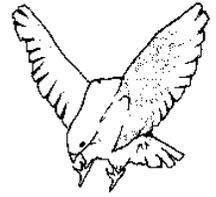


Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



# The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

September/October 2014

## TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President



Pastoring. Here's a significant request: I need your prayers.

Today (September 14, 2014 as I write) I accepted a nomination and was elected to Pastor the Beaver Creek, Ohio Congregation, Community of Christ, starting in 2015. I laughed when the Mission Center President, who was attending the meeting, quipped "and may God have mercy on your soul!" That laugh was genuine but this request is equally genuine. We all need mercy at times but I definitely need your prayers as I prepare to serve!

I've been a pastor before and that experience helps, though the circumstances were unusual. In that earlier instance, already many years ago, I held the office of Priest and was still serving on active duty. As you may imagine, that situation presented some very unique ministerial challenges but it also afforded me many growth opportunities.

I'm keenly aware how this new opportunity to serve even while a blessing will also be challenging. It will be a time demanding growth. I'll certainly have to strive to be better at prioritizing activities and at budgeting my minutes and hours. I'll also have to be deliberate in my efforts to balance the work schedule, the care for my family and the very real needs associated with shepherding a congregation.



This Association's ministry is certainly also a pastoral one although it's geo-remote in much of its application. Within this military ministry role I'm called to uphold the welfare and needs of Community of Christ military members, from all nations, serving on active duty. Rest assured, I'll endeavor to keep your needs as a daily focus, and my prayers and support for you will continue.

You, who are very familiar with the world of "significant challenges" are well equipped for handling this request. You are already "Wingmen" and "Battle Buddies" and know what the phrase "I've got your back" means. I trust that prayer is a part of your own daily walk.

So, here's the request. Humbly, I ask you to go to the Lord on behalf of this fellow servant. I need someone on high to always "have my back!"

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President.

## NEWS NOTES

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

**Reminder:** Sustaining members dues were up in April. If you have doubts about your situation please look at your label for the expiration date. Thanks.

Carl Mesle (Retired Appointee). Carl, a longtime supporter of military ministries, was

reported to have passed away in July 2014 at The Groves.

You may remember this (reprinted from The Peacekeepers September 2000 Issue):

**On the Road for the  
Committee on Ministry to the  
Armed Forces** *By Carl Mesle*



I think of three incidents which happened while I was on the road for the Committee on Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel in the 60's wasn't it?

As an official denominational representative I was certified to visit military posts by the office of the Chief of Chaplains with courtesies due a Major General which opened all doors. I would clear my travel agenda, with dates listed, for each base with the OCC and with a copy to the Chief Chaplain at each installation.

On one air base, the chief Chaplain took me on a courtesy visit to the C.O. Usually such is brief, (but having met him I was free upon leaving to write the C.O. and comment on the reception given by his Chaplain which usually pleased the Chaplain).

On this occasion, however, the General was in the mood to talk and raised questions about my understanding of the movement of the Holy Spirit. It was a subject warm to both of our hearts, and we had an excellent discussion in which the Chaplain pretty much remained silent, and I never did learn how he felt about the Holy Scriptures.

On another base, the Chaplain helped me, as usual, to locate RLDS members where membership was indicated. I finally located one GI in his housing unit with his wife. He seemed a little embarrassed to see me (which was not all that unusual), but I entered the home, and we talked about his work and his career and then about the church. Finally, his wife said, "Would you please tell me what the RLDS believes? My husband won't discuss it." I had a great time informing both of his beliefs and left with them as friends.

On another base I came upon the wife of a GI working at a desk job. She was

smoking, of which I made mention, and we had a brief but pleasant visit. At the next conference, the young lady sought me out to tell me that she was so embarrassed to be found smoking that she quit then and there.

I spotted that Carl also wrote for our October 2008 issue. He will be sadly missed. His obituary may currently be reviewed here: <<http://www.legac.com/obituaries/kansascity/obituary.aspx?pid=171848253>>. Please remember the family in your prayers

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## INTRODUCING THE NEW TREASURER

*by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President*

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This month we're providing you some information on Russell Godfrey, our new Treasurer. Let's get to know him!

