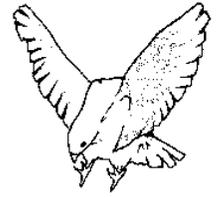


Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



# The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

May/June 2014

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

**A reminder about Memorial Day (USA).** In the USA, Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed the last Monday in May. More than just being a Federal holiday though, Memorial Day was set aside to honor the dead of the United States Civil War.

According to <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp>, it was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.



"The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they



are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

Learn more at <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Memorial-Day.shtml>. A personal thought: I pray for a time, in history yet to come, in which we are certain that no more names of any nation need to be added to the lists of those who served and died in military service.

**Changes in the Association Officers.** Sadly, back in March, Walter French let us know he had to resign from the position of Treasurer though for a very good cause. Walter is now living in El Paso, Texas and has been appointed as Pastor of an emerging congregation in the El Paso/Fort Bliss area. We wish Walter all the Lord's blessings in this new ministry opportunity (and Walter, hint-hint, maybe we'll get an update on your ministry as an article for the newsletter sometime!).

Our BYLAWS allow that, except for the office of President, vacancies in other offices may be filled for the remainder of the former officer's term by action of the remaining officers. With the Association's permission, we intend to honor the nomination of Russ Godfrey to fill the position of Treasurer. In this capacity, Russ will serve out the remainder of Walter's term. I will be asking Russ for a brief bio for a future newsletter.

**Changes in position for Community of Christ Chaplain Endorser and Coordinator for Military Ministry.** Steve McCrosson let us know April 17th that, as of May 1st he would be stepping aside from the position of Chaplain's Endorser and Coordinator of Military Ministry. Steve had served in this capacity for more than 10 years but also indicated he was not going far. Steve will still be assigned as Team Leader for Technology Support.

On behalf of the Association, it is my distinct privilege to express our heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Steve for his many years of quiet but significant support to military members and this ministry. Steve leaves a large gap to fill.

But there is good news too. David Anderson will have accepted the titles as our new representative. By way of introduction, Dave is currently the Director of Human Resources for the International Church. You may also recall that he supported the Peacekeeper Panel presentation during the 2012 Peace Colloquy.

From a bio I had on file:  
"David is a retired colonel in the United States Air Force with over 30 years of service. As a 1976 distinguished graduate of the US Air Force Academy, David served in numerous operational, academic and diplomatic/international assignments in Japan, Korea, Sweden, Italy and Belgium. Operationally, he was a fighter pilot in F-4 and A-10 aircraft. Academically, he studied International Affairs (peace and war research) at Uppsala University, Sweden. He holds a Masters in International Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University's Paul Nitze School of International Studies and a Masters of Christian Education at Graceland University. Additionally, he served as a fellow at The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University where he did research on international security. He was a Professor of Aerospace Studies at Oregon State University where he taught leadership and national security studies. Diplomatically, he has served as a strategic planner for global issues at the Pentagon, an operational policy advisor on peacekeeping to the US Ambassador at NATO in Brussels Belgium, and a defense attaché at the US Embassy in Stockholm Sweden. He retired in 2006 as Chief,



Air Force Foreign Liaison at the Pentagon. David is a minister with the Community of Christ and has served as the Field Apostolic Assistant in the Eurasia Field, and President, Eurasia and Western Europe Mission Centers.

David: We welcome you and look forward to working with you to support Community of Christ members serving in the military, worldwide.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

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## **Engaged vs. Busy by Lewis Weigand**

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Last year during our adult class at the Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center family reunion, a point was made about the word Busy. What does busy really mean? Is it just a word to avoid answering a question such as hello, what have you been up too? What other word could be used more effectively to answer such a question? As I pondered that question, I realized as disciples of Christ we are not "busy" but rather engaged in carrying out the Mission of Jesus Christ. As a Peacekeeper, I have been very quiet. So let me share a little of my daily walk.

Upon my retirement from the US Army in 2010 I executed a plan to ensure I did not just sit around and do nothing, becoming bored or depressed. I threw myself into a flurry of activity beginning with helping at family reunion, serving as a camp counselor for our teenage youth camp, and volunteered as a Washington State Master Gardener. As fall approached, our congregation agreed to be a host church for the local Freezing Nights homeless outreach program. We opened our doors one night a week to provide food and shelter for our single adult homeless population during the winter months. It was in this ministry that I identified with Christ's mission in action. Amongst our guests were several military veterans trying to transition into civilian life while coping with a lack of skills, and PTSD among other issues. I know each of you can identify with these issues and reaching out to our fellow veterans as well. I found a special bond with them.

