
Community of Christ

The Peacekeepers



Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

February, 2011

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

How may I best be a *missional member* of a *missional church*? I've been wondering about that a lot recently and particularly for where I am currently called to minister. I might encourage us all to do the same. No matter where we find ourselves these days, *now always seems to be the right time to be engaged in mission.*

For several years now I've been participating with a small group of seekers from within the Western Ohio and Bountiful Mission Centers, pursuing a missional transformation and discovery process. While this focus has opened up some new lines of thinking for me, I am becoming increasingly aware of how this effort is not at all new within the Community of Christ. For instance, if you've happened across a copy of For What Purpose Assembled, by Donald D. Landon and Robert L. Smith (1969 Herald House) you'd find numerous references to *missional* aspects within the pages including in an introductory paragraph that states the challenge that faces all church-going Christians: to become truly missional and honestly relevant amidst rapid social change, while remaining constant, coherent and Christ-oriented. That statement of need, so true in 1969, remains incredibly current in what it states over 40 years later (a significant constant found with a roiling sea of change may be something we'd want to hold onto). I recommend checking into several resources if you desire to explore further; one would be Introducing The Missional Church: What It Is,

Why It Matters, How To Become One, by Alan J. Roxburgh and M. Scott Boren.



I personally believe (as you may also) that the Church of Jesus Christ is meant to be the most relevant factor in the world throughout all its remaining ages. As I endeavor to grow in my awareness of how to be a part of that relevance, the evidence seems to be telling me that the best relevance has not been achieved by residing at either extreme: by remaining static in the face of change or by acquiescing totally to change and societal demands (whether brought about by new technologies, changes in living standards or any number of other factors). Rather, the church must acknowledge where society is (must be able to work therein) WHILE always seeking to be the agent most capable and successful at SHAPING society.

As a conjecture, unless God chooses to work fundamental changes in human nature, my logic trail indicates that I must plan for ministering to a mixture of people and those who span the spectrum from fully desiring to be and do good to those who would only seek to bend the world to fit their own desires.



That said, there will remain conflict and choice in the foreseeable days ahead. In consequence, the Church must be the forefront force for helping this world (one person at a time) come *through* conflict to recognize *whose world this is*. Only then may every

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.

child of God choose the path of selflessness and seek to live discipleship. My missional focus becomes much clearer when I may take that understanding and use it to guide my every step. By listening to God in our day, I believe this church is moving to the forefront in the effort to help each one of us achieve that possibility.

President Stephen Veazey provided a significant challenge when he addressed the church from the Temple Sanctuary in Independence, Missouri, USA, on Sunday evening, April 5, 2009 (A Defining Moment

http://www.cofchrist.org/presidency/sermons/_040509Veazey.asp). In part of his address he stated "The most important question for a missional church is not about long-term survival. It is about how we passionately pursue Christ's mission in a suffering world that groans for the liberating truths of the gospel (Doctrine and Covenants 155:7)."

Brothers and sisters of Christ, in the military: The Church faces different defining moments across time. In our roles as individual disciples we may face a defining moment in every day. My prayer is that we will be able to place all personal matters in proper perspective so we can focus first on our mission to Proclaim Jesus Christ and Promote Communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace.

We are forefront in the world that brother Steve describes. All disciples are called to represent the light of Christ. I personally believe that, by what you do, people may see the face of Christ in a person wearing a uniform.



In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

As I sit to write this column all is quiet and beautiful. The snow is gently falling and making everything white. It seems that during a snow fall the earth takes on a hush and I guess you can say the silence is deafening. Each day as I arise I thank God for the beauty of the day no matter what the

conditions are like outside. Since I live in kind of a valley I don't get the high winds that others do on the tops of the hills.

As I have advanced in age I have the opportunity to look around and see the glory of the earth as God has given it to us. Even the trees look good as they stand there bare naked without their leaves. I've often remarked that the trees have it wrong. They should have their clothes on in the form of leaves rather than shedding them in the winter. It's a good thing I'm not in charge or everything would be in ruin.



What will the coming year bring us? I'dl admit that listening to the daily news does not lift a person's spirits. It seems that in many places of our society life does not mean much. I find living in the Kansas City area we seem to have a killing every day. Of course, most of the killings take place in the poorer section of the city. There are many churches in that area but we still have much to do to help troubled souls see God's love in their life.

