



# FCPO - CANADA

## The Peacemaker



February, 2023

FCPO - Canada Membership 893

### From the President's Desk

40  
Years!

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the FCPO in Canada! In this issue we revisit the origins of this ministry and celebrate the vision that our early founders had. With the start of the New Year, we optimistically look forward to a new era of further growing our membership and encouraging officers across Canada with the knowledge that [Jesus is always available 24/7](#). 🎵

With this being our 40<sup>th</sup> year, we are reflecting on “back in the day”. It is really interesting to know how popular FCPO was in the early days. Many of our members fondly remember those days. We took a bit of a hit these last few years as we struggled our way through the COVID-19 Pandemic, however, I believe brighter days are ahead.

We often feature articles from our good friend [MC Williams](#). This “warrior” who has been serving peace officers for many years, constantly reminds us of the “911” urgency to spread the Gospel message to our colleagues. It is often said that it takes one to reach one. People who work in Law Enforcement tend to develop a skepticism - it comes with the job. Sadly, sometimes that skepticism leads to a warped vision of the world. A world where everyone is a potential con, and the only ones that can be trusted are those in the brotherhood/sisterhood. And even then - only some!

The workplace can be a dark place for some. Internal politics, bad supervisors and leadership can easily sour why most entered the profession - let alone the abuse that members of the public can throw at us. For some, it's a long dark tunnel. However, as Aerosmith said [“Remember, the light at the end of the tunnel may be you.”](#) 🎵

As we enter into a new era for FCPO, please pray that you and many of our members will be that light in the workplace, at home, and in communities across Canada.



*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Habakkuk 2:3*

God bless,

Ron

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# To God Be The Glory

## God's purpose in God's time - Orchestrated in His Way

By: Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd), Ontario Director



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd).

As I look back on the history of the Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO), I now understand God's purpose. His timing is always perfect.

I have been privileged in many ways to see God's purpose in my life when I left the military and joined the Toronto Police Service. Looking back I understand God's purpose in how I was directed to my first posting with the Toronto Police 33 Division station.

In August 1977, my Toronto police coach officer shared the gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ with me. As he shared this Good News I knew in my heart that I needed Jesus in my life. The Gospel was clearly presented by my coach officer. As I listened I realized it was not another religion but a relationship with the living Christ that I needed.

That night my coach officer gave me my first Bible which I have cherished for all these years. He pointed out to me the Bible verses found in Romans 13: 1-6. He explained that the authority we have as police officers or peace officers have been established by God. Romans 13 deals with submission to government authorities, and the same passage is instructive on the purpose of law enforcement and police work: "Rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. . . . The one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:3-4).

Police officers or peace officers represent the "rulers" mentioned in this passage and extend their authority. These verses made me realize the significant role I had been given as a police officer. Therefore, a Christian involved in law enforcement or police work is doing a good and godly thing. The police officer who enforces the just law of the land should consider himself or herself God's servant and, toward the lawbreaker, an agent of God's wrath sent to keep the peace.

As I sat in patrol car 3303, I bowed my head and accepted the reality of the living Christ as my Lord and Saviour. At that time I was a rookie who had just completed the required constable probationary period for the Toronto Police. As a young Christian officer I began to realize that many of my police colleagues did not know the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. The peer pressure of hiding our emotions in traumatic situations was high "back in the day" there was no EAP established for police officers who needed support. I soon realized through prayer that there was a need to introduce other officers to a wonderful counsellor - the Prince of Peace, the One who established all authority - our Lord - Jesus Christ.

My prayer was to see God move in police and peace officers hearts so that they would be touched with the full knowledge of His saving power and His amazing grace. So I began to seek His will how

to establish a Christian fellowship and ministry established specifically for the needs of peace officers. The verses in Romans 13:1-6, shaped my career as a police officer.

The following verse found in Luke 11: 9, was a catalyst and encouragement to me in establishing a Christian police fellowship. - **“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”**. I trusted God, I saw His hand create ways and open opportunities where none existed. I give Him all the glory.

A question that often came to mind was, “The police officer responds to people in need, but who responds when the police officer needs support with daily traumas?” This question inspired me to pray diligently and seek the Lord’s wisdom on how to help officers.



