



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

January, 2013

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

It's not just Christians who can show supreme care and love for a brother or sister in arms. I realized some significant truths about such a statement just yesterday, 29 January. A friend, who'd formerly served with me in Air Force Materiel Command's headquarters, died last week. He was but 51; it was totally unexpected. He left behind a wife, four daughters and a young grandchild. A funeral was scheduled for the 29th and, in our headquarter divisions, we worked to provide support as soon as we found out what had happened.

You already know how close-knit the military family is. Collections were taken up for a gift of flowers and a card of sympathy. I was asked to assist the Directorate with information that might provide a letter of condolence for the family. Two of us offered to drive anyone else who could attend the service and be with the family. Six of us were able to take leave and make the three hour drive to the site of the funeral. Four members (three of whom were retired) also donned their uniforms in a show of support. During visitation we shared memories and stories of our good friend with all those around us. The minister asked for and received written comments and recollections that might be read to comfort the family during the service. The funeral director, taking note of the members in uniform, offered the opportunity for an additional bit of service: escorting the casket to the



waiting hearse. That duty was shared with two of our friend's nephews also in uniform. A USAF Honor Guard escorted the remains of our friend to the burial location. With reverence and dignity, the team folded the U.S. flag and presented it to his grieving spouse. A member played taps and a rifle contingent provided a gun salute. And, as the minister offered a closing prayer, officers, enlisted and civilians all joined hands in unity and in hope. I don't know that half of those attending from our work area have a relationship with the Lord (something I need to encourage!) but, in the time we shared together, honoring a brother in arms and in loving his family a reflection of what Christian love should look like was clearly visible from my work mates. I need to remember their example.

Members of Peacekeepers, I urge your continued prayer for the matters that will soon be addressed in the World and USA National Conferences. Much of what is planned to be discussed is about how we, as Christians, should be and act. Some of the topics present us significant challenges. Yet, as the world remains a challenging place, people of faith can continue to make a difference. It begins one person at a time and is best pursued by listening to the Spirit of the living God. You may become familiar with World Conference information at <http://www.cofchrist.org/wc2013/> and USA

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.

National Conference information at
<http://www.cofchrist.org/usaConf/>.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all
Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

Curt's Column

by Curt Heaviland

The New Year has broken. As I look around I wonder what changes are going to take place in the coming 12 months. It is my hope that, we, here in the Midwest get our proper share of moisture. In 2012, most of this area was exceptionally dry. I don't think that was the case in my back yard as I had to mow on a regular basis. I've been told that weeds grow whether it's dry or moist. Since most of my lawn is a pasture for weeds, that explains it.



Speaking of a new year, I have hopes that a few of you will sit down and write an article for the newsletter. It doesn't have to be earthshaking but just something that you would like to share. Now, don't tell me you don't have anything. Remember, I have been there too and I remember sharing with my fellow sailors and soldiers some things that had happened to me. I relate quite often my first experience on the open ocean as I was leaving for the South Pacific. So come on and share with the rest of us.

Since this is the beginning of a new year I'd like to get our files up to date. If you are still on active duty and our address is correct, that's fine. If you know that you are going to be transferred in the future please let us know as soon as you have an address. If you are being discharged let us know that as well. I need to let the *Herald* know that you will no longer be eligible for the free *Herald*. Also if you are being discharged we'd appreciate your becoming a sustaining member. With that support we'd be pleased to continue your newsletter subscription.

If you notice on the back page it tells you what the costs are to keep receiving the newsletter. We still want to keep in touch with anyone that has served in the military. Also when you are back home we would like to know what you are doing and your plans.

A plea also goes out for those of you that have e-mail to give us your e-mail address. The newsletter can be sent that way and it saves us postage and printing costs.

This year will also bring us National and World Conference. In as much as it seems there will be a military presence throughout the world we need to be a force for peace wherever we can be. As I have said before öyou can be a peacekeeper wherever you are stationedö as you are a representative of Christ.

My hope for each one of you is a great year and the opportunity to serve where ever you are.