I cherish the opportunity to go to church on Sunday. I'm given the opportunity in church school to discuss some of the issues that are facing the church today. Of course, my opinion only matters in the class and not on a world basis. Church school gives us the opportunity to learn and to put into practice that which the Lord would have us do. It is my intention to let the Lord shine through me daily in all of the circumstances in which I find myself.

Each of you has the same opportunity with your comrades in arms. God can make life bearable even in the most undesirable locations. Be sure that you take the Lord with you into every set of circumstances. Make it a firm decision on your part that you will be an integral part of His plan. Listen to the still small voice that He implants within you but most of all thank Him daily for all the goodness He has given you. Carry the mantle of the Lord with you wherever you go.

May the Lord keep you from harm's way. GOD BLESS,

Curt

Difference of opinion is what makes horse racing and missionaries.

ó Will Rogers

Kid Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Dominic was making a noise in his throat. When his mom asked him what he was doing he replied, ðI am snoring.ö

ðHmm ó sounds more like a pig to me.ö

ðHello!ö he said. ðI am a ham.ö

Yes, he is a ham ó quite the little performer. He sings, dances around, makes noises ó even pretends to speak his own language. Is that why people respond to him with delight? I don't know. What I do know is that they laugh and grin when he walks up to the host/hostess desk at our favorite restaurant and announces ðDominic, party of four.ö

Not all children find delight in the adult faces around him or her. Often we become irritated with the ðnoisesö they make. Sometimes I ask Dominic to try being quiet for a while. Once in a while he responds with silence ó not for very long though. He's just too full of energy.

Sometimes he runs back and forth from one end of our hallway to the other. When asked what he is doing he responds with, ðHaving fun.ö Running is sheer fun for him and sometimes it's just too cold or the weather too wet to take him to the park. So he finds his own place to run. I can't remember the last time I enjoyed running ó it was years ago though.

He makes up games to entertain himself while we wait ó doesn't matter if we are waiting for a seat in a restaurant or our turn at the doctor's office ó whatever the reason for the wait. He might play hide and seek ó even if there is no place to hide. He might play ðI spy with my little eye,ö asking us to find something with a certain color or shape. While riding in the car he might make up a story, sometimes claiming it was a dream. I know just how it feels to make up stories and want others to hear what I come up with. He sure has an imagination!

I am sure some of you see or have seen children in other countries who don't have the opportunities for fun, or the number of

toys our American children seem to have. I know I sure didn't ó but I grew up on a farm ó there were chores to do so there wasn't much play time. We were poor ó but not like so many other countries where poor takes on a whole new meaning.

Sometimes I went to bed hungry. Not because there was no food, but because I had an older brother who stole the food off my plate when our parents weren't looking. He could stuff my whole dinner into his mouth in just a few seconds.

I try to remember my childhood when I am making out a check for a donation. How can I not try to help the children who suffer now ó especially when I can relate with so much of what they suffer. How do I keep myself from becoming buried in dark thoughts? I watch Dominic and laugh with him. Best medicine in the world.

May you all get the chance to enjoy the laughter of children. And if you can't hear children from where you are right now ó try to remember other children.

God bless and keep you safe.

God's Promises Are Fulfilled

By Wim van Klinken, International
Headquarters director

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

—Isaiah 63:7 – 9



Jesus
Presented
in the Temple

Regularly I hear people argue about the significance of Jesus the Christ. And on the first Sunday after a majority of the people around the world have celebrated the birth of Jesus in some way. I wonder if we had those debates while sitting at our dinner tables,

sharing meals with people who are dear to us, people we love.

We live in challenging times, and during these times, we wonder: Who will rescue us? Who has an answer to the problems we face? Who has an answer to the problems we face? Who will save us from despair? Who will bring hope?

These questions are not unlike those from other eras and not unlike the situation two thousand years ago, when people felt hopeless and needed light in their dark world. People then cried out for a savior, a redeemer, one who would bring God's reign; someone who would lead them into a new era, a better place, as Moses had done with the people of Israel ages ago.



After Jesus was born, after he had lived as a servant of God, the Son of God, after he had sacrificed his life for people to get hope, to see a new world, the peaceable kingdom, people realized the good news. They saw him resurrected. God's promises were fulfilled. There is hope and hope, love, and peace always will bring salvation.

This was the good news, experienced and recorded by the first disciples. This has been the good news, the message of hope for many, throughout the centuries. This was and is the significance of Jesus the Christ. God's promises are fulfilled, then and now.

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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