As I continued to seek, I found that historically the Toronto Police always had a Police Christian Fellowship of 500 plus Christian Toronto police officers, however I soon discovered that the police fellowship was dormant and nothing much was taking place. During my research I was given an old list of Toronto Christian Police Fellowship contacts. God’s purpose led me step by step, to reconnect with many of these faithful Christian officers that held various ranks within our police department. Emails and or cell phones had not yet appeared so everything had to be done via the landline. After many months of phone calls I managed with God’s help to have a list of interested officers from this old list. I didn’t have a clue how to run or organize a Christian fellowship, however the Lord directed my steps and gave me wisdom. I prayed that the Lord

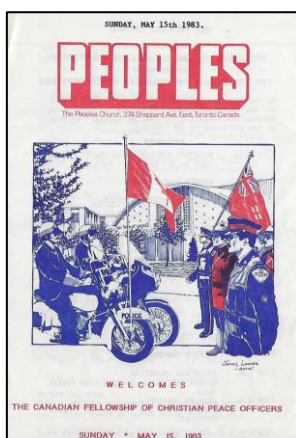
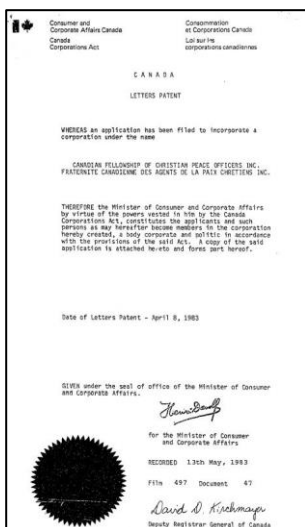
would send a few officers that had the same conviction for reaching officers with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Lord answered my prayers by sending Christian officers who were not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we continued to seek God’s direction and His purpose, we also prayed that the Lord would give us wisdom on how to organize, promote, support, and strengthen the renewed contacts of the Toronto Police Christian fellowship. The main purpose was to support our fellow officers who needed help and eventually introduce them to God’s love and saving grace.

The Lord answered our prayers in a most unique way. One of the officers in our prayer group gave me a brochure promoting a US group called the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) based in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). We looked at their statement of faith and it was biblically in sync with the word of God. The uniqueness of this answer to prayer was amazing - all that we had prayed and hoped for regarding a template to have a well-organized, biblically sound Christian Fellowship was found in the FCPO. There was excitement in the air as we knew that this was an answer to prayer for our Christian officers.

After much prayer, I contacted the LAPD FCPO and asked if we could join their FCPO organization, however they suggested we bring the FCPO to Canada. They also stated that they would assist us by sending us all the necessary documents to incorporate the Canadian FCPO here in Canada. Upon receipt of all the incorporation documents we diligently prayed to seek God’s will for the Canadian FCPO. As we prayed God continued to bless us with more officers from the OPP, Corrections and other departments and agencies. We prayed and God answered our prayers by giving His peace to us. We knew that we knew that the FCPO was God’s answer and vehicle for supporting and reaching our Canadian peace officers with the Good News of our Lord and Saviour.





In 1983, the Canadian FCPO was finally incorporated, the Lord's purpose was manifested and we now had a Canadian FCPO fully incorporated. In the early days the FCPO held breakfasts, supper outreaches with keynote Christian speakers and many officers were supported and were encouraged with the gospel message. Many officers dedicated their lives to the Lord Jesus. In the early years, the Canadian FCPO held International Christian conferences that brought officers from the UK, US and numerous areas of Canada.

Today the presence of the Canadian FCPO has spread across Canada. As we celebrate our 40 years of the existence of the Canadian FCPO let us focus on the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. I once said that if the Canadian FCPO was ordained by man, it would surely fail, but if this fellowship was established by God's purpose it would surely stand the test of time. His faithfulness has shown us that the Canadian FCPO was not built by the power of men, but by His Power and in His time and orchestrated by Him. **My prayer as we move into the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian FCPO is that the Holy Spirit inspire new officers to shine the light of the Lord Jesus Christ so that many current and future officers will come to know Him.**

In closing, the most important tool for all the Canadian FCPO's achievements was, and is, the power of

prayer. "Prayer" was and is a "key factor" in the success of the FCPO both North and South. The Canadian FCPO was blessed and will continue to be blessed for God's purpose.

Dino Doria MSc

"I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day." 2Tim 1

## In Memorium



Cst. Grzegorz Pierzchala

**End of Watch:  
December 27, 2022**



David Cooper/Toronto Star

**'Cops For Christ'** Every week a growing number of Metro Police officers and their wives meet to sing the Lord's praises, read from the Bible and, in general, draw inspiration which they use on the job. The group above - meeting in Constable John Barry's living room on Placentia Blvd. in Scarborough - wear Cops For Christ pins and belong to the California-based Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. Story /A3

## **Ontario President's Message - November 1982**

**TO: CHRISTIAN PEACE OFFICERS AND YOUR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.**

To my fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, greetings in the glorious name of Jesus, the One who bought us back from certain and deserving death. Now we can say, with true determination, "If I am to die, I know my destiny is to be with Him. With He who loves me more than I can know. My life will continue eventually in a body where I will enjoy peace and an eternal, vibrant life with my brother, yes my Lord, Jesus. With His friends and mine too." Even more than that, I can enjoy His presence and leading now.

Let us study His word and be prepared to apply it to our lives, so we **LIVE IN A FASHION THAT PLEASES HIM.**

I am reminded of a scripture that we, as Peace Officers need to apply to our lives, simply because our work generally means hours of immobility in a cruiser, at a desk or in the confines of a Federal or Provincial Institution. We are then suddenly confronted with an occurrence which requires instant controlled strength, endurance, and determination, or perhaps' a long wait under very stressful conditions, which is even worse. Of course there is always long erratic hours or shift work for many.

