

# The Peace-Maker

Serving Peace Officers and Peace Officer Families

Newsletter of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada

Fall 2008 Edition

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## President's Place

Andrew Cowan



### God, Are You Listening?

It seems like only a few weeks ago we were in Regina for the FCPO conference (July). Suddenly now fall and winter is in the air, the kids are back in school and soon Christmas decorations will no doubt fill the malls.

I have wondered a lot this past year why things happen as they do. My kids have asked me time and time again why God took their mother when they prayed and believed she would be healed. Some days I have no answer and some days I even wonder myself in it all.

Recently I was reading a devotion where Job struggled. He questioned God and interestingly enough God answered; with a question. There are over 200 questions in the book of Job but only 1/3 are from Job, the rest are how God answered him. What is God trying to teach me, teach you, teach your co-workers? Are we asking and then waiting for the answer or are we listening to how He is answering? Will we see the fruits of our labour in this life or will the seeds we plant be borne 3 generations later.

I am always amazed, in hindsight of course, how His plans always seem to work out as at the time we question, doubt, struggle and resist. It only takes one person to start a wave moving across your Department, Agency or Unit. It only takes that one person to listen to God's question to them as the answer. Ask Police and Firefighter families in Gulfport Mississippi what having Caleb Williams

listen did for their Department following Katrina.

Departments more than ever need officer led fellowship to support and encourage other Christians. Could that one person needed be you? Are we even listening to how He answers us?

God Bless

Andrew Cowan



## From The Editor's Desk

Merv Tippe

### Where Have We Been?

Well it seems like a very long time since the last newsletter, and to tell you the truth it has been. It is very strange how "life" can sometimes get so busy that even the things you hold dear to your heart get placed on the back burner for a time.

What has been happening? A number of things have kept me busy like the Conference 2008 - One Spirit, One Mind, which by all reports to date, was very successful. In addition, I have been taking a Master's Degree in Minisitry (for which I have had to write a total of 12 papers and do 3 research projects over the last 6 months), I teach adult life classes at my church and so on. My employment required that I get out and about around the province and consult with physicians and nurses on a new faciltiy based scope of practice for EMS personnel, produce a new online version of the EMS protocol manual and manage the International Trauma Life Support program for the province. In the past months I changed my role within the Ministry of Health and found myself traveling to.... (cont'd Page 3)

## ?? This issue is dedicated to:



**Sgt. Chris Reyka**

Broward County  
Police Service

End of Watch:  
August 10, 2007

## Christmas Thoughts

At Christmas we pause to recall that our Lord and Savior was born in a lowly manger. This

year I am caused to look at the manger where he lay in a different manner. I see a young mother who faced all the controversy of the day and a young father willing to stand by his betrothed despite it all.



This year, I see a baby lying in a manger but doing so in the shadow of the Cross of Calvary. A Cradle and a Cross, inanimate objects on their own but, when the life of Jesus touched them, they became part of the hallmarks of our salvation and of God's love for us. May this Christmas be a time of knowing His love and His presence.

Merv Tippe



## Getting To Know

**You**  
M.L. (Merv) Tippe

In this issue, I would like to introduce to Don McLaughlin. Don is a retired Toronto Police Service officer. Since his retirement in 2000, he has found himself leading mission trips and has taken the leadership of the international radio bible ministry.



Tell our readers a little bit about your childhood Don.

I was born and raised in the Ottawa Valley town of Renfrew in a dedicated Catholic family. As a young person I developed an intense desire to know God and did all I could to find him—even joining the altar boys and serving at every opportunity. Unfortunately those were frustrating years as everything seemed to be one way for me—I never got a response.

As a young man did you have a desire to be a peace officer?

Policing never entered my mind but I was drawn toward the uniform, and joined the Air Cadets. I enjoyed the friendship and disciplined environment and became comfortable with all that went with it.

What age were you when you decided policing was for you and what helped you make that decision?

