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Community of Christ



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

April, 2008

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## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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Did you read CMSgt, USAF (Ret) Dennis Fox's article in the Reflections section of February's Herald? ANOTHER WAY TO PURSUE PEACE illustrates how complex and challenging – far from black and white – the issues associated with peace are. We pray for the day when none of us sees the need to put on a uniform and stand in harm's way. In the meantime, Dennis' closing paragraph states the need very well. Dennis: Thank you for your courage and for sharing. The Association also greatly appreciates the mention we, and the Church's overall Ministry to the Military, received in conjunction with that article. Perhaps we'll be able to reach one more member!

February 8-10 I, along with my wife, Sheila, experienced a significant series of joys. Events unfolded primarily due to our attendance at the Theology and Ministry Forum at Graceland University (sponsored by the First Presidency and the Community of Christ Seminary). First, just by being at Graceland, we were able to give and get hugs from son, Alex, now a sophomore. Second, by participating in the forum sessions (the theme was "Science and Religion: Pastoral Implications"), we were both reminded of the potentials associated with thinking "well outside the box." Mind you, we weren't exactly always comfortable with the topics being offered for consideration. However we do acknowledge the great blessing of belonging to a church that acknowledges how God has yet more light and truth to shed forth upon creation – as we may be willing to listen and learn. The Community of Christ constantly reaches toward God – and helps its members in that stretching process too. You can read more about the forum at <http://www.graceland.edu/seminary/2008theominforum/>. Last, while at Graceland, I had the great privilege of meeting and chatting with two participants long-associated with military ministries in the church: Carl Mesle and Elbert Dempsey. Their years of support

are a part of our legacy; their example still inspires today's current ministry to all Peacekeepers.

On February 21 I was also greatly blessed by attending the National Prayer Luncheon at Wright-Patterson AFB (and with my boss, no less!) If you ever have the opportunity to attend an event like this I highly encourage it; they are typically quite spiritually uplifting. It's also a great morale boost to see how the military and local community CAN share the same focus – God! The dining room of the WPAFB Club and Banquet Center was filled to capacity for this year's edition and we received ministry from a variety of faith traditions, including (at least) Church of God, Catholic, African Methodist Episcopal, Islamic, LDS, Jewish, and Presbyterian (USA)). Our speaker was Chaplain Brig Gen Cecil B. Richardson, currently Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains. What a testimony he provided (he claimed it was a speech but the Wing Commander – echoing the thoughts of all of us – said, "If that was a speech I WANT to hear a sermon!"). I can take his message to heart every day: "Look to God and Trust in Him." There's more detail than can be told here but Chaplain Richardson spoke dynamically of a significantly difficult upbringing, of "being" trouble as a young enlisted troop, and of trials and faith (illustrating from the story of Job) – being sustained while newly married (after being down to "no cash and but two fish to live on"). The sure message: We never know what "life" may send our way but we can certainly trust in what the plan of the eternal God may send. No matter what the trial, God will be there with us and see us through. May we ask in faith and then keep eyes, ears and heart open for what we shall indeed receive in God's timing.

Finally, I wish to extend our special thanks to Becky Savage for providing us her prayer-felt thoughts for this newsletter. I also draw your attention to the FRESH

**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.**

VISION article she has in the March 2008 Herald. The Church, as must we all, continually seeks vision for how we may serve as ambassadors of Christ's peace. Being a part of this prophetic people, I encourage all Peacekeepers to prayerfully consider Becky's words, and then to be diligent in support to this part of our calling.

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

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## GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY by Becky L. Savage

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Each day in the Temple we pray for peace in our world. This time of meditation, prayer, music, and community is a significant part of our day at International Headquarters in Independence, Missouri USA. Most recently we have been meeting in the Temple Chapel. As I gaze into the peaceful Meditation Garden, I am reminded of all the places in the world where there is *no peace*. My prayers are sent to these various places in the world. I pray for God's Spirit of Peace to be with each person living and working in the midst of *no peace*. While I will never know the many faces – I am assured that God's peace and loving presence is with each person. Please know that our prayers are with each one of you as you serve in the various parts of the world.



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## DUES REMINDER:

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A normal membership is by year and the membership period runs April 1 to March 31. Discounted multi-year options are available. You, your spouse, and your dependents are all covered by this membership. For military members of the Community of Christ (Regular, National Guard, or Reserve - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard) (OR) members of the Community of Christ whose non-member spouse is in the military: Your membership is FREE for any year (April 1 to March 31) in which you/your spouse are crediting/will credit active duty time. Your membership is at the normal rate/multi-year discounted rate for any year (April 1 to March 31) in which you DO NOT/WILL NOT credit active duty time.

For all other applicants (no denominational affiliation or military experience necessary): You are eligible to join in a "Sustaining" membership. Your

membership is at the normal rate/multi-year discounted rate.

Your membership for the current period becomes effective when we receive your application, with payment, and runs until March 31st of the year your dues expire. We are sorry, but dues cannot be prorated for applications submitted/received after 1 April.

All dues go directly toward the expenses associated with providing this ministry to military members of the Community of Christ. Donations welcome!

Sustaining & non-active duty members enclose \$10 (Check or Money Order) for a one year membership (covering April 1 to March 31). Multi-year reduced rate options: 2 year membership - \$9 / yr (pay \$18 now); 4 year membership - \$8.50 / yr (pay \$34 now). NOTE: an extra postage charge may need to be added to your standard membership fee for addresses requiring more postage than for our standard U.S. mailings. "Active Duty" applicants (members of the Community of Christ, as described above) are exempt from membership fees & newsletter postage costs.



Send dues to Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel c/o 309 Shrank Ave - Independence, MO 64056-1746.

