

Community of Christ

Association for Ministry to Military Personnel



The Peacekeepers

Newsletter

March/April 2015

TIM'S SERVICE

by Tim "K9" Kunzweiler, President

We do struggle with the thought that a loving God might condemn each of us. Around Easter I've spotted quite a few people writing about whether they believe Christ died for our sins...or not. This thought led me back to scripture to also try to discern much about the "why" for Jesus' crucifixion — in light of many biblical narratives (Old and New "Christian" Testament).

Isaiah 59: 1 – 2 speaks to how sin separates us from God: "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ²But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Isaiah 53: 1 – 8 has been understood as foreshadowing Christ and his sacrifice and that "...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed"



Shortly after his resurrection, Jesus is recorded as speaking to disciples on the road to Emmaus: Luke 24: 25 – 27 "...He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself"

Elsewhere in the New Testament, Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:21, writes "...God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"

One of Jesus' own Apostles who struggled to know the Master, and His Gospel (even as we do) indicates in 1 Pet. 2:24 "...He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed" (an apparent reference back to Isaiah)

I love John's testimony (another Apostle who was taught what the scriptures meant) in John 3: 16 – 20: "... For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed"

In Matthew 16 Jesus is testified of as predicting his own death and resurrection: "... ²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life"

Perhaps we remain like Peter who Jesus told “²³ ... you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns”

I encourage our continued reading of the scriptures that the Lord has provided for us, seeking understanding – by His Spirit – as we continue along the path of understanding.

May Easter and Resurrection blessings be yours on your path of discipleship (and discipling). I believe this war has already been won!

In Christ – Victory! May God bless all Peacekeepers.

Tim “K9” Kunzweiler, President.



A BLESSING BLOG

by Evangelist Sheila M. Kunzweiler

As I consider the kindness and nearness of our God upon our lives, I can't help but grin from ear to ear. I have always felt the “hot pursuit” of God in my life even while I, at times, turned and ran in the opposite direction. Even during those times of running, I knew I could not escape that Holy Embrace. Instead, perhaps, the running and the feeling of being pursued was proof for me of God's unfailing love and devotion; that I was someone of whom he would not let go. And so, when I was called to the office of Evangelist recently, I trusted that God was still in pursuit of my life and would not leave me alone. I giggled incessantly and proclaimed, “I accept!”

I have just given my first blessing to a dear brother in our area. In that preparation, and walking his path with him for a season, I realize that I am the one who has been richly blessed by having had the opportunity to hold his sacred story close in my heart and to be the vessel of raising that story up to our awesome God for further consideration, guidance, and direction. To be trusted with such a blessed burden blows me away.

As it came time to offer the actual blessing, I felt like I wanted to give something to my brother so as to make the experience more worshipful. I had asked him several times if he wanted anything special incorporated into our time together and he said he couldn't think of anything. Then it came to

me. I am learning how to play the guitar, and I have learned the song, “Lay Your Hands” from the gold hymnal on my guitar. This man's wife is a great singer so my idea was to play this song for him and have her sing it before offering the blessing. He wanted it to be a part of their Wednesday eve. Service where, at the end of the service, we would do the song, people would leave, and then we would do the blessing. As days approached, I found out that there was a young man in their congregation who both played the guitar and sang well so if I wanted he could do that with the man's wife so as to free me up from any extra burden. I quickly said, “Yes!” (I'm such a coward. I didn't really want to expose myself to the group like that). The day of, as a matter fact, about an hour before the blessing was to occur, I received a phone call from the man's wife saying that the young man who was going to play the guitar and sing with her suddenly got very ill and would I just go ahead and play AND sing with her. Now, I must tell you, for me to sing does not usually result in a worshipful experience, if you know what I mean. I raised my eyes toward the heavens and muttered, “You're not very funny, God. No more jokes, okay?” I said yes, went to the prayer service and sat through that whole service teetering on the edge of feeling like I might vomit at a moment's notice, and feeling this unusual excitement at being a part of something bigger than myself. It came time to do the song: I came



forward with the man's wife (thank goodness she has a strong voice), and we began the song. Much to my surprise and delight, I played and sang well right along with her. There wasn't a nervous bone in my body. I kept saying to myself, “Am I really doing this?” And so, that is why I began my testimony reflecting on God's kindness. God is so good! If we but just show up, he's bound to be faithful to us! Blessings abound, and that leaves me grinning!

