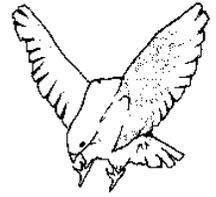


Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

January/February 2015

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

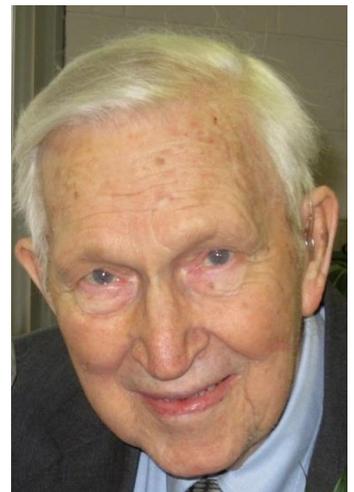
Malcolm Ritchie Blessed Me. Malcolm Luther Ritchie, a Community of Christ Evangelist, a member of the Beavercreek, Ohio congregation, and a U.S. veteran of World War II, passed away recently. His obituary listed many interesting facts about his long (94 year) life. From that brief read you could discern (or at least infer) so much. You could read when and where he was born and died, tell his age, and note that he would have been alive during the U.S. Depression. You could see the scope of his immediate family and read about some of his roles in the church. You could also learn about his education and some of his professional accomplishments (including how he ran his own company and how he was the first Dean of Students at Graceland College, now Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa). Peacekeepers may especially appreciate knowing that, as a World War II Army Air Corps pilot, he was a B-25 instructor and then flew 67 combat missions in the Pacific Theater as a P-61 night fighter pilot. To an extent, these bits of information all help describe the man. However, the words in this obituary cannot tell the story of the man who blessed me ô and so many others ô through his ministry, his friendship, and his love.

Malcolm was, all at once, an example of humility, inquisitiveness, persistence and peace. He'd dealt with adult onset diabetes for what finally became many years. The disease appeared to have nothing to do with his physique or eating habits ô some of us just get impacted by physical ailments. That said, Malcolm approached his condition with a



scientific vigor and, as his son can verify, often guided his doctors (vs. them guiding him) with respect to his current needs and medications! That same focus seemed to illustrate how he approached so many things. He sought the Spirit, spoke of the intensely personal nature of spiritual experiences, and always encouraged his congregational brothers and sisters in these type pursuits.

As an Evangelist, even in his advanced years, Malcolm paid attention to the conditions of those around him. I should not have been surprised when, during a period in which Sheila and I were experiencing some difficulties, Malcolm asked to spend time with me. In a quiet setting we talked about the situation and Malcolm asked questions and spent a great deal of time listening. I expected feedback but was surprised when I received a letter in the mail, accompanied by an Evangelist Blessing ô specific to the need at hand. Malcolm was not one to wait ô he always seemed prepared to act when the need presented itself.



Malcolm Ritchie, as you know, still lives. His physical presence is gone but his eternal soul is now enjoying discoveries we can still only dream of.

Malcolm's memory also continues to live in my heart. He blessed me with perspectives that encourage broadening my own world view. He inspired me to pursue humbleness, inquisitiveness, persistence and peace. I hope that I will capitalize on the model that Malcolm presented and take all available opportunities to encourage my fellow travelers on the path of the disciple.

In Christ ó Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim öK9ö Kunzweiler, President.

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum



Both of our boys had birthdays ó Dominic is now nine and Ian is three. Both of them are growing up fast. Dominic is becoming more responsible and focused. Ian just keeps getting cuter. Ian has an ornery streak, but it's just mischievous.

I took Ian with me when I went for a mani ó pedi (that's the nails on my hands and feet). He was more or less patient during the procedure ó watching the video of öFrozenö for the 500th time while I was in the pedicure chair, and then playing with toys while I got the manicure. When I put his coat on to leave, however, he told me öBye ó bye, see you tomorrow.ö And he walked off to talk to the various nail technicians.

I played along for a while, leaving the shop and telling him bye. I watched through the front window to see when he might change his mind. He never did. I finally went back in and picked him up and carried him out to the car. All the ladies said he could stay if he wanted, but his Mom would have missed him.

Another day we went to a restaurant that my husband, friends and family don't frequent with me. It's a fancier bistro style and the owner's wife who is a graphic artist, has decorated the room with modern art of her design. Ian looked over our table at a painting that looks like two big eyes and a bunch of swirls in all colors. öIt's a bug,ö he opined. The waitress heard and said she thought it looked like a penguin from Madagascar. Ian said, öyeah, penguin

Mad ó a ó gar. No, it's a bug. Oh my gosh, it's a bug.ö And that was pretty much all I heard while we ate our lunch.

