

February, 2017
372 Rideau Street, Suite 234



Ph: (604) 200-FCPO (3276)
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1G7

The Peacemaker

From the President's Desk



Welcome to this edition of the Peacemaker.

I think we have a great issue for you this time. What makes it great is when folks write in and give us a little of how the Lord is working in their lives. I know it takes a lot of effort to put pen to paper, but the input you give is an encouragement to all of us. In this edition you'll read some compelling accounts of how God is working in the lives of some of our members.

You will also be blessed when you read Part II of Dino Doria's "Drawing a Biblical Analogy on the Numerous Uses of Salt". If you missed Part I in our last issue or want to refresh your memory, take note that previous copies of the Peacemaker are always available on our website www.fcpocanada.com. The .pdf versions also contain actionable links to further the articles.

January 27 - 29 we will have our booth at [Missions Fest](#), Vancouver. If you are in the Vancouver area, please stop by and say hi. We can also always use some help at the booth. If you can spare a couple hours please let us know at: fcpo.aapc@gmail.com. We will be doing the same in [Edmonton](#) in February and [Halifax](#) in March. Hope to see you at one of these outreach events.

Your contribution to this newsletter and feedback is most welcome at: fcpo.aapc@gmail.com

God bless,

Ron

Justice and the Gospel

The theme for this year's [Vancouver Missions Fest](#) is "Justice and the Gospel". Again this year we will be present there, informing folks about our unique ministry. Approximately 30,000 people visit Missions Fest and stop by the many ministry booths. We are always visited by officers or family and friends of officers who were not aware of our ministry. It is a great opportunity for us to inform the greater Christian community about the FCPO.

[Click here to read Missions Fest Vancouver 2017 Magazine](#)

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PREPARING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT FOR GOD'S TESTS IN A POLICING CAREER

By: Cst. Joe Brownrigg



Cst. Joe Brownrigg (Photo by Kelly Margaret Photography)

On the drive to the gym before my shift today, my mind wandered to memories of some of the more harrowing incidents in my policing career. In 14 years of policing a large urban center (Ottawa), the more intense and high risk calls have been few

and far between, limited to maybe one or two a year. By the grace of God, I can count on one hand the times when I felt afraid I might not make it out, and back home to my wife and kids.

My mind wandered to a particular incident that happened earlier in 2016. A young suicidal man had posted a video of himself on social media, stealing a truck and brandishing a knife, challenging the cops to find him, chase him and see what would happen. A manhunt started, going across jurisdictions and police agencies, over several hours. God sent him to me - but more on that later.

'FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING IS OF SOME VALUE, BUT GODLINESS HAS VALUE FOR ALL THINGS, HOLDING PROMISE FOR BOTH THE PRESENT LIFE AND THE LIFE TO COME.'

Much has been said about the importance of aligning mind, body and spirit. Faiths different from ours touch on the idea, as do countless health programs and many martial arts. But none explore the concept as deeply as our faith does, through the Word of God.

I mentioned earlier that the memory of this tense situation hit me while I was on the way to a workout prior to my shift. I was tired - night shifts tend to do that to you! My body was already telling me to quit and I hadn't even set foot in the gym yet! I spent a large part of my career falling to the selfish urge to give up, and developed some pretty significant health issues as a result. For a long time, my idea of aligning mind, body and spirit was sitting on a couch with my favourite bottle, getting mad at the world and anyone who came near me.

At some point I 'saw the light', as they say, and found myself with an opportunity to ask God to help me understand how I could worship Him best. I was given an answer...devotion of mind, body and spirit...preparing all of me, and everything I am, for God's work in the world.

Sounds easy right? It's not. Not even close to easy.

'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

I found the young man completely by 'accident'. A passerby said he saw a suspicious person near a bookstore, but our hunt up until that point was indicating the fellow was probably in a different part of town. I figured I would check the bookstore so we could 'mark it off' as done'. I even showed the passerby a photo of the man, he said it definitely wasn't him.