The scripture is found in Luke 2:52, and is worth memorizing. It concerns our Lord's life prior to His three years of Ministry which concluded with His torturous death on the cross for us all, His resurrection and ascension, to our Father.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and in favour with God and Man."

**WISDOM** = application of knowledge (We all need that)

**STATURE** = physical (exercise and keeping healthy)

**IN FAVOUR WITH GOD** = spiritual (bible study and prayer)

**AND MAN** = social (helping others)

This is what many call the balanced life, even recognized in modern psychology in limited terms. It will help us on the job and with our families as well as please Him.

The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) began in 1972 in California in the Los Angeles Police Academy, and in 1981, through God's miraculous timing and leading, it came into Canada.

Since that time, we have seen Police Officers, Prison Guards, and others step out, under the compulsion of His Spirit, and have begun to announce the good news of a risen Christ by having searched out and found fellow Peace Officers who love the Lord. They have banded together and have used or discovered the help and encouragement offered by FCPO.

FCPO's main purpose is geared towards Peace Officers and their families, to bring them into God's kingdom and encourage their growth towards our example - Jesus. We have seen this happen. Chapters have formed. Guys and gals in cities and remote areas, have made enquiries and good reports have been heard. Enthusiasm is high amongst many. With this enthusiasm is a word of caution. FCPO is not a church. It is an organization within His church which has literally confined its activities mainly towards those in the Law Enforcement and the Justice System - those who are sworn in as Peace Officers under the laws of Canada. The caution is this: Do not neglect your gathering together in a church where Christ is the Head, God is worshipped, the scriptures are taught as absolute, and prayers are offered and answers received. The other side of the coin is this, being a Peace Officer is a unique profession. Not only is it ordained of God (Romans 13), but because of it, Prison Guards have direct access to men and women who, however criminally minded they may have become, are still created in God's image. Police Officers are placed into traumatic situations where blindness to the Light of Christ has brought darkness, and confusion and violence into people's lives. Because of this, FCPO requires your full support and participation to meet the needs of your fellow Peace Officers, right?

We are endeavoring to become federally incorporated as a non-profit, charitable organization. We want the Canadian FCPO to be structured to meet the needs of those who are in an extremely diversified vocation and location, from high density populated areas to rural areas and sometimes very remote postings. We also want to encourage our spouses to participate as well as our children. In other words, unique to the Canadian situation. We also want to encourage other individuals and organizations to lend their support in reaching Peace Officers with the gospel. These thoughts have to be reduced to writing in a manner that will satisfy the majority of members, satisfy the Federal Government, and be a workable document which is flexible in some areas and stringent in others and most of all, be pleasing to God. We are fortunate in having a good Christian Lawyer, our brother in the Lord, to work with us to this end. The first rough draft has been completed and is a beautiful piece of work, but some decisions have to be made by us before the final draft is signed and forwarded to the Federal Government. Our Lawyer has been hired by us and we could use your financial support for the incorporation and for other endeavors, especially communication.

It is my strong conviction that the strength of the Canadian FCPO will be in each individual in the FCPO, not in its corporate structure. Christ's Kingdom is extended by those who reach out on a one to one basis and show some concern and help. Those who visit the sick, help the needy, as well as point others to Jesus as Redeemer and Friend, the only source of Life, will gain God's blessing.

In closing, I quote from Jude vs 24 & 25. You have heard it said often and it is my prayer for you all: *Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless, before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever - Amen.*

Your brother-in-law and in Christ Jesus.

Dick Hayward - President, Ontario Executive, Canadian FCPO



# God's Purpose

By: Cst. Marlen Wells (Ret'd)



God's word: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."  
Romans 8:28

Marlen's word: This is a difficult verse to grasp. As we all learn very early on in our journey, it is not always a pleasant stroll in the park.

Many years ago, I had just successfully completed my preparation "for the street" at the Ontario Police Academy. Next, I was assigned to 55 division ("double nickel") in Toronto. Six months later, I was injured at home when a large mirror fell, broke, and severely sliced the main tendons on the upper part of my foot at the ankle. After surgery and physiotherapy, there was a concern I might have a "club foot," therefore I may never walk or run well enough to continue as a Toronto police officer.



At that time, I was a rookie in my Christian faith. I was concerned to say the least. Well, the Lord showed up. He sent a member of the recently formed, "Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers" to visit me at home.

Dino Doria (whom I had never met yet) spent 30 minutes encouraging me to lean in to Romans 8:28 (*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose*), not as a lucky charm, but as truth that God somehow will make good of this unexpected situation. He assured me that I didn't have to call pain good and that adversity will prevail in our fallen world. Yet, God is able to turn circumstances around for our long-range benefit. He also emphasized God is not primarily looking out for my own happiness, but to fulfill His purposes through my "short" life. Then he pointed out that this "8:28" promise is not for everyone. Biblically it can only be claimed by those who believe in and love God.