Russell is relatively new to the Peacekeepers and has volunteered to be our Treasurer. He asks our patience as he grows into the role, but encourages us to call or e-mail with any questions.

Russell will have retired from Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies (FM&T) as of 31 July 2014 (Congratulations Russell!) after having been employed there for 34 years. He has been an Operating Engineer, having learned this trade from the U.S. Navy while serving from 1969 to 1972 (Thank you for your service Russell!). He served on the USS Juneau (LPD-10), an Austin-class amphibious transport dock.

He has been married for 42 years to Kathy S. (Campbell) Godfrey and they have raised three fine sons (congratulations to the both of you!). Russell also indicates he enjoys his family, church friends, and activities that include fishing and golfing.



Russ recognizes how the Association may connect service members in a spiritual way and thanks us for the opportunity to serve as our Treasurer. His term runs 2013-2019 (six years), replacing Walter French. As you may recall, Walter requested to resign since he'd been appointed as Pastor of an emerging congregation in the El Paso, TX/Fort Bliss area (see next article).

Please welcome and support Russ as he serves the Peacekeepers in this new role!

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## WALTER FRENCH UPDATE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

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We received this information back in July, in an e-mail sent out to some pastors.

Dear Pastor:

I am Walter French. As the result of the promptings of God's Spirit in my life, I have taken on the work of ministry to the soldiers at Fort Bliss, Texas. Recently I was also appointed as Pastor of the emerging congregation in El Paso, Texas.



When I assumed this challenge and moved here from my home in Independence, my major focus was to provide ministry to our service men and women stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, which is located at El Paso.

Since El Paso is a city of about 950,000 population and Fort Bliss claims the largest military population in the United States, this seemed to be a logical place to work out a program for ministry to our military personnel.

At the time I relocated to El Paso, church records indicated that we had nearly one hundred members living here and nine priesthood; but no active congregation.

In the last several months, I have discovered that the church has been inactive here for more than five years. At this time, I appear to be the only active member here.

My twofold mission has become to provide ministry to soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss and to re-establish the Church presence in El Paso. That amounts to a new church plant.

I need your help. Please announce in your congregations that I am looking for members and friends of the Church stationed at Fort Bliss or otherwise living in El Paso, Texas. It would be helpful to my mission here if they would give my contact information to their soldiers AND to send me contact information on their soldiers.

I have rented a home here that is appropriate for conducting house church

meetings. One room has been equipped with seating for sixteen.

If you would like more information about my mission or the emerging El Paso congregation, feel free to contact me by return e-mail or by phone at (816)786-3852. You may also contact Bruce Darrington, Rio Grande Mission Center President at his e-mail or by phone, available on the Church web page.

Thank you for your consideration

In Bonds of Christian Fellowship,

Dr. Walter E. French

Elder, Community of Christ

Pastor, El Paso, Texas Emerging

Congregation

Peacekeepers would be pleased if you'd keep Walter's ministry as a matter of prayer.

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## Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

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Well, Dominic is in third grade now and loves it! His second grade teacher moved up with him, so he's very happy.

Ian is full of vinegar. He was at Dominic's karate dojo and saw the weights set on a rack for members to use. He told his Mom, "octagon." Beth corrected him, "No, hexagon. See six sides, one, two, and three!"

Ian said "no, OCTAGON." Beth corrected him again and he "corrected" her, rolling his eyes as though she was sure hard to teach.

I remember my kids trying to teach me also. They were a little older though.

I took Beth to a nail salon for her birthday. This is becoming a tradition as we both enjoy the accompanying massage and feeling decadent. She chose a blue polish with sparkles in it. Ian didn't like it and tried to pick it off. He got so aggressive that he shoved his nail underneath hers and tried to pull her nail off. She decided to change the color and so far he's accepting the pale pink.

I got mine done in a nearly red color. When I showed it to him he looked at my hands and said, "I'm sorry!" I wonder what he meant.

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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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