
Community of Christ



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

August, 2010

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

There's a peace that passes all understanding. This wouldn't necessarily have been the first promise I'd expected to have come to mind on 30 June of this year but, as the day progressed, it seemed most fitting.

June 30th is meant to be a very special and happy day for Sheila and me. It was 25 years ago on that date in 1985 when Sheila and I said "I do" to each other and became a married couple. That was a warm day in Maine back then – but a great one for me no matter what the weather might have been. I was a new 2nd Lt in the USAF, flying helicopters out of Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, and was set to begin a new life with "the love of my life" after a short honeymoon.

Here in 2010, just after waking, I was being informed by Sheila that something was very wrong with our dog "Charley," a 2 year old American Black Lab. We'd had him for just a year – having rescued him from the pound and, while there are always "ups" and "downs" with a boisterous pup, Charley was bright, smart and full of promise. I went into the other room and found Charley lying on his belly on the floor, breathing fast and unable to move any of his limbs. He seemed alert but was looking around as if things appeared strange to him. Sheila has been a Veterinarian Tech and we both knew something was very wrong. I picked Charley up (essentially 80 pounds of *Jell-O* at this point) and Sheila helped me haul him out to the Explorer. After that she made a quick trip to the Vet with him



to see what could be done. I had to be at work. By mid afternoon Charley was gone.

We're pretty sure the cause was inadvertent poisoning – Sheila having seen him dig up and eat a neighbor dog's old rawhide bone the afternoon prior. Who knows how long it had been in the ground or what lawn chemicals it might have picked up; in any case that bone is the only thing that seems to present a plausible cause.

What do you do to celebrate a major anniversary after something like that? Sheila and I attended our congregation's monthly prayer service (don't panic – had taken her out for a nice supper the evening prior. :) After church we headed home to enjoy each other's company – albeit in a home that now seemed strangely quiet when compared with recent days (though I'm kind of miffed at the cats; they almost seemed jubilant).

How do you handle days that contain both great tragedy and great joy? I suggest we are best being thankful for each experience and by staying centered on the Creator of all that we experience – who will be with us in every moment – and throughout eternity. We'll remember Charley with love.

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

What does an old person do for entertainment? Let's see if I can come up with a few things. I guess the first thing is to sit and watch the lawn grow. The only problem with that is that you have to get out of your chair in the cool of air conditioning and mow the dumb stuff. That only takes part of the day and after you shower you still have half a day left.

The next important thing is to go to the computer and look at all the mail that has come in. If you're like me it takes forever to answer the stuff as I still use the Columbus system for typing. You know the system "find a key and land on it." That takes the best portion of the day.



The next important thing is to get something to eat. If you don't cook, you have to find someone who does. The best place to find that is an eatery. That brings us to watching TV and since there isn't much on TV to interest an old person you resort to reading a book.

When we're young we work for retirement, so we'll have the resources to spend our time doing what we want. I have found that in many instances that isn't the way it is at all. The Lord has blessed me with fairly good health and what isn't good the doctors have been able to keep me functioning. I don't function like I used to but I can do the important things like eat, sleep and grouse about things that used to be.

I do however, have some things I am very thankful for. First of all I am thankful for a God that allows me to function at all and the privilege to know Him. Secondly, I am thankful to live in this country where I have the privilege to live as I choose. Thirdly, I am thankful for every one of you that is willing to serve this country even though the task is overwhelming and for the most part dangerous. There are many other things for which I am grateful and they are too numerous to mention.

I count it a privilege to know you through this newsletter and would like to hear from each one of you on our list. I'd like to hear from you by e-mail at – armr77@sbcglobal.net or Curt Heaviland 1228 S. Scott Ave., Independence, MO 64052-3818. In

the interim may the Lord bless and keep you from harms way.

Curt

Kid Stuff by Mary Yocum



Well we went to Florida and took Dominic to the beach. Before leaving Dominic asked Grandpa Don if we needed to pack some sand – never having seen a beach before. Grandpa assured him there would be enough in Florida. We saw Disneyworld, Universal Studios, Sea World, and the beach. When we were driving to the beach we began to see strips of sand along the water.