These insights gave me a new perspective and mindset. I began more and more to trust in God, not for earthly success per say, but to rest my security in "heavenly priorities". Lastly, it has not always been easy. My faith has wavered from time to time through other life's setbacks. But, I am assured in all of these - God is with me. Eventually I recovered my abilities to perform police duties at a 100% and spent 12 years fighting crime, justice and/or evil before entering Christian ministry full-time.

**Quote to ponder: "Adversity introduces a man to himself."** —anonymous.

God bless,

Marlen

From 1979 to 1991, Marlen was a constable with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force. In 1991, he moved to Colorado where he studied for the ministry while serving as a youth pastor. He currently works at Focus on the Family and avocationally is a chaplain for Hockey Ministries International assigned to Colorado College and the Colorado Avalanche.

# Why Your Police ID Isn't All That Important

By: Det. Jimmy Wallace (reprinted with permission from The Thin Blue Life [www.thethinbluelife.com](http://www.thethinbluelife.com))



Image Credit: Burst.com

There's a lot that defines us as people, but perhaps nothing more than work. When meeting someone new, "What do you do for work?" is one of the first topics discussed. It's an abbreviated way to get to know someone, a quick way to put someone "in a box." As a result, we even start defining ourselves by our work. If everyone else is going to judge us that way, we might as well judge ourselves that way as well, right?

Cops have certain ways of talking, dressing, being, a certain subculture all our own. I don't know if that's a good thing or not, but I understand why we are like that. But I also know I have a big problem: this job (and this identity) won't last forever.

I was fortunate to get hired on as a police officer while my dad ([J. Warner Wallace](#)) still worked at my department. We had a couple years of overlap before he retired. It was sentimental working there while he still worked there. I worked patrol and he was in detectives, so we didn't have a lot of direct interaction. But I would see him sometimes if I was walking by his desk. And we got to work a shift of patrol together on his last day at work.

As a result, I got to see my dad go through the retirement process from inside perspective. I remember him talking about retirement throughout his career as something he was looking forward to. My dad had plans and was transitioning into full-time ministry as he retired (and he had worked in ministry for most of my life up to that point in addition to full-time police work), but as retirement got closer I noticed that it seemed like he was going to miss work more than he expected. Or at least, I realized that he missed work more than I thought he was going to.

Luckily, my dad had something else, ministry, to transition to as he transitioned out of full-time police work. And he was lucky to get to finish and contribute to some cases after his retirement. I've watched other cops from my agency retire and then come back out of retirement to go back to work. The Chief of Police who hired me ended up coming out of retirement to be an interim chief at a neighboring agency, then went back to work at the District Attorney's Office. Most of the cops I know who retired ended up going back to work in some related law-enforcement field (or unfortunately passing away shortly after retirement). I don't know if things are similar in other lines of work, but the more I thought about it, the more it made sense to me. After a career in which you identify so strongly as a cop, it must be hard to not be a cop anymore. I imagine the loss of a sense of identity would be very hard to deal with, and I assume it contributes to why so many cops come back to law-enforcement in one way or another.

I don't think there's anything necessarily wrong with taking identity from work. But watching my dad retire made me think about this career. I've learned to be cautious because I know this job is not forever. One day, I will also retire and no longer be a police officer. It's kind of sad to think about.



My dad was a true legend when he retired, and there are many senior officers who still talk to him about me. But those senior officers are retiring, and my generation and the generations that came after me don't remember him. It is only a matter of time before he will be forgotten by the members of the agency, just like my grandfather has been forgotten before him. I recently saw a retiree at a barbecue who remembered working for my grandfather, but it had been years since I'd talked to anyone who remembered him. I'm biased, but I think it's safe to say my father was the greatest investigator who ever worked for my agency. If his memory could fade so quickly, then I think it'll fade for all of us.

This doesn't change the way I feel about work, I still want to be the best cop I can be, and I still want to work hard to achieve that goal, but I have to be honest with myself about what I am accomplishing. If I thought any part of this would establish a "legacy," I was quickly dispelled of that fantasy by watching my father's career.

I work with some real workaholics. People who make work the number one priority in life. Many are successful in their careers, but some have gone through several marriages or have otherwise unfulfilling home lives. I wonder if they think their career success is worth it. I worry about them, because I know that one day they, just like my dad, will retire. And no matter what they achieved here, they will be forgotten as they are replaced by new generations of officers and they will be home, retired, with whatever life they built outside our agency.