At 20 years of age after finishing high school, I heard about the Police Cadet Program in Toronto so I applied. As I went further into the program I fell totally in love with it and for years could not get enough. I enjoyed the work, my fellow officers and of course the uniform identity.

Don, you spent 29 years with the Toronto Police Service, what were some of the duties you had with them?

My first 14 years were spent on the street some of which was training for various investigative and other non-uniform work. I never really hit my stride until I became involved in public safety education. I was privileged to be one of 29 officers chosen to educate children on various aspects of safety including drugs and eventually became part of the VIP program for Grade 6 students. I trained other officers, teachers, probation officers and guards in the program. I really sensed this is where the Lord wanted me.

What was it that drew you toward the Lord in 1973?

I gave up trying to find God by age 12. In primary school I had an "A" average but by the time I reached high school and age 14 I was drinking alcohol and by the time I left school it was every weekend. I failed one year, got suspended another year and actually barely made it through school. By the time I reached the police cadet program I had a lot of baggage yet, the intense desire to know God continued. One day while driving with my wife, I heard a religious radio program and felt an overwhelming sense of destiny.

I felt drawn toward a fellow officer I thought of as a "religious nut" and began asking him questions about the bible and much more. His answers were brief. So I invited myself to his Church and there heard the message of salvation and never made it out of my seat before I begged Jesus to save me. After the service I confirmed it in prayer with the Pastor. It was an amazing moment of revelation for me.

Who was the most instrumental person in your decision?

There is no doubt it was that Christian officer although he was somewhat reluctant due to the negative reputation I had after only one year. I don't blame him, I didn't like me much at that time either.

At what point in your career did you know the Lord had a definite calling for your life after retirement?

After 6 years as a Christian, I began to feel called to serve God at my local Church and did so as I continued policing. Around that time I had been asked by a supervisor to do something that meant I would compromise my biblical convictions. I refused so he encouraged me to leave as I obviously wasn't officer material. This and other circumstances shook my faith in the policing system.

Around that time I was facing the possibility of involvement in a radio ministry that was about to build a Christian radio station in the Middle East. I changed my direction and got involved in the radio ministry in 1979 and continued in various ways and retired from the Toronto Police Service in 2000 when I went full time with the ministry. I have served with High Adventure Ministries Canada in various positions since retirement.

We have built Christian radio stations in South Lebanon and broadcast to both the PLO terrorist in the north and Israel in the south. Since our leader in the area retired and Israel withdrew from the area we have also had to leave. We have various stations that broadcast into Central America, Cuba, China and Southeast Asia. At the moment we air programming in 32 languages, on 31 frequencies over shortwave radio. We also broadcast on 40 partner stations so the message is reaching a broad spectrum of folks around the world.

Do you think that FCPO impacted your life as an officer and a person?

Absolutely. I developed relationships with officers with similar problems. It was a place where we could be real and it was an opportunity for us to serve Him in Church gatherings and so on. Peer pressure is a strong thing to face for young Christian officers, they—we need each other.

Don, we have a couple of young officers in the TPS that have taken up the FCPO torch. What would you say to them as a word of encouragement?

I would ask them to stay real. There are other Don's out there just like me. Though they may have a nasty-rough



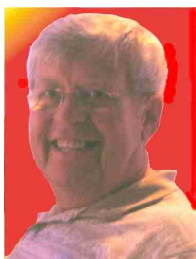
exterior like I did, inside they are looking for answers just as I was.

For now as FCPO leadership, you have a unique opportunity-probably more than anyone else in Canada. You have an OPEN door into Churches to preach, share, sing-whatever....and your integrous position will add weight to your words.

It only takes commitment to walk through those doors where you will find many waiting to hear what the Lord gives you to say. FCPO is a strategic ministry opportunity to reach peace officers and others in Canada. Last, remember policing is a time of preparing you for the work the Lord will have for you when you retire. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and see what He can and will do with your lives.

Don, I didn't get to print everything we visited about but I do want to thank you for being willing to share yourself with us. May God continue to bless that which you set your hand to.