I walked into the bookstore, everything looked normal. Lots of customers, no one looking uneasy or scared, absolutely nothing out of the ordinary. I was ready to walk out, when I figured I should check the washrooms at the back of the store. I knew he wasn't here, but if he was anywhere, he'd probably be there. I may as well check. Like anything in policing, if you're going to do something, may as well do it with attention to detail.

I got close to the back of the store and he walked out of the hallway where the bathrooms are. I recognized him immediately. I said his name.

At this point his eyes went crazy. He cursed at the top of his lungs and pulled a knife out...then ran out of my view back into the hallway.

Now I paused. I have talked suicidal people with knives down before...several times. But this one, he was different, I could tell right away. This one was going to take some work. It might not even be possible. Those who have worn the uniform for any significant period of time have met these people. It is almost as if they are demon-possessed and hell bent on destruction. I walked towards the hallway and pulled my gun out. God's test had begun. Just like that, no warning, but there I was right in the middle.

'For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not



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bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer' Romans 13:4 (NIV)

I mentioned earlier that at one point in my life I shared the appetite for destruction myself. Through a series of what I believe to be providential and divine circumstances, I was given a point blank opportunity to make a choice: go with God, or go it alone. I chose God, and I haven't looked back since. As part of my recovery, faith and pursuit of a deep and personal relationship with God, I started a holistic program of health. I learned about 'working out' the three core components of 'me'...my mind, my body and my spirit.

The Mind

How do you work out your mind? I have an opinion, and it works for me. In the context of a policing career, it's practicing technical proficiency with your

tools. As a warrior learns the art of their weapon, so too must a police officer. It's also about learning how to be empathetic. It's about never taking the easy option and falling to your prejudices or sometimes mistaken perceptions. It's about critically thinking through the ambiguous and challenging situations you face every day at work. All this takes practice. A lot of practice, over and over again. As the saying goes, the more you learn, the more you realize you don't know. The work is endless. It is imperative we 'work out' our mind so as to allow God to work through us.

The Body

The body is the easiest of the three, although it certainly doesn't feel that way when you're working out! Do something every day to enhance your physical wellbeing. It might be something small, or it might be an intense workout. It might be as simple as taking a bit of time choosing a healthy option to eat instead of the quick fix. I personally found an outlet in returning to boxing, something I enjoyed in my younger days. I found martial arts training to be completely applicable to a policing career. I learned how the most important thing you can do in a fight is BREATHE! I practiced it. I became confident that if I got in another fight on the street, even if I was outskilled or at a physical disadvantage, I would outlast most other people because they quite simply didn't train. I learned through practice that an untrained person has about 90 seconds of juice in a hard fight. I also learned, through practice, that I can do 5 or 6 three minute rounds at high intensity and still have something left in the tank. Confidence in my body, respecting it and keeping it in order, is critical for me in being prepared to do God's work through my policing career.

The Spirit

The spirit is the hardest of the three, but by far the most important. It is the core reason you do anything you do, and develop the motivation to do it. To sum it up, it is one word... 'why'. Why do I train my body, why do I train my mind? What's the point, and what is the purpose? I found through my own 'spiritual workouts', that this is very painful and humbling work. I looked at myself in the mirror and pondered the fact that I would die, that my wife and our children would die, that I would lose everything I had- all this was inevitable. I saw how selfish I was, how I viewed my problems as the only important things in the universe,

and how I viewed my creator with contempt as an inconvenience that I would be 'better off' not even thinking about. As I continued along a path of spiritual progress and coming to know God, I pondered the thought of being put in a position where I would have to take a life. I explored this, and God gave me answers. I learned that all of us have a right to live, and a right to have the chance to choose God. I was called upon in my lifetime to be a protector of this right, and I made peace with the fact that I may have to kill - to protect another.

All of this took years for me. Intense personal struggle, and I still haven't figured it all out. I do not claim spiritual perfection, but I do claim progress.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)

So I found the young man now obscuring his body in between the washroom and hallway, poking his head out, along with the knife, waving it at me.

