

Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

June, 2010

TIM'S SERVICE by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler



God Surprises. There were great expectations expressed by many going into the 2010 World Conference. Certainly there was a large slate of legislation awaiting the body's address. People were positioned on all sides of the issues. Many expressed hopes – or certainties – about the outcomes of the votes. But then, in ways that few might have thought possible, the Spirit exhaled – and, in recognition, people caught their breath in surprise. Nothing turned out quite the way anyone might've predicted. Instead, disciples everywhere have been challenged anew to think about our calling to represent the light of Christ to one another – and to a world that remains in darkness.

What was no surprise. I am thrilled to have been a part of this conference and to have been able to spend so much time with the Association booth and our members. I believe we reached many new people with the message that there is ministry specifically available to the Church's military members. I echo Curt's note in calling Apostle Slauter's message to our member meeting supremely inspiring. We hope to be able to bring you the entire message – or at least some of the most significant points – in the issues ahead. "Our" Apostle holds a special ability to display a heart of love and to motivate all of us to want to love our Lord and our brothers and sisters in ever deeper ways. In this forum I want to express some personal appreciations. First: my thanks to Apostle Slauter for spending that precious time with us. Second: my thanks to Cathi Cackler-Veazey, Sue Naylor and Steve McCrosson for all the coordinations that enabled the Peacekeepers to again have space in the World Peace Village. Third, I greatly appreciate the Peacekeepers who were able to spend time manning the Association booth so that we could talk personally with those who walked by and inquired. Finally, thanks go to the other officers for their

continued volunteer efforts – so vital to keeping this ministry tracking forward. We welcome Steve Kellogg as our new Treasurer and express our love to Lehman Heaviland for his many years of service in that position.

A final surprise. As has been my joy in recent years I was again able to take some time out to support the National Day of Prayer and attend the 7 May luncheon at Wright-Patterson AFB. Our guest speaker was Dave Roever <http://www.daveroever.org/roeverstory.php>, once burned beyond recognition in a phosphorus grenade explosion in Vietnam but now widely recognized for his witness and outreach to the troops in the U.S. and deployed across the world. All of us who heard him were amazed at the strength of a man who has taken incredible pain and injury and turned seemingly insurmountable obstacles into a message of humor and hope. He attributes his survival to God and to his wife Brenda – in that order. A clear message rings here: Hope continues to live when we love one another!

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

Announcements and information

Military Ministry Project in Your Area? Are you thinking of a military ministry project that would be very helpful for our military members and friends but wondering how to make it happen? Is it something you'd like to see in your area, or is it something that would minister to service members throughout the world? Is it something you'd like to do, yourself, if only you had a little help? If you're currently a military member, do you see a need that the Peacekeepers could meet?

Please send your ideas for projects to the Peacekeepers at (add address and/or phone number). We

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.

have some money from the church that we can use, as well. Mostly we need ideas and people to help carry them out. If you're one of those people, please contact us!



Peacekeepers is now on facebook (thanks to Jennifer Redfern)! Please become a member of the site and share! Peacekeepers: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=106171526091856>

Curt's Column by Curt Heaviland

Conference ended today. Because of the responsibilities I have and the fact that I live in Independence, which allows me to run many errands, and the fact I was not a delegate I did not have the opportunity to attend any sessions. Tim Kunzweiler and his wife Sheila stayed with me and kept me up to date as to what was happening. I had the privilege of manning our booth every day except Tuesday. On that day I had an appointment with the VA.



Many people stopped and most of them shared their appreciation of what we were doing and also they showed a great deal of appreciation for you who are out in the world keeping the peace. While many of you are actively engaged with those who would impose their will upon people wherever they might be, I shudder to think of what it would be like if you weren't there. Keeping the peace quite often means a show of force which deters the aggression of the opposition.

I had the opportunity, while in our booth, to express our appreciation to the world church leaders for the support and help they give us. Apostle Jim Slauter was our speaker at the banquet held on Wednesday evening. He delivered an inspiring message to the 29 who attended. Many of the attendees expressed their appreciation for his remarks.

We now face the future and look for ways in which we can get our message out to more people. We must continually work toward the acceptance of what you all are doing world wide. Each one of you can help us as well. Let us know what is happening to you and what you are doing. You do not need to breach classified information, but what is your daily life, your relations with the locals, the weather and how it is affecting the operations, etc. Anything you can share with us.