I was very lucky to get to see up close and personal my dad's career end at the same time my career began. I hope that it has helped me keep a better perspective for what work is and isn't. I've learned an important lesson that I need to be about more than simply work. I want to have purpose after I retire, and so my purpose cannot come from the work that I do. I love work, and find it very fulfilling, but I need to find fulfillment in something that will last longer than work, something that I can take into life after work, something I can take with me into life after death.

All things in this life pass away, there is only one thing that will remain and that is God. But if that's the case, shouldn't I be finding my identity in him? Why see myself as a police officer when I should really be seeing myself as a servant of God? While I am proud of my accomplishments as a cop, shouldn't I be even more excited about accomplishing things for God?

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*Life cannot be about my success at my career, because my career will not last forever.*

Jimmy Wallace

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Life cannot be about my success at my career, because my career will not last forever. Even though I'm inclined to find my identity in my temporal work, I now recognize how foolish that would be in the long run. There's a better alternative. **The work of the LORD is everlasting. That's where I need to find my identity.**



Jimmy Wallace is a detective and holds a BA in Psychology (from UCLA) and an MA in Theology - Applied Apologetics (from Colorado Christian University).

# The golden knife



I am a police officer serving with a small police service in Western Canada. For the most part, my community is fairly peaceful, although like anywhere - we have our times! I am writing about one of “those times”!

Usually on a shift we have four police officers, but this is not always the case when people are away on leave or sick etc. I arrived at work one summer night to find out that there was only going to be two of us working. Myself as the acting supervisor, and my partner for the night who had about a year of experience with the service. I only had about three years’ service at that time

which made me slightly nervous. However, it being a Thursday night, I wasn’t expecting it to be busy and was hoping it wouldn’t be.

At about 6 pm Dispatch received a call from a local gas station attendant saying there was a male having a medical issue in his store. I drove to the call thinking that it was going to be an easy one and more so an EMS call. I drove to the station as the sun was beginning to set. Once my partner and I arrived we recognized the male. He was a guy police had dealt with many times before and I knew he was breaching a court order by being out of his house and at the gas station.

At the risk of sounding like a judgmental profiler, this guy looked like a hardened criminal. He had served time in prison for serious violent offences. He was muscular with several tattoos and did not look happy - not a guy you wanted to mess with! In the back of my mind, I hoped that things would end peacefully, but I was now on a heightened state of awareness knowing who we were dealing with.

I knew we had the lawful authority to arrest him right away but as he was claiming he was having a medical emergency having breathing problems and requesting EMS, thus we did not immediately arrest him. I observed that he was very fidgety and worked up. He was speaking nonsensical things and was pacing back and forth in the store. Based on what I was seeing I suspected he was under the influence of drugs.

While my partner was watching the suspect in the gas station waiting for EMS, I stepped out of the store for a moment to run the suspect’s name through Dispatch to check for any further information that I may have been unaware of. While I stood outside the door, I saw a man with a young boy sitting in a truck in the parking lot. They motioned for me to come talk with them. I walked over. The man told me to be careful because he thought there was something wrong with the guy inside. I thanked him and was about to leave when the boy who was sitting in the front passenger seat leaned forward and looked at me. He said, “The guy has a knife.” I was a little taken aback and didn’t fully believe the kid. So I asked him to describe it to me. The boy told me that it was a gold pocketknife, with a clip and it was in the suspect’s right pocket. I was not expecting that response. I thanked the kid for the information and left to go back into the gas station.

I went back into the store and saw that my partner had the suspect sitting in a chair waiting for EMS. I looked at the suspect’s right pocket and something inside me said to get the knife away from him

then and there. I walked up to him and told him to give me the knife in his pocket. He looked at me for a moment and then reached into his pocket and handed it over. I took the knife in my hand - the kid was right, it was a gold pocketknife with a clip on it. I slide it into my pocket and forgot about it.

Soon thereafter, EMS arrived and we took the suspect outside and he sat on the curb in front of the gas station while EMS asked him questions. The male was saying he couldn't breathe and was getting more excited and more excited. The EMS members tried talking to him to figure out what was going on and at first it appeared to be working. But as paramedics got closer to him, he would pull away and refuse their help becoming more agitated and aggressive.



**I STARTED TO GET A SINKING FEELING THAT  
THIS WAS NOT GOING TO END WITH A  
PEACEFUL RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL.**

The paramedics tried to go through their process, offering to help him and take him to the hospital. Every time we thought we were making headway he would refuse at the last second. I started to get a sinking feeling that this was not going to end with a peaceful ride to the hospital.

As paramedics tried to calm him down and provide care, he was only getting more and more worked up. He began to get up periodically and pace back and forth. His body language began to change from more relaxed to aggressive stances. He always had his back to the wall and began to eye me and my partner up. I saw him glance down at my tool belt frequently. It reminded me of training when I was taught to observe for potential attack signs. Alarm bells were going off in my mind. Each of us tried talking to him to calm him down and try to convince him to allow the paramedics to help him.