"Is that it, is that the beach" he asked.

"Yes," said Grandpa, "but we have to find the road to get to it.

"That could take a while," warned his Mom, Beth. "It seemed to take hours in California."

But we finally arrived and walked out on the sand.

"It's the biggest sand box ever"! he cried.

Then he went to the water with his mom and experienced the waves pulling the sand out from under his feet. He squealed, squirmed and laughed for an hour or so, exclaiming that the water met the sky.

Somehow the ride back to town with sand in our damp swimsuits was – anticlimactic at best.

But that's the way of such things – going there is always more fun than coming back.

I feel the same way about God. Reaching out for Him, searching His word, listening for His voice is a pleasant – even joyful adventure. Returning to the day to day world is comparatively dull. Perhaps the answer is to seek Him every day.

Care Package by Greg Carter

Cathy & Jeff's (older brother) church sent a couple of care packages. I have never seen this before, but they baked cake in mason jars then sealed. They send canned cake in the care packages. Two spice cake, one chocolate, and one strawberry. We managed to come up with some ice-cream then we enjoyed cake and ice-cream.

That's my roommate Angel Morales in the background enjoying the cake and ice-cream along with me.



Greetings from Keith Russell

I was asked to write an article for the Peacekeepers Newsletter. And as I have thought about it, I decided to do it in the form of this letter. While this format may seem a little odd, it made sense to me because the letter home, and letters to the field are coming back into style in the current deployments to Afghanistan. With e-mail, texting, twitter and face book, etc. – not to mention cell phones, IPODS, and Blackberries, “letter writing” has almost become a lost art.

Over the past seven or eight months, since coming back into the military as a Navy Chaplain, I have gained a whole new appreciation for being able to connect with family and friends by any means available. At times I am able to call home, or connect by e-mail or face book, but during those times when I have been unable to, for one reason or another, the card or letter from home has been a very welcome treat. And by the same token, my wife has said that a letter from me back home has also been very much appreciated.

As I ponder the religious significance of this, it seems obvious to me that the importance of community is again being validated. And while I have benefited from time of solitude, I have also hungered for community and the opportunity to connect with Community of Christ church members specifically.

God has blessed me as I have embarked on this journey. Indeed, as I have attempted to faithfully respond to what I believe has been God's call in my life to become a military chaplain, I have been blessed in a number of ways. The obstacles that seemed to present themselves also seemed to take care of themselves as I continued to faithfully take the next step.

To begin with, at 48, most people are looking toward retirement from the military, not a return to active duty. But I was able to meet the physical requirements and was given the green light to continue. Then I arrived at ODS and found that the XO was actually a church member, and in the later weeks of training, when we had off base liberty, I was even able to attend the local Community of Christ congregation. And even better than that, a friend of mine (another chaplain) went to church with me and was very impressed with the sense of community he experienced there. Of course, the awesome sea food at the pot luck dinner did not hurt.

There was also a Community of Christ congregation just a few miles away when I was at



Chaplain School. Two different blessings come to mind for my visits with that congregation. First, on one visit, my friend went to church with me, and was again impressed with the sense of community in

this congregation as well, and again, we happened to be there on potluck Sunday and the food was awesome. In fact, he asked me if we always had potluck and if everyone in our church were such good cooks. I told him no, usually potluck Sunday is just once per month, (I just have a knack for showing up on that Sunday), but yes, as far as I can tell, everyone in the church must be good cooks, because I have never eaten anything that wasn't pretty good.

Even now, there is a very nice, although small, group of Community of Christ folks that meets at a hotel on Sunday mornings, and it is just around the corner from where I am living. God has blessed me by allowing me to stay in contact with our congregation wherever I have gone. While I do not

expect that that will always be the case, it has been a definite blessing. While I have also enjoyed the other churches I have visited with friends and fellow chaplains, there is something special about being able to connect with Community of Christ folks. I hope we all never take that for granted.

Soon I will be deploying forward to Afghanistan. So I ask that you keep all the Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in your prayers.
God bless,
Keith Russell, Chaplain USN

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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