
Community of Christ

The Peacekeepers



Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

August, 2009

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

There were only four of us at Church today! That might be a problem if not for the fact that most of the rest of the congregation was out performing a service project supporting another congregation member! The regular service was still scheduled for those who would be unable to support the outside service and I was listed as Presider. This provided me a unique opportunity: My order of worship was able to include dwelling in the word and to allow time for discussion by all present. Feedback is that the timing of both services brought blessings.

Speaking of timing, I'd like to offer you a short testimony about *God's timing*. I won't go into the details except to say that I've been in a bit of a (work-related) *dark valley* for some time. Starting last November priorities and resourcing limitations were causing management to make some changes; the function of the slot I was in was being entirely changed and I had no say in the matter.

Like many in today's military, I seek to be prepared to handle new situations (you may have heard a joke about being qualified just because you can fog a mirror held up to your nose...). Even so, what was being planned was not anything I have a background for and I felt this presented a suitable opportunity to apply for other openings. While there were openings that, from time to time, seemed to match my pay grade and capabilities, let's just say there were *a number of disappointing application results*.

July 1st I was presented the revised specifications for my position and was told I was it. Being a *service-before-self* sort of guy I planned to provide full dedication to that new position but reminded management of the fact that I was still job-hunting.

Here's where things get interesting. The following Friday I received a call from the Civilian Personnel



office telling me I had been tentatively selected for a different position within my same directorate. That position sounded familiar and though I was certain I'd already received a rejection notice for it. The rub: I had applied twice and once as an internal hire (already a member of the USAF) and once as an external hire (like someone applying from outside the service). Contrary to what an earlier e-mail indicated, the internal announcement had simply been canceled (I had not actually been a non-select). The external announcement had been kept alive (though I had given up on the position entirely) and I was selected based on that application!

At least a coincidence: By my freeing up my former slot, my old division should now be able to hire someone into it that has all the experience and skill (that I lack) for the new duties. I believe this is often called a win-win situation.

My testimony for you is this: In the dark valley, take the hand of the Good Shepherd and let Him continue to lead you. You may not know how long the valley is but, in the Lord's timing, you are surely led back into the sun. I'm looking forward to new opportunities to serve!

In Christ and Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.
Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

Announcements / FYI:

PCS or TDY to Ft. Leavenworth? Come to the Leavenworth Community of Christ for worship. We are located at 1100 Halderman, across the street north of Leavenworth High School. For more information, contact Debbie Campbell, 913-651-6474 or 013-306-1143.



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.

The Spring/Summer 2009 Vol. 25, No. 1 edition of the Graceland University Horizons magazine <http://www.graceland.edu/document-collections/59139.pdf> contains a number of interesting articles. One of particular interest to Peacekeepers involves the experiences of Graceland Masters program graduate Marcus Smoot (Captain, US Army).

James Randall (Randy) Veazey, brother of Stephen M. Veazey and brother-in-law of Cathi Cackler-Veazey, died about 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26 in Desoto, Mississippi (Memphis, Tennessee metro area). He was 55 years old and leaves a wife, Betty, and two children, Nathan and Katy. His death appears to be associated with complications from an earlier surgery. Bette, Cathi, and Steve were with him at the hospital when he passed away.



A visitation was held at the Paris, Tennessee Community of Christ at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 29, with a memorial service at 1:00 p.m. A graveside service followed at Walker Cemetery near Cottage Grove, Tennessee. McEvoy Funeral Home, Paris, Tennessee, handled all arrangements (www.mcevoyfuneralhome.com) Memorial contributions may be made to Community of Christ World Ministries, 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, Missouri 64050 or to the Chenoweth Scholarship Fund for Henry County High School Seniors, PO Box 1373, Paris, Tennessee 38242.

The Peacekeepers offer our heartfelt condolences to Bette, Nathan, Katy, Steve and Cathi and the rest of the extended family.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland, Vice President

At the writing of this column it is almost August. I find that the adage about old age coming true. Old age is like a roll of toilet tissue, the older you get the faster it goes. That's true in my life anyway.

School is about to start, at least here in Independence anyway. I don't know if I'm the only one or not but I'm glad to see it happen. Working as a security officer in the Independence Center the summer time brings a large number of school age kids to the mall. If they are accompanied by their parents they usually do not cause problems. The ones that do usually come on their own and are not interested in shopping but just hanging out. When school starts this number drops off a great deal.



It's surprising how many parents drop their kids off at the mall and leave them unattended, I guess it's because they want to be free of responsibility for a period of time. Times have changed a great deal since I was a young man. I can remember going up town at a young age. I had to walk and of course the town wasn't very large. Most of the merchants knew me and if I did something that wasn't right my mom found out about it and I suffered the consequences of my acts.

I find that many parents blame us, at the mall, for their children getting into trouble. Shoplifting is something that occurs quite regularly. The police are called and if the individual is a minor the parent is called and many times they have to come to the police substation. What the police do I'm not always aware of but in many cases the individual is barred from the mall for a period of time.



What bothers me most is that there seems to be a lack of teaching responsibility in the home. I guess I'm an old fuddy duddy but the trends in our society trouble me. I hope that the trend can be reversed with Christ's message. I find that most teachers are concerned about their charges and do all they can to make them useful citizens. When the child gets in trouble at school it's not the schools fault but it goes back to the home.