He told me that I had to kill him. He said if I didn't kill him, he would kill me and all the people in the store. I saw staff members in the staff room at the end of the hall, oblivious at this point to what was going on. This bookstore had a children's play section right beside where we were. It was full. My wife told me that she was planning on bringing our daughter there that day.

I talked to him, I tried all the things that had worked for me before. I stayed calm. My heart was beating fast but my hands and voice were steady. God made me for this.

Nothing worked. He got more agitated. My two fears were that he would disappear into the washroom (and I had no idea if anyone was in there), or he would run to the staff room and I would have to shoot him in the back. My best option was to keep him fixated on arguing with me - in my sight, focused on me. If he stayed here talking to me, and he didn't make a move - he had a chance.

All this time, I was within 15 feet of a homicidal subject armed with a knife. We in policing know the

21 foot rule, and I was breaking it. I had to - it was a small hallway and to keep him focused on me, he had to see me! I also didn't have a backstop if I had to shoot. My backstop was unknown people in a washroom, or the staff room. Zero room for error. Many would say I should have shot him while we were in the standoff. Many would say I was completely



**MY SPIRIT WAS STRONG THAT DAY,
MY MIND WAS TUNED IN, AND MY
BODY WAS CONFIDENT.**

justified, and if I let him make a move - it would have been too late. It's quite possible that I may have been cleared in an investigation if I did shoot him, given all the circumstances. But I didn't shoot him. We were on the edge. If he made even one move to trigger the protector in me - it was over. But he sat on the edge, and I sat there with him. My spirit was strong that day, my mind was tuned in, and my body was confident.

The story does not end particularly well. As soon as my backup arrived, the young man stabbed himself multiple times. Some of the heroes that I work with saved his life, although it looked grim for a while. He didn't die that day, and that's a very good thing.

The young man received God's grace that day. He received it through me. I had trained my mind, body and spirit to be in tune with God, and when the test came to me...God put it in my heart to wait it out. I let God work through me.

I still remember that day frequently, but I don't have nightmares about it or live in fear every time I go to work. Instead, as awkward as it may sound, I feel enriched by the experience and it brought me closer to God. I often feel like I should go see the young man and get to know him, but I'm not sure the timing is right. Maybe one day.

In the end, all this validated my efforts. I committed to preparing my mind, body and spirit for God, and when the test came, it worked. God delivered grace to the young man, and it was through me. He now has a chance to come to know God, if he hasn't already.



Drawing a Biblical Analogy on the Numerous Uses of Salt (Part II)

How important is "Salt" in our lives?

All animals, humans included, require both sodium and chloride for life and health. Since the body cannot manufacture either, it is important these 'essential' nutrients form part of our daily diet".

Where do we acquire our daily diet of spiritual replenishing of salt? How do we replenish our inner being so that our salt does not become bland?

Dino Doria

When we neglect to read God's word on a daily basis - we starve our spiritual health from the necessary nutrients given to us by the Word of God - we will miss out on new fresh seasoning that the word of God has for us and slowly but surely our spiritual salt will be bland with no flavour.

'SALT IS GOOD; BUT IF THE SALT BECOMES UNSALTY, WITH WHAT WILL YOU MAKE IT SALTY AGAIN? HAVE SALT IN YOURSELVES, AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.'

MARK 9:50

The word of God reminds us to abide in Him - develop a closer walk with the Holy Spirit. Be led by the Holy Spirit and He will show you God's appointed purpose for your life.

Trust in the Lord and do not lean unto your own understanding. Give thanks to the Lord for His Word endures forever. For He is the Great I AM. Exodus 3:14

And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. Draw close to the author and finisher of your faith and He will draw close to you so that He may equip you and keep your

salt seasoned. *Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.* 2 Timothy 4:2.

The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and is with us where ever we go. *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing".* John 15:4-5. If we are abiding and being led by the Holy Spirit He will teach us what to say and what type or measure of salt we are to use when witnessing to others about His Love.

Blessings,

Dino Doria MSc

Verse Concepts:

"Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." Mark 9:50

"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Luke 14:34-35

Dino Doria – Full Circle

Our Ontario Director, [Dino Doria](#) was recently accepted as a chaplain for the Toronto Police Service. Dino has had an enduring passion for officers' spiritual well-being since he accepted Jesus as his personal Lord & Saviour in a patrol car on a midnight shift in August, 1977.