Merv Tippe



### Executive Directors Report

Henry E. Harley

Hey, if you weren't there you missed a great experience. I want to start off by saying thank-you to Merv Tippe and his committee in Regina for the superb job they did of welcoming us to the city of Regina and providing us with a great spiritual and "touristy" week-end.

We had members from literally one side of the country to the other and yes, even from Canada's 4<sup>th</sup> the U.S.A.! It is always such a great experience to spend time with fellow members that we hardly see but know through the work they are doing for the FCPO-Canada in their region of the country.

7068 km from St. John's to Victoria  
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is a long, long way. If you drove an average of 80 km per hour for 8 every day that would take you an average of 11 days of continuous driving. Yet that is our country and that is how far we stretch from one end to the other representing Christian peace officers in Canada.

As in any organization being spread so far afield does make it difficult for our members to be able to get together so I encourage the Directors of each of the regions across the country to begin having regional events so all members can experience the fantastic time we have together when we meet.

Andrea and I were honoured to have been a part of the program and to share how God has blessed us during the time cancer invaded our lives. We continue to encourage those of you who may be facing similar set backs in your lives to KEEP THE FAITH, God is Good!

One of the major issues dealt with at the conference was the initiation of a membership fee in order to ensure FCPO-Canada can in these times and the days ahead answer the calls of peace officers in need. We have about 1200 members on our mailing list across this great country and although some members provide donations to the work on a regular basis we still only meet our basic needs.

This topic has been on the agenda at the AGM for the past three years and after careful consideration and much prayer we have moved forward on this. The decision of the executive at this year's AGM was to introduce a membership fee of \$20.00 per year. Thus in this issue of the Peace-Maker you will find an application form and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

We have introduced this as a voluntary membership fee for the time being. It is our hope and prayer that each of you will respond to this favorably as it will be a tremendous boost in our ability to respond to ministry needs.

If you can provide above \$20.00 that would also be appreciated. We are also asking that you find time to contact the Director in your area and volunteer to assist in your region. We continue to be encouraged by the steady growth of FCPO-Canada and thank-you for your part in it. God Bless you all, and ....thanks!

### From The Editor's Desk (cont'd) Merv Tippe

Winnipeg, Toronto, and Vancouver for meetings as well as Winnipeg and Vancouver for education sessions. In the midst of all of this, I managed to squeeze in a month of holidays, in which, I ran to the hills with my family and hid. This has been a real rollercoaster.

Yet, I also want to acknowledge that when the pressure comes He also provides the strength we need to make it through. Yes, it is so good to be back and we have many exciting things to share with you in this issue. So settle into your easy chair, put up your feet, and sip whatever type of hot brew you like the best, as we visit once again in the Peace-Maker.

Be Blessed  
Merv

### COPS COUNT....?

Where is a cop when you need one? Most people have likely thought this but the reality is they are probably off responding to someone's need. Often times the media and the justice system give COPS a bad rap. Well I'd like to say **COPS COUNT!** Romans 13:1 tells us cops are appointed by God and have authority. Cops work long hours, often without overtime, evenings, nights and long weekends. Why? To protect us, that is why.

A number of years ago in the country of Wales, a revival swept through the area. The result was that the pubs dried up, crime fell to an all time low and the police had very little to do. Can you believe this for your area? The next time you see a cop, tell them they are important and you are praying for them. By the way COPS stands for Christ Our Personal Savior.

RCMP Sgt. Steve Rowe (Retired)



## One Spirit, One Mind Conference

—Merv Tippe—

I really don't know how to start this article other than to say "Glory to God in the highest, Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men, Glory to God in the highest, Allelujah to the Lord, Amen.

After many months of planning (about 11 to be exact), conference day finally arrived and there was no turning back. There I was at the Regina Airport awaiting the arrival of some of the U.S. contingent by air.



Before I knew it they were on the tarmac headed for the terminal.

The planning had come to an end and people were outside the airport we had them pose for a group photo.



