



# The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter **September, 2012**

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

The call of a *traveling preacher* seems to fit me at times. Due to a special need in the Lancaster, Ohio congregation, I'd been asked to travel there to speak on August 26<sup>th</sup>. I've been *down east* several times this year and, though it's over a two hour drive, I truly enjoy the opportunity to share ministry time with those brother and sister disciples. Sunday's theme was *Stand Firm* and utilized Ephesians 6: 10 & 20 as the foundational scripture. I worked at being *armed to the teeth* for the morning message!

As part of what I conveyed, I read a little from a study by Bob Deffinbaugh, from his series: [Ephesians: The Glory of God in the Church](#). In that study brother Deffinbaugh states how, as *Hitler's* appetite for power and territory grew, his army began to march across Europe. In some cases, the fight could hardly be called a battle. The German army advanced, with its tanks and with technologically advanced weapons. In some of the underdeveloped nations, their armies made a futile effort to resist *Hitler's* aggression, fighting back with spears and even rocks. It was no contest at all, because these nations were not equipped for the battle.

His discussion went on to note that *Christians* should know that we are in the midst of a great spiritual struggle, although many seem not to believe it. *I wonder if that may be*



because we too often fail to even pick up our Scriptures... Truly, as Paul writes, *we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places* (Ephesians 6:12 NLT)

From a military perspective I believe we can visualize (as perhaps the early Christians, under the rule of Rome, could) the symbolism that Paul uses when speaking of putting on *the whole armor of God*. The list, by the way, is comprised of: the belt of truth, the body armor of *God's* righteousness, shoes which are the peace that comes from the Good News, the shield of faith, salvation as your helmet and the sword of the Spirit *which is the word of God*.

My New Living Translation scripture commentary indicates how Ephesians 6:10 & 20 *gives the fullest [New Testament] account of how believers are to protect themselves in their war against the devil. In this spiritual battle, believers cannot rely on their own resources, but must use the weapons the Lord supplies. Significantly, all of the weapons described - except the short-bladed sword - are defensive weapons.*

From actual military experience many of us know the value of having the proper resources and equipment when called to defend, or to do actual battle. However, today's message is a clear

**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.**

reminder that the physical plane is not the only realm we are called to stay vigilant in. The challenge is to pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere (Ephesians 6:18 NLT). In part, this is so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. My prayer is that you will be fully armed, able to defend and that we will help to have each other's backs in all the days ahead.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

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## Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

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School has just started as I write this column. It seems like it was just out for the summer a couple of weeks ago. I have been told that time passes fast when you are having fun. I must be having a great time as time is just flying by. I am not certain how fast time is going for you that are deployed, but it is my hope that you can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

This has been a very interesting summer. For the first time in my life I have been bombarded with requests for funds to help this candidate or another. I am getting requests from people that I have never heard of and quite frankly I really don't care. The requests come from all over the country. I am having enough trouble with the candidates from my own state let alone either east coast or west coast. What happens in November will have quite an effect on all of us. I urge you to think carefully of how you are going to vote but do it.

I have a request for each of you who read the newsletter. Look back in your memory or what is going on currently with you and write it down and send it to me. I, like the rest of our readers, am interested in what is happening in your life. Those of you that are deployed have a wealth of information about your life that would be interesting to all of us. It doesn't have to be earth shattering but rather events that occur from day to day. The events may be boring and uneventful to you but of great interest to the rest of us.

I have coffee three times a week with a retired Chief Petty Officer and I am always amazed at the different things that he did while in the service. Some I've heard several times but they are always interesting. The stories that come from the past are as thrilling as the ones that are happening this minute. So come on and share with the rest of us.

My grandson Tim, is home but still in the National Guard. He is studying to be a fire fighter and a paramedic. At the moment the bulk of his unit is deployed and they will be returning home shortly. He tells me that at the current rate of deployment it will be about two years before his unit is sent again. That is how it is right now but what tomorrow will bring is anyone's guess.

