



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

April, 2012

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

Somebody's Daughterí Somebody's Wifeí Somebody's Sister. I was on I-675, headed northbound in the passing lane when it started raining. It was one of those spring rainstorms ó the kind that pop up suddenly and blossom into something bigger than anyone expects. We hadn't had any rain for a couple weeks and so the roads were carrying a bit of oil. It was slick. I thought people ahead of me were slowing due to that ó or simply due to the intensity of the downpour ó but neither turned out to be the primary reason. The several vehicles in front of mine suddenly switched lanes and I could finally see why things were happening. Looming up ahead I spotted a red SUV, perpendicular to the rest of the traffic. Its nose was into the safety cable, separating us from the southbound traffic; its tail jutted into the lane I was in. The rest of the traffic sped past. I saw a young woman, probably in her twenties, standing outside the vehicle and getting onto her cell phone. Things couldn't have happened more than a few moments ago. I stopped and, putting on my emergency flashers, walked toward her ó waving traffic over into the center lane as I made my way, umbrella in hand.



She didn't have one of those and was already getting soaked. I could see she was distressed (who wouldn't be?). She was trying to reach her husband. I asked if she was physically alright and



she was OK, just shaken up but didn't quite know how the vehicle had gotten away from her. I looked at the vehicle and asked if it still ran. She indicated it would so I recommended we get it out of traffic. With a little work (and the cooperation of other drivers) we got the thing back parallel to the Interstate and onto the shoulder. I started collecting a few grille parts and the radiator cap while she dialed her husband to let him know the state of things.

Soon the local police showed up and began taking their report. They didn't need me to stay so I prepared to get back to my journey. As I said goodbye and began to step away the woman took me by the arm and expressed her sincere thanks that I would even stop to help. As I drove away, I offered prayers of thanks for her condition and that she, and the police, would remain safe while things got cleaned up.

Not a single one of the Church's 5 Mission Initiatives (Invite People to Christ, Abolish Poverty, End Suffering, Pursue Peace on Earth, Develop Disciples to Serve, Experience Congregations in Mission) even entered my conscious thought process during the few moments I was there with her. I just knew that she was somebody's daughterí somebody's wifeí MY sister ó and that I am called. I'd want the same for my own family. And ALL people are family in the calling we receive as the Body of Christ. I pray that you may

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.

recognize the ways you can be *family* to someone in need, no matter where you may be.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

For Your Information:

If you've seen the May 2012 Community of Christ Herald you may have noticed some news about the Peacekeepers Treasurer, **Steve Kellogg**. Steve will be moving from his position as the Central USA Mission Center financial officer to a position as Africa and Haiti Mission Field financial and leadership development officer. The timing for Steve's move is dependent on the Church's ability to replace him in his current assignment. I know Steve would appreciate the prayers of all Peacekeepers for this matter. Maybe we can convince Steve to submit an article in the near future, describing what the path ahead looks like for him! (Tim Kunzweiler)

Congratulations are in order for our new Community of Christ military Chaplain, LTJG Seth Bryant. On March 28, 2012 Seth graduated from the Professional Naval Chaplaincy Basic Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. It was my privilege to attend. The ceremony included addresses from both the Commanding Officer of the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center at Fort Jackson, Captain W Kyle Fautleroy, CHC, USN and the 25th Chief of Navy Chaplains, Rear Admiral Mark L. Tidd, CHC, USN. Seth now reports for duty to Twentynine Palms, California. (Steven McCrosson - Coordinator, Military Ministry, Chaplain Endorser, Community of Christ)

Community of Christ is now blessed to have **three active duty Chaplains** serving (Chaplains Jobe, Russell and Bryant). The Chaplaincy is a unique ministerial calling and offers challenges that many of us may not be aware of. In a recent USAF article I spotted the testimony of a Chaplain of a different faith ó but believe it has value to all who seek to represent Christ to a world in need. Used with permission of Chaplain (Capt.) Christian L. Williams, a chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery, VA:

öWhen I first heard of Arlington National

Cemetery I immediately thought of honoring veterans and fallen comrades. I didn't realize the true significance of my role in comforting their families as well. Also, I didn't comprehend how challenging that would be.

öSure, as a chaplain I believed that I was capable of speaking with and providing comfort to the families. I'm certainly able to highlight the sacrifices of the veterans and active duty members for the just cause of freedom. I also know how to comfort the families with the knowledge that the Air Force is their extended family.

öBut one day I performed a service that challenged me in a way that I had never been challenged before.

öI was assigned to a service that required me to give a committal for a stillborn baby boy, whose father was an active duty member. He and his wife had three other children who were 8 years old, 6 years old, and 18 months old.

öI contacted the family to extend my condolences and see if there was any information that they might want me to share at the committal. The parents only had one request ó to make the committal service kid friendly. I pondered how to fulfill this unique request.

öI began to conduct research, to no avail. Then it dawned on me that I needed to go back to my foundation, which is my faith. I prayed and asked God to help me to minister to this family, particularly their children.

