



The Peacekeepers

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

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 16 NLT) This is viewed by some as the greatest statement of hope ever delivered to humankind.

Shall we be saddened that so much of the world remains ignorant of this hope and at odds person against person and even person against their Creator?

It is some 2000+ years since the world was made ready for the arrival of the Redeemer. You are witnesses of the continuing struggle of the conflict that remains a reality even into this era. If our world knew peace, would any of us be caused to wear the military uniform of our nation? Would people, like me, still be employed as a civilian in a military Command?

Why does peace not yet reign? I have to suppose that our world remains a warring place because a battle still rages deep within each one of us. Until a lasting peace is made within each person's own soul the world remains but a target of conquest, a source of power; its riches the objects of greedy desire.

A pilgrimage seems necessary perhaps a pilgrimage of the heart that each one of us must make to a lowly stable, where a Savior, swaddled in rags, feels our hunger and pain. Perhaps we must follow a similar path one that



helps us grow to embrace the human struggle rather than to be causing fellow souls to struggle more. The Lord of Creation walked our same path and yet overcame. He has shown us the way.

If we meet Him on our journey (as we meet the least of these, our brothers and sisters), can we be a light of peace, illuminating the darkness and showing the way as He did? Can we, by our example, prepare another generation to welcome its Lord and to honor His creation? Can we, together acknowledge one another as created beings, representing the image of the one we serve? Would our world look differently if we perceived the glory that its Creator longs to endow it with?

As you continue the journey into another calendar year, may you be filled with hope. May you be receptive to the Spirit of God with you at every step. May you have eyes to see the Christ in ALL the people you meet. And may you be strong in representing Christ to a world still longing for knowledge of its God. Sheila and I wish you a blessed Christmas season and a very joyful New Year.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim K9 Kunzweiler, President.

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.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

What a beautiful November day. The final leaves are falling to be mulched for the winter. The sun is shining and it's not too cold here in Independence. The Midwest has suffered a drought and things don't look as good as they have been in the past. However, those of us in the Midwest are very thankful for what we have, especially when we compare it to the east coast and the destruction that occurred there.



I guess I sit smug in this part of the country where we have been told that this is the center place, I believe that the Lord is blessing those who are here. When I look around to the entire area I see that there is much taking place that I know the Lord is not pleased with.

It seems that every day we have murders, robberies, crimes against individuals, sex crimes and you name it and it happens locally. To me, it would appear that mankind is repeating the days before Jerusalem was destroyed. The people then were in a terrible state and the Lord allowed it to be destroyed.

I am not a person of gloom and doom but I am very concerned about the way the world is going. When I look at the news on TV and see the destruction that is taking place between factions within a country it is depressing.

The Lord has given us an opportunity to show the other nations of the world that they can live in peace if they will only follow the instructions of Christ. I have been fortunate to have lived in this country for over 80 years and see how good it can be. I have had the benefit of many gracious and God loving people. With the years I have left I feel that I will still witness much good and will have a joyful part of it. My real concern is for my grandchildren and their offspring. My prayers are daily for their welfare and recognition of Christ's teaching. You who are throughout the world have a great opportunity to witness and be one of Christ's disciples.

I often say "I can see the handwriting on the wall; I just can't read it yet!"

GOD BLESS,
Curt

Peacekeeper Participation in the 2012 Peace Colloquy

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

Several of us were pleased to be able to honor an invitation to provide a panel discussion during the Church's 2012 Peace Colloquy in late October. Panelists included David Anderson, Walter French, Curt Heaviland and Tim Kunzweiler. During two sessions we (Community of Christ members with military experience) offered personal perspectives and opportunities for dialogue. Topics included war, other armed conflicts and peace-keeping subjects that factor for members of the Community of Christ, serving in the armed forces, and supporting the desire for peace in a world that, as yet, does not uniformly pursue peace. An opening rhetorical question provided attendees was akin to: *Would the world of today know peace and justice if no one was willing to fight for it?*

Example questions we considered in the dialogue:

- Why is there/is there not a need for the military in the world today?
- What is the role of the military in relation to the mission of Community of Christ?
- If there were no military forces in the world today would there actually be peace and justice?
- What has been a panelist's personal calling (with respect to the military AND to Community of Christ / the Christian church)?
- What needs to change in our world before the military can be dissolved? Do you see that happening?