Dino was one of the founders of FCPO – Canada. He remains a very active and cherished member. Please remember Dino in your prayers as he returns to his “roots” in this new capacity.



“Back in the day”



Today

Shift Preparation – Alabama style! [The Blue Notes 5](#)

[Watch Video](#) ▶

In Memoriam

Gordon A'Court passed away on December 29th, 2016.

Gordon served as a vice-president with the United Kingdom's [Christian Police Association \(CPA\)](#) and was a good friend of FCPO – Canada.

God's Servant for Your Good

By: Cst. Jan Indenbosch



Cst. Jan Indenbosch

I am writing this article with only one hand. My right hand (my dominant hand) is currently bound securely, fingers and all, in a plaster-of-paris prison; a constant reminder of one recent altercation with a client in the detachment cell block. I've been pulled back to dreary desk duty while my hand heals for the next two months. I have gone through several bouts of self-pity in the last week or so, and some periods of anger at the "(insert insult here)" that caused it. However, the sedentary time of healing is also being used by God as a time of soul searching and self-reflection. Although I wouldn't have been able to prevent this particular incident, my attitude towards this man afterward was not entirely pure or God honouring.

I realized that somewhere along the way during the daily grind of police work, with its constant negativity and blame shifting; I had once again forgotten that these "clients" are children of God, with no less worth in the eyes of God than my own. I was humbled, and I made the trip back to my knees and into the bible to regain my perspective. Having spoken with numerous officers about similar experiences, I am quite sure I'm not the only police officer whose spiritual highs and lows have started to mirror the so-called emotional rollercoaster.

I realized that somewhere along the way during the daily grind of police work, with its constant negativity and blame shifting; I had once again forgotten that these "clients" are children of God, with no less worth in the eyes of God than my own.

We've all seen it: the first signs of bitterness are referred to with words like "experience", progressing to retorts like "You can't fix stupid", continuing all the way to proclamations like "Time to go ruin some peoples' lives!". The jaded officer scorns restorative justice and

community policing, and reminisces about the "good ole pre-charter days", notwithstanding the fact that they were still in grade-school when the charter was first implemented. Does this sound familiar to anyone? Does it sound like you? As common as this mentality is among law enforcement, it is extremely unhealthy to the officer, both mentally and spiritually. I personally believe that the best way to resolve the mental damages is to first address the spiritual problem. The spiritual problem is the "heart" of the issue (pun intended).

I recently read through Acts 9:1-7, Saul, later known as Paul, was travelling to the neighboring city of Damascus to drag the Christians to Jerusalem for trial. Saul was doing what he felt was right according to "law", but God knocked him off his horse, blinded him, and told him "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting". What struck me is Jesus identified himself as Paul's target, not the people in Damascus. Similarly, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, (Matthew 25:31-46) Jesus also indicates that our treatment of "*the least of these*" equals our treatment of him. Remarkably, in verse 36 he references those we could consider as our clients "I was in prison and you visited me". Although Jesus is not physically who Paul was after, nor was he referring to his physical person being in prison, He definitely implies that all "the least of these" and those who Paul was about to drag to prison are valuable to him and he closely relates to them.

Romans 13:1-7 speaks of the "governing authorities", which I see as talking about the peace officers of the time. The concepts still apply in our modern world. I always enjoyed the second half of verse 4 which says "*For he is a servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrong doer*" (ESV). Sounds pretty macho I think, in a very John Wayne sort of way! I could take that job description on without too much difficulty!

THAT IS OUR JOB DESCRIPTION; GOD'S SERVANT FOR THEIR GOOD!

However, I recently took notice of the first half of the same verse: "He is God's servant for your good". That is our job description; God's servant for their good!