GOD BLESS,

Curt

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Dominic's birthday was December 13, Ian's is January 26. Perhaps that's why Dominic now feels his favorite teddy bear, Bob, needs a birthday party. Whatever the reason Beth told him she can't afford a birthday party for something that isn't even alive. As a single mother, on food stamps, she has no money for a cake and ice cream, let alone any other items Dominic feels important.

Dominic has recently been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. That means he has a therapist now. She insists that Bob's birthday party is of utmost importance to Dominic and since he feels that Bob is alive to him, we must find a way to have a party for him.

I have to tell you ó I don't agree with half of the stuff this therapist tells us and Dominic's problems seem to be worse than ever ó the exact opposite of improvement. However, she says we need a birthday party so sometime in the near future we will be throwing a birthday party for a little stuffed bear.

Ian is walking now ó or should I say running? He takes off like a ruptured duck. Sometimes he loses his balance and sits down for a bit, then takes off crawling. I guess crawling is still the most familiar mode of transportation to him. He sure is a caution. He loves to tease too. But the thing that got me lately happened at Dominic's karate class.

You see I come from a long line of ðyellers.ð By that I mean that we are actually born with the ability to shout ó loud. Our volume is undeniable. By age two Mom had me calling the men in from the fields. We lived on a 160 acre farm. Our pastor who lived about a mile from our house could hear me practicing my solo for that Sundayð service. Living in the city with a lot more background noise, I can only be heard about a half mile from the house.

Dominic was born with a loud voice, like me, my mother, and her mother. First yell from the womb was an ear-buster. Ian hasn't shown this ability, until recently. I guess you could say he has learned how to be a yeller. At karate class he loves it when the Sensei barks the moves he wants the students to make and they reply with ðYes, Sensei, No, Sensei,ð or ðHaö! Little Ian may not be able to say Sensei, but he shouts the ðHaö as loud as any student there.



I guess thatð like thinking we can't do something because we weren't born with the skill. I've known plenty of piano students who gave up after a year or two because they hadn't become experts yet. Few people become expert at anything until they spend a lot of hours or years practicing. I was born with a voice; I began singing at church by age three. But I still had to practice, learn to use my diaphragm, study better, more efficient ways to sing, etc.

You may be called to service, but because it doesn't come easy to you, perhaps you think you can't do it. Don't give up ó you too can learn to yell. Ha!

Do Not Be Afraid

by Anonymous of Washington D. C., USA

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



ð Matthew 5: 14 ó 16

The small child was so absorbed in building sand castles that water creeping forward with the

tide went unnoticed. Suddenly the child was bobbing in the water, trying to grasp onto anything. The pilings nearby were slimy and covered with barnacles ó hard to hold onto.

The people sitting on the deck above, laughing and joking on a warm summer day, were unaware of this child floating past them, despite the cries for help. The child grew more desperate as the last piling came near. Then a teenage girl jumped off the deck, held the child, and brought her to safety.

How often are we so preoccupied with our own relationships and day-to-day chores that we do not hear the cries of the person asking for help or do not see the person drifting in life and needing direction? Our attentiveness to the needs of others may save a life, as that teenage girl did.

This is an expression of the mission of Jesus Christ, who asks us to go and do likewise.

Remember the Everlasting

Covenant by Blair White of St.

Clairsville, Ohio, USA

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

ð Genesis 9: 16

In November of 2005 I found myself in a precarious situation on the Atlantic Ocean. I was helping some friends move their sailboat from Norfolk, Virginia, to the Caribbean. Our 60-foot mast came crashing to the deck, pinning me against the side of the boat. I got free without injury, but we then had to cut the mast and rigging loose to prevent further damage.

With the loss of the mast and rigging, we also lost radio communication. Once we cleared the deck and checked our location and fuel supplies, we discovered we were 200 miles offshore with only 100 miles worth of fuel.

Later that evening we intercepted another boat that gave us one-half of the extra fuel we needed. Its crew graciously waited to give us the needed remaining fuel.

When we reached the location, I prepared to hang off the side of the boat in 15-foot seas to pick the fuel containers from the water.

wasn't sure what this would be. I recalled the promise of the rainbow and in my uncertainty I moved with trust.

At that moment I saw a reassuring rainbow. I knew God would be with me in death or life, as I

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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