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Community of Christ

# The Peacekeepers



Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

October, 2008

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## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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It wasn't a deployment but, in August, I took the family to Minnesota and Iowa to see members of the Kunzweiler side. We hadn't been up there since 1992 (Rachel was a baby!). In my country I really like spotting appreciation for the brave men and women that have, through military service, defended the world's freedoms. The pleasant reminders on this trip – of how my nation respects the military – were in running across memorials in two separate locations. In Currie, MN, we found a veterans memorial prominently placed at a local railroad museum. The citizens of my dad's original hometown (Fulda, MN) have placed a memorial right at City Hall. What's more, Fulda has also built a memorial walkway along the town's lakeshore – paved with bricks engraved with the names of veterans from the area. ... Think I need to get Dad a brick....

September 11<sup>th</sup> provided us another reminder of why some of our brothers and sisters must still serve a military need. Mine was a simple gesture on that day – but one that I needed to take. About the time history records the first of the Twin Towers was hit I was out at the HQ flagpole (another veteran at my side), saluting. I may be wearing civilian clothes to work these days but, in spirit, *I am always still wearing the uniform* – in defense of freedom.

If you heard about Hurricane Ike you might also know that, on September 14, what was supposed to be a degrading tropical storm ripped through Ohio with wind gusts of up to 70 mph! There were mature trees uprooted right in our neighborhood. A great deal of Ohio was left without electricity. Property damage, tree debris and downed power lines were everywhere. We got our power back a little more than 24 hours later but, as I write on 17 Sept, tens of thousands of



Ohioans remain in the dark. As you might suspect, the military is working to mitigate the problems (including in Texas).

In the Dayton area I have been pleased to see how military neighbors reach out to the civilian communities in which they live. We're checking on congregation members and the widow across the way. Do you have any Ike testimonies to share?

I'm going to end on what is both a sad and a joy – filled note. It is with a true measure of sadness that I report our Vice President's bride, Joyce Heaviland, passed away at 2:00 AM on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. Joyce had been dealing with some mighty health concerns for a number of years – but remained a faith-filled and uplifting trooper the entire while. Curt: I know that, in this time, all Peacekeepers are keeping you and your family uplifted in prayer. All who have had the privilege of sharing friendship with you and Joyce feel pain at this loss. Yet, even in this time, all of us can take true joy in KNOWING that reunion is sure, in Jesus Christ – our Lord. May we continue on the path that leads to our Savior – and to reunion with all the Saints who've scouted out the way before us. Curt, our brother, we love you.

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.**

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## Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland, Vice President

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Here it is time for another newsletter. I sometimes wonder if there hasn't been a Genie that takes a few days out of the monthly calendar and makes them shorter. This past month has been of longer duration as my bride of 37 ½ years gave up on life and has departed. Every day seems like an eternity.

By the time the next newsletter reaches you we will have a new commander in chief of the armed forces. Again, if you haven't already done so, I urge you to get your absentee ballots in the mail. Where else in the world can the members of the armed forces have a say on who will lead them in the future.

I received a notice from Eric Martin that he is somewhere in the Far East. It would be good if some of you could get in contact with him. If it is OK with Eric I'll send you his e-mail address and you can take it from there. Eric if this is okay, give me the permission and it will be in the next newsletter or if I have inquiries. Okay?

As I write this column, it is the first day of autumn. Our weather here in Independence, has been absolutely perfect the last few days for which I am very thankful. I am not looking forward to the winter months when it is cold and dreary.

Since my bride has departed me I am going to take a trip west and visit my brother who is nine years older than me. I figure we had better get together before one of us decides to leave the planet. I am also going to renew an acquaintance with a guy who spent the first grade with me. We're going to have a lot to talk about.

My wish to each one of you is that the Lord will make His presence felt in your lives and he will keep each one of you out of harms way. Also remember you are His witness wherever you are and it is up to you to know what kind of a witness you are.

God Bless

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## Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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Goodness – Dominic will be three in December.

He saw me reading a book and offered to read it to me. "Once upon a time," he began, "there was a Grandma."

"Oh, that's nice," I thought.

"And the Grandma Princess was asleep." At this point I pretended to snore, causing my little story teller to giggle. "And a King came and kissed her awake."

By now my neighbor, Barb, and I were both giggling. "And did they live 'happily ever after?'" I asked.

"Almost," he answered.

"Almost"? I turned to Barb and said, "Well, you can't ask for much more than that, can you?"

This next bit requires that I find a way of re-phrasing words to protect your sensibilities – after all we wouldn't want to damage those tender sensibilities would we? (It is a church newsletter, after all).

Dominic was in the back seat of my car with his Mom. "It's all right," she was telling him. "I'm sorry, I farted," he said.

"That's okay, it happens to everyone," my intelligent daughter assured him.

Noting the part of his body from whence the sound and smell emanated he exclaimed, "I'm making but-erflies"!

Our whole family makes butterflies now – not that we didn't before, but we admit to it now.

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## My Duties by Scott Gaitley

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As one of two Air Force Historians located in Balad Air Base, Iraq we account for all Air Force functions and military operations throughout the country.



Specifically, whatever transpires at Balad, Kirkuk, Sather, Ali Air Bases along with 60 other Forward Operating Bases around Iraq, is what we record history on.

For those history buffs, I am assigned to the 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Group, the 332<sup>nd</sup> better known as the Red Tails or Tuskegee Airmen, the legend does continue.

My specific duties as of today are subject to change.

Weekly slide briefing for Brigadier General Brian Bishop and the command staff.

