
Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

April, 2010

TIM'S SERVICE by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler

Bothers and sisters, we are rapidly approaching the intersection of several significant matters for all of us. First, there is Easter. Second, there is the 2010 Community of Christ World Conference. Third, we are planning for the Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel dinner and business meeting.

How do these three matters intersect for this particular audience? Let me offer the phrase "What matter's most?" for our consideration.

Easter is a celebrated remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even today, over two thousand years after he walked this earth in bodily form, people are still stretching to grasp the fullness of the Gospel he preached and lived out.

The Community of Christ World Conference brings together this body of believers, meeting – in faith – to seek the mind and will of God, and to plot a course that continues to guide each of us along the discipleship path. As we walk this path we are called to bring the light of Christ to the world. We are the hands and feet – the body of Christ – to the world in which we live, play, work and worship.

We Peacekeepers plan to meet – to fellowship over a shared meal, to hear from Apostle Jim Slauter and to transact an Association business meeting (including accomplishing Association elections).

We celebrate Easter because of faith in the message that we are redeemed. We share in the mission of Conference because we know the Gospel message must continue to be shared. We are Peacekeepers – and we meet as a body of believers – because we know that our mission remains a sad, but vital, necessity in a world that does not yet fully embrace peace.



What matters most? "The mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for the journey ahead." (<http://www.cofchrist.org/wc2010/counsel/default.asp>). In the days of preparation before us, I urge our mutual prayers for the Conference, for the upcoming Peacekeeper activities and for the work that needs to continue in this world we share. Thank you for answering the call. Keep up the good fight!

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Before I close, here's what I want you to know about Conference and the Peacekeeper meeting (how things stand as I write).

Peacekeepers has been granted booth space in the Auditorium this year. Please stop by to visit, share your stories, verify your membership information or sign up some new members! We may have some fund-raising items available.

The Association dinner and business meeting will be April 14th, 5:30 PM at East Alton Congregation. We ask that you sign up (can be done at the Association Booth) to reserve your meal as early as possible during Conference - but not later than that Tuesday. The main course will be brisket and the cost is still low – \$9.00 per person. Our guest speaker is Apostle Jim Slauter. After his remarks we will accomplish the business meeting.

I hope that many of you are able to attend and participate. However, if you are a Peacekeeper who is serving our Lord - and our brothers and sisters – "in the field," know that you are held close in heart and in our prayers!

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.

Curt's Column by Curt Heaviland

Today is not the prettiest of days. Living at the bottom of a hill on a cul-de-sac has its advantages in the summer time as it keeps a lot of unwanted traffic off the street. In the winter, especially when it snows or sleet, it becomes a nightmare. We got our share of it again last night. I couldn't make it up my hill today, so I had to miss church. As I look out the window my lawn and street covered with the white stuff I marvel at God's creation.

As I read the paper daily I see more and more of my contemporaries passing on. While I am not pessimistic about the future, I find I must stop and take a look at my life daily and see what I am doing to make this world of ours a better place to live. As I reach advanced age, whatever that might be, I wonder if I'm contributing all that I'm capable of?

I'm looking forward to World Conference this year. There are many unresolved issues that are going to be taken up and I wonder where the Lord is going to lead us and which direction are we headed? There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord will direct us in the proper path through our prophet and leaders of the church. It makes for an exciting time. It is my hope that I will be in tune enough to support the church in whatever direction it takes.

We, at the East Alton Congregation, are fortunate to have two of our young men deployed. They have been very kind in sending information back from their area and this allows us to get a slight feeling of what they are doing each day. I appeal to each of you who receive this newsletter to make it truly a newsletter. Let us know where you are and what you are doing. We're all interested in that kind of information. We will not print any unit designations or anything that is classified but rather your observations about daily life etc. If you have e-mail send it to me that way. My address appears at the end of each publication.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU FROM HARMS WAY.

Curt



Kid Stuff by Mary Yocum



We are having a snow day here. Dominic has asked his uncle Shaun to find something on TV. Shaun says, "Look, Dominic, this looks good. It says 'Dinosaur Train' comes on now and after that is Sesame Street."

Dominic replies, "I am not responsible for Dinosaur. That's for babies."

My first reaction was that it's the first time he has used a new word incorrectly. Second is, where did he hear that?

Of course we all say it once in a while. If so many things are not our responsibility – what things are?

Are we responsible for what our kids say? Even if they didn't hear it from us? How about their high energy level? Boy Dominic has been blessed (or cursed) by lots of energy.

But in the main we are responsible for our own actions and words. Trust me, if your child sees you talking to God, he or she will pray as well.

My own mother carried on an almost never-ending conversation with God. She would be cooking dinner and look up at the ceiling as she told God ...

"Okay, I know a few lumps in the gravy won't kill anyone. Some of these lumps though look big enough to choke a horse. How about you and me together get the biggest, worst lumps out and I'll be satisfied with that."

Or she would be listening to the radio when something resembling jazz or rock and roll would come on. "Lord, where did that stuff come from?" Once I came into the kitchen on a Sunday morning to hear, "Satan – get thee behind me!" Now I didn't know she was also on a first name basis with the fallen angel, but I can tell you that a great grey shadowy mist suddenly left the room. I hadn't even been aware of it until it was gone, but I guarantee you I believed.

So, when I went around talking to Jesus at the age of two or three (actually, I've never stopped), Mom was about the only one who didn't think I was crazy.