Sheila M. Kunzweiler, Evangelist, Community of Christ.

Note: This article was created from a blog originally written in February 2013.

NEWS, NOTES & ANECDOTES

From here and there

Prayer Request: Our brother Scott Jobe (Chaplain, USAF, Retired) mentioned 23 March that he has a medical concern and would appreciate prayers.

Dues Reminder: As you see in each newsletter, non-active-duty “sustaining” members receive the newsletter with a paid Association membership. A normal membership is by year and the membership period runs April 1 to March 31. Dues are payable in April. Discounted multi-year options are available:

1 Year - \$10/yr

2 Years (reduced rate membership) - \$9/yr (pay \$18 now)

4 Years (reduced rate membership - \$8.50/yr (pay \$34 now)

Make checks to “Community of Christ Association for Ministry to Military Personnel” and send to c/o 1228 S. Scott Ave. Independence, MO 64052-3818.

A lesson in the value of freedom (a U.S. perspective). A teacher imparted a lesson in the value of freedom by having veterans return her students’ desks.

In September of 2005, a social studies schoolteacher from Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom. The kids came into first period, they walked in; there were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, “Where’s our desks?”

The teacher said, “You can’t have a desk until you tell me how you earn them.”

They thought, “Well, maybe it’s our grades.”

“No,” she said.

“Maybe it’s our behavior.”

And she told them, “No, it’s not even your behavior.”

And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom. Second period, same thing. Third period. By early afternoon

television news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom. The last period of the day, the instructor gathered her class.

They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. She said, “Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily. Now I’m going to tell you.”

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. And they placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks, those kids for the first time I think perhaps in their lives understood how they earned those desks.

Their teacher said, “You don’t have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them out there for you, but it’s up to you to sit here responsibly, to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk, and don’t ever forget it.”

Verified at

<http://www.snopes.com/glurge/nodesks.asp>

Kid's Stuff

by Mary Yocum

Ian is now what his Mom calls a “threenager.” Translation, the terrible twos weren’t so bad after all. Beth was venting on my shoulder the other night and Ian told her to “stop talking mad.” I recognize that as a single mother she sometimes needs a shoulder to cry on. I figure that’s why I’m so “fluffy.” Plenty of shoulder room.



We finally broke down and bought a new coffee table. The old one has been falling apart for over 25 years now – it seemed like time. Ian likes it because it makes a nice drum sound every time he pats the top – especially when he pats it pretty hard. The table has a top which raises up and a small space underneath. It also has two large drawers and

two small drawers for storage. Lots of new hiding places for matchbox cars and leggo blocks.



Dominic's class had a "wax museum" the other day. This consisted of all the third grade classes choosing a person from current or past history and giving a brief report about them. The students then memorized their reports, dressed up like this person and sat in chairs with a red sticker on one hand. The parents and families then gently pressed this red "button" and the wax figure opened their eyes, slowly stood up and told you who they were and what they did. Dominic's person was Davy Crocket. Don found a costume on line and Dominic got a chance to wear the coon skin cap we bought him a couple of years ago on vacation.

Greetings

by Curt Heaviland

I do not know what it is like in your area but here in Independence it looks like spring is springing. In fact it has been warm enough since March 10th to wear shorts and short sleeved shirts. Of course, some people tell me that I have lost whatever sense I had.

Since we are in a new year, I have a request for each of you that receive the newsletter. We, who put out the newsletter, often run out of things to

write about, and that may be one of the problems that we are now facing. What can we say that hasn't already been said or will come about from higher – up?

This newsletter goes throughout the country and also abroad. I would think that things are different where you live or are stationed. That's why I am appealing to each one that gets the newsletter to think about your particular situation. What have you done recently that you would like to tell us about? Perhaps there is something coming up that you will do or would like to do. There may be some good news in your family that you would like to share. What is going on in your church life or even what you are looking forward to.

In other words, there are all sorts of things taking place that the rest of us would like to know about. I am asking for articles from each one of you. They can be long or short or whatever. Please take time to sit down and let the rest of us know what you are doing.

Send your article to me or any one of the people that put the newsletter together. It will get to the right place eventually. Here are the e-mail addresses for your convenience:

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mary50nfine@comcast.net,
cofchristpeacekeepers.president@earthlink.net.

Your sharing with us will be appreciated not only here but throughout the world.

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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