

Community of Christ



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter **December, 2010**

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

I made a special effort to get out this November 11<sup>th</sup> – specifically to support a local U.S. [Veteran's Day observance](#). It was especially pleasing to have Sheila at my side as we journeyed the short distance to Centerville's Stubbs Park and to the [Veteran's Memorial](#) there. So many times in past years we were apart on days like this. You could not have asked for a more pleasant day (at least not for November in this part of Ohio). We arrived shortly before 11:00 AM and were pleased to see the many already in attendance. The chairs, placed in a semi-circle in front of the outdoor memorial, were all filled and a good number of other attendees, old and young, were around the perimeters. The program included remarks from Centerville's Mayor, Mark Kingseed, and a keynote address from Col. Richard Hazdra, Vice Commander of the 88<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. A group of scouts led us in the Pledge of Allegiance; a local grade school choir provided patriotic harmonies, a bagpiper played Amazing Grace in the background. Without any doubt, the many veterans in attendance dealt with a wide variety of memories that day – I know I did. As our service is often provided in conflict I am sure some of the memories experienced were bittersweet, sad and probably even angry. As president of this ministry, I was also remembering you while there. This [Veteran's Day](#) event was a U.S. celebration but Peacekeepers seeks to minister to any of our Church's members who are serving in the military – and whether during a time of war or not. Whether you are far from home right

SALUTING  
OUR  
VETERANS



now, or not and whether you are experiencing conflict, or not, I pray that your future memories of these days will be filled with joy – at having done a tough job so very well. I am blessed, and so are many others, because you serve. People's lives are being saved and freedom is being preserved by your sacrifices. Thank you for your roles.

The U.S. Thanksgiving celebration is also fast approaching as I write and, since this edition specifically covers December and January, I am very aware of the additional festivities that await us. The Christ who came to us over 2000 years ago is called, among other titles, the Prince of Peace. Soberly, I must acknowledge how much of His world has yet to fully embrace peace – and that is a big reason why countries continue to have to sustain militaries today. Even so, the babe that came at Christmas conquered for us. His example – if demonstrated, by us, to one person at a time can spread the light of peace. May your efforts to do that bear fruit and may others know peace because you – of the military – are unafraid to share it. In spite of all that the news world might forecast, I pray that you will be instruments in His hands – showing a better way.

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.



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We heard from Heather Osterhaus recently and were able to get some clarifications for a couple points for the ‘Meet Colonel and Elder Osterhaus’ article in our October 2010 Peacekeepers Newsletter. To help set the record straight: Heather has not been a Commander of Cadets. The proffer at her promotion ceremony was the graduating Commander of Cadets from a local high school and one of her Sunday school students – Tom Walker (he is now attending Texas A&M). Heather is co-leader of a Girl Scout Troop, but they aren’t ROTC. It’s always great to hear from our membership and to get updates on how things are going. Let’s hear from you too!

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## Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

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The season for thanksgiving is almost upon us – will have passed by this printing. When I take a few moments and look at my life I see there are multitudes of things for which I am thankful. I think first and foremost for me is the fact that I know there is a God who is a supreme being. I cannot imagine going through life without His influence on it. I thank the Lord each morning that He has given me another day to live. I find beauty in each and every day. Some days are more beautiful than others but each day is great in its own right.



I received an e-mail not long ago from a friend of mine who I have known since we were in the first grade together – and that has been a long time. He suggested that he did not believe in God and doesn’t think there is one. For me that was a downer. I have been searching for the right words to reply to him that will do some good. I find it impossible to go about my daily tasks without finding God someplace in the daily activities.

One of the churches, here in Independence, has a sign out front that has some meaning. It goes “living without faith is like driving in a fog.” When we have faith in God and that He will see us through – that let’s us walk down the pathway of life with confidence. Sure we are not positive what lies around the next corner but we approach it with

all the confidence in the world that we will navigate what’s in front of us without fear.

I can remember one year when my wife and I were on our way from Missouri to Louisiana and as we left our home we ran into some fog. It was quite dense and although I knew the road it was a challenge. Nevertheless we proceeded on our way with caution. We stopped and had breakfast and by then the fog had lifted enough that we could make good time. When we got back home we received a message that a friend of ours had lost his life on the same day we started our trip. He was on his way to work over a road he traveled daily. We had occasion to thank the Lord for our safe passage.

I give thanks to our God each day for each one of you that is willing to place your life on the line so that I can have a good life. As the USAA organization states in their commercials “we know what it is to serve.” I’ve been there and done that.

One spring when Joyce and I were on our way home from Arizona, where we had stayed for the winter, we heard the weather reports that there was the possibility of snow. Joyce suggested that if we left I wouldn’t stop if it was snowing. I assured her that we would lay over until the snow had stopped.

