



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

October, 2011

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

The other day a work e-mail passed around a call for help. Hal (not his real name), husband to a lady who had once worked in the front office, was having 24 tons of dirt brought to his home to cover some new drainage piping down by the road.

Hal was in need of some able-bodied shovelers. Hal's wife is dealing with cancer and so cannot work. Hal, himself retired, is dealing with some physical limitations (stroke last year, diabetes and peripheral neuropathy among the factors).

Imagine these ills would be formidable for anyone but, at 67, they likely weigh heavier on Hal particularly considering his wife's needs.

On a good day I could picture myself tackling a few tons of dirt.

Nonetheless, Hal (who'd been working on the pile for some hours before I'd even arrived) was willing to try to continue shoveling right alongside me.

I might've been inclined to view pride as one factor driving Hal but, as I became more familiar with his demeanor, I came to believe that sharing the load was how Hal applied courtesy and fostered relationship. The time together there allowed me to gain some insights into Hal including the fact that we both served aboard the same set of C-130 tails albeit two-plus decades apart. The pile diminished over the course of the day but a relationship grew



and I was reminded how we can shovel as an example of servant ministry.

The concept of relationship was reinforced as I presided over a recent morning service in the Beavercreek, Ohio congregation. We've been enjoying a worship series dealing with the fruits of the Spirit and this day's theme dealt with kindness. In many respects, the lessons of that morning helped remind me how our interactions with other people may shape the way we and they relate to the world. Even while I have to acknowledge we all hold individual responsibility for our own actions, the morning message helped me refocus on how I may influence people and their relationships with others. What I do with and around others is a stewardship all by itself.

Which brings me to Jay (again, not his real name). Jay is 89, and a World War II pilot with B-25 experience. In all the times I've been with Jay (including at Church, and socially) he's been a positive influence and has shown the light of Christ. After the morning service I'd been asked to Administer to Jay in the Intensive Care Unit of a nearby hospital. Since breaking a hip, and undergoing surgery, Jay has been dealing with setbacks (periods of incoherence, hallucinating, breathing problems and pneumonia).

Though having to endure tubes down his throat, Jay was with us that afternoon and communicative. He accepted the Administration

**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.**

with an air of peace and, aided by his son, wrote "Thank you for the visit and God bless you" on a tablet of paper for our benefit. Even in this period of adversity, Jay displays grace and is an example of faith to me.



May I always be blessed to perceive how I relate to others and so bless others by relating as Christ would even as these brothers have done for me.

In Christ Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim

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## For Your Information:

**Prayer updates:** Peacekeepers Vice President, Curt Heaviland, let me know he had to have a total knee replacement on his left knee. He was healing but not yet moving very fast. Chaplain Scott Jobe has also been recovering from surgery to relieve pain and provide healing from an injury suffered in September of 2010.

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## Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

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I'm late getting my assignment done. It seems that an accident I had playing intramural basketball at Graceland finally caught up with me. I ran into the stage in Zimmerman hall going full speed and there was no mat for protection. Usually there was a mat hanging from the stage to protect people like me from injury. Apparently time has its way of working on the body as well.

On 5 October I had my left knee replaced and I've gone through recovery and now all it's going to take is time. I'm getting around OK now but not nearly as fast as I was about 6 weeks ago. The one thing that I am aware of at this time is how good the Lord is to us. In 1947 I would have had trouble with my knee that the doctors could do little to help. In those interim years knee replacements have become common. The knowledge of how to do these things has always been there since the Lord created us. Man has slowly wrested that information into something useful.

The Lord has let man discover how the human body works and man thinks they have really been

able to do something. It's only through the grace of God that these things can take place. Each day as I approach a new day I thank God for all the blessings that He has given us and especially for the ones I have received. I have found that I need daily to thank God for where I am, what I am able to do and for things to come.

I try to face each morning with a positive attitude and pass it on to all I meet. May the Lord bless each one you as you walk down the pathway of life and do so in the image of the one we follow, Christ Jesus.

God Bless, Curt

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## Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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Oh my how time flies! Thanksgiving is almost here, Dominic turns six on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Christmas follows and then Ian is due on January 24<sup>th</sup>. That means I'll soon have twice the fun and more laughs than ever.

Dominic sees those Smart Cars and other sub compact models and searches the perimeter once or twice before asking "where do you put the quarters?"