The Colloquy leaders were very gracious in making this invitation and we hope we honored their intent by our presentations. We were not out to change anyone's opinion but we wanted to help ensure the 360 degree view needed for peace and justice issues by acknowledging the standoff that remains between peace and justice ideals and the reality that exists in people with different motives.

I was particularly pleased to be able to spend some time with Steve McCrosson, including in a



lunch meeting with one of the keynote speakers ô Jim Cason (Friends Committee on National Legislation).

We sincerely thank the Church for its continuing support to those of us Christians (people seeking peace and justice) that carry a significant cross in our particular servant ministry: military service.

Learn more about the recent Peace Colloquy at <http://www.cofchrist.org/peacecolloquy/default.asp> and <http://www.cofchrist.org/peaceaward>.

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Dominic asked his mom why the arrow was blinking on her dashboard. As she parked the car she told him to come out and she would show him. She took him to the back of the car and pointed out the rear turn signal, then they went to the front of the car and watched that turn signal blink.

õSo,ö said six year old Dominic, õwhen you tell other cars, -Thanks for signaling.øthis is what they didn't doö?

õThat's right,ö said Beth.

õBut it only takes you one finger.ö

õExactlyö!

So Grandma's question is this ó if a six year old knows this stuff í .

Ian is turning into quite a little comic. I started coughing and he looked me in the eye and gave a fake cough. Imitating me with a gleam in his eye. Sometimes when I'm giving him little puffs (an easy to dissolve crunchy treat that he can pick up himself), I tease him by holding it in my palm and then closing my fingers around it when he reaches for it. I only keep it away a couple of times ó not wanting to make him frustrated. Now when he gets the puff in his hand he pretends to put it back in my hand ó not letting it go of course. He'll scoot it around on the table as if he's going to share it with me, then stuff it in his mouth.

It's a good thing God doesn't play keep away when we really need Him ó isn't it?

Issue Cycle Adjustment

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

We've made a slight adjustment to our publication cycle so that we'll now end the publication year in December. Issues will be Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct and Nov/Dec from now on. There's still a hope for going monthly someday - but we'll need a greater level of volunteer support to be able to do that.

Make Me Clean

by Jim Slauter of Orlando, Florida, USA

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean"!

ô Mark 1: 40 ó 41

The Kiev, Ukraine, Friendship Club and Community of Christ congregation are being newly planted in a neighborhood filled with children and young families. My wife, Jan, and I visited the congregation one evening during the summer of 2010 and were introduced by Maria, the pastor and our interpreter.

Kiev was experiencing record-setting heat. Several fans were running in the room where we gathered. Following the opening prayer, a woman ran into the room and whispered to Maria. She told us we needed to go with her to the entryway to pray for a young boy who was experiencing a severe asthma attack. I grabbed the consecrated oil from my backpack, and we were escorted to the boy, who was held in his uncle's arms.

The frantic boy was experiencing extreme respiratory distress, and his skin color was noticeably blue. I remember thinking someone should call an ambulance as we knelt beside him and shared the sacrament of laying on of hands for the sick.



As Jan anointed the boy's head with oil and began to pray, I thought about the language barrier and was reminded the Holy Spirit knows no boundaries. The

Spirit was real as we offered our prayers for God's blessing to bring peace and healing to the child.

We experienced the miracle of healing as we prayed. The child's breathing returned to normal, his anxiety calmed, and he fell asleep in his uncle's arms during the confirming prayer of blessing. We opened our eyes and realized the congregation of

faithful believers had circled us and joined in faithful petition for the child. The Holy Spirit transcended the barriers of language and culture as our faith united in sacred community, and we were blessed with a testimony of God's grace and generosity.

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/>

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