This was the first time many of them had ever been in Saskatchewan and they were amazed at the beauty. This would be one of many trips to and from the airport in the ensuing hours but every trip heightened the excitement.

Thursday night started with a get acquainted social, one of my favorites for events like this. For an icebreaker I usually have people share a funny personal or professional life experience and we heard some real dandies that night. Here I am sharing one of my stories.



I usually start the process because I am always certain after I have been vulnerable with the folks, not many others would have any fear of telling something that was more embarrassing and unfortunately I was right once again. Person after person provided us with laughter and stories that won't easily be forgotten anytime soon.



The stories continued for some time and I am pleased to say that the odd one come close to topping mine. Part of Christian fellowship is being vulnerable with each other and this is a fun way to bring that about. The rest of the evening went very well as people chatted and got to know one another, many for the first time.



Registration for the conference began the Thursday evening and as usual at the helm of looking after that task were Cathy Tippe and Laurie Erickson who are very faithful and assisted folks in whatever way was needed.



Below, Carol Eaton visits with Cathy and Laurie. Carol's husband Wayne, along with others, was instrumental in bringing FCPO to Regina a number of years ago.



All in all, the evening went as planned, many new friendships were made and older ones were renewed.

Things were off and running the following morning with further registrations and the group continued to grow. After I brought a welcome as the conference Chair, opening remarks were brought by Andrew Cowan - FCPO Canadian President, Paul Lee - FCPO USA President.

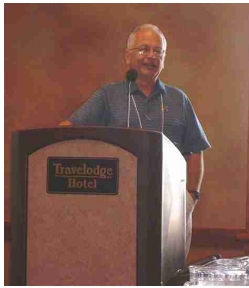


Our first speaker was Rev. Don Schiemann who spoke on Finding God's Grace in times of struggle.

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Don lost his son Peter in a line of duty death incident at Mayerthorpe, Alberta and he told us of the effect it has had on him and his wife. He began by saying it was never his intention to be here, meaning if the awful circumstances of his sons life had never occurred he wouldn't be speaking to us. That statement moved me as I realized it isn't always the best circumstances that bring us to the forefront. Don shared how the Lord had provided grace in their time of struggle.



He also spoke of the injustices within the criminal justice system and the work he is doing to try and be an advocate for change. It was a very moving and powerful time for all in attendance.

After Don spoke we broke for lunch and fellowship and then the set of festivities



began by loading the delegates into a fifteen passenger van, a Jeep Commander and a 4 door GMC Sierra truck and off we went to the RCMP Training Depot.

While at Depot we were able to take in the Sgt. Major's Parade. It wasn't long until we could see the recruits begin to gather and form into parade groups. Soon we could hear the Sgt. Major providing commands and they began to pass by the front of us on their way to the parade square.



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It was quite a show as the recruits marched back and forth in various formations while a band contingency played. After about 30 minutes of marching they exited the parade square and headed back to barracks and classes. It was worth the visit.

From the parade square we made our way over to the new RCMP Heritage Centre and began a tour. Once inside we were treated to a short video presentation and then viewed the exhibits.



In the evening delegates gathered outside the hotel and were taken by vehicle over to New Beginnings Lutheran Church for our worship service. The service was led by



Steve Raine (an RCMP member) and his group "Arise." This service was absolutely one of the major highlights of the conference. When we first arrived and started it seemed as though many were satisfied just being spectators. Yet as Steve and his group continued in such a sweet spirit, you could sense a distinct change from spectatorship to that of coming before the Lord to worship Him.

For many of us, it was as if the Spirit of the Lord began to bathe everyone in His love and surround us with His presence. When it was all over, we knew we had been treated to something special both by Arise and the Lord. Thanks Steve, you definitely had the mind of the Lord for us that night.

If any of you reading this are planning a conference and are looking for a great worship team, Steve Raine and Arise are just who you need.

