

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Plan: The Webster’s New World Dictionary defines the word plan as a noun, meaning 1. a diagram showing the arrangement of a structure, piece of ground etc... 2. a scheme for making, doing, or arranging something, 3. any outline or sketch).

How many of us have plans for next week, next year, our retirement? In September, hurricane’s Katrina and Rita ripped into the Southern US and the Gulf Coast shattering many plans for the day, the week or retirement. People were left homeless, financially ruined or missing loved ones. While many of our biggest worries were that the lineup at the local Starbuck’s or Tim Horton’s coffee shops was taking such a long time, our brother and sister officers in many cases were wondering if this was “it”. The following is an excerpt from a letter that was written by an FCPO USA member who traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi, shortly following the hurricane. Their mission was to begin to figure out how all of us could provide assistance during this time.

As the storm began one officer was able to contact his department by phone. He was at home with his family. The storm surge crashing into their home had forced them to seek higher refuge in the attic. That was the last contact GPPD had with him. At the first opportunity a rescue was launched by his brothers in blue. Praise the Lord he and his family all survived. They did so by knocking a hole in the roof. The water forced them to climb outside. There they clung to each other and the roof for their lives. That is where they spent their ten hours during the storm.

Over the past 2 months, FCPO members and other peace officers have taken the initiative to, many on their own time and at their own expense, help out where they can. Let’s see you put “Project Katrina” into your plans for the new year. What took place in the Southern US could just as easily take place on the West Coast from Mexico to Alaska in the event of a major earthquake and tsunami. We need to “plan” to help our brother and sister officers. I asked a fellow officer to think about coming with us in January to Gulfport. He said there were ten reasons he thought “why he couldn’t, but not one reason as to why he shouldn’t”. If you are wondering why we are trying to get others involved in this project? Sit back, relax, grab that cup of coffee (while sitting in your favourite chair) and listen to one of many stories.

Ofc. Raymond Brooks, Gulfport Police Department, sent his family away for Katrina. After the storm he worked 18 hour days for about 21 days without a day off. He was found by his school's principal to be sleeping in his car outside the ruins of his former home. Raymond was invited to stay with the principal and his wife. His oldest daughter age 14 remains in Florida. He has a son about 10, daughter about 8 and his wife is expecting in January 2006. They have just moved into a 60ft mobile home on a friend's property. Raymond was not in a flood zone so has no flood insurance but his mortgage remains. His house is off it's foundations due to the seawater surge and If you look carefully you may see the "debris line" or tide-line. This was formed by the remains of the three houses that used to be between his house and the waterfront Hwy.

I would like to conclude my message with a short line or two thanking Ron Seney for his leadership and direction over the past four years as FCPO President. Ron felt it time to pass the torch from the East Coast to the West Coast (trust me, it wasn’t in my plan to have this happen any time soon!). Don’t be surprised, however, if he makes the odd cameo appearance in this column. Ron thanks again.

Andrew Cowan
FCPO, National President

Are you interested in helping out either financially or with your specific skill set? “Project Katrina” needs support. There are 2 FCPO Canada members in Gulfport, Mississippi beginning in October of 2005 for 4-5 months (and maybe longer if we get some more volunteers) helping coordinate the FCPO assistance to the officers of the Gulfport Police Department. If your church or bible study is looking at supporting a mission related project, keep “Project Katrina” in mind. We are also looking at putting teams of members together to travel to Gulfport between January 2006 and April 2006 to help the police families get cleaned up and

back in their houses. Email Hank Harley at: heharley@golden.net or drop us a line at 73 Devonshire Ave. Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 5C3.

"Abiding In The Vine"

When I first came to know Christ, like many of you, I was so happy I could have hugged a tree. The sky was bluer, the sun was brighter, life was exciting and everything just seemed to have more meaning.

What would I do with this? Well I invited my parents over for supper with the designed purpose of sharing this experience with them. I was certain they were going to be as excited as I was, that the evening would just be the best ever. Well we ate, I shared, they got up, told me I was nuts and walked out.

I think the Apostle Paul went through the great high of first meeting Christ and understanding the Gospel of grace, only to feel some measure of discouragement when others weren't as excited as he was about his new found faith. Over time however I believe he found the answer in the very same gospel wherein he found his new life.

What was it he found? Well let me first share the words of Jesus in which I believe Paul found his answer.

John 15: 4-5, 9-10

⁴ **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who **abides** in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide** in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will **abide** in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and **abide** in His love.