Sometimes we have sent the newsletter to someone who does not want it and for this we apologize. Grandma and grandpa want the best for you so they enroll you. If you do not want to receive the newsletter just let me know. We, here at the Peacekeepers want the best for you as well. I cannot speak for you but I

remember when I used to get the "Saints in Service" from World Headquarters I was always pleased to think that the church remembered me specifically.

I can only thank you personally through this column. I wish I had the ability to come where you are and extend my hand and love. Quite often we do not express our appreciation when we have the chance. Here's to you. GREAT JOB MILITARY!!!!

Thanks again for your service and GOD BLESS you and keep you from harms way.

Curt

Kid Stuff by Mary Yocum



Dominic looked down at his car "booster" seat and said, "Eww, what is that? Grandma, I need a tissue." We couldn't tell from the front seat what he had found but he described it as follows, "it's yucky, it's gross, it's *disgusting!*" Wouldn't it be nice if all our disgusting issues could be obliterated with a tissue?

Well by the time this goes to print we should be in Florida. Our son, Shaun, daughter, Beth, grandson Dominic, Don and I will be rushing from one ride to the next in Orlando or lazing on the beach – if we can find one not covered in oil.

Dominic is thrilled to be going to the beach, of course. He wants to build sand castles, play in the water and run the adults ragged – he's good at it too.

I just finished a book called "I am Nujood, age 10 and Divorced." It's a true story about a little girl from Yemen whose father married her off at age 10 to an older man who beat her and abused her. Good reading if anyone is interested. Her story has already made things different for a few other girls in similar situations.

Well – I'm off. To Florida that is, so I'm sure I'll have lots of Dominic stories when we get back.

Bagram News from Scott Gaitley

Following are a few excerpts from the Newsletter "Bagram News Express." If you have updates and/or information from your area you'd like to share contact Curt Heaviland or Tim Kunzweiler – contact info on last page.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—As their F-16 Fighting Falcon pulled into its parking spot on the airfield, the dedicated crew chiefs from the 34th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit had something to be proud of: tail number 2119 had returned from its

30th code 1 sortie over the skies of Afghanistan, March 23, 2010.

Col. Lawrence Gatti, 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander, explained the significance of the 30 code 1 sorties, “No one person makes an aircraft fly 30 code 1 sorties. I have never heard of it in my 32 years in the Air Force, so I think it is a pretty remarkable achievement.”

Lt. Col. Brad Lyons, 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander says that code status is a three-tier system that rates an aircraft’s mission readiness. A code 1 aircraft is one that returns from a mission with no maintenance needs that would affect the safety of flight or mission accomplishment.

The dedicated crew chiefs, the weapons flight, the production staff and the back shops should all take credit for the remarkable feat, said Colonel Gatti, deployed from Langley AFB, Va. “All of those units have to do their job flawlessly to have something like this come together. This is a culmination of all of their hard work, a real team effort.”

By Staff Sgt Richard Williams 455th
Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen welcomed their new commander during a formal change of command ceremony here, April 23, 2010.

Col. Jack L. Briggs II, previously assigned as the Director of Inspections for the Office of United States Air Force Inspector General, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., assumed command from Brig. Gen. Steven L. Kwast.

By Staff Sgt Richard Williams 455th
Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Col. Briggs shared the following: As Wing commander, I feel you deserve to know what I believe are important things in my life.

I believe in the truth. The truth is the only thing I can use. If you tell me the truth, I will do everything I can to do the right thing. If you don’t, I can’t be sure what I do is best for all involved.

I believe in respect for one another. In our diverse community we rely on each other for strength, assistance and joy. We show respect by working with each other as we are and not as we would wish others to be. I will treat your issues with confidence and dignity.

I believe in my God and my family. They are the constants in my life.

I believe in our partnership with our Afghan hosts and the joint warfighters. This is a critical time for both our nations’ histories and we must do our best to help protect the Afghan people, build security and governance, and our own bilateral relations. Our brave hosts have sacrificed much for the future they know is best for their nation.

I believe in the United States Air Force and the United States of America. We are a service and a nation at war. That requires sacrifice and your being here is a testament to that fact.

My combat experience has convinced me we are doing the right thing in our efforts to combat terror and protect the idea that everyone has the right to choose their way of life.

Priesthood Calling by Robert Stanke, East Alton Congregation

Dad, (Grandfather, Albert), was a spiritual person who took his ministry very seriously. Often when he had a preaching assignment in another congregation the Stanke kids were expected to not only tag along but most of the time we were asked to sing or participate in the service. We usually objected but to no avail. Dad always got his way with us kids.