They both keep me entertained, but the real joy of being with our two grandsons is their love and sweet spirit. Ian rushes to the car when it is time to pick up öBubbaö from school. Dominic is happy to play whatever game or watch whatever movie Ian chooses. Of course he has Ian well trained to request X-box. But they both talk about Jesus even in play. Dominic prayed for four years to have a little brother. Then he prayed for almost two years to have a dog, Kylee is her name. Now he's praying for a little sister ó Mom says he might as well forget that one.

Whatever they come up with next ó I'll try to share it with all of you. God bless you all.

Let Your Light Shine by Lu Mountenay, Independence, Missouri, 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 lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

—Matthew 5: 14 – 15

Scripture and song tell us we, as disciples of Christ, are the light of the world. Starting in early childhood, our parents and Sunday School teachers tell us to let our light shine ó so we sing about our ölittleö light. Seems simple enough. But where do we get the light to start with? Most would have no trouble identifying Christ as the source.



A simple answer for us, perhaps. But is it simple for everyone? Those who experience the dark night of the soul ó why does their light lay just beyond their ability to see it? Those who feel unjustly accused ó what bars cast a shadow over their light? Those who have lost their way ó why does the beacon not fall on their meager path? Those who are hungry ó who will remove the bushel that hides the light they need?

Where is the light that will shine in the dark crevices and reveal the needs of the abused? The light of Christ shines not only so we can see the

path on which we walk. But the beam of Christ's light is broad, so we may turn around and see what and who is left behind if we make the effort.

The light of Christ shines on injustices once hidden. It exposes the hurt places. It reveals what we would rather not see. Yes, Christ is our source. Are we the obstacles that block the light? Are we filters that dim the light? Let's be the vessels that carry the healing light of Christ into all the forgotten places.

ARE YOU A PEACEKEEPER?

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

If you're reading this please stop and send me an e-mail at this ID (don't worry if it looks like it bounces; I'll check the SPAM box): cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net. The reason I'm asking is because we're hoping to hear from the active duty and the sustaining membership as often as possible. If you are a sustaining member, particularly with a history of military service (or support to it), we'd love having you write about those experiences so we could share the information with those currently serving. If you are one of those serving on active duty, we'd also appreciate hearing from you. Your experiences may be good or bad, exciting or hum-drum. But, we benefit in our prayers and support by being able to hear what you're dealing with. Do you have a spiritual testimony? Do you desire something more, or different from this ministry effort? Please let us know. Even if you don't have anything to share in the newsletter, this is a test: Please write to let us know you have read these words! Tim

Be Reconciled, by Andrew Bolton, Council of Twelve Apostles

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder," and "whosoever murders shall be liable to judgment." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool," you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift at

the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

— Matthew 5: 21 – 24



When I was a teenager, my mother told me this story. She once heard the interview of a couple on the radio. They had married many years earlier.

“Did you ever think of divorce in a difficult time?” asked the interviewer. “No,” said the wife, “Never! But murder? Yes, I sometimes thought that!” She laughed. My mother said she understood the wife's temptation and smiled. Of course, I knew firsthand some of my parents' difficulties.

Of course, murder is no answer and is a terrible crime. Jesus suggests practical strategies to make sure we never get to the place of being tempted to murder. Deal with your anger. Do not diminish another by insulting him or her. Come to worship after you have reconciled, and made peace with others. The likelihood of facing the temptation to kill someone is then greatly diminished!

Quote Corner

- ❖ Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set. ô Denny Brake
- ❖ Prayer helps me to analyze the problem I face. Unfortunately, sometimes I go a long way down the road in a quandary, suffering inside, before I finally ask myself, “Why don't I talk to God about it?” ô Jimmy Carter in *Living Faith*
- ❖ All history is incomprehensible without Christ. ô Ernest Renan
- ❖ A Christian is nothing but a sinful man who has put himself to school with Christ for the honest purpose of becoming better. ô Henry Ward Beecher
- ❖ Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity and the exaltation of humanity. ô Phillips Brooks
- ❖ In the depth of every mystery, Jesus put a Face. ô Nathan M. Pusey, once president of Harvard
- ❖ We need love in order to live happily, as much as we need oxygen in order to live at all. ô Marianne Williamson

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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