Saturday morning began at 09:15 with the FCPO-Canada, Annual General Meeting. A number of



issues were discussed. First item addressed was the current FCPO - Canada website. All members of the committee felt it needed to be update to better reflect our work and direction. Todd Snooks and Merv Tippe committed to check into pricing on a new design for the site that better suit our current needs.

Reports on activity provided by Ron Seeney, Todd Snooks, Merv Tippe and Andrew Cowan. FCPO continues to have steady growth in numbers and as a ministry.

A financial report was provided by Andrew Cowan, who advised we are holding our own but our finances nowhere closely reflect the size of organization we are. We often have to hold back involvement in ministry because financially we are unable to do so.

This raised the issue again of a membership fee. After a number of years of discussing this, the Board decided it was time we move to an annual membership fee in order to see FCPO-Canada continue to grow and continue to be effective. The matter of an amount was discussed and a yearly fee of \$20.00 per person was arrived at. It was felt this was a minimal amount and, if everyone gets on board, it will greatly assist with meeting needs.

We are receiving more and more contacts by telephone at the

## FCPO National Board

President: Andrew Cowan  
Past Pres: Ron Seney  
Vice Pres: Marvn Massecar  
Secretary: Merv Tippe  
Treasurer: Andrew Cowan (acting)

### Directors:

B.C./Alta. Mike Holland  
Andrew Cowan  
Sask / Man Merv Tippe  
Ont. Marvin Massecar  
Gtr Toronto Jesse Weeks  
N. Ont. Dick Schonewille  
Maritimes Paul Doiron  
Ron Seney

### Regional Reps:

Sask. Dave Scantlebury  
PQ Serge Lemee  
Man - West Guy Roberts  
Toronto North Todd Snooks  
Nova Scotia John Allen

## Conference (cont'd)

office in Tillsonburg. Merv Tippe recommended we pursue establishing an "800" number for FCPO-Canada on a trial basis. This will be checked into and reported back to the Board.

Merv also recommended we continue to pursue access to police colleges across the country in an attempt to establish a relationship with them. We are finding that the Lord is calling more and more Christian young men and women into the ministry of policing, and we need to do our best to encourage them while in academy and support them once they are on the job.

If any of you reading this article would like to assist us in any way please contact Merv at his email [fcpo@sasktel.net](mailto:fcpo@sasktel.net), and he would be pleased to speak with you.

Following the Board meeting we continued the conference activity. Michael Dye, police officer and author of "The PeaceKeepers" Bible study guide for peace officers spoke. Mike shared many personal stories of his life and how the Lord had worked in many ways over the years.

After considering the issues he had faced as a young officer and a Christian, Mike shared how the

the many experiences in his career had led him to compile a biblically based study guide for peace officers. Mike is now preparing to put to print a second book. Mike's stories held our attention as we learned of the Lord's faithfulness in his life and career.



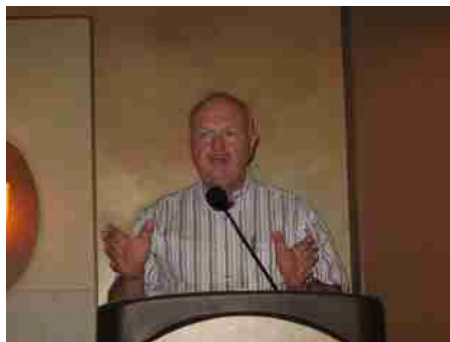
Our next speakers were Hank and Andrea Harley. What a great couple and what a great story. It was a

story of hope in the face of adversity and how the Lord had brought them



through Hank's bout with cancer. You could tell that the whole experience had brought them much closer to the Lord and together. It was indeed a story that built up our faith.

Saturday evening ended with the wind-up banquet. Our speaker for



was David Greenhalgh. He spoke of his time in the Gulf Port after Katrina and how the Lord was at work in many places. All in all the conference was an exciting time for all who attended.

The conference ended with a Church service at Westhill Baptist

Church. Merv Tippe brought a message on "Sticks, Stones, and A Dead Man's Bones." The message centered around how God can make use of anything and anyone to get His message out. All were encouraged to look at what God has placed in their hands and then to use the gifts they have been given.

