



The Peacekeepers

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel Newsletter

Nov./December 2013

TIM'S SERVICE (Three Tales of Hope)

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

Many of our world's souls simply long for something hopeful. They do not know whose world this is, nor do they understand their ultimate place in this creation. Many of our brothers and sisters live in simple fear of the day and in the uncertainties of tomorrow. These brothers and sisters have not yet received the vision of Isaiah 65, illustrating what one writer refers to as "Paradise restored." They do not have the story, or the song, that "God's love assures us through the unknown, God's grace sustains us, we're not alone." May I share three brief reminders of hope:

Veteran's Day (U.S.A.). Sheila and I made a circuit through the upper Midwest around the weekend of Veteran's Day. Too many miles were involved but both of us will affirm the delights we shared in making long-overdue visits with friends and Kunzweiler family members (not to mention getting to see daughter Rachel and son Alex along the way!). On Veteran's Day itself we had an unplanned but very special opportunity presented to us. We'd been visiting with my Aunt Ruth (90 and going strong) and some cousins who still live in my Dad's place of birth (Fulda, Minnesota). We were to press on toward Lamoni, Iowa that day but we'd heard there was to be a Veteran's Day observance in the local High School at 10:00 AM and elected to stay long enough to attend. It was 15 degrees Fahrenheit, the wind was



blowing and a light snow covered the ground. Even so, a great number of townsfolk showed up, to watch and participate in songs and readings and to listen to remembrances associated with military service. At one point the program called for veterans to come forward to state their periods of service. I was honored to be able to go forward to mention my own service but more so to also be able to represent my deceased father noting his service during the Korean War to townspeople who might recall him. I was also particularly pleased to hear references to God and prayer, without any hint of concern in that public setting. The observances of a Veteran's Day in Minnesota contribute to my hope in today.



Thanksgiving (U.S.A.). In the United States, we've been fast approaching our National holiday of Thanksgiving a day steeped in family sharing and in giving thanks for the many blessings we have received through another year. I'm particularly blessed to know how people, like you, remain "standing in the gap," ready to serve and to sacrifice for the blessings of life and liberty that so many brothers and sisters have yet to find. Our mutual hope is that these sacrifices may serve as beacons of hope to the hopeless, and that the defense of freedom may help this strife-torn world to sooner attain peace. Our daughter plans to be home for this year's holiday and may be bringing some friends from college, including friends from a



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.

non-Christian faith. It's our hope that simple acts of offering welcome, hospitality and food (in honor of what our Thanksgiving represents) will be like mortar to brick, binding us in bonds of trust and friendship that may grow and spread to others in the years to come. This is a hope in things to come.

Christmas (World-wide). Our celebration is of a Christmas miracle that occurred long ago. But the gift we celebrate in Christmas is also one that transcends time. We simultaneously celebrate an event of the past, a way of living for today and a hope for a greater tomorrow. Our celebration is of the living God the God of all that is, who remains unseen, yet leads the faithful, creating all the while.

In this last moment may I share a scripture of faith and hope: Isaiah 2:4 (NRSV):

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

We remain people of HOPE, as we prepare for God's promised transformation of this world, through Jesus Christ from a place of war and famine, greed and violence, into a place in which people will be a source of joy when God will be perceived as delighting in his people and the sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. God does the creating. The timing is His. We are the tools in his hands. Our celebration is also a call to work together toward the fulfilling of His divine promises. May your service provide fellow souls bountiful hope.

In Christ or Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim orK9o Kunzweiler, President.



Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Our boys are sure growing. By the time this goes to print Dominic will be eight years old. In January Ian will be two. They are delighted to see each other when we pick up Dominic from school. And although there a few things Dominic doesn't want Ian to slobber on, they still play well together.

Just look at those smiles! Ian's vocabulary seems to double daily, we have to edit what we say. Dominic can spell pretty well so we can't really use that trick to speak privately. Ian bows his head and whispers at meal time. Dominic just looks on, unfortunately.

I've been trying to lose weight and when I go to weigh in there are several ladies or one man. He told me the first day that he "doesn't hold babies." I was surprised, but adjusted well or Ian was big enough to sit on his own. All the ladies just love Ian, calling him "too cute," or "just adorable." But the real victory is the man or who now plays with Ian, giving him a high five or waving "bye or bye." Ian treats him the same way he treats the ladies. (Maybe there's a lesson for me.)

One day as we found our chairs I waved Ian over to sit with me in the crowded room. He came running, but veered off at the last minute to throw himself into a strange ladies lap. She was shocked at first, but then hugged him and said "One grandmother is almost as good as another, don't you think?" Apparently Ian thought so.

No matter where we go Ian hones in on the sad, lonely, or grieving persons automatically. I'm often told that his smile or hug was just what they needed that day. His other grandparents have had several deaths in their family since Ian's birth and have told us repeatedly that the best medicine possible is for Ian to come to the funeral or the house and the adults just pass him around, getting healing and laughter from this little soul.

Sometimes I think God gives us little angels to help us get through the tough times. And sometimes he wants us to be that beacon of hope,

love, and joy for others. A smile can go a long way toward healing our troubled world.

Veteran's Day Program

On November 11, 2013, President Tim Kunzweiler attended the following program.

Welcome – FCCLA and FACS-9 Students

***Posting of Colors – Color Guard**

American Legion Post and Auxiliary 318
Dept. of Foreign War Post and Auxiliary 9017

***Star Spangled Banner**

Fulda High School Band and Choir ó Director,
Matt Saxman

***Pledge of Allegiance**

Fourth Grade Elementary Students ó Mrs.
Holinka

***Invocation by Post 318 Chaplin**

“Our Veterans”

First and Second Grade Students ó Director, Ms.
Carolyn Beerman

“I am a Veteran”

Reading by members of the speech team

“Hero in This Place”

Third through Sixth Grade Students ó Ms.
Carolyn Beerman

“The Army Goes Rolling Along, The Marines Hymn, Eternal Father Strong to Save, The U.S. Air Force, and Semper Paratus”

Fulda High School Band and Choir ó Director,
Matt Saxman

“God Bless America”

Linda Lund, accompanied by Sheri Isder

“Veteran’s Day Tribute”

Video and Reading by Jim Troje

“Taps”

Alli Vandebosch, Band Member

Instructions about the Cannon

***Benediction by Post 318 Chaplin**

***Retire the Colors – Color Guard**

Exit to observe the firing of the Fulda Cannon

***Denotes that Everyone Please Stand**



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 ~~members~~ ~~receiving~~ ~~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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HOME HOLIDAYS