So, in view of this recent "almighty" kick in the pants that I received, I am looking forward to hitting the streets again with some new perspective. Hopefully it doesn't take an injury to shake me out of my pride next time. Micah 6:8 says: *"He has told you, O man what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (ESV). Humility really changes ones perspective! When I stop viewing myself as superior, I can understand, feel compassion, and love those I meet on the job. In my capacity as a police officer, I am daily exposed to people who, if they could see what Gods love looks like, even just once, it would have a lasting impact on their souls. The situations we attend to are often traumatic and life-changing for those involved; how much more life-changing would it be if we made "God's servant for your good" our personal job description and motto? Believe me, your's will be the first life that is changed!

[Cst. Jan Indenbosch](#) is our Provincial Representative for Saskatchewan. He is a RCMP officer stationed at North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Injured Officer Initiative

Whenever we learn an officer has been injured in the line of duty and is hospitalized, we initiate prayer for that officer. Specifically, we are blessed to have a number of members who regularly pray for this ministry. They and all the FCPO leadership team are notified when we learn of an injury to an officer.

Once the officer has stabilized, we deliver our get well card to them with a gift certificate in lieu of flowers (usually from a well-known donut shop!).

When you learn of an officer who has been seriously injured on duty (no matter the cause), who is admitted for a hospital stay, please let us know. We can then activate our prayer chain and subsequently send our card and token of appreciation to our injured colleague.

fcpo.aapc@gmail.com or
1-877-528-2202.



MEMBERSHIP

**Do you know someone who may like to join us?
Membership is free.**

We have 2 types of membership. Regular Membership (voting) is for peace officers, while Associate Membership (non-voting) is for any Christian who agrees with our [Statement of Faith](#) and wishes to be a part of this unique ministry.

Join online at: www.fcpocanada.com

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Law Enforcement in the Scriptures

Within the broad description of “law enforcement”, we have peace officers who enforce the law and maintain peace and order. Many are familiar with Romans 13:1-5, however there are numerous other scriptures where the role, service, office, or type of law enforcement officers is found either implicitly or explicitly. Our friends at FCPO-USA have published a comprehensive list of these scriptures and we encourage you to use this resource as a devotional to research the calling under which the peace officer operates.

Old Testament

Genesis 3:24 - Police of Eden - Cherubim - Awesome police with weapons (better than a "Glock")

Genesis 4:8 - First homicide - Cain and Abel

Genesis 34:2 - First rape case - Dinah (daughter of Jacob)

Genesis 37:20 - First conspiracy to commit murder - Joseph's brothers

Genesis 37:24 - First jail - Joseph in cistern

Genesis 37:31 - Forensics - blood stained coat

Genesis 37:36, 39; 40:3, 7; 41:9 - Potiphar - top cop - Captain of the Guard - Prison Warden; Chief Executioner

Genesis 39:20 - Prison - Potiphar's home

Genesis 40 - Cupbearer - Secret Service - test the food and provide security

Genesis 42:17, 24 - House arrest

Exodus 6:8 - Raise your right hand in court

Numbers 13 - Undercover work - Joshua and Caleb

Joshua 2:1 - Undercover work - spies to search out Jericho

1 Samuel 22:14 - David - special protection - bodyguard to Saul

1 Samuel 26:15 - Abner as a personal bodyguard

1 Samuel 28:2 - Bodyguard to Philistine King Achish - David

1 Kings 10:5 - Secret Service - cupbearers to Solomon

2 Kings 1:9 - Leadership Management - police sent to take Elijah into custody

2 Kings 11:4-12 - Security force, Secret Service, White House Division - Temple police, bodyguards - guarding the Temple - Religious police

1 Chronicles 18:7 - Benaiah - David's bodyguard

Nehemiah 1:11 - Secret Service - Leadership Management

Nehemiah 4:9 - Shift work

Nehemiah 7:1-3 - Police protections for a city - Gates, gatekeepers, duty, citadel, Police Chief Hananiah

Job 24:1-4, 13-17 - Criminals

Psalms 44:6-8 - Protection not in weapons

Psalms 101 - A Police Officer's Prayer

Proverbs 29:2 - Results of righteousness among police (authority)