Many thanks to the organizing committee and of course those who made all the work worthwhile by attending.



## Your Support At Work

I know that some of you may question the idea of a membership fee but I wanted to show you one way funds are being used to God's glory. FCPO-Canada for the last three years has used some of the funds received for purchase of the Bibles and Bible Study Guides you see on the next page.

First this is a method of outreach to peace officers in general, and second, we use them as a way of providing new recruits graduating police colleges across Canada, a spiritual tool kit to assist them and their families to adjust to the policing lifestyle and let them know how God fits into it all. We have had many good reports from those who have received these materials and we believe it is one part of our ministry that has great impact.

We are doing much work with new recruits at the RCMP Academy in Regina. These men and women who come from all points across Canada some leaving behind wives and children can find it a real adjustment. We do our best to be their family or at least provide a sense of family connection for them while here.

On a rotating basis of about every three weeks a bible study takes place for those who wish to attend.

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When I know ahead of time that a Christian recruit is coming to Regina, I will get in touch with them before arrival and provide them with my name and contact numbers. I follow up as soon as they are here and meet with them after they settle in.

I meet with them one on one and on occasion in small groups. One of the larger events we held in the last two months was a pizza and fellowship night paid for by FCPO Saskatchewan. We had 12 recruits come and along with members of the local FCPO Chapter we had a great time of food, fun and fellowship. Below is a photo of a graduating Troop from the RCMP Academy in which we handed out 10 sets of Bibles and Study Guides. Eight of the recruits posed for a photo as a group. This is such a worthwhile part of our

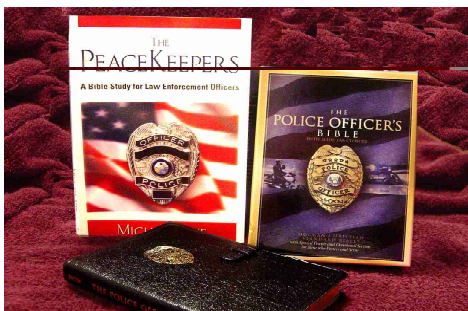
ministry and although we are not at every single graduation ceremony we often provide Bibles and Study Guides to some members the graduating troops.

In the troop that followed this one, we were able to provide Bible and Study Guides to additional eleven graduating recruits. If you have someone from your family, your Church or a friend you know is coming to RCMP Academy, or any other police academy in Canada please let us know. You can do so by emailing me at [fcpo@sasktel.net](mailto:fcpo@sasktel.net) and we will do our best to make contact them, support them and on graduation provide them with a Bible and Study Guide.

(Merv Tippe)



**FCPO Promotions**



For a donation of \$100.00 we can put a set of these in your hands and it will also allow us to place a set into the hands of a graduating recruits or, place the Bible in the hands of surviving family members of officers killed in the line of duty. If you don't need a set the \$100.00 will allow us to put two sets in the hands of officers. If you are interested in assisting us in this great ministry, email us at: [fcpo@sasktel.net](mailto:fcpo@sasktel.net) or [fcpocanada@fcpocanada.com](mailto:fcpocanada@fcpocanada.com).

Pictured next are FCPO Crests and collar pins available for purchase. If you are interested in obtaining these email [fcpocanada@fcpocanada.com](mailto:fcpocanada@fcpocanada.com).

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As are aware by now FCPO Canada is moving to an annual membership fee. When you submit your membership fee, we will send you one of these beautiful embossed FCPO planners free.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the Government of Canada each of the provinces and municipalities to govern with God's guidance and not abuse the powers we afford them.

Pray for all graduates of Police Colleges across Canada as they embark upon this ministry of policing.

Pray for the work that has begun again in the Edmonton area.

## CHECK IT OUT

The work of FCPO depends upon the financial support of the membership.

