
Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

October, 2009

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

On September 13th I was privileged to deliver a morning message to the Shawnee, OH (USA) congregation. The theme was "Lose Your Life for Jesus."

As part of my talk that morning I noted how, after work about a week prior, I'd stopped at a local gas station and, while filling up, noticed an upscale SUV behind me – listing slightly. Now the wind wasn't that strong in Dayton (sure, it was September but there wasn't a hurricane cutting a swath through Ohio – unlike last September!). Consequently, I looked for other causes and noticed the right front tire going flat. I finished my pumping and walked over to the young lady driver who was already on the phone to (I assume) her boyfriend about the issue. I offered to assist and soon found out that the vehicle was new to her and she was not prepared to even know whether it had a jack or spare. As I was going back to my vehicle to get my own equipment another young man (OK, he was the only young male in this discussion) came up (obviously worried that I might overtax myself) and helped by researching what her vehicle was actually equipped with. The good news: there was a jack and a full size spare (air included!). I located her owner's manual and mentioned that *page 62* should be kept in her memory for the next time she experienced tire problems. Thus armed, the other fellow and I managed to accomplish the task at hand – much to the joy of the young lady. The other gent actually had a tire patch kit and even began working to extract the nail she'd picked up and then attempt a repair. In a few moments of chat with the young lady I learned that she'd needed to pick up this vehicle used since her previous ride had been T-boned by an uninsured motorist. This was her first day with the SUV and a flat was about the last thing she felt she needed



after the frustrations associated with the loss of the previous vehicle.

A basic need for a replacement tire had been met but I wondered what else I might offer her, from the perspective of a Christian brother, before we parted ways. In a brief moment, I was able to mention to her how, during experiences like this, I often ask the Lord for the patience and wisdom I need to get through. She thanked me and I simply invited her to help someone else in need if she found a similar opportunity in her future.

None of us engaged in this encounter *lost our lives*, per se. But I do wonder if one young lady's life may take different turns because I didn't simply hang up my hose and drive away – leaving her to fend for herself.

As you go through your days, wherever you may be, keep your eyes open. Someone with a flat (or other need) may have their burdens lightened if you but act as one member of the body of Christ.

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

Announcements and information

VA creating 28 new vet centers <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123163419> 8/14/2009 – WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced August 14 that combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs will establish vet centers in 2010.

"VA is committed to providing high-quality outreach and readjustment counseling to all combat veterans." Secretary Shineski said. "These 28 new vet

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.

centers will address the growing need for those services.”

The community-based vet centers, already in all 50 states, are a key component of VA’S mental health program, providing veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder counseling.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach offering counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat veterans and family members. Staffs also offer bereavement counseling for families of service members killed on active duty and counseling for veterans who were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet center services are earned through service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to veterans or their families.

They are staffed by small multidisciplinary teams, which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master’s-level counselors and outreach specialists. More than 70 percent of vet center employees are veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.

For additional information and a list of communities receiving new VA vet centers please see the web address above.

Please congratulate, with us, our very own Chaplain Scott Jobe who was promoted to the rank of Major, effective 1 September 2009. This bodes well for a continuing Community of Christ ministry presence in the U. S. Military. Our prayers also go with Scott and Kim as they, like all peacekeepers, continue to sacrifice for freedom, peace and justice in our world.

In Christ, Victory!
Tim

Curt's Column

At this writing it’s almost September. This is approaching my favorite time of the year. The days are getting shorter, the nights cooler and football season is here. I know that many of the ladies do not look forward to the advent of football season but to some it is a real great time to be alive.

My late sister-in-law was one of those fans that made a football game a real occasion. The only problem was that she rooted for the Washington Redskins, I guess this was only natural since they lived in the Washington, D.C. area for so long. But her enthusiasm for the game made it a real experience when you visited their home during the



season. Dorothy is gone now but the fond memories of times spent with her and Glenn will never leave.