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## For Your Information:

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Tim had an opportunity to phone Chaplain Scott and Kim Jobe on 3 September. Jobs send greetings to all Peacekeepers! As a special note we request prayers for their upcoming transition. The current outlook has Scott starting terminal leave in March 2013 and retiring from active duty in July. They are considering a move to San Antonio. We ask your support for their discernment as they consider continued service to the Lord and the needs of family in the continuing adventure!

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The Peacekeepers have been dialoging with the Church's 2012 Peace Colloquy co-director about support to the upcoming event (October 26 ó 28, 2012). This year's theme is PEACEMAKING: ENGAGING NUCLEAR QUESTIONS and, at this time, we're planning to accept an invitation to provide panel discussions. We are aware of many foundational questions related to church membership and callings to military service. Nuclear issues are indeed a part of the spectrum ó though there are many additional roles that military service plays in war, conflict and peace-keeping operations. We're exploring how military perspectives, for such foundational questions, could make an interesting and informative workshop. We request your prayers on behalf of these planning efforts.

My parting shot to you is ó if you can vote be sure and do so. There are places in the world where you can't and that right is one of the things that individually you stand for.



May God bless you each one and keep you from harm's way.

Curt

## Kid's Stuff by Mary Yocum



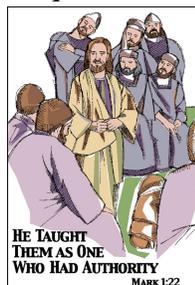
Six year old Dominic is back in school. Little seven month old Ian waits with Mom for the bus to disgorge his big õbubba.õ As soon as that giant Twinkie pulls up Ian starts waving arms and legs and squealing for all he's worth. After several minutes of hugs and kisses they go inside.

Beth still has a hard time getting Dominic to follow the rules. He seems to do better at school than at home. It's not really that he doesn't hear her when she tells him not to do various things. It's more that he gets busy and isn't thinking about the rules right then. Yes, he knows he's supposed to flush the toilet, wash his hands and so on ó but when his mind is on playing he can only think of getting back to the fun.

I suspect all of us know what that's like. We know the Ten Commandments, we know right from wrong, we know we aren't supposed to curse or lie, etc. But despite our knowledge of the rules we sometimes disobey. Is it because we don't care? No, it's because we aren't focused on the laws of God and man at those moments.

How do we solve these problems? Well Beth is making posters for Dominic ó bright colors to catch his eye. Will that help? I don't know but I'm impressed with her imaginative ideas. For the rest of us, I'm told that focusing on God every morning, reading His word every day, praying several times a day, and loving your neighbors can have quite an effect.

Shall we all practice focusing?



## Jesus Amazes and Astounds by Bunda Chibwe, Council of Twelve Apostles

*But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him?" And the unclean spirit ... came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."  
—Mark 1: 25 – 27*

I have continually struggled with the reaction of my relatives and friends since my two older children were diagnosed with bipolar disorder a disease still unknown in my small African community.

The stigma associated with the illness presented added challenges for me to discuss freely and openly among friends about my children's therapy. The fact that two of my children suffer from the same disease raised serious concerns from my relatives.

As I have continued to ponder this, several unanswered questions keep recurring: õWhy do people suffer? Why does God allow disease to exist? Why should my children suffer so others might learn lessons?õ

Navigating through these questions has blessed me with a deep assurance that as a disciple of Jesus I do not have to understand everything about God or the world. I have discovered that perhaps God's power is not arbitrarily squandered to prevent earthquakes or overrule human freedom.

I have come to realize that perhaps God's power is the power to love and be loved, to call people in all circumstances to work for good. Perhaps, I have concluded, God needs us to help build God's kingdom.

My attitude has changed.

I am more positive about life. My two children continue healing through the support of modern medicine, our family, and the community around them. It is Christ's love and mission that has helped me to understand God is loving and caring.

When we know the way of Christ, we will always be amazed and astounded by his healing and compassionate ministry.

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