



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

February, 2012

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

What type weather have you experienced, between October 2011 and March 2012, where you are? I know that parts of Europe dealt with periods of extreme cold and harsh conditions. However, here in Ohio, it felt like we slid from "fall" into something that never really seemed like *real winter* — and then into what has appeared to be an early *spring*. Without that clean chop into the really cold essence of a true winter I've pondered what should we call the season we've just experienced. I've been joking with people that we should probably just call it "Fal-ter-ing."

Maybe we can be OK with an occasional *faltering* weather pattern. However, let me be bold enough to say that we should never abide *faltering in our witness*. Courage (I should think) is needed if the Church of Jesus Christ is to remain forefront in the press to shape the world and to fulfil the desires of its Creator. Where can one start in support of that effort?

Section 161 3a. of Community of Christ Doctrine & Covenants reminds us: "Open your hearts and feel the yearnings of your brothers and sisters who are lonely, despised, fearful, neglected, unloved. Reach out in understanding, clasp their hands, and invite all to share in the blessings of community created in the name of the One who suffered on behalf of all.

Carrying that focus into all avenues of life (including work and relationship) is, I think, key to



creating *sacred community* wherever we are. "But it is to loving community such as this that each is called. Be courageous and visionary, believing in the power of just a few vibrant witnesses to transform the world..."

The military has a special opportunity in this charge — since you are at the forefront of opportunities for bringing peace — particularly to those who may be most "lonely, despised, fearful, neglected, unloved" in our world. Even within the military ranks you can, no doubt, find people who exhibit those characteristics. Can you be the one person who makes a difference to a brother or sister longing, as it were, to see the face of Christ — or to have the hand of understanding offered?

In closing, let me relate that my friend, "Jay" (not his real name, 89, and a World War II pilot with B-25 experience), who I wrote about in October, has gone home to be with the Lord. The hospitals and nursing facilities became his last battlefields. The enemy simply turned out to be an aging body that could not overcome the onslaught of too many complications. "Jay" had an army of saints fighting alongside him though — whether as prayer warriors or frequent visitors. "Jay" knew that he was not alone and, in his eyes, we could see that he'd found peace that passes all understanding — even in the midst of that great struggle. His witness has given me courage to help face whatever may come along on the path before me. Somewhere along that path, the promise is that Jim and I

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.

will meet again. What a day for rejoicing that will be!

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, President.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

When I hear of the devastation caused by the tornados I feel sympathy for all of the individuals involved. I know how I would feel if all of my possessions were wrapped up in the winds and tossed everywhere. Yet, I thank the Lord that sort of devastation has not occurred here in Independence. When asked where would I like to be in light of the weather problems that have plagued the nation, my answer is “right here in Independence.”

It is my belief, that, when Joseph Smith was told that this would be the center place I think that it would be protected from catastrophic occurrences. So far my belief has been accurate. Perhaps, as we look around and see the falling away from God's word in our nation, we are going to see far more devastation than we have ever seen in the past.



I am not a pessimist, but in my estimation our leaders are leaving God out of the equation when it comes to looking to the future. I thank God daily for allowing me to live in the U.S. and to spend my life contributing to its welfare. As I look around and see the condition of our nation, I am concerned for my loved ones. At my age, I'll be lucky to be around when we elect a president in 2016. If this is the case, what are we leaving for our children and grandchildren?

Don't take me wrong, I am not a pessimist but we must be concerned with where our country is headed and do our part to keep it in the right direction. What is the right direction? One nation under God as our forefathers indicated in the founding of our country. May I add, it is through efforts like you in the military that this can come about. God bless your service.

Curt Heaviland

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



As you know, Dominic now has a little brother, Ian. Dominic loves to play peek-a-boo and entertain Ian with toys, sing to him, etc. He's a great big brother. There are certain things about having a baby around that he doesn't care for though.

Dominic recently moved to a house and is now a bus rider. That first day on the bus (which he loves to ride), was a bit confusing. You see his Mom didn't know he needed to have a note instructing the teacher(s) that he was to ride the bus home. So she had to go pick him up at school and leave the proper instructions for the future. Beth asked him to hurry and said, “Ian peed on me and I'm standing here in pee covered clothes, so can we hurry – please?”

Dominic took a step back and placing his hands in front of him, palms out replied, “I was going to give you a big hug – but now I'm not into it.”