The other night I had occasion to revel in the wisdom of the Lord. I wear hearing aids and during the day, while on duty as a security officer, I wear an earphone in my right ear attached to the radio used in security communication. I finished my shift and went home to change clothes before going to bible study. I put my left hearing aid back in my ear but forgot to get the one for my right ear. It was quiet in the house so I didn’t notice how quiet it was. It wasn’t until I was en route listening to the radio that I missed my hearing aid. I spent a miserable night at bible study because I could not hear well enough to make out much of the conversation.



That simple fact brought home to me the infinite wisdom of the Lord in His creation. It amazes me that there are those among us who believe that the things in the universe just happened and there is not a master planner engaged in all of this. My statement to all who believe that man just evolved from apes, first of all where did the apes come from and secondly if we evolved from monkeys or apes, why is that species still around?

As I grow older my appreciation of what the Lord has done and is doing among us grows daily. It is my hope that each person can see the hand of God in everything that takes place and it doesn’t just happen.

One word before I close. PLEASE, those of you on active duty tell me what you are doing and what’s going on in your life. Those of us who are not on active duty want to know what the real story is and those who are brothers and sisters in arms like to hear from you. Just remember that each one of you is important to us and we appreciate what you are doing.

GOD BLESS,
Curt

Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum

Dominic is almost 4 now! We just got back from our first vacation without him since his birth. He was upset with us, “I wanted to go vacation with you!” he cried when we returned. Beth wanted him to remain in school so he would not get in the habit of taking time off to go with us. I understand, but it was a little “calm and quiet” without him – not all bad, just different.



We went to the Smoky Mountains, Cumberland Gap, Abraham Lincoln’s birthplace, and many other

wonderful sites. I agree with Curt, it's impossible to look out over the mountains, and not see the master artist at work. I often mourn the fact that while my husband supposes that some "higher being" made the earth, he doesn't believe that there is anyone up there who cares for our daily lives. Even little Dominic know that he has a Daddy in heaven and a Daddy down here.

Sometimes, in the Smokies, we couldn't see as far as we wanted because by the time we reached the summit a cloud had dropped down over the mountain top and we were in a thick fog. I've flown through clouds in an airplane, but to walk into a cloud on my own two feet was miraculous.

I must admit though that I have my own, personal favorite place. I've traveled to the eastern mountains, the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Tetons, up through Bear Tooth pass in Montana and into the Glacier National Park just south of Canada. But, for me, Spearfish Canyon in Wyoming beats them all. It's like a microcosm of steep walls, deep crevices, glorious falls, white water, game, fishing, and trails where you can look at the flora and fauna close up. If you ever find yourself in Wyoming, try to go through it either going to or coming from the town of Spearfish. God bless you all!

See! by Linda Cain Extended WCLC member

Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163: 2a

I can remember, when I was a small child in school, learning the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. In my mind, that was just something we did every morning to start our day.

Since we also had prayer in school, the pledge felt like a prayer to me, except instead of bowing our heads with our eyes closed, we placed our right hand on our heart to recite it in unison, and so melodiously. I didn't give much thought to what we were saying at that time; I just memorized the words.

As I got a little older, the phrase "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" stood out boldly. It said and meant so much to me. I realized that in that phrase, I knew that I mattered and was important. No matter what my age, race, nationality, gender, or status in life, it included me and all people.



In Doctrine and Covenants 163: 2a, God is reminding us: "Follow Christ in the way that leads to God's peace." By doing that in the midst of the "difficult questions and struggles of life," every day my life will be closely bound to the efforts of others to extend the benefits of "liberty and justice for all"; for without love, justice, and freedom, there is no real prospect for world peace. These ideals are tied ultimately to our realizing the blessings of all the dimensions of salvation.

Why Are We Here? by Keith Russell, Native American specialist

Here lies the test: the light has come into the world, but men preferred darkness to light because their deeds were evil. Bad men all hate the light and avoid it, for fear their practices should be shown up. The honest man comes to the light so that it may be clearly seen that God is in all that he does.