He began to ignore us more and more and was being more aggressive - walking around the parking lot. By this time the sun which had been setting when I first got to the gas station, had long since gone down and it was completely dark outside, making this an even more dangerous situation. The gas station is located on the corner of the two main roads in the city. A major highway and a main road with lots of traffic on both. I saw that he kept looking toward the highway, and I began to position myself between the highway and him. Behind me vehicles and large semis zoomed past. By this point, words were failing to have any effect on him. For at least an hour my partner and I along with paramedics tried to help the guy to no avail. While he said he needed help, he was not prepared to go to the hospital nor allow the paramedics to assess him in anyway.

By this point we had migrated from the front of the gas station, through the parking lot and now the concrete dividing wall between the parking lot and the busy highway. Due to the suspect breaching court ordered conditions, I told him he was under arrest and began to give him commands to surrender himself. He began yelling at us saying he didn't do anything wrong and took up a defensive position with his back to the concrete wall as he faced off with me and my partner. When I would walk toward him to handcuff him, he would back away and maintain an aggressive stance, looking at me but not motioning that he would not run away. This troubled me. He did not run, this was going to be a fight, and he seemed to want it!

He suddenly jumped up onto the dividing wall and continued to yell and cause a scene. He jumped down and began to walk toward me. His eyes glanced down at my duty belt and back up. He was

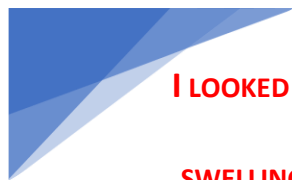


sizing me up and testing the waters. A struggle was coming and my mind raced through the use of force options and how to gain a tactical advantage on a guy who had definitely been in more fights than I had. I would be lying to say I wasn't scared of what this guy was capable of.

He walked toward me, I backed up and he stopped advancing and yelled at my partner who was on the opposite side of him. I was now standing on the highway and the suspect was about 5 meters from me standing on the sidewalk looking at my partner with his back turned to me. I feared that if I didn't try to act now that this would end up being a struggle on the highway and someone was going to get seriously injured or worse. I rushed forward lunging at him throwing my full body weight into him. At the last second, he turned and partly blocked the blow and we both collided off one another. I fell one way and he the other. As he staggered falling to the ground my partner was on him like a lightning bolt and took him to the ground. I gathered myself and rushed over, again throwing myself on top of him. We struggled with him on the ground. Several people came to our aid, which I was very thankful for. The paramedic and an RCMP officer who was called in as backup all came to assist to control the man. Working together, we were able to handcuff him and put an end to the dangerous situation. The man was transported to the hospital where he unsurprisingly refused medical treatment. When he was discharged, we lodged him in cells, where he continued his disruptive behaviour, but at least he was now contained in a cell.

My partner and I walked to the lunchroom where I sunk into a chair. I put my hand in my pocket to grab my notebook and felt something cold and metal. I pulled out the glimmering gold knife and placed it on the table in front of me. I looked at it - I thought about God's grace and sovereignty over what we had just been through. I thanked and praised God over and over. I did not want to think about what may have happened if the suspect had access to the knife when we had tried to arrest him, and things had escalated.

I thought of the kid who had alerted me to the knife and wished I had taken his name. The kid will never know that he could have very well saved several lives that night. I can't explain why the kid told me about the knife - the only reason I can think of is that God used him.



**I LOOKED AT MY BLOODIED HANDS  
AND KNEES, MY PAINFUL  
SWELLING THUMB, AND THANKED  
GOD THAT IT WAS NOT WORSE.**

I looked at my bloodied hands and knees, my painful swelling thumb, and thanked God that it was not worse. I looked at my partner sitting across the table from me and thanked God that he would be going home to his family after the shift as well. I was reminded, God is always in control no matter how bad things get. You might be reading this, as

a cop thinking about your own experiences. I can only imagine some of the things you have gone through, I count myself fortunate that this is one of my worst experiences as a police officer so far. Many of you will have had experiences much worse. I tell you this story meaning to encourage you. Policing is not an easy job, we are often hated and misunderstood. I think about the 5 officers who have been killed in the last five months of 2022. My heart sinks when I think of the current state of our society and how police are targeted. But despite this... I have hope. No matter what people do or say, God is on our side. He will use even children to aid us. Do not give up. Stand your ground, Stay in the fight. Run the race. **God will never give up on you.**

**“I will be with Thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Joshua 1-3**

# Starting with Strength

By: Cst. Amanda Ward



Cst. Amanda Ward

During a trip to the UK in 2011, my family gifted me with my father's bible he received during his enlistment into the Army. In it, it read "For personal use as a source of spiritual and moral guidance during Army Service." I was mesmerized with that bible. Growing up, I had always wondered where the strongest person I knew got his strength from. And I realized I had just found it.

After that realization, I carried his Bible around with me, through my previous jobs in law enforcement, and during extremely tough times. I figured it couldn't hurt to keep it with me as a reminder of where my strength comes from; and I was right.

