised in St. Louis, Missouri. His destination was nearby, he was ahead of schedule and had time to stop and help. He efficiently finished the job in a short time. After placing the flat tire and the jack in the trunk, he was on his way with our gratitude. As Bob steered our car back on to the highway, I thanked God for the blessing we had received. We continued on to our destination to discover that a tire store was located across the street from the motel where we were staying. By the close of the business day, the tire was repaired.



I have heard it said that we should be careful what we pray for and that we should be prepared for the outcome. Do we offer our prayers believing that they will be answered? Having been the recipient of answered prayer, are we then challenged to be the answer to another's prayer? That challenge was given to me on a warm June day on an Interstate highway in Ohio. I'm working on it.

November 26, 2007

Missouri River Bridge, by Robert Stanke, Independence, Missouri

One cold January morning a few years ago I was about to make a sales call to a North Kansas City company. The weather was particularly nasty and we had several inches of new fallen snow with more coming. Because of the blizzard conditions I threw my big winter coat in the back seat of my old Honda.

Portia had called the night before telling me how nice the weather was in Hawaii and how she and Tani were enjoying their stay at Uncle Dickie's beach house.

As I got about half way across the bridge my Honda motor stopped. With my blinkers on and not seeing any cars in either direction I got out and tried to push the car over the peak so that I could coast down but because of the slippery conditions I wasn't able to get enough traction to move the car.



Then I saw a car coming down the road behind me, In order to avoid the speeding car, I quickly debated in my mind whether I should climb the side of the bridge or stay in the car. Climbing back in again I tried to start the motor with no luck. There was nothing I could do but brace myself.

Looking back I saw the approaching car miraculously swerve in the wet, snowy road,

missing me by inches. Sweating profusely and in a bit of a shock, I tried the starter again and the motor started right up. After crossing the bridge I pulled over to the side of the road and poured in a can of *Heet* which I always carried in the trunk.

After making my stop I again proceeded down the road to Kansas City. Waiting at a stoplight I hesitated when the light turned green and was about to go when a speeding car went through running a red light. As I cautiously drove down the road I heard a voice, loud and clear in my mind, "Two times I was with you today." The warm clear spirit of truth touched me at that moment and I knew that I had received a great blessing.

Whenever I cross that old bridge I think of that experience and the confirming spirit still touches me with those words, "Two times I was with you today."

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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Blessed
are the
peacemakers,
for they
shall be called
the children
of God.

Matthew 5:9