It was with great sadness that our congregation had to end our involvement in the Freezing Nights

ministry. We could not provide sufficient number of volunteers and our church building was too small to meet the increasing population. However we found we could serve this population in a new way. We began Amity, a ministry providing lunch and a quiet space off the streets two days a week. Community resource counselors are provided a space to meet with our guests to assess their needs and help with treatment, training, and housing.

It gives me great pleasure to serve this community, to serve with church leaders representing many faith movements, all of us working towards abolishing poverty, uplifting the worth of all persons and sharing in the joys and sadness that come with being a large family. I frequently feel dizzy with the flurry of activity. There are not enough hours in the day to meet all needs but I have managed to share my hobbies with this group and learn from them as well. Amongst our guests are former farm kids who know a thing or two about gardening; a few animal lovers who have helped me on my journey to train a dog for conformation shows; some who are very handy in the kitchen and even a plumber. My little show dog provides companionship for several of our guests.

The piano in our sanctuary provides much needed therapy for a military veteran coping with PTSD. It is such a joy to see how he transforms as he plays the most beautiful music. The piano is his sanctuary. Our lunch program not only helps our homeless and low income population, but also provides a sense of purpose for several of our more senior Community of Christ members. Cooking, cleaning, visiting are only a few of many ways they serve. We visit our guests when they are in the hospital, join them in celebrations of sobriety, housing, employment or birthdays. And they reciprocate with cards expressing thanks birthday greetings get well wishes. Our Amity guests can be a blessing. Some of them truly were this past week. I expressed frustration with my nervousness in the dog show ring and how it affected my dog. I received tips on meditation, visualization, even tapping an emotional freedom technique. I could hear their voices as I entered the show ring. And before I knew it, my little German Pinscher was awarded Best of Breed. The camaraderie amongst



this group is comparable to that which I enjoyed on active duty.

Someone commented recently that they did not see how their congregation could set up a program like that of our congregation because they did not have enough people. My response if you are blessed with free time and have a desire to serve the community outside your doors stop and visit with someone at the local food bank, clothing bank, or soup kitchen. You will find there is a need for you. There is a place for each and everyone to serve in mission. It is a blessing to be engaged in mission. It is my prayer that the next time someone asks how you are doing or what have you been up to, your response will be that you are engaged in or involved in and share your story of your walk with the Saviour.

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## Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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I just watched a movie called "Heaven is for Real." It is based on a book of the same name by Todd Burpo.

In it the four-year-old son of a pastor goes to heaven and upon his return tells everyone who will listen about his experience. The congregation and even his father have a hard time believing his stories because it doesn't exactly fit in with their own beliefs.

I remember wondering why my mother would teach me that Jesus is my best friend, only to lecture me about having imaginary friends when I talked out loud to Jesus as he walked by my side day in and day out. Why didn't she understand?

Our own Dominic, who was recently baptized, told me in 2009 that my Dad, who had just died, was in a good place, with my Mom and they were all right. I have to admit I wondered where he got this information. He does have an active imagination.

Ever wonder why Jesus said to have faith as a little child, in Luke 18: 17? I think it is because a child's belief is so pure and simple. They have no doubts. They never second guess themselves.

If you tell them Jesus is your friend, they believe he is a real flesh and blood friend. Of course, they might complain that he doesn't toss the ball back to them like their friends at school, but they believe.

I notice that this solid, no exceptions kind of faith changes a bit as they grow up. I think that's a shame. I have struggled to try to keep my faith as solid and simple as when I just walked and talked with my best friend ó before adult opinions interfered with that almost magical wonder and acceptance.

I also find prayer much more straight forward in children than adults. Ever notice how adults try to mimic the style of each other? The Lord's Prayer is

pretty straight forward and simple. I always liked the simple prayers of my Uncle, Joe DeBarthe. He just said, Lord í and this is what we need, and we thank you. Simple as that. You didn't have to be a Bible scholar to understand him, and his words made sense to all ages. He also had a great sense of humor. I once heard him give the blessing on a meal. "Good food, good meat, good God, let's eat."

I knew from the sighs that his wife and my Mom were a bit disappointed with that particular prayer, but the hungry kids loved it. And I doubt very much that God minded.

So, God bless all of you, and keep you from harm. And may you feel him as he wraps you in his loving arms.

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**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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