Over the years, when I would open "The Soldiers Testament and the Book of Psalms," I would go to the same three Psalms. They gave me strength before and they give me strength now, being a new police officer; and facing a new frontier, I am sure they can

help you too.

**Psalm 23:4** *Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. (Christian Standard Translation)*

**Psalm 27:1-3** *The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life- whom should I dread? When evil doers came against me to devour my flesh, my foes and my enemies stumbled and fell. Though an army deploys against me, my heart will not be afraid; Though a war breaks out against me, I will still be confident.*

**Psalm 28:7** *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped. Therefore, my heart celebrates, and I give thanks to him with my song.*

When I got hired with the Toronto Police Service, I realized it was time for a new bible, my own. I bought it just as a personal rite of passage. I bought a Christian Standard Bible, Law Enforcement Officers edition. I looked at it and wondered what made it different, and how it would help law enforcement. After all, I take one look at my bible most days and don't know where to start.



Sometimes, I don't start at all, especially on days I work; on days I need it most. Excuses are easy to find; especially when you are new; as I am sure you have noticed so far. I have found many. But I have realized, after spending time away from my Bible, just how important it is to remain in God's word, especially as a police officer.

God's word can provide so much for us. It can help us to start off strong in the career and it can help guide us through with both the power and strength to withstand enormous difficulties, but also, to maintain perspective. In my experience, perspective is everything. I am sure it is for you too.

The perspective we have will determine what shifts are good and what shifts are bad. Your perspective influences your attitude, and your attitude influences everything and everyone around you. So, what does your morning routine look like? What does your after-work, or evening routine look like? And what about your relationships? Are you burnt out before you start the day? Are you walking in faith or lacking in faith?

It may seem like a huge shift in your norm starting out in a career like policing, and work may tend to impact other parts of your life, but you have more control over this than you may realize, regardless of what is going on around you. So, how can you maintain a positive perspective most of the time? The Law Enforcement Officer's Bible outlines 7 ways to build yourself up spiritually, so you can overcome the effects of the evil and negativity that you are exposed to daily. Simply adding one of these into your daily routine can make a drastic difference to your overall well-being.

1. Intentional prayer, quietness, and directed solitude
2. Ask for guidance, direction, and protection
3. Deal with guilt
4. Read inspirational books, listen to positive messages
5. Associate with other positive, spiritually minded individuals in or out of law enforcement
6. Pass on to others what you are discovering and learning about spiritual strength and personal well-being
7. Set aside specific time for your spouse and family in a completely non-work-related activity

#### **Recommended Reading for ALL officers:**

*Christian Standard Bible, Law Enforcement Officer's Bible* by Holman Bible Publishers (Includes Law Enforcement Officer's Additional Features).

*Soul Fuel: A Daily Devotional*, By Bear Grylls.



Cst. Amanda and Det. Paul Ward

*The Greatest Man who ever lived: Secrets for unparalleled success and unshakable happiness from the life of Jesus* by Steven K. Scott

*Anxious for Nothing*, by: Max Lucado.

*Crushing: God Turns Pressure into Power*, by T.D. Jakes.

Please check out these two short powerful clips from T.D. Jakes. **Trust me, you won't regret it.**

[Courage](#)

[I Almost Quit](#)

Be Safe, and God Bless you,

Amanda



# Thoughts While on the Ride

By: Ronald Mostrey, FCPO - Canada President



C/Supt. Ron Mostrey (Ret'd)

As some of you may know, I enjoy cycling in the summer. I have a regular routine where I go for about a 3 hour ride on a paved trail along the Ottawa River.

As I prod along, it gives me time to reflect on nature and sometimes it just speaks to me in a special way. For example, one day on my route I noticed a blue heron standing on a rock in a small stream. That was the first time I had seen one up close, so I stopped and took a photo of the bird.

About an hour and a half later on my return trip I saw the same bird still standing ankle deep in the water, apparently still waiting patiently for a fish to come by. I thought

“Wow what patience!” I was reminded of how sometimes we need to wait patiently upon the Lord to answer our prayers and see His will unfold.

Psalms 27:14 tells us: *Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.* And Habakkuk 2:3 reminds us: *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*



Not that it is always birds speaking to me, but on another occasion, I spotted a large group of geese grazing in a field. I thought how at one point, one of them was going to get up and lead the others in flight. Out of all the geese, one would become the leader and signal it's time to go. I wondered what would give that leadership quality to that one goose. What makes that goose so special that they can just end the grazing and say “it's time to go”?