I think he has a new favorite phrase – he's learning he's “not into” lots of things.

We can all identify with that, can't we? I'm personally “not into” housework – I also hate the term housewife. I didn't marry the house you know, thank you very much.

You might not be “into” a desert, or sand, or heat. But obviously you are “into” helping to keep our country safe for others. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I hope you are “into” praying and worship God. I know of no better way to plow through life's troubles than to ask the one upstairs to be with you and comfort you.

I pray for all of you frequently and hope you can feel God's comforting arms surround you.



One More Call

by Robert Stanke

In the course of a lifetime there are many people who touch your life for the better. Growing up in Michigan our family was blessed to be part of a small church family who were very much a part of our everyday lives. Though their influence was experienced many years ago, their contributions to our lives continue to this day. I remember distinctly the counsel of one old Patriarch directly to me, “Be faithful and prepare yourself for service.” I was in my teens and this admonition was not well received, but this memory has never left me, and has helped to shape my life.



During my ministry as a young pastor in California there were other individuals who were very helpful as counselors and mentors. One stands out who was always there believing in me, encouraging me, and offering the support which I often needed. His name was Norm Gurwell, and he served our congregation as a Patriarch (now known as Evangelist).

While living in Missouri, one of my best friends and fellow ministers who touched my life was Al Stanley. Al was my pastor and I served as his Pastoral Care Minister, and we experienced together many blessings to God’s people. Later in life Al was called and served the church as a Patriarch/Evangelist.

I remember well our last visit. Al had suffered a stroke and was in the hospital recuperating. Portia and I had wanted to cheer him up a bit, but we found him already in great spirits. We talked about some of our good experiences and he shared a couple of jokes. He could always remember jokes and tell them so well. As we prepared to say our goodbyes, he became very serious and pointed his index finger at me and said, “Remember, you have one more call coming.” I smiled and gave my usual denial and said goodbye. We were saddened to hear that Brother Al had died a few days later.

Several weeks later, Portia received a call from Apostle Linda Booth at the Temple asking for an appointment with me. She wept as she shared a lovely testimony of her experience in my calling.

She then asked if I would be willing to serve the church as an Evangelist.

A few days later I had a dream, which is quite unusual for me. I never remember my dreams much beyond the next day, but this dream, I will remember as long as I live. In the dream three men came to the door of our home. Each of the three were persons out of my past who had deeply touched and affected my life. One was the old Patriarch from Michigan, another was Norm Gurwell from California, and the third was Al Stanley, who stood with outstretched index finger pointing directly at me saying, “You know why we’re here.” I am forever deeply touched by this confirming experience of my calling as an Evangelist.

Robert Stanke

Be Generous

by Greg Hankins

Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by command or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163: 9

Numbered among the many foundational things that we hold on to as Christians is the generosity of God. Specifically, we affirm by faith and tradition that it is God who initiates and sustains life. To have life is to experience the generosity of God, personally. As disciples of Jesus Christ we are invited to take his life deep within us. To grow in Christ-likeness is a generous gift indeed. And it is offered freely through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

At baptism Jesus received the Holy Spirit as evidenced through the symbol of a descending heavenly dove. From that encounter, Jesus went into the desert to wrestle with



the invitation to enter God's domain, as the son of man. As he faced human temptation, Jesus found the sanctuary of God rooted within his inner most being. This sense of sanctuary became his new hometown. Disciples of Jesus Christ will drink the cup of grace and know the joy of inner transformation too. God creates generous hearts within the domain of God's kingdom. New and righteous desires bud within the inner self.



There is a sacred promise offered by God to those who follow Jesus deeper in discipleship. The promise is that a disciple will be transformed both to see and to enter the peaceable Kingdom. Transformation is not the threat of loss; rather, it is

a generous offer to experience the Eternal life of Christ. Once "seen and entered," no other culture can compare to the richness of the Kingdom of God. So let's not tithe 10%. Let's surrender ourselves to God within our inner Temple and give 100%. Those who reside in the Kingdom understand their true giving capacity. Kingdom dwellers do not own a thing. They are happy to be free from self-serving interests and to live joyfully as stewards. Stewardship is all too real and required alike of all those who seek to establish the cause of Zion.

—Greg Hankins, Pastor Woods Chapel,
Lee's Summit, MO

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