One day he asked his mom (who is better and faster with answers than I am), "Why did God make people?"

Our daughter, Beth said, "So he can watch us, because we're so entertaining. We are like God's television, He doesn't have a TV."

"God can watch our TV," Dominic offered.

"God wouldn't get to pick the show because He doesn't have a remote," said my quick thinking daughter.

"I'll give God my remote," replied the child who has an answer to everything.

In what ways do you try to answer for God? I remember when Beth was small and our cat died. My mother had died the year before and Beth was curious about a few things so I tried to answer.

"Did Smitty go to heaven?"

"Well," I said, "I think so, yes."

“But Grandma went to heaven.”

“That’s right, she did.”

“But Mom, Grandma hates cats. What if she throws Smitty out?”

“Well, I said, stalling for time, “God is wise enough to make sure that won’t happen.”

“How?”

“I bet he put your Grandma in a building with a beautiful view on one side and no windows on the other. So all the pets can play around in the yard that Grandma can’t see. That way God can protect our pets and reward them for their years of service without freaking out the clean freaks who think pets are dirty.”

“Yeah,” my daughter replied. “That could work.”

Do you find yourself coming up with non-biblical answers for those who are frustratingly curious? I’ll bet you have some good answers and good stories of why don’t you share them.



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## Reaching Out In Love

by John Wight

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Christmas Spirit is alive and well in Central Mission Center. Within a one week period, three different families stepped forward without prodding indicating they wanted to provide Christmas for families in need. They approached mission center leaders for help in identifying families that needed such assistance.

In one case, a family offered to anonymously provide Christmas gifts, food, etc. to a family in need. Such a family was identified. Both parents work two minimum wage jobs. They have a baby seven months old, a girl almost 2, a girl 13, a boy 9, and a boy 14.

“We really feel for the girl, as she misses everything in life, as well as the older boy, as they baby sit, so mom and dad can work,” the Community of Christ pastor who identified the recipient family explained.



In a second instance, two families banded together to make sure a single mother and her three children would have Christmas. The husband passed away a few years ago as the result of cancer. The family lives in a housing complex in which the average annual family income is less than \$8,000.

The “Secret Santas” reported having a wonderful time shopping for the ten year old fraternal twins (boy and girl) and their four year old sister. Santa in all his white beard and red suit finery will deliver the presents in person.

The third story is one of sharing from abundance. A family had already purchased gifts for their ten year old son, but received almost identical gifts from another family member. They contacted mission center personnel to help identify a family that could use the extra gifts. A family was identified and another ten year old boy will have an unexpectedly joyful Christmas as a result of this generosity.

These are just three of many examples of how generous disciples are stepping forward to “share from their own bounty that others may be lifted from hopelessness and know the joys of the kingdom.” (adapted from Doctrine and Covenants 162:7)

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## In Flanders' Fields

by John McCrae in 1915

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In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt drawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



(Submitted by Kim Jobe)

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Difference of opinion is what makes horse racing and missionaries.

A fool and his money are soon elected.

ô Will Rogers

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## Calling

by Arnie Walker

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Like so many persons, I look at myself for a few moments, if not longer and consider what I might do that would improve my individual life, my family and my commitment to God. Surface resolutions are nothing more than a want to be. Deeper thought results in an evaluation, thus forming an approach that has a chance of leading to a creditable outcome.

Perhaps this is where you are. At my age, (Let's just say I'm over 40) it is doubtful that I will do anything that will affect the broad base of my life. What I will do is to fine tune aspects of my life and ministry, always striving to be a person of love, integrity and honor. Though I never had an occasion to serve in the military, whatever our position in life, we are called to be a person of

character and conviction. That is written in our faith community. We might even say it should be a part of our DNA makeup. To recognize a calling is a choice we make. To bring it to fruition is an initiative based commitment. According to definition, calling is a profession of summons to be acted upon. Like you, I am called to value persons and encourage the free expression of self as a responsible adult. God grant us such a mission as collective workers of the gospel.

Those of us who are parents understand the demands of giving and molding our children. The reward is seeing them mature and become responsible adults. Such is the case when we move through life, giving and sharing for the good of the community.

These few words are a challenge to each of us. Fulfill that measure of creation God has invested in you for the benefit of self, family and the world. Become a brighter beam of light. It is your calling.

Arnie Walker

East Alton Congregation

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