Let me give you Paul's own description of his experience:

2Cor 11:23-28

...in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily:...

Then we find in Philippians a further statement by Paul:

Phil 4:11

... for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:..

Now I don't know about you, but I don't believe Paul could have said that unless he had really touched what it is to abide.

Let me give you my definition of what it means to abide:

Abiding is that thing in which no matter what the circumstances or situation, you are able to defer to the Father and say: Father I trust your word and I trust you, lead the way through this to the other side.

There are many truths in the allegory of the vine and the branches that give us insight into the Christian life:

We are nothing in ourselves.

We gather all our strength from Him.

By ourselves we can't produce fruit; we must be vitally connected to Christ, who produces fruit through us.

I AM the vine. It is very important that Jesus should use these words. When Moses asked; who shall I tell them sent me, God told him to say; "I AM that I AM sent you. The implication is that God would become what He needed to become to be the answer to their needs.

When Jesus spoke of being the Vine, he was touching this larger picture and within this image Jesus gives us his presence in our lives as the vine.

Then he continued, "those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." To abide has to do with persevering, continuing, lasting, staying with it.

Sometimes (or perhaps it is most times) we are not too good at abiding. We set out to pray for an hour and last five minutes before we fall asleep or our knees get sore. We read the Word with the hope of hiding it in our hearts and within five minutes we have forgotten most of what we read. If that describes you let me encourage you with this story.

A young monk was having trouble doing his daily devotions. He told a visiting holy man that he would forget what he had read in the Bible almost as soon as he had closed the book. The old monk told him to continue with his spiritual discipline of daily Bible reading, but to take on an additional task. The young

monk had two buckets in his simple hut. One bucket he was to leave alone. The other bucket he was to fill with water each day and empty. The old monk promised to return in a few weeks. The young monk was not sure about these strange directions, but he followed them. Sometime later, the old monk came for a visit and asked about the buckets. The young monk said the one that was left alone was dusty and had a few cobwebs in it. The other bucket was clean from daily filling with water. The old monk said, "so it is with reading of the Bible every day, we do not always understand or even remember all that we read, but it cleans our souls."

The apostle John tells us what living the abiding relationship with the Lord is like in his letter of 1 John. More than any other disciple, John experienced an abiding relationship with Jesus that was grounded in love and fellowship.

Fellowship is an old fashioned word that we rarely hear outside church circles today. But the Greek word for fellowship-- *koinonia*--means more than a casual acquaintance.

It's spiritual intimacy, synonymous with the personal love relationship the Lord wants with each of us, and that He wants us to have with others.

Jesus described *koinonia* with His analogy of the vine and branch, and the apostle John tells us what it's like to live that way

"Christ was alive when the world began, yet I myself have seen him with my own eyes and listened to him speak. I have touched him with my own hands. ...we are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his Son." [1 John 1:1-3, TLB]

John said, "the fellowship we have"--not, "had." He was experiencing that *koinonia* fellowship long after Christ ascended to heaven, just as we can today. The Apostle Paul make another statement that I think assists us in understanding the abiding life in Phil 3:14

I press toward the mark for the **prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

There is another story about another monk who owned a dog. His dog started chasing a rabbit and other dogs join in later. Soon one by one the other dogs dropped out of the chase but the Monk's dog kept pursuing.

When the elder monk asked the younger why did his dog keep chasing the rabbit the younger was unable to give an answer. The elder monk said it was because his dog had seen the prize.

I wonder today; have you seen the prize?

If you have then abide in the vine and let Him work His wonderful life in you and through you.

What happen with my mother and father, after that night?

One day while visiting them my mother said; Son sometime when you come home to visit, dad and I want to go to church with you. You just seem to have something we don't have. Almost 20 years later I had the privilege of seeing both of them come to know Jesus as Savior.

That is what the Vine can do when we abide.

Be Blessed

Merv Tippe, Director SK/Man

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well here we are again, no leaves on the trees, sprinkler winterized and snow blower out of storage. As the days go by I lose my enthusiasm for winter, so what do we do, go south of course!

This year we have changed our plans. The 5th wheel is parked in sunny south Florida awaiting our arrival to haul it over to Gulfport, Mississippi because we're going to join the gang in Gulfport rebuilding homes. Well the way I look at it is this, I would rather hammer in the warmth than shovel in the cold.