Isaiah 9:7 - Justice and righteousness belong together

Isaiah 33:15-16 - Godly police motto

Isaiah 56:10-12 - Lazy and blind police

Isaiah 62:6 - Watchmen on your walls

Jeremiah 40 - Good officer - Nebuzaradan

Ezekiel 9:1 - Heavenly Police - Spiritual realm - Guardian angels over cities, nations, and individual people

Ezekiel 10:12 - Cherubim - Heavenly Police

Ezekiel 28:14-19 - Satan was a heavenly guardian Cherub but was fired for being a bad cop

Ezekiel 33:2 - Watchman - Police guarding a city

Daniel 2:17 - Arioch - Commander of the Kings guard - Good officer

Daniel 3:2 - Sheriffs

Amos 2:6-8 - Corruption and criminal activity

(cont. page 10)

Amos 5:7, 10, 12 - Those opposed to justice and righteousness, perjury, bribes
Amos 5:15 - Justice and the court system (hate evil, love good)
Amos 6:12 - Justice into poison, righteousness into bitterness
Micah 6:8 - Good Police motto (Justice, Mercy, Godliness)
Zechariah 9:11 - Jail (waterless pit - cisterns)

New Testament

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10 - Centurion of Capernaum - Jesus healed servant
Matthew 27:54; Luke 23:47 - Centurion at the cross
Matthew 27:65 - Police at tomb
Mark 15:16 - Military police from the Palace
Luke 3:14 - Honest police
Luke 22:52 - Temple police
John 7:45 - Temple police
John 18:12 - Military police
Acts 4:1 - Military police over the Temple - Captain
Acts 9:2 - Special Deputy - Saul
Acts 10 - Chief of Police - Cornelius
Acts 16:22-30 - Jailer (corrections) - The jailer, a cop, asks the most important question in the Bible
Acts 16:35 - Court officers
Acts 17:9 - Bonding practice
Acts 17:31 - Jesus as the Supreme Judge
Acts 21:31 - Riot Police - Military Police
Acts 24:1 - Lawyer - Tertullus - bought and paid for
Acts 24:22 - Claudius Lysias - Police Commander in charge of Jerusalem
Acts 25:3 - Festus in charge of the police - both civilian and military
Acts 27:1-3 - Julius the Marshall - Imperial Regiment
Acts 28:16 - Paul's house arrest
Romans 13:1-5 - Where Law Enforcement gets its authority
2 Corinthians 10:4 - Heavenly weapons available to Christian police
Ephesians 6:10-20 - Protective gear
Philippians 1:12 - Corrections Officer guarding Paul - Palace Police
Philippians 4:21 - Palace personnel, Palace police among them
Revelation 20:1 - Angelic Police arrest Satan and detain
<http://www.fcpo.org/114/law-enforcement-in-the-scriptures>

Can you Help?

Folks support our ministry through volunteering, prayer, and financial gifts.

Given we have no membership dues, we rely solely on donations. We have no paid staff, thus all donations go directly to our operations. We are a registered charity*. On our web site you can find [3 ways to donate](#) to this ministry (online, cheque, United Way). Rest assured that your financial support is well-used to support and grow this important and unique ministry.

* Registered Charity No. 120365804RR0001



Undercover Christian?

By: C/Supt. Ronald Mostrey (Rtd.)

I am always encouraged to learn of officers who boldly and daily live their faith on the job. By this, I mean, treating others as they would like to be treated; respecting all people; treating them with kindness and compassion; having concern for colleagues and telling others about Jesus when led by the Holy Spirit to do so. I would like to think that I did such during my 35 years in the RCMP, however, I'm not sure I always did.

Now in retirement, as I reflect back, I have some regrets. As Jan mentioned in his article, sometimes one just gets caught up in the “daily grind”. A person becomes a “file” and not another soul. A colleague becomes just a good buddy (or a nemesis!) and not another soul. Good times become more frequent than “important” times. Adrenaline rushes become the norm, and “us and them” become ones’ reality.

... SOMETIMES ONE JUST GETS CAUGHT UP IN THE “DAILY GRIND”.

