

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



# The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

July/August 2014

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

**Let There Be Peace On Earth.** It was one of those rare occasions in which I had the U.S. holiday off and so did Sheila—and the Ohio weather was magnificent (highs in the 70's...on July 4th, 2014?). We took the dog to a nearby park to “run it out” awhile with his fellow beasts and then headed to the village of Waynesville, OH. Things were quiet there. About half the shops were closed for the holiday and a hometown-style parade was planned for July 5th. Even so, there were still plenty of shops to browse and, as part of the afternoon’s adventure, we stopped for an appropriate Independence Day meal that included a tasty burger and apple pie!

As we walked about, we spotted a gazebo, just off the main thoroughfare, festooned with bunting. Nearby were some markers that always catch a military veteran’s eye.



Sheila and I approached for a few moments of quiet reflection.



This small park was dedicated as a memorial to military veterans (U.S. veterans in this case). The park was clean and well-kept and small national flags were posted in honor of this day. The dedication placard listed those who had made sure this place became a memorial site. The names on that placard were of brothers and sisters in arms. These were brothers and sisters who had served—and who had lived—returning home to enjoy the peace of this place. These same brothers and sisters had chosen to remember their fellow servants—in particular those who had not been so fortunate as to be able to enjoy that same blessing of life, continued in peace.

As a team, they'd taken on personal challenges to memorialize those who have sacrificed all—that we might know peace.

I opened this article with the title of a song you may recognize, a song that hearkens back to around 1955 and addresses the potential for peace on earth. This song includes the line “...and let it begin with me.”

One's first presumption about the word “let” may be that it is permissive in tone, akin to “allowing” or “permitting.” However, a closer examination of the song indicates to me that “let,” in this context, is more aligned with the concept of accepting a challenge. The song communicates: “...With every step I take Let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment And live each moment With peace eternally...”

Given the history of people on this earth, it seems clear that peace doesn't just materialize in each situation. Rather, peace appears to reign only when it is nurtured within oneself—and then shared between others—who are willing.

Perhaps in our lifetimes, a day may be realized in which all men and women are willing to embrace the mission and message of their Savior. It will be on such a day that we find hearts have changed and become willing to embrace and share peace. That is worth our prayerful concern. However the days of our history indicate that prayer—and permissive allowance—have not been adequate catalysts for peace to reign in all hearts. So, here remain some challenges:

- To *let peace begin with me* even while answering the call to protect those whose peace would have been robbed from them by others.
- To share the hope of peace, with friends—and even with those who might otherwise be enemies—in such a way that their hearts might be turned—one to another.

We are all brothers sisters in the big picture. Those who have sacrificed for our peace, those who continue to do so, and those who still have choices to make. Let peace begin with us, by what we do, how we say it and who we do it to.

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, President.

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## World War I Articles in Herald

by Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, President

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I urge you to read the July 2014 edition of Community of Christ's Herald magazine. In it you'll find two articles of particular interest to military personnel and to those who support them in their callings.

The first article, **World War I Legacy: Longing for Peace**, by Greg Clark, discusses a Community of Christ leader tour of the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, MO (U.S.A.). The article includes perspectives addressing “humankind's yearning for peace,” present realities, and how “...leaders from the church, the museum, and others are seeking peaceful paths and hoping to learn from history...”

The second article, **When the World Came Undone**, by Matt Naylor, National World War I Museum president and CEO, reminds us that the Centennial of the start of World War I is “...a reason to learn, make meaning, and remember...” Matt also offers people of faith three methods (with purpose) for reflecting on the “Great War.” I appreciate very much how his closing statement addressed remembering, learning, and the need for committing to a world of peace.

About the Museum: “The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial inspires thought, dialogue, and learning to make the experiences of the World War I era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations.” (Mission Statement, National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial). To learn more about the National World War I Museum visit <http://www.theworldwar.org>.



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## Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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Just before Father's Day my daughter, Beth, took her two boys, Dominic and Ian to a donut shop for a Saturday morning breakfast. Dominic looked at the wall and said, "hashtag one Dad." What does that mean Mom? She looked at where he was pointing and laughed. Then she patiently explained that the "hashtag" sign, a long time ago, used to be used as a number symbol. Therefore the sign read # 1 Dad. Dominic thought that made a lot more sense.

Isn't it interesting how things look to children? Things we take for granted make little sense to them. I've often wondered if this is how God sees our faith. Are we like children, striving to understand? Does God think we are cute or funny as we ask our questions? I'm not sure about that, but I know he loves us even more than we love our own children.

We don't get vacation time in a block of weeks; we have to take one week at a time. It's not that bad unless we wish to travel. We took a few days and went down to Branson, Missouri with the two boys just before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We took in a couple of shows, saw the Butterfly Palace and so forth. The highlight for them was the swimming pool. Dominic is old enough to go with Grandpa to a carved out "stream" where inner tubes are provided and he can ride downstream or go down a huge slide to the lower level.

Ian is only two and a half, so Grandma stayed with him in a small seven inch deep pool with a small slide. There are only three or four steps up to the slide and I would help him up the steps and then go to the bottom of the slide to "catch" him. On one of these occasions I left him a bit too early. He wasn't yet quite down on his bottom and he fell backwards down the steps. I heard the "thunk" and rushed back to him, thinking he had bumped his head.

He was obviously in discomfort as he cried loudly for several minutes. I had just gotten him calmed down and finding no bump on his head turned him again to the steps. That's when I saw

his raw and bloody back. He had skinned himself from the waist to the shoulder blades with each vertebrae taking the worst of it. I quickly scooped up some chlorine water to rinse his back and then took him to first aid.

They sprayed his back with something cooling and placed two big bandages on the worst of it. As soon as they were finished, Ian looked at me and said, "more swim"? So off we went to the pool again.

Luckily the pool water helped to heal his back and by the time we went home he was healed up. He didn't let the sore back slow him down though. Swimming is the main objective on vacation for these two.

We will be going to Wyoming to visit my sister the first week of August. I'm not sure if there is a public pool in her area, but I'll bet we find plenty to keep them entertained. Dominic has a new tablet to take in the car and play games or watch movies. He's pretty good about letting Ian watch whatever he's doing on it.

Wherever you are I hope you find a little time to relax and enjoy the world around you. I know that isn't easy for many of you, but trust God to show you little spots of beauty where you are.

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## Quote Corner

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- ❖ God is not greater if you reverence him, but you are greater if you serve him.  
—St. Augustine
- ❖ Real teachers know the difference between what must be graded, what ought to be graded, and what probably should never again see the light of day.  
—Anonymous
- ❖ My father impressed upon me that a bright intellect and a passion for learning are priceless commodities.  
—Judge Judy Sheindlin
- ❖ What we steadily, consciously, habitually think we are, that we tend to become.  
—John Cowper Powys
- ❖ Do not squander time for that's the stuff life is made of.  
—Benjamin Franklin

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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 are also available on our Web site: <http://www.cofchristpeacekeepers.org/>

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