I would encourage all of you to consider spending a week or two in Gulfport. I am having trouble imagining what it would be like to work a 16 hour shift and not be able to go "home" to your wife and kids each night. We take so much for granted, if you don't believe me just think about when the electricity went out for several hours the last time, had you ever thought of how much we depend on electricity until we didn't have it?

This is not a funded mission we're doing, everyone pays his/her own way there however I have been told by others that have donated their time, talent and energy into a project like this that the rewards are greater than the effort, so drop us a line if you're interested.

We have also made it possible for Canadians to donate to this cause and receive a charitable receipt for their donation that is a Canadian receipt. If you would like to give a donation, see our web site www.fc pocanada.com, or just mail a cheque. Don't mark the cheques, but put a note in with it designating where it is intended on going.

Donations also brings me to that point once again. If you haven't sent us a cheques to help with the expenses of the FCPO-CANADA, please do so. I asked the Treasurer how we were doing and was astonished to find that we mail over 1000 issues of the Peacemaker and have received donations from less than 50 people so far this year 2005.

We are presently attempting to revitalize the FCPO Chapters in Ontario. We have some new leaders coming on board and I would encourage all of you to also be active in a Chapter. There are many officers out there who are Christians but don't do much to show it. I believe we have reason to be visible and vocal in our community, I sure see and hear a lot from groups that are actively anti-Christian and we Christians are once again getting "thrown to the lions", figuratively at this point, but what about the future?

Thanks to the folks who have contributed extremely large cheques of support, and God bless you for that.

Keep the Board of Directors and myself in your prayers as we strive to make this a viable organization. We have grown considerably over the past few months in membership applications. This is good and I look forward to receiving many more, perhaps yours!

IHS

Hank

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A WORDSTUDY MOMENT

Sermons and other study material can be downloaded and printed to assist your personal Bible study at www.wordstudy.ca

Are We Nearly There Yet?

There are at least one of three things we need to have when we make plans to travel.

- ✓ A clear sense of our goal.
- ✓ Someone To Guide Us: This calls for trust in whomever we are following.
- ✓ Something to guide us.

A Clear Sense of Our Goal:

Without this, we will never know where we are trying to go. As you make plans, do you know what your goal is?

Jesus did! He knew why He came and that he was heading to Jerusalem. He knew what was waiting there for him!

Someone To Guide Us:

Jesus said to a handful of people, Follow me. They were not given any more instructions, but they trusted who He was.

Think: when did you start on the road to follow Jesus?

Something To Guide Us:

Read the story of the children of Israel in Exodus 13:21-22. During daylight hours they followed the cloud; when they had to travel at night, they followed the pillar of fire. It never left them.

What goals and plans do you have for your family?

What direction is your life taking?

How is God guiding you?

Set yourself some new goals in reading the Bible and prayer. These are like God's compass to guide our plans. With them, we can have the assurance that we will never get lost.

Written by Tom Cowan who is the Senior Minister at First Baptist Church, Vancouver.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Greetings,

This month I am very pleased to put aside my article in favour of our first instalment from our Quebec Director, Serge Lemee. We have waited a long time for a brother or sister from Quebec to be a contributor to PEACEMAKER. Thank you Serge. See you next issue.

God bless

Tom Huntley, Editor

Peu importe le combat, il sera à mes cotés

Nous passons des moments tristes pour les agents de la paix au Canada, ainsi que partout dans le monde. Durant les catastrophes naturelles que le monde a vécues récemment, les agents de la paix ne sont pas épargnés. Bien au contraire car ils doivent rester là comme dernière ligne de combat et de protection, pendant que leur famille craignent pour eux.

Comment nous encourager?

Tous les modèles d'autorité dans notre société sont attaqués de toutes parts. Roi ou dirigeant de pays, juge, chef d'armée, soldat, agent de la paix de tous les domaines et père de famille. Voici plusieurs modèles d'autorité qui sont attaqués dans notre société. La raison en est simple, l'autorité ultime est Dieu le père et les autorités qu'il endosse sur terre sont le modèle que les gens peuvent avoir de l'autorité suprême.

Va-t-il y avoir des changements un jour? Non

Jusqu'au retour de notre Seigneur, les autorités endossées de Dieu seront l'objet d'attaque constante.

Où est l'encouragement?

Nous savons tous qu'une attaque anticipée est bien préférable car nous pouvons nous préparer. Donc une chose est sûre, nous allons être attaqués. Comment nous préparer?