Thank goodness you very seldom have trouble with a child that attends church on a regular basis. It is my hope that we can make a difference in the lives of our young people.

Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Dominic is 3 1/2 now and suddenly that fraction is a big deal. People often comment on his vocabulary. Perhaps it is in part because he spends so much time with grown ups or perhaps it is because his great grandmother, Audrey Stubbart had such a large vocabulary. He often used words like actually, extremely, incorrect and frustrated. His pronunciation is sometimes a bit different, for example he puts extra syllables in words (fah-rust-ah-rate-ed), etc.

The other day while driving him home from pre-school I heard him straining at something in the back seat. I keep my rear view mirror adjusted so that all I have to do is flip it down (from the 'onight' position) to see his face. Just as I adjusted the mirror (which he calls a meew-woh), he said, 'Grandma, I am TOTALLY thirsty, and this lid is TOTALLY stuck!' as he grappled with the lid on a water bottle.

“It is huh,” I replied. Totally? He looked into the mirror and we said in unison, “TOTALLY!”

Of course, Vacation Bible School has passed for the summer and we all had a great time! Dominic loved the singing. He especially liked the song about Pharaoh. It goes something like this:

Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Oh baby let my people go!

Uh! (this sound is accompanied by a sharp jab to the diaphragm).

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.



Even after hearing the song (or as much as he remembers of it) several times we always laugh when he pushes on his diaphragm to make a loud “uh” sound.

Any day I expect to hear him say he’s had a great sufficiency, or that there is a plethora of foods to choose from.

Maybe if he learns enough new words he’ll forget to call me Grandma Harry or not.

Journey in Compassion

by Scott Murphy

International Headquarters

Human Resources, director

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

—Mark 6:30 ó 34 NRSV

This Scripture reminds us of the importance of renewal. Yet it also speaks, at a deeper level, of the renewal that comes when, in compassion, we share ourselves with another in need of the presence of the Divine. Mark’s Gospel challenges us to recognize that to walk the way of Jesus is to show compassion for the sake of another.



After arriving home one night, worn down by a difficult day at the office, I was confronted with a phone

call asking if I could go to the hospital to offer the sacrament of laying on of hands for a complete stranger who was to be removed from life support. Multiple excuses spoke in my mind as to why I should decline and find another person to go. Yet there was in that moment a defining awareness that I was called to share this journey with John and his family.

Stepping into the hospital room with all of my fears, there was John, who lay there unconscious. As I stood, present with him, something began to unite us as I laid my hands on him and prayed. Being the one who reluctantly went to extend some degree of ministry, I was the one who was deeply blessed to have shared those last moments of a man’s life. I left renewed in a way I could never have felt by just staying home.

Self-renewal is essential for me. But I hope to always remember how renewing it can be to share life’s critical moments with another in the spirit of compassion.

Summer

by Jennifer Redfern

Hoping that all of you had a wonderful summer. This summer was pretty full for me. Our nephew, SSG Kristopher Carroll, B Battery, 4/6th Cav, 1st Inf Div, Ft Hood, redeployed in time to make his wife and mother happy ó both wife Lacey and Mom Yvonne (my sister) celebrated a birthday on 13 Jun (along with one proud Aunt Jennifer). Kris and his unit returned home late evening 12 Jun. All joined us here in the DC area in time to celebrate the retirement of my husband, CW5 Anthony “Tony” Redfern on 24 July 09. Tony served 4 yrs Navy and 34 yrs Army. His official last day of active duty is 31 Oct 09. Our daughter, Jenet Redfern, joined us from Sarajevo where she serves with OSCE Mission Bosnia Herzegovina. Our son, Joshua, traveled from a little closer (Raleigh, NC) where he is employed as a chef. Tony has accepted a federal civil service position at Ft Lewis, WA. I will join him next summer after my retirement from active federal service, 31 May 10. I will have served 36 yrs upon my retirement. More to follow on that. It was wonderful to have family here for Tony’s big event. Yvonne and her husband Brent Carroll are currently living and working in Elgin, OR. Yvonne is pastor of the Walla Walla, WA congregation. Dorothy and her husband Glen Wilgus traveled from my hometown of Puyallup, WA. Dorothy is group leader for the Mossyrock, WA emerging congregation and a member of the Puyallup WA Community of Christ congregation.

The retirement ceremony and informal barbecue were wonderful and of course our heads swelled with all of the great things said about our dear Tony. As I



looked out at the former and current service members who traveled to this event I was truly humbled. We often do not realize what an impact we have made until put in a position such as a retirement celebration. God has been so good to us and I am so grateful for the blessings he has bestowed. But I am more grateful the opportunity to let him work through me to affect the lives of others in a positive way while also serving as a

soldier. We were also reminded of the blessings of friendship and ministry of presence as our nephew Kris and his wife spoke of the two soldiers from Kris' unit who were medivac'd from Afghanistan a few months before the unit returned. These soldiers spoke so highly of their squad leader, his loving and strong leadership, and genuine concern for them and also for wonderful care packages which Kris' mom sent to them all while serving so far from home. Ministry of presence reaches out in many ways, even in a bag of pancake mix in a small border town in Afghanistan.

May all of you still serving in an active duty or civil service role continue to move with the Holy Spirit to let Christ work through you for the restoration of Peace and Justice wherever you serve.

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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