National Office has now upgraded the Website so the membership can submit donations directly through the website. This process provides many benefits in that FCPO receives your donations on an ongoing basis rather than lump sums at certain times of the year. It also provides for a quicker turn-around on the receipts for your donations. Check it out.

Another great way to support FCPO Canada is to give through the United Way. As members of FCPO you can designate you United Way donations to FCPO by noting it of the form to the Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers and us registered charity number:

**12036 5804 RR0001**

Please give this serious consideration.

## POLICE MISSION TRIPS?

If you are interested in participating in police mission trips contact:

Randy Green, Mission Mobilization International, P.O. Box 77165, Colorado, Springs, CO 80970. Toll Free Phone # 1-866-314-2678, or at 719-761-6258, by fax at 719-596-2443 or [randygreen@aol.com](mailto:randygreen@aol.com).

or

Don McLaughlin  
905-898-5447  
416-880-4114 (cell)



Application For Membership  
Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (Canada)  
Incorporated (1983)

The aim and purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) is to bring others to a saving knowledge of Jesus, to promote Christian maturity and growth through the teaching of the Word of God and to conduct and promote Christian fellowship between law enforcement agencies.

Statement: I subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the FCPO (Canada). I desire to have a part in this ministry and hereby make application for membership. I provide the following information to establish my eligibility for membership and promise to pray and assist whenever possible in the work of FCPO. I understand that FCPO will use this information for the purpose of FCPO and its ministry efforts.

*Please print clearly or type clearly*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***I believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and I have received him as my personal Lord and Saviour.***

- ☐ I am an Active Officer (Police, Corrections, Customs, Excise, Conservation, Justice - as defined by the Criminal Code) and I request Regular Membership with full voting privileges.
- ☐ I am a Retired Officer with a minimum of five years service and I request Regular Membership with full voting privileges.
- ☐ I am the spouse of an Active Officer or Retired Officer (as described above) who is or has been a member of FCPO I request Associate Membership in FCPO (Canada), I understand this does not include voting privileges.
- ☐ I request Associate Membership in FCPO (Canada), I understand this does not include voting privileges.  
(Auxiliary Officers, and others interested in promoting the aims of FCPO (Canada))

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses signature if the husband and wife are applying. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send the completed application form to FCPO Canada at 73 Devonshire Ave., Tillsonburg, Ontario, N4G 5C3

**The Bible:**

The scripture of the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by God, and inherent in the original writings and that they are the final authority for our faith and life.

(2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1: 20-21)

**Faith:**

All those who by faith receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and confess him as Saviour before their fellow men and women become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. (Rom 10:9-10, Eph 2:8-9, Rom 8:16-17, John 1:12)

**Humankind:**

We are sinners, and that by His death upon the cross the Lord Jesus Christ made a perfect atonement for sin, redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse in our place. (Rom 3:23, John 3:18, Gal 3:13)

**FCPO STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**God**

There is one God, Holy, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three persons; Father, Son, Holy Spirit. God is merciful and loves us, but is just and must punish sin. (John 3:16, John 14:6, Exodus 34: 6-7, Matt 28:19)

**Christ:**

Jesus Christ is God incarnate. He was supernaturally conceived, born of a virgin, was put to death by crucifixion under Pontius Pilate, was raised from the dead on the third day, and now sits at the Father's right hand from where He is coming again, personally, bodily, and visibly to this earth. (Luke 1:25-35, 1 Cor 15:3-4, John 1: 12-14)

**Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is God. He indwells all believers having baptized them into the body of Christ at the same time as regeneration. (Rom 8:9, 1 cor 12: 13-14, Eph 1: 13, Eph 4: 4-5)

**Grace:**

Eternal life is a free gift and cannot be earned. We are saved by grace through faith and not by our own works. (Eph 2: 8-9, Rom 6:23)

**Judgement:**

Those who reject the love of God and the saving work of Jesus Christ will be judged and punished for sin. They will be eternally separated from God. (John 3: 3-6, John 16: 7-11, Jude 14 & 15)