Avant de se préparer nous devons nous rappeler pour qui nous combattons. Le plus puissant des rois, le plus juste des juges, le plus intelligent des généraux, le plus compatissant des pères. Cette même personne est celui qui m'envoie au combat.

Va-t-il me donner ce dont j'ai besoin? Est-il possible qu'il m'oublie ne serait-ce qu'un instant? Non. Il est mon Dieu et je suis son enfant, qu'il a racheté à un grand prix, la vie de Jésus.

Les attaques viendront mais Dieu sera déjà à nos cotés. Je ne parle pas ici seulement des catastrophes naturelles mais surtout des attaques directes à ceux qui protègent les citoyens de nos sociétés.

Que puis-je craindre? Puis-je craindre?

Certainement car cette crainte n'est qu'un autre ennemi mais encore là Dieu sera à mes cotés avant même que la crainte s'installe.

La vraie question à se poser est, où est mon espoir?

Ai-je établi une relation avec ce Dieu qui désire m'aider ou bien suis-je moi-même un de ceux qui rejette et attaque son autorité? Et si il est mon Dieu, mon protecteur, suis-je prêt à l'écouter de façon journalière dans la prière et l'étude de Sa Parole?

A tout moment il est là et prêt à me mettre la main sur l'épaule, me soutenir, me relever. Psaume 138 :2
Tournons-nous vers Lui à chaque instant car il est notre seul appui et son retour est notre seul espoir.

Whatever the Attack, He Will Always Be On My Side

We are living sad times for peace officers in Canada and around the world. During the natural disasters that happened recently, peace officers lived with the same difficulties. Even worse, they have to stay on the front lines while their own families are also suffering and fearing for their loved ones that are on the serving forces.

How will we keep our courage?

All models of authority in our society are attacked from all sides. Kings and country leaders, judges, army leaders, soldiers, peace officers in every area, as well as fathers, are many models of authority, among others, that are attacked in our society. The reason for these attacks is simple. Our ultimate authority is God the father and the authority models that He gives us on earth should be images of The Supreme Authority.

Is there going to be any change on day? No

Until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, all models of authority will be victims of constant attacks.

Where is the encouragement?

We all know that an anticipated attack is much better to defend because we can prepare for it. So, since we know that we are going to be attacked, how do we prepare for it? Before getting ready for attack, we must remember who the leader we are fighting for is. The most powerful of all kings, the most just of all judges, the most intelligent of all generals, the most compassionate of all fathers. This same person is the one that send me in combat. Will He give me what I need? Would it be possible that He would forget me even for one moment? No. He is my God and I am his son who He bought at a great price, Jesus' life.

The attacks will come but God will always be on our side. I do not only talk here about the natural disasters but all direct attacks to those who protect the citizen of our society.

What should I fear? Can I fear?

Certainly, because fear is only one other enemy among others but again, God will be on my side, even before the fears appear.

The real question to ask ourselves is, "where is my hope?"

Do I have a personal relation with this God who wants to help me, or am I one of those who reject Him and attack His authority? And if He is my God and protector, am I ready to listen to Him on a daily basis in prayer and in the study of His Word?

He is present at every moment and ready to put His hand on my shoulder, strengthen me Psalm 138:3

Let's turn to Him at every moment of our life because He is our only support, our only hope, and He is always on my side.

Serge Lemee, Quebec Director.
FCPO CANADA

The CANADIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN PEACE OFFICERS extends its deep appreciation to **Mike and Irene Cassidy** as they retire from the National Board at the end of the year. Mike has more than 25 years as a board member. Thankfully Mike and Irene will be continuing as members of FCPO.

Extreme Makeover Gulfport Louisiana– Project Katrina

How many times have we seen the images of Hurricane Katrina? I am sure that many of us thought about “what can we do to help”. The following is an excerpt from a report following a relief trip to Gulfport, Mississippi, made in September of 2005 by Kevin and Deborah McInnes (Diakonos Retreat Society, Calgary, Alberta) and Mike Holland (Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers board member and past Diakonos director).

We had prepared ourselves for the visuals that would be there by going onto a website *prepared* by one of Gulfport’s finest (www.gulfportpd.com). The reality was beyond what words on this page or even pictures can describe. You must experience it first hand to understand the overwhelming (a significantly lacking word) nature of this disaster and what it meant to the Peace Officers, Firefighters and paramedics (and their wives and children) who had to serve and survive themselves in one of America’s worst natural disasters.