At my first posting, Innisfail, Alberta, I'm not sure what my colleagues really thought I was all about. I was only there for 9 months. The new job was exciting. I was a single man with free time. I spent most of my free time working “voluntary (unpaid) overtime” learning the trade. – and I loved it! I never got involved with a local church. On those rare occasions when I was not working late Saturday night or on Sunday, I could “sneak off” to my uncle's church. My uncle Walter was a pastor in Winfield, just up the road a bit. I could actually be an “undercover Christian”.

My colleagues knew I was “different”. I remember well one member continually asking me if I was Mormon. I just tried to dodge the question of why I was “different”. I continued to live the Christian lifestyle, but obviously – I never lived it to the fullest extent. In the Great Commission, Jesus told us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”. He certainly never said “keep what you found, and keep your head down and try to get by without anyone figuring out that you are a follower of me”.

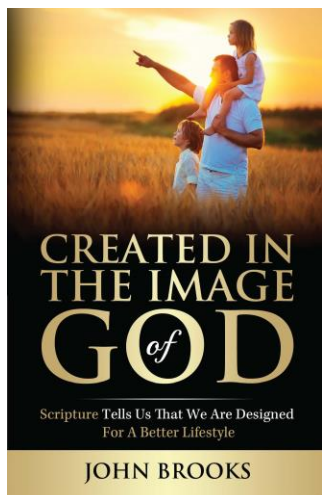
Innisfail was a small detachment. A few years ago, I learned that there was another believer there, and many years later another member and his wife found the Lord (the one who kept asking me if I was Mormon!). I do feel bad that I never let my light shine there. The good news is I got bolder at the next detachment and everywhere thereafter.

Now, as an “old retired guy”, I look back with satisfaction on some of the lives I was able to touch and influence amongst my colleagues and with the general public. What gave me increased boldness was this ministry, which I have been involved with since its inception. To know I was not alone, and to know that to work as a Christian in the policing profession was to be doing God's work was always foremost in my mind. As Jan wrote in his article, we are to be a servant for good.

In today's police services we hear a lot about the importance of diversity and respect for all. Unfortunately, we still have a lot of Christian officers who are “undercover”. When I was on Drug Squad, I worked undercover. I know what it is like to pretend you are someone else. I know how easily that can be done and how efficiently that can be done. At Innisfail, I was somewhat of an “undercover Christian”. I thought that would be best - but it wasn't. We are in this world, but not of this world. When you have Jesus in your life, it's hard to not let your light shine. It's hard to be one person at work and another at home. I encourage all officers to let their light shine in their workplace. God has placed you in this profession – honour Him (in all ways).

Recommended Reading!

Here is a great new book by FCPO member John Brooks. Some of our members have already benefitted from reading this book during its official launch in November. This is one book that is really worth reading! With references to scientific research, John examines how we can understand our nature and get the most out of life as a Christian in the here and now! It is available in various Christian book stores and at Amazon.ca.



Jesus said that following Him would give us a better life on earth (Luke 18:30). Now there is clear evidence that unpacks this truth. Identifying as a child of God and striving for personal development in His image benefits your daily life. The way of life that the Bible teaches offers a truly significant life plus more success in your chosen career, greater

fulfilment, added joy and better health than the secular lifestyle. The Christian way also provides more self-motivation, better methods of coping with stress and enhanced personal growth following difficulties. The book is a practical guide to receiving this gift of a richer life that God intends for us.



[John Brooks](#) is the author of a great new book "[Created in the Image of God](#): Scripture tells us we are designed for a better lifestyle". John is a good friend and associate member of FCPO – Canada. He is a former business executive who was VP at CIBC World Markets. He has also served as CEO of various

entrepreneurial companies and was named Ottawa Entrepreneur of the Year. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Masters degree in Physiology. John lives in Ottawa with his wife Brenda. They have 4 grown children and 8 grandchildren.

In Memoriam



This issue is dedicated to the loving memory of Carolyn Beth (Betty) Blades-Seney. (spouse to Atlantic Director, Ron Seney) who passed away on December 27, 2016 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

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