"Hey Jesus, look at this. What's that bug called?" Or I'd ask Him about the different colors and scents of the various flowers, trees and weeds. Sometimes I'd sing Him a song or tell Him a story. What – you think He's too busy for a story? Not when the story teller is a two year old. He loves it! He told me so.

Back to responsibility though. I want Dominic to grow up knowing that we are responsible for ourselves

and how we react to others. I want him to be a responsible adult one day. I want him to admit responsibility when something is his fault. And I want him to learn to talk to God and Jesus just like his Grandma Mary and Great Grandma Hazel – even if he never knew her.

And I guess I'll be responsible for that.

From Afghanistan by Scott Gaitley

Guess it is time to give you a dose of my reality here in Afghanistan.

This place is a trip.

We have countless problems with the local nationals working on base with theft, using cell phones to spot incoming rockets/mortars, corrupt Afghan nation police who aid the Taliban/insurgents, and many other issues. Then Monday night I was eating at a table full of these locals. Makes one think about things.

Does not make it any better after a B-hut had a rocket go through its roof and into the floor wounding three, a couple of nights ago.



Have to keep reminding myself not everyone of the Afghans is bad, but good grief, wish I could tell you half of what I know that goes on here. And we are supposed to be helping them to help themselves, when they are rioting outside the perimeter, one time with all men, the other with local women, kids throwing rocks at us while we just casually walk the perimeter, Iranians supplying the Taliban with arms, Afghan government officials working both sides of the fence.

In comparison, I keep thinking of similarities from Vietnam: Mountainous terrain in locations limits effectiveness of weapons. Taliban/insurgents running to another country to hide from us, drug influence on both local Afghan forces and anti-Afghan forces, lack of interest on the population to help themselves, poor

economy, lack of education, the minority (Taliban/insurgents) influencing certain villages, and political rules inhibiting the effectiveness of many things.

Well enough of that, all I can say is what a place.

On a positive note, the Taliban and insurgency are suffering in personnel losses and weapons, well, except for those coming from Iran and Pakistan. Many of the villages do like us here, because of what we provide them, food, money, public health buildings, schools, dams, electricity, fruit trees, and all other means to support their way of life.

Last week Afghanistan made the world news in reference to the avalanche, and we treated nearly 270 of those victims here at my base. It was a busy day at the hospital when an a mass casualty call came out for volunteers to help. Yes, I was there helping too.

We do have many informers who share key data in relation to the bad people, sometimes it is quite good. The Afghan army/police force is actually taking initiative and conducting missions to help themselves.

So maybe anything is possible here and maybe the country will turn around for the better.

I am teaching an Afghanistan history class to the people residing here on base, and looking at 3500 years of turmoil. Cannot see YET, how nearly 9yrs have made much of an impact, but I am hoping that I am wrong, and that this country will one day be self sufficient and have some form of long standing government without influence from the various religions, nationalities or tribes that dominate the country here. Oops, but cannot forget that Iran is also trying to have an influence here, just like when I was in Iraq. Iran has been a big contributor to turmoil in Afghanistan's long history.

As you can see I am not as optimistic as I was in Iraq, things here have me confused as to my final decision on the outcome. I want to be able to hope for the best, but not so sure.

Maybe after another 90 days here, I will get a better perspective.

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Another week has gone by here, and the temperatures are up in the 80's.

Have not had any rain in over two weeks and that will probably increase in its duration. It is already getting extremely dusty in the afternoons.

Makes for being outdoors a challenge to breathe clean air. Running yesterday outside was a feat in itself. Oh the joys!

The bad guys are coming out to play with the increasing temperatures, so things have been getting busy!

For St. Patrick's Day there was Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, and greenery inside the DFAC. That was the extent of our Irishness!

Hear that your temperatures back home are fluctuating and not able to make up its mind from winter to spring. From now until winter it gets hotter, less moisture and forecast pretty much stays the same. My last visit here in 2006, we had an occasional sprinkle of rain the entire summer, and temps 100-120F. At least I will miss that!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Newsletter Appreciation by Julie O'Neal

Curt,

Thanks so much for continuing this newsletter. It has been a great help to me around the world, and now back stateside.

I wanted to let folks know that I am the XO of the Navy Officer Training Command in Newport, RI. Turns out we had a kid from Graceland come through here a few months ago and I didn't find out about it until after he had graduated. Sure would have liked to have been able to offer him the option of communion or taking him to church if he had wanted to go (once he had earned liberty, of course:)).

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 Association membership; those dues are **\$10.00/yr, due in April (multi-year discounts available)**. Archive newsletters also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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If our military folks learn of any kids heading off to officer candidate school, Reserve Officer Indoc, LDO/CWO, or Officer Development School, I am available to them until Feb 2011.

Thanks,
Julie

CDR Julie O'Neal
Executive Officer
Officer Training Command Newport

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Hot!!! Peacekeeper Association Officer Nominations.

We urge Peacekeepers, who may feel called to serve, to step forward if desiring to be nominated for any Association Office. The Vice President and Treasurer positions are specifically to be elected at this meeting. However, due to the changes in conference schedules and our current BYLAWS verbiage, we will have to address the status of the President and Secretary terms (either holding elections for those positions, if warranted by the body, or extending the current incumbents). If you are interested in serving as an officer - or in assisting in any other way (web site management, article solicitations, etc.) please contact me as soon as possible and thank you. Tim Kunzweiler, President, cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net (937) 291-1327.