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## CURT'S COLUMN by Curt Heaviland

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Winter is almost over and as far as I am concerned it can't end too soon. We had a couple of beautiful days last week, which gave us a touch of what we can look forward to. It can't happen too soon. Last issue I reminded you that you needed to prepare yourself to vote in the coming elections. If you get the Army Times they suggested that it is not too early to get with your state and get set up to vote absentee ballot. One of the things you are fighting for is the freedom to vote. How many of the locals where you are would like to have the privileges that you have?

Our local congregation, here in Independence, had the privilege of having a choir, directed by Jack Ergo, bring some music to the worship service. Any time he directs music it is outstanding. The message was great as well but the music sure set the standard.

I'm working on the World Church officials to get some articles for the newsletter. It's kind of hard sometimes - as they are very busy and they don't have a lot of time to squeeze us in. I'm going to keep working at it however.

When we look at our world today we see a great deal of turmoil and figure it is something that is just in our

time. Have you read the book of Ether in the Book of Mormon lately? I picked it up, as I wanted to read the account of the group coming before the confusion of tongues. As I read through the passages, I found the wars that eliminated the tribes from the face of the earth. Wars and wars until they were all killed to the last man. It's discouraging to see how mankind can forget so soon the blessings of God. Is that what is happening in our country today with the numerous groups trying to take God out of our daily lives? I hope not.

Thank you for your service and your contributions to save our way of life. It is no easy task and I pray daily that each of you will be kept from harms way.

—Curt

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## MANY THANKS:

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We wish to offer our sincere appreciation for the recent efforts of member Robert L. Wallace, who has provided the Association (I believe by working with World Church archives) numerous additional copies of military ministry newsletters (many that appear to go well back into the 1950s). A long-term aim will be to scan them into .pdf format and then post them on the Association website. This is truly a treasure trove - and a blessing - to our service members, the Association and to all Church personnel that support the ministry. We will all enjoy having access to these documents.



Robert: You have done all Peacekeepers a tremendous service in providing these copies and we thank you. Tim says: "It was also good seeing you at the Theology and Ministry Forum."

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## CONDOLENCES:

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All: Request your prayers and support for Steve and Lori McCrosson and their family:

IRENE MURIEL McCROSSON

Mother of Steve McCrosson - Technical Support, mother-in-law to Lori McCrosson, Legal Services.

Irene McCrosson, born July 9th, 1917, has been called home to her heavenly father this morning. We believe she is now rejoicing and saying in a very loud, strong, voice, \_Finally!\_ She has been in a nursing home in Wichita, Kansas for the past four years. Her health had gradually declined and she had grown exceedingly tired of this earthly life. She will be missed by her daughter, Sharon Drope, son, Steven McCrosson,



daughter-in-law, Lori McCrosson, her 4 grandsons and 6 great-grandchildren.

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## PEACE BE WITH YOU

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by Jane Watkins

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*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"*

—John 20: 21-22 NRSV

As a child I remember taking a big gulp of air and then submerging myself in the local swimming pool. I opened my eyes, looked around, and wondered how long I could hold my breath. Could I outrun a shark? (not that the local pool had any!). Would I have the stamina to save someone who might be drowning? Just how long could I hold on if I were disoriented in the water? The results of my experiments were not very promising. I would burst to the surface, gasping for the sweet air above the pool, filling my lungs with joyful relief. A friend later introduced me to a concept he called "The Rule of Fours." This purports that a human being can live for four weeks without food, four days without water, but only four minutes without air. How precious is the air we breathe; invisible, untouchable, but completely necessary to our survival.

As surely as we need to fill our lungs with air, so we need to fill our souls with the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. In today's scripture reading we hear how Jesus "breathed on [the disciples]." Jesus came to them in a miraculous post-resurrection experience and bestowed two gifts: the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just as God breathed life into Adam, so Jesus breathed the fresh air of hope and faith back into the disciples. Jesus was equipping them for their new agenda: to share the peace of Christ with a world hungry for the gospel story.

Our agenda today remains the same. We are called to step out and share the peace of Christ. As the old familiar hymn rings out, "Breathe on me breath of God; fill me with life anew that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do." Go! Love others! Share the peace!



—Jane Watkins, Lakeland, Florida

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## CONGRATULATIONS:

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Congratulations to Chaplain Scott Jobe who has been informed he has been selected for promotion to Major!



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## CARE PACKAGES:

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Planning to send a care package to a military service member serving abroad? Send it after March 3 to take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the Postal Service that is 50% larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address – \$2 less than for domestic destinations. See more info at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123085338> or [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com).

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## SEE JESUS AT YOUR TABLE

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*“Stay and have supper with us. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.”*

—Luke 24: 29-31 *The Message*, adapted

When our children were first learning about Communion, they could not understand the symbol of bread as body or wine as blood. It was too abstract. During mealtimes we would talk about how Jesus

showed his disciples to use daily food and drink to remember how to be faithful to God. When we eat bread, we can think about how we act with each other: “When have you hurt or fought with your sister?” “How did it make you feel when you caused her to cry?” “How did it feel when someone hurt you?” The girls could understand that when they were the ones hurt it didn’t feel good.

When we eat the bread at Communion, it is a time to think about how we may have hurt another person—a time to tell God about how sorry we are and to promise not to hurt others. When we drink the wine it is a time to remember how we want to be with each other: “How have you been kind to your sister?” “How did you feel when someone showed you kindness?”

The warm feelings are like the Holy Spirit moving in our lives. When we drink the wine, we can remember that, through Jesus, God promises us the blessing of new life. We are to remember and promise to be more like Jesus.

—Becky Savage, First Presidency



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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 “sustaining” members receive either edition with a paid membership, **\$10.00, due in April.** Archive newsletters also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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