



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter **December, 2011**

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

What's my mission? I'd have spoken about *mission* a number of times in this offering already. After all, the concept of *mission* does go hand-in-hand with the nature of the military. That said, for the next few moments, let me emphasize the broader focus for *mission*. *Mission* is something EVERYONE should be focused on ó not just the members of the military.

As happens sometimes, while I'm writing you I'm also preparing for a Sunday morning message. The theme for Jan 22, 2012 is "Respond to God's Call." I'm wondering, is there anything more *mission-focused* than a theme like that? The theme scripture is Mark 1:14-20, describing how Jesus begins the process of calling disciples to receive the good news of God ó even while they are pursuing their chosen calling as fishermen.

Not coincidentally, I've also been reading the book The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven, and have been struck by the notion of *mission* that resounds throughout the book's storyline (describing a boy "Alex," who is severely injured in a car accident, and the faith testimonies of he ó and his family ó during the long road of recovery to a state no one might have believed possible). I've been particularly struck by this quote from Alex's father: "Our spiritual preparation for the next world is to be the priority of this life." Talk about a *mission* concept(!) Yet, as God's children, should



we expect our ultimate *mission* to be anything BUT that?

Still, this physical world we inhabit demands physical callings and actions ó just to be able to sustain ourselves. We invest ourselves in facets of that sustainment focus from the earliest ages. How then do we, called of God, blend the earthly *mission* with the eternal *mission* associated with the good news of Jesus Christ? Well, I believe scripture bears adequate testimony that the fishermen among the first Apostles did not totally abandon that fishing profession ó though they clearly received an added calling as *fishers of men*.

I hope my point will be made most clearly. *God's mission* is something EVERYONE should be focused on ó INCLUDING the members of the military. You, who have felt a calling to serve a nation in defense, are also called to the *mission* of Christ ó whether in uniform or out.

There are unique challenges to this equation ó because of the nature of military service. For that reason, my prayers are with you daily. As you continue to pursue this life's *mission*, may I ask a blessing for you: Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." ó

The 2011 Christmas season will have passed by the time you read this ó and the new year of 2012 will have begun. I hope you have been blessed by the love of family and friends ó and this servant

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.

ministry during the holidays. I pray also that we may, together, continue on this path of learning love. May you go with God answering yes to his *mission* call!

In Christ Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim Kunzweiler, President.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

Where has the year gone? It seems like it was only a few days ago and we were hoping for spring. Here it is again hoping for spring.

My knee surgery has taken place and I am able to get around as well as drive my truck. That was never really a problem as it's my left knee and all it does is go along for the ride.

I have had the opportunity to look back at the newsletter since its inception and wonder sometimes if it is doing its job. It's true that we have had some inspiring thoughts from some of the World Church leaders that give us something to think about and in many cases take into our daily living. Also there have been articles to inspire us to do more.

There is, however, a lack in one area. This is a newsletter and it is also intended to get feedback from you for whom it is intended. When I finish stuffing the envelopes and head for the post office I wonder how the newsletter will be received. Over time there has been a plea to let us hear from you.

Are we doing what is intended in the newsletter? What would you like to see incorporated in the contents? Why are we not getting any articles from you in the field? You have day to day occurrences that would be of interest to others who may be in the same boat as you pulling on a separate oar.

I know, speaking for myself, that there are many things that you do which to you might seem mundane but to us here and there becomes very interesting. The writings do not have to be of a nature that keeps us on the edge of our seats but rather just lets us know what is going on in your daily lives.



Won't you sit down and send us a line. It does not have to be letter perfect but will express part of your daily life. I know from my experience in the Navy and the Army there have been times that my friends and relatives either got a chuckle or felt badly for me.

If you have access to e-mail use the bncmdr11@sbcglobal.net address or the 1228 S. Scott Ave, Independence, MO 64052-3818. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime have a very good New Year and may it start off well for you.

GOD BLESS
Curt

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



By the time this goes to print I'll have a new grandson. His name is Ian. Dominic is *sooooo* excited! He's always telling his Mom that he likes Mark, and he's glad Mark is Ian's Dad, and she picked a good Dad for Ian. He keeps saying he can't wait for Ian to come out so he can see him. *Update:* Ian Bradley Winsor was born January 26, 8:00 a.m. He weighs 7 pounds 12 ounces, 20 inches long with a 13 ¾ inch head. (C-section, of course).

Dominic is trying to help his Mom with picking things up off the floor, and putting his toys away. He even offered to sleep in the basement so baby Ian could have his room. Soon they will be moving from a two bedroom townhouse to a three bedroom house with (Dominic is excited about this too), a *back yard!*

It doesn't matter that there is no swing set or slide, he's just happy he can play outside. He sure is growing fast. As a matter of fact he's only about a foot shorter than his Dad.

I can't wait to get a picture of Dominic holding Ian so I can post it here.

The other day we were singing to each other in the car and Dominic started singing *Mary Did You Know?* He said he liked that song because it is about him and his Grandma Mary.

ōNo,ō said his mother, ōitø about baby Jesus and his mother, whose name was Mary.ō

It doesnø matter what we say ó heø convinced it is *our* song. I donø mind.

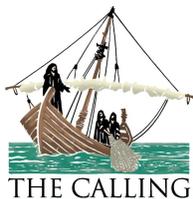
May you be blessed with Godø peace and understanding, and may you keep out of harmø way.

Calling

by Arnie Walker

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, (Letø say Iøm 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 grants us such a mission as collective workers of the gospel.



Those of us who are parents understand the demands of guiding 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

Missouri River Bridge

By Robert Stanke

One cold January morning a few years ago I was about to make a sales call to a North Kansas City company. The weather was particularly nasty and we had several inches of new fallen snow with more coming. Because of the blizzard conditions I threw my big winter coat in the back seat of my old Honda.



Portia had called the night before telling me how nice the weather was in Hawaii and how she and Tani were enjoying their stay at Uncle Dickieø beach house.

As I got about half way across the bridge my Honda motor stopped. With my blinkers on and not seeing any cars in either direction I got out and tried to push the car over the peak so that I could coast down but because of the slippery conditions I wasnø able to get enough traction to move the car.

Then I saw a car coming down the road behind me, In order to avoid the speeding car, I quickly debated in my mind whether I should climb the side of the bridge or stay in the car. Climbing back in again I tried to start the motor with no luck. There was nothing I could do but brace myself.

Looking back I saw the approaching car miraculously swerve in the wet, snowy road, missing me by inches. Sweating profusely and in a bit of a shock, I tried the starter again and the motor started right up. After crossing the bridge I pulled over to the side of the road and poured in a can of *HEET* which I always carried in the trunk.

After making my stop I again proceeded down the road to Kansas City. Waiting at a stoplight I hesitated when the light turned green and was about to go when a speeding car went through running a red light. As I cautiously drove down the road I heard a voice, loud and clear in my mind, ōTwo

times I was with you today.ö The warm clear spirit of truth touched me at that moment and I knew that I had received a great blessing.

me with those words, öTwo times I was with you today.ö

Whenever I cross that old bridge I think of that experience and the confirming spirit still touches

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