—John 3: 19 – 21 NEB

The scripture for today (March 22, 2009), from John 3: 14 – 21, includes what may be the best known verse in the Bible: John 3: 16. But as I reflect on this passage, and the question "Why are we here?" what catches my attention are verses 19 – 21.

We are called to help God shine light into lightless places. We cannot sit by and let evil and darkness prevail around us. We are called to be witnesses of the light. When evils such as racism and prejudice, injustice and violence against weak or oppressed people, preventable hunger, or the thoughtless waste of the earth's resources, etc., occur, we are to become the counter voices to the voices of those who love darkness and who try to justify these evils.

Jesus Christ is the love and light of God for the world. Jesus would speak out against these evils. I can imagine Jesus turning over tables again, trying to get everyone's attention and shouting: "No, stop this madness. This should be a world of joy, hope, love, peace, and justice. It's been two thousand years and still you don't get it. Don't you remember what I taught you? Love God with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul and your neighbor as yourself. And by the way, everyone is your neighbor—every nation, race, creed, religion, skin color, gender, size, shape, orientation, ... *everyone!*"

That's why I think we are here.

The Hour Has Come by Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. —John 12: 32 NRSV

I am sometimes reluctant to bring up the subject of religion or drop phrases like “you’re blessed” into a conversation with someone I haven’t gotten to know. Perhaps it’s because I am a “Relater” personality type and I don’t want to impose on anyone, or it’s just my concern that I may come across as pushy. There are times, however, when I believe that my reluctance to speak up has ended up with missed opportunities to share my belief in Christ or my Christian faith.

An amazing discovery has been that it doesn’t always take a conversation about religion or my Christian beliefs to lift up Christ. A simple act that demonstrates my belief in God and Christ can speak volumes and lead to witnessing. In my work, I travel extensively and often co-train at conferences with colleagues I have just met at the beginning of the week. Last year, in a little café in Belfast, Ireland, a fellow business partner and I were about to eat when I stopped conversing, closed my eyes, and said a quick prayer of thanks for the meal. When I looked up, my colleague said, “I’m going to begin offering thanks at meals too. Seeing you do that has prompted me to take a moment to express my gratitude.” That was the beginning of a discussion of her spiritual beliefs and my belief in Christ.

Many people are seeking the assurance that they are known, valued, and loved. My strong testimony of Christ’s love in my life is needed “in this hour.”

Partake of the Bread of Life by Mary Jacks Dynes, Council of Twelve Apostles

I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that

comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. —John 6: 48 – 51 NRSV

We celebrate Jesus as life-giving food when we come to the Communion table. We will never go hungry and never be thirsty when we partake of the bread and wine. This is the living truth of my life.

I have lived the way of the world, being an avid consumer in a material world. “I want,” “I need,” “I must have,” and “not enough” have been words that have come because of my ego. No matter what I had or got, I was unhappy. I would always be looking for something else that promised greater fulfillment—that promised to make my incomplete sense of self complete and fill my inner sense of lack.

After my husband died and I went through the dark night of the soul, I was questioning who I was. From the depths of this dark and awesome journey of falling into the hands of a living God (Hebrews 10: 31) came an identity that forever has changed my life. When Jesus came out of the waters of baptism, a voice proclaimed him “beloved,” in whom God was pleased (Luke 3: 21 – 22). I, too, claim this. I am a beloved daughter of God, in whom God is pleased. Nothing else matters; nothing else is important. From this identity of being God’s beloved, I walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ. All my actions, motivations, and thoughts radiate from this primary identity.

From this beloved identity there is “enough.” For what I need for life is available in Jesus and no other. Jesus satisfies my hunger. And if I keep my eyes on Jesus, I am no longer thirsty for material things. They never satisfy. Jesus truly is the bread of my life and this is what I celebrate at the Communion table this day. Is he that for you also?

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<http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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