öMy faith in God, through my answered prayer, gave me what I needed to minister to this family. I kneeled down in front of the children at the service, and asked them to tell me their favorite character. The oldest told me -a princess.øThe middle child said -Star Wars.øThe youngest pointed to an iPhone with a picture of Elmo on the screen and said -Elmo.ø

öThe two oldest children, at my urging, then gave me more specific names of their heroes as it relates to these characters.

öAfterwards, I pointed to the white marble stones surrounding the gravesite and explained that the stones represented our nation's heroes.



I told them we were there on that day to honor another hero. I asked them if they knew to whom I was referring and the 8 year old, with tears rolling down her red cheeks, said "my brother." I agreed with her, and told them that heroes always showed up when they were needed, and that their brother was watching over them.

With my voice cracking and full of emotion I said that their brother will always remain in their hearts and whenever they needed him or their hero would always show up. The family and I then grabbed hands and prayed as I gave the final committal of their stillborn child.

This ministry opportunity has changed my life forever. Now, I fully understand my mission. I am humbled and proud to serve on the sacred grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

I have added Chaplain Williams (along with our own faith's Chaplains) to my prayer list and ask that you might consider doing the same. (Tim Kunzweiler)

Calling for YOUR articles and inputs.

Peacekeepers or you who are serving: It is our great joy to provide this newsletter, in the effort to help ensure you have contact with the Church no matter where you may be stationed. The officers of this ministry would be grateful for the chance to hear from you and to put your stories and testimonies into print. It is our belief that your fellow brothers and sisters will benefit from hearing about you and your current experiences. Whenever you are able we'd be pleased to hear from you!

Peacekeepers or you who have previously served: Your experience and testimonies are also sought. What gems can you offer to the current generation or to brighten their days or to increase their hope?

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland



As I write this, I get to celebrate my birthday. I am especially happy to celebrate this day as I never figured I'd live this long. As I look back over the years I have the chance to reflect on how good God has been to me.

While I grew up in a home that had been split

by divorce, I had the love of a very gracious mother and grandmother. I didn't have the companionship of a father but I had a fantastic uncle and older brother. As I look back on these past events I see the hand of our creator having a role in my early life and later as well.

Many of my fondest memories over the past 80 years have come at the hands of those who comprised my church family. Not just one congregation but many as I was moved frequently from one place to another. Whenever possible my mother made an effort to get me to church.



The heritage has been rich. From Royal Oak, Michigan to Portland, Oregon, to Silver Lake, Washington and many places in between my Lord has seen fit to give me a rich heritage.

You, who are in the service of our country, are being blessed daily by the Father in Heaven. As you are placed in harm's way you are protected by His arms. I know whereof I speak as I look back on my 28 years of service. I see where it would have been easy for me to have perished or placed in such a position to have suffered injury.

I am grateful for every moment and every person who has had an effect on my life. As I look around I see that I'm not done yet. For every one of my friends, associates and representatives of God I give thanks.

At this writing, we are approaching Memorial Day. I guess the Lord has given me an opportunity to express my appreciation for the service that each one of you have given and are giving. May the Lord bless and keep each one of you from harm's way is my prayer.

GOD BLESS,
Curt

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Ian is smiling and laughing and absolutely adores big brother Dominic. "Bubba," as he calls himself, is mighty proud of Ian too. I'm sure there will be days of struggle and dispute, but for now it is good to watch the love in both their eyes.

Dominic was awaiting his weekend of fun with Grandma and Grandpa. He'd been a very good boy all week ó until Thursday evening when he decided to òpractice kung-fuö in the bathroom. He not only knocked the towel rack off but pulled off a good portion of the wall as well. Needless to say, there went the fun weekend.

He didn't get his sleepover with Grandpa, didn't get to see the movie *The Avengers*, and is grounded from all things electronic. So no video games, no TV, no computer games, and no games on Grandpa's phone í . As I awoke this morning I heard Dominic and Don playing zombies in the living room. As I took my shower I heard little footsteps running up and down my hall. As I'm writing this Dominic is pretending to be a blanket monster ó he turns into a monster from any blanket.

He chose Grandpa's favorite blanket and lay in wait for Grandpa to come near.

These days many children seem to lack the avid imagination which a lonely farm girl used to create a whole world of friends and adventures to keep her mind busy as she toiled in the garden or cooked over a wood burning stove. At night I would whisper the stories into my little sister's ear and we both went to sleep with vivid dreams of cowboys, a white horse and the loving relationship between a little girl and her Grandpa. It's nice to see that my grandson has an imagination and a gift for telling stories. Who knows? He may someday be writing articles or books. Perhaps Ian will be his publisher?

Don't forget to dream ó let your dreams and prayers bring you closer to the God who gives us an imagination to dream with.

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/>

Officers:

- President: Tim Kunzweiler, Major, USAF (Ret) cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net
- Vice President: Curt Heaviland, Lt Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) bncmdr11@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary: Jennifer Redfern, CWO5, U.S. Army (Ret) jfern42@hotmail.com
- Treasurer: Stephen Kellogg, Capt, USNR (Ret) stevekelllogg@centralmission.org

Newsletter Support: Mary Yocum mary50nfine@comcast.net

Website Support: Steve McCrosson, CW3, U.S. Army (Ret) militaryministry@CofChrist.org