As we were growing up Dad would often say that he wanted his boys to follow him in the priesthood. Brother Alvin was quick to say, “not me.” Brother Doug would say, “no way,” and both would point to me. But I had no desire to spend my free time in ministry and I would also say no.

There were some rather significant events that took place through the years that got my serious attention and helped to change my attitude. One such event was when I was driving a gravel truck for Don Gillett’s dad. As I was backing up a narrow gravel pit roadway, part of the road collapsed beneath me and the truck went over the cliff, falling about 30 feet with the door opened, and me standing on the running board. The truck landed on its top. I remember the terrible crash. I don’t remember getting inside, but there I was, safely inside the upside down truck, dazed, and dusty, but otherwise unharmed, without a bruise or a scratch. The poor truck was a total loss. I always tend to minimize these kinds of events in my life but as far as I can remember I didn’t tell anyone about it except maybe Mom and Dad. It did get me thinking about the real purpose for my life. What was I here for?

Not long after that, one of the visiting ministers from Lansing was preaching at our little congregation and as he was presenting his sermon, he singled me out as

someone whom God had already blessed, and suggested that I had a work to do, and should prepare my life for that which was to come. The words which were spoken touched me deeply, and I realized that God was not only watching me, but that He was counting on me. Not long after that I made my decision to attend Graceland and began to make serious plans for my future.

Three years later, after graduating from Graceland, my college roommate and friend Lionel Gale and I were working at Fisher Body for the summer. Many significant things had happened during these three years, but the most significant was that I had met the love of my life, and was thinking about getting engaged. Portia had met my parents, was liked by my sisters, and was spending a few weeks prior to going back to Graceland for her last year.



While working at the plant the night before she and Lionel were to leave, I was exploring in my mind, the idea that if I was to be called to the ministry, to what office would I be called. I tried to see myself serving in each area of ministry that I was familiar with – deacon, priest, and elder, but none seemed right to me.

After spending considerable time thinking about where I might serve, I suddenly knew with a quickened awareness that I would be called to the office of teacher. I saw in that moment Dad Stanke standing before me and telling me that I was to be ordained a teacher. I went home after that experience on the night shift, bathed and went right to bed, without telling anyone about my experience.

The next morning I got up early as Lionel and Portia were going back to Graceland and a group of kids were meeting at our house to say goodbye. While we were standing in a group talking, Dad came up to us and I instantly knew what he was going to say before he spoke. He then went on to repeat the words which I had heard the night before, that I was to be ordained to the office of teacher.

This was the confirmation that I was seeking, that God did indeed call His servants and I was being called to serve.

Southwest Asia from Greg Carter

Following are a few excerpts from the Newsletter “The Sand Scoop.”

We have Soldiers spread throughout multiple locations in 3 countries, report COL William J. Thomas, and CSM Randy Perkins of the 1107th Aviation Group. Having experienced Soldiers who can work their “TASMG” magic, we have completed several depot repairs that have kept aircraft in flight ... supporting Soldiers on the ground. Our Supply Sections, Ground Support Section, Administrative Sections, and P/C – Q/C personnel are constantly working to stay ahead of all the changing issues that occur daily.

From MAJ Richard Anderson of Kandahar, Afghanistan we hear: It is no surprise that the environment is generally dusty and dry, but the dust is powder-fine and whips up into a hazy cloud nearly every afternoon. Then it hangs in the air for hours, even after the wind has died down.

One of the less glamorous tasks performed was to wash and air-dry hundreds of bags of rivets and fasteners that were caught in the unexpected Super Bowl Sunday flood, during which a river of water and mud ran six inches deep through the hangar.

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait reports: The mission of the TAMP SSA (Theater Aviation Maintenance Program) (Supply Support Activity), management to direct support of the National Maintenance Program and Patton Army Airfield Operations. The SSA also manages theater retrograde for all aviation repair parts as well as secondary supply support to all aviation assets throughout the OIF and OEF (Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom) theaters of operation.

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/>

Officers:

President: Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, Major, USAF (Ret) cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net
Vice President: Curt Heaviland, Lt Colonel, Army (Ret) armr77@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Jennifer Redfern, CWO5, Army Jennifer.redfern@us.army.mil
Treasurer: Steven Kellogg, Capt, USNR (Ret) stevekellogg@centralmission.org

Newsletter Support: Mary Yocum mary50nfine@comcast.net