For a distance of **about three to four blocks deep and over one hundred miles long**, anything and everything that was standing was absolutely demolished with few exceptions. Houses, apartment buildings, hotels, business and large barge like casinos were destroyed. The Port of Gulfport had hundreds of shipping containers blown or swept away by waves and water for a mile and a half northwest from there original location.

How did this affect the police, fire and paramedics? The police service building was unusable, *completely* flooded. A Fire Hall was completely destroyed along with equipment and ambulances. Many firefighters and paramedics lost their homes, their work and equipment in one event. The damage was caused because a twenty-two foot surge of sea water poured into bays and bayou’s (not unlike a tsunami). Hundreds of homes that have not flooded since Gulfport’s existence found themselves under water. These officers their families are going to be facing an uphill battle personally and with the insurance companies.

We became salvagers and movers taking out moldy *drywall*, furniture, clothing and toys, trying to save what little we could. Next we became plumbers. One house was partially renovated but needed the plumbing completed in the kitchen and all the bathrooms. During our time there, I have never sweated or been so hot in many, many years. Deborah, Mike and I became walking advertisements for PowerAde! We left Gulfport with some great friends who we hope to see again soon.

Which brings me to my next point - Extreme Makeover – Diakonos Retreat Style. The task of rebuilding the Gulf region is going to be a team effort. As the saying goes, “How do you eat an elephant.....one bite at a time”. As a group of people, I believe that the FCPO and Diakonos Retreat family can make a stab at helping to eat the elephant. This will require funding and people with some building skills including plumbing, electrical, dry walling and possibly framing along with those who can simply swing a hammer. . WE can’t do it all but we can make a difference in at least one family at a time. Consider this a divine invitation to a divine appointment. God bless you and I hope to hear from some of you soon.

A BC FCPO team is making plans to go in January/February of 2006 as is a second Diakonos team from Calgary to help the men and women of the Gulfport Police Department. An article will be submitted following this second team reconstruction trip for the spring edition. This is a long term effort so why not get involved. We can all think of reasons why we can’t go, but can we think of reasons why we “shouldn’t go”?

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the government of Canada, the provinces and municipalities/regions that the elected representatives will govern with God's guidance and avoid abuse of the trust given them.

For the National Board of Directors of FCPO Canada that God will guide and support them in their work and that He will provide the FCPO with opportunity for ministry to all peace officers and their families.

For the unsaved peace officers who work with you that they receive Jesus Christ .

For Diakonos Retreat in Calgary that it continue to flourish and for the continued interest in establishing a Diakonos Retreat in Ontario.

For all those police officers alone on patrol in remote and rural areas and for corrections officers walking the jails. Their safety most often depends on their professionalism and wit in dangerous situations.

For all the Peace Officers and their families facing the aftermath of several hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico area. May they be strengthened daily by the Holy Spirit.

For the safety of all Canadian Forces personnel and Canadian Peace Officers serving in dangerous missions overseas. They face the prospect of angry and out of control gunmen with each day.

The Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers National Board of Directors prays that every Peace Officer and their families are blessed this Christmas, 2005, by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope that you will experience His love throughout the Christmas season.

HURRICANE KATRINA ASSISTANCE

If you would like to make a donation that will count directly to members of the criminal justice community, the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers has established a fund to aid those folks and their families with issues that other relief organizations are not covering.

Representatives of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the *FCPO USA*, including the Chief of Police in Gulfport, MS (county population of over 250,000) will help coordinate with the FCPO (Canada) and *FCPO USA* National Office to be accountable for distribution of the funds.

Examples of what your donations to *FCPO* will be used for include:

- Temporary (and if possible, permanent) refurbishment of officers' homes
- Essentials for individual officers' needs that are not otherwise covered like spare uniforms, clean sheets, etcetera
- Replacement of roofing, plumbing and other minimum essentials for officers, prosecutors and other court personnel

FCPO has established a liaison with Gulfport area personnel, *FCPO* members and others from outside the area who have construction skills and are willing to respond and help make homes habitable until insurance and other more permanent means are available.

Make Cheques payable to *FCPO-CANADA*, with a separate piece of paper marked "Gulfport P.D. Relief."
(please do not designate directly on cheques)

Mail checks to FCPO Canada: 73 Devonshire Ave. Tillsonburg, Ont. N4G 5C3.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Ongoing updates regarding Project Katrina can be found on www.fc pocanada.com under the link "Hurricane Katrina Relief".