We took off and sure enough it snowed on us. We made it as far as Laramie, Wyoming where we stopped for the night. During the night the snow continued and in the morning there were a couple of inches of new snow on the ground. I told Joyce that the highways would be clear so we could go on. She was apprehensive but agreed. Outside of Laramie is a mountain pass. The highway department had removed some of the snow but there was still plenty on the highway.

With a 4 wheel drive and 1500 pounds of tongue weight over the wheels we never slipped once between Laramie and Cheyenne. The road never gave us any problems as the Lord was with us. However, my wife gave me plenty of problems because I moved out in good faith when I said I wouldn’t.

May the Lord keep you from harms way.  
Curt

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## Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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My grandson, Dominic, turns five on December 13<sup>th</sup>. As you can see from this recent picture – he thinks he’s much older. But not too old to become excited as he watches decorations going up and declares, “It’s Christmas”!

He really keeps us tuned into reality. He tells great stories and says the most ridiculous things. For example, he was asking Grandpa Don one day after dinner if he could have his dessert now. Grandpa pretended confusion – “dessert – what is dessert”?

To which Dominic replied, “dessert is the pretend food you get if you eat all your real food.”

“Well in that case you don’t need pretend food.” That wasn’t exactly what our little guy wanted to hear.

He also plays a video game called “Lego Batman,” and watches Uncle Shaun playing his video games. Recently Dominic was sitting in my computer chair which has a vibrating insert on it. He picked up the control – which apparently looked like a remote to him – and said, “You want a piece of me – do you want a piece of me”?

Our daughter, Beth (Dominic’s mom) told me about a recent experience she had with him. They were walking together in a park and he saw an empty basketball court. “Mom, can I run around on the court”?

Sure, she said. He ran to the court and just as he was putting his foot down on it – a car alarm went off nearby.

He raced back to his mother and told her “they don’t want anyone on there without a basketball.”

He was convinced that the alarm could tell that he wasn’t carrying the proper equipment.

Sometimes we believe that God is out to get us for something we did or didn’t do. I have a clear memory from my own childhood – I was around eight or nine. Coming out of a store Mom bumped into a woman she had known when they lived on a

farm near Bates City, Missouri. The woman looked and me and my sister who is three years younger than me and asked how old the twins were and who these girls were.

Mom and Dad had lost their first two children while living on that farm. Five year old Gary Lee and three year old Gene Louise had fallen through thin ice on the farm’s pond. Mom was seven months pregnant with the twins at the time and they left the farm in the spring.

Mother replied to the woman that the twins – John and James – were about thirteen and that these were their girls – Mary and Martha.

“Oh,” said the woman, “James, John, Mary and Martha. Just think – if you had given the first two children bible names they wouldn’t have died.”

Can you imagine – thinking that family names weren’t good enough to protect your children from a vengeful or jealous God?

My Aunt Enid told me once that when their only daughter, Joy died on their farm in Iowa, a neighbor consoled her with “at least it wasn’t one of the boys.” She was to take comfort in the fact that her husband still had help for the farm chores.

I witness every day the unexpected and surprising things children can come up with. I just don’t feel the same when adults show such a lack of intelligence. My grandmother who was a very intelligent lady – some said a genius – once told me I was as tactless as my mother. Since Mom had died a year or so before this I felt the comment was not well thought out. I simply smiled and told her “I didn’t get it all from Mom you know.”

I try to think things through before I say them out loud – I still have a ways to go with that though. Mom used to remind us that words didn’t come attached to strings so we could pull them back in.

I pray that all of us will try to edit ourselves before we spew out things that might hurt others.

God bless you all and stay safe.



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## Seek God's Peace, by Stassi Cramm, Council of Twelve Apostles

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*The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.*  
—Haggai 2: 9 NRSV

The prophet Haggai writes to the Israelites about their disappointment that the new Jerusalem Temple being built is so much smaller with less grandeur than the Temple that had been destroyed. The Israelites are discouraged that they are not experiencing the same level of prosperity as before their Babylonian exile.



Haggai reminds them that despite material hardships, God's Spirit abides with them, and there is nothing to fear.

I relate to the context of Haggai's ministry. Frequently people ask me why congregational life is so different today as compared with years ago. People seem filled with fear about the future.

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Congregational leadership says how tired it feels. It seems like the way of "being" church is not working as it used to. People express concern that God has abandoned them.

Like Haggai, I see God's Spirit continuing to abide with us and calling us to respond, without fear, to the needs in the world. Congregations are sent as a faith community into the world to seek God's peace.

How is your congregation serving beyond the walls of your building to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace?

*Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ's vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth, Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 163: 3b

God abides with us, like faithful disciples of old and calls us collectively and courageously to share Christ's peace with the world.

