



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

April, 2009

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

Mission: Night Watch, from "way-late" hundred hours until some time nearer "O-dark-thirty." Have you "been there?"

Many brothers and sisters have undergone this same test before us. Still, when it's our turn, no one else's tour may really seem to matter as much. During our time, we are, so-to-speak, "at the tip of the spear."

The watch is about preparedness and about protecting. It is about faithfulness and steadfastness. It is a duty. It is an answer to a calling. The watch serves a greater need. If we may be armed that could bring a measure of comfort. But, in those instances in which we are not so outfitted, we can only observe the surroundings, bide time and, if need be, sound an alarm.

We stand watch in a variety of places these days. Perhaps your watch may even be in a place like a "garden." But, during a night watch, even a beautiful garden may seem dark and lonely – perhaps almost sinister – because of the shadows and the perceptions of what might be "out there." On such a watch we still must wait, sometimes alone, maybe nervous – possibly even fearful (at least depending on what we are watching for). At such times, it may feel like the weight of the world is on one's shoulders.

We need to stay focused during times like that, lest the imagination be left to run too wild. Certainly we stay focused on the mission. It may also help us to stay focused if our thoughts also include home – family – our past – the present – a future – even Eternity.

During the Easter Season I suggest we should be reminded how another mother's son had been on watch,



in a garden, long ago; it was during a night that must've seemed "like Eternity."

[Luke 22:41] "Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed..."

There's no doubt; some duties are hard – and we would like nothing better than to be relieved, or replaced. It's not at all unusual to simply want things to be different, especially when they interfere with our own freedoms or our abilities to choose. Even the Son of God was torn between personal feelings and duty during his watch:

[Luke 22:42] "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Yet, he stayed the course and, because he did, we have all been preserved. Likewise, because we have our calling, we seek to submit and to obey. In the example of Christ it can be a willing sacrifice. As you may now "stand in the gap," may you be buoyed up by remembering the one who has gone this way before – and has shown us how to bear up.

My prayer is that you will be strengthened so as to be able to stay the course during your watch. Remember: The dawn of a new day is fast approaching. Persevere. Because the Son has been on the watch before us, the greatest battle is already won!

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

A final note from Tim: My Western Ohio Mission Center had the great joy to host President Veazey the weekend of 20-22 March. During his visit he came to the Beaver Creek congregation, ate a potluck meal with us and then spent some time visiting and answering questions. As many of you already know, Brother Steve is very engaging – and approachable and I am always

**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.**

aware of his deep care for the flock when I hear him speak. I was very pleased to thank Brother Steve, on behalf of all Peacekeepers, for the continued blessing we have in a church family that reaches out to ALL who continue to seek peace and justice for a world in need. I believe you may rest assured our prophet is aware of – and appreciates – our uniformed member’s witness and struggles.

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Peacekeepers does not endorse any specific military support resources but we seek to provide useful and legitimate resource information to you. Quoted text is provided by the sites themselves. Tim

**MILITARY ONESOURCE:** “Whether its help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is there for military personnel and their families ... 24/7/365! Military OneSource is provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve and their families.” Site links:



<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>.

**OPERATION HOMEFRONT:** “OPERATION HOMEFRONT provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind, and to wounded warriors when they return home. A nonprofit 501 (c) (3), OPERATION HOMEFRONT leads more than 4,500 volunteers in 30 chapters nationwide and has provided critical assistance to more than 45,000 military families in need. OPERATION HOMEFRONT also operates an online magazine for military wives and women in uniform. Through this community, we reach the newest and youngest military families, instantly alerting them about our programs and other information to help them succeed in military life.” Site links:



<http://www.operationhomefront.net/>;  
<http://www.homefrontonline.com/>.

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## Faith Story, by Sharon Clothier, Independence, Missouri

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We have been encouraged to share our faith story. Our personal story is enriched as we live out our own story and become part of “The Story.” By expressing the gospel story in our lives, we help others find their path with the Lord. We live our faith.

I believe that all of life is graced by God’s creative presence. Faith is a way of believing, a way of trusting and a way of living.

I am a living witness to the power of faith. I am here today because of loving families; the one I was born into and the one I married into, and a congregation in Los Angeles that nourished me, told me I was somebody, and gave me a sense of possibility. We are in so many ways made up of those who come before us – our past. In the present, we are indebted to those who care enough to tell us that we are people of God and that as such we are valued and prized.