Download all files/documents pertaining to:  
*SITREPS* (Situation Reports) from all bases  
*OPS SITREPS* (Operation Situation Reports)

MISREPS (Mission Reports of all air assets)  
 Information that involves flying (cannot go into detail)  
 Information pertaining to air attacks (cannot go into specifics)  
 Aircraft Maintenance statistics  
 Command Post logs/happenings  
 Statistics pertaining to the people & cargo that are transported in & out of the country  
 Intelligence Briefings  
 Daily attack summaries (against military bases by insurgents)  
 Mission summaries by air and ground forces  
 Total AF Assets throughout the country  
 And much more!

Later within the month I should be traveling around collecting information and obtaining interviews with those behind the scenes men and women in the Air Force.

All this information is obtained through various sources and utilized by me to complete a Chronology of daily activities pertaining to the information above.

Once items are released to the general public can I explain or elaborate to everyone at a later date.

Will provide more as it happens.



disappointed in either class. The week was filled with very powerful testimonies of the love of Jesus Christ and our call to share this love through Invitational Ministry both in how we live and interact day to day and through well prepared/presented sermons that are inviting, informational and rich. Following the morning class and the afternoon class, we had the opportunity each day to experience other ways of sharing in community through Tai Chi, Qigong, Meditation, Worship Path, Environmental Stewardship discussions, Music, Hymnal Project, Praying the Psalms, Community Prayer and many other options. In the evenings we participated in the daily prayer for peace followed by evening worship. On Wednesday evening following the service we remained in the Shaw center to watch the movie Amazing Grace.

I am still on a high from this week of activity on the Graceland Campus. There are some fantastic changes afoot and wonderful testimonies of growth were shared by members across the US, Canada and even a few representatives from Australia. I hope that many of you can share in this event the next time it is offered. I could not have chosen a better way to prepare for my ordination to the office of Priest.

My ordination was Sunday, 3 August 08. I was ordained by High Priest Wally Evers who was assisted by Elder Jeff Goodwin. My daughter, Priest Jenet Redfern, stood by in support. Jenet was on home leave from Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina where she serves with the Organization for Cooperation and Security Europe, Bosnia-Herzegovina Mission. Our son, Joshua, who resides in Raleigh, NC, was also present. My parents' home congregation, Mossyrock, WA, were in prayer support during the time of the ordination. It was a wonderful day and they put me to work as soon as the service was over, visiting a member who was unable to attend the communion service due to illness.

Your Sister in Christ,

Jennifer Redfern



Community of Christ

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## From Jennifer Redfern

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My fellow Peacekeepers, family and friends:

I was fortunate to be able to take leave and participate in the Congregational Life Workshop, held 27 July through 1 August, 08, at Graceland University. I was very blessed during this week of study and worship with other church members which included World Church leaders, Mission Center Presidents, pastors, priesthood and those holding the office of member. We began each day in randomly selected groups called Living Room Groups, each with a pre-designated leader. The groups and the leaders covered a very diverse population. We all discussed the same questions taken from readings in the book "The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christianity" written by Eric Elnes. This little paperback aligns very well with Section 163 of the Doctrine and Covenants. I also participated in two classes – Building Healthy Congregations: Signal Communities, led by Apostle Linda Booth, and Exegetical Preaching led by Dr. (and Seventy) Stephen Hatch. My classmates and I were not

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## Memories by Carl Mesle

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In light of our nations' multi-engagements I see your ministry as very important. I will never forget the thrill I had when I received my first letter from the Stone Church congregation when I was fairly new in the Army. It was a feeling that I carried into the ministry to military personnel when I had the opportunity to include that in the broad field of youth

ministry. When we carried the addresses of military members in service we found that many found connections to each other and often to the nearest branch of the church, which helped to keep them connected. Their stories too helped the committee and the church leadership feel for them. It was work but it was well worth it and incidentally, I am sure it paid off in tithes and offerings by men and women so glad to be remembered by their church.

I may have told you this story before, but I will long remember the young church lady whom I came upon at her desk, with a cigarette in her mouth. I didn't say a thing about it but had a pleasant visit before going on to the next one. At the next world conference, she was there, sought me out and confessed that she felt so ashamed of herself that she quit smoking and sought to become more active in the church.

Or the story of the wife of an enlisted man, whom I visited in their small apartment. She said, "I can't get my husband to tell me about this church and what they believe. Could you tell me? I had a wonderful time telling both of them the beautiful story of our faith.

Time to quit, keep up the good work.

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## Hope for the Unseen by Ron Harmon, Council of Twelve Apostles

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*"But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*

—Romans 8: 24-25 NIV

I recently had an interesting discussion about purchasing items on the Internet. As the conversation progressed, the individual indicated they would never purchase something they could not see. I then wondered if our focus on only what is seen is one of our greatest challenges in sharing the peace of Jesus Christ in our modern world.

It is interesting how, as we grow older, we often tend to become more skeptical about what we can't see. The inward spiritual life is suspect to many because it can't be quantified or controlled. We often endure times of prayer, study, and meditation so we can get on with the real work of the gospel.

When I review the life and ministry of Jesus, I find one who recognized the need to continually seep perspective and grounding in the unseen reality of God. Jesus often retreated in prayer to gain inner strength and clarity of perspective regarding his mission. His life was a testimony of his hope for what humanity might become.

Do we have hope in the unfolding purposes of God? It has been my experience that God is seeking to shape and mold us into a people who are not discouraged by the reality of the present but live out of a vision for the future that has yet to fully emerge. As disciples and citizens of the peaceable kingdom, we have bought into the vision of God's shalom without seeing or experiencing the fullness of that promise.

We have a wonderful message of hope to proclaim to a world that has lost touch with the unseen reality of God.



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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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