My parents believed that they should wear their faith so that we could see and know to whom they belonged. That belief was passed on to me. They taught me that it doesn’t do much good to say we believe, if what we say we believe doesn’t affect the quality of our living.

I cannot remember a time when God was not present in my life. Becoming a disciple of Jesus meant that I accepted God’s incredible love for me. I learned that I needed to look to Jesus as my direction-finder. It has been my experience that my walk of faith is not a solitary one. I cannot be a solo Christian. My faith journey requires the experience of others. I need the community of Saints.

The faith, love and support of my family, congregation, and friends have sustained me through the days following the recent death of my husband of forty-seven years. Faith has been my anchor. I know God is present with me through the actions of others. I have been physically and spiritually fed, encircled with love and strengthened through prayer. I have been shown once again that a life filled with God’s grace and shared as freely as Christ’s love is worthy of all I can give. I know that this life is mine through Jesus Christ and that if I live it, others will know that it matters.

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## Invitation to the Church

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“There are many issues that could easily consume the time and energy of the church. However, the challenge before a prophetic people is to discern and pursue what matters most for the journey ahead”

–Doctrine and Covenants 164: 11b.

As we prepare for the 2010 World Conference, the church faces many critical issues that could distract us from God’s mission for Community of Christ. Prophet-President Stephen M. Veazey will address these issues in a major address to the church on Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. CDT, at the Temple in Independence, Missouri.

The church is urged to participate in person and via webcast. See [www.CofChrist.org/broadcast/upcoming.asp](http://www.CofChrist.org/broadcast/upcoming.asp) for details. The address will be presented

in English, French, and Spanish.

Please join the World Church Leadership Council in prayerful support of this significant address to the church.

In Christ's peace,

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

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## Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland, Vice President

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As temperatures begin to rise we see the evidence of God in the landscape. The trees begin to put on their clothes from the long winters sleep. People begin to relate to the sunshine with better tempers and more understanding of each other. It is a rebirth that happens every year whether we like it or not. It's part of God's plan for our part of the universe. I cannot understand a person that can't see God's handiwork in all of creation. COME ON!! These things didn't just happen. The earth and all the surroundings are too orderly and obey given laws to just happen.



So it is with each one of us. We didn't just happen. We are a part of God's plan and it is a struggle on our part to know exactly where we fit in and what we are to contribute to the overall picture. Take your own set of parameters to God each day and ask for a clear picture of your part and not a hazy one. Easter time signifies a death and a new life. Recognize the rebirth that Christ gave to us and is clarified each spring.

May each one of you be kept in His hands and out of harm's way.

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## Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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"Kisses on you," Dominic likes to say. He kisses his Mom on the face and hair as he says goodbye. "Wait, more kisses on you."

Even at three he understands that love is important. We all get goodbye hugs (squeezes) and kisses from him – and don't we just love it!

My Aunt Noni Barwise used to open up her arms and inquire, "May I put a hug on you"? This gave the recipient the chance to decline – though they seldom did. Hugs and kisses are perhaps the most healing and "feeling" way to the heart.

Several years ago a friend explained to me that because of being abused as a child, she



found it very difficult to hug – even her children. Her son seemed okay with it, but her daughter still craved those hugs. We were at Bible School at the time and I turned to little Brandy and said you can hug me anytime you want. I got an immediate bear hug. Mom checked to see that I was okay with this exuberance and from then till Brandy graduated from high school I was her "surrogate hugger." I must say I felt extremely privileged.

We all need love – and we need to have that love expressed openly. Have you had your hug today?

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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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## Set Your Mind on Life and Peace by Andrew Bolton, Council of Twelve Apostles

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*“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”*

—Romans 8: 6 NRSV

Sometimes there is within me a great struggle. The struggle is between the life that Christ calls me to live and what my desires tempt me to do. Paul knew this struggle also and he spoke of it clearly with warning and promise: *“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”*

What tips the struggle Christ’s way? What helps me overcome and choose decisively the mind of the Spirit,

which leads to life and peace? I find it is the little choices, the little steps that lead one way or the other. Victory is not deciding rightly when on the precipice of spiritual calamity. Victory is deciding early on to not go down the road of temptation.

Regular worship and fellowship help enormously as well. I need to go to church every Sunday. I need reunion. I need to be reminded regularly by the Spirit, who blesses us as we gather, that Christ’s way is the way of life and peace. I cannot fight temptation on my own. I need companions on the journey to pull me back to the right path. I find it easy to do right when strengthened by regular fellowship.

Finally, I remember that God loves me and grants me an ever-fresh and new beginning.

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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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