All the geese looked the same to me. From my perspective anyone of them could have stepped up to lead the others in flight. However, they were not all the same - one goose would take the initiative to be the leader. And so it is in our calling as Christian peace officers. We have a choice - we can be just one of the flock and go along with whatever the flock (our colleagues) are doing, or we can lead. We can lead in boldness by letting our light shine before our colleagues and the citizens we serve. We can serve as Jesus would have us. And that reminded me of Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*



**Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?**

Matthew 6:26



## **A Most Unlikely Candidate**

By: Rev. Tony Baker (Past President FCPO - Canada, 1995 -1997)



Rev. Tony Baker (Ret'd Staff Inspector, Toronto PS)

As we recalled the Christmas story, God's choice of Mary to become the mother of Jesus was a ridiculous choice to the Jews. They were expecting the Messiah to come as a king born to royalty, not as the son of a virgin peasant girl from the obscure town of Nazareth. But that's what our God does. He picks the most unlikely candidates to fulfil His purposes and to bring him glory.

When we think about it, many of us were unlikely candidates to become police officers but we did anyway.

As a young child living in a dysfunctional family, I was a very timid introvert. I had no friends and felt so unwanted that I could never see a bright future for myself. I was the most unlikely candidate to become anything more than a lonely wretch wallowing in my own sorrows. Never, in my wildest dreams, did I ever imagine that one day, I would have a

position of authority as a police officer, let alone stand in front of a crowd and preach God's word.

But I didn't realize then, that God already had plans for me that were beyond my imagination.

***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***

When I retired from the Toronto Police Service in 1997, I hadn't the slightest indication that I would enter full time ministry but then I heard God's call to further my horizons by earning a Master of Divinity degree at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. From there, He called me to be a pastor, then on to further fields serving as a missionary in India, Nepal, and Malaysia.



You may have had a better, or maybe even worse, childhood than I did but regardless, God has wonderful plans for you. It is not by accident you are reading this newsletter today. Somewhere in here, God has a message for you that will steer you toward those plans for your future. And they

may be far from what you have ever dreamt. How do I know? **Look for that spark that makes you stop and think, then dig further by looking into the Bible for His message to you.**

You may consider yourself a most unlikely candidate but let me assure you, God does have amazing plans for your future. Listen, and He will guide you toward them.



*Tony Baker is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, currently serving as a Pastor at Shepherd Village in Toronto.*



## FCPO - USA History

It all started when Officer Terry Speer, Los Angeles Police Department Physical Fitness Instructor,

handed Officer Steve Hartt, visual aids artist, a book, entitled, "Evangelism Explosion," by Dr. Kennedy. This book dealt with introducing the lost to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Hartt read the book, gave his heart to the Lord, and developed a burden for lost police officers.

It was sometime later that several LAPD police officers, including Steve Hartt, Terry

Speer, Karl Traber and Nick Barbara, attended an Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts Conference in Long Beach, California. Having met together while attending this conference, each man encouraged each other, envisioning the need to reach out to lost police officers. It was after this seminar that LAPD officers Steve Hartt, Terry Speer, Karl Traber, Tom Holroyd and Roger Sobie (all assigned to the Los Angeles Police Academy), as well as Nick Barbara and Ralph Evans (assigned to Patrol Divisions in Los Angeles), met on a weekly basis at the Los Angeles Police Academy to study the Bible and pray for God's leading in the area



of reaching lost police officers with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

After a time of prayer and fasting, these Los Angeles police officers spread the word about their burden by flyers, roll call notices, and by word of mouth. A meeting was held at the Los Angeles Police Academy, open to anyone who was interested in learning more about the police officer and their relationship to the Living Christ. [Bob Vernon](#) addressed the group, which totaled thirty-five. He encouraged the officers to share their faith in Christ with their partners and other police officers with whom they come in contact.

As a result of these well attended meetings, it was decided that those interested in studying God's Word, sharing their faith, and praying for fellow officers would meet on the last Monday night of each month. The meetings would be held at the Los Angeles Police Academy. The meetings were started in September, 1972, and included guest speakers, Bible study, prayer, sharing, and the conducting of business matters. In addition, a monthly newsletter was printed to keep Christian police officers informed of coming events. Newsletter information included regular meeting dates and locations,

membership data, and other items of interest. Officer Roger Sobie produced and distributed this newsletter to more than 65 interested Christian police officers.

The group decided to call itself the "Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers." Its first Christmas Party was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1972, at the Smith's house in Simi Valley.

A year that will always be remembered by those active in the FCPO - USA is 1974. That year marked the achievement of their goal to incorporate. The year began with the following FCPO officers:

President: [Karl Traber](#), LAPD  
Vice-President: Ray Walker, LAPD  
Secretaries: Bud Harper &  
Ralph Evans, LAPD  
Treasurer: Jack Kistler, CHP  
Bible Study Chairman: Terry Speer, LAPD  
Evangelism & Outreach Chairman:  
Dave Grundl, LAPD

We are most grateful to our US brothers for having the vision and energy to start FCPO. We are beholden to them for the seeds they planted in the hearts of our Canadian founders.

## FCPO - Canada History



In 1978, Dino Doria made contact with representatives from FCPO-USA and FCPO affiliate chapters were started in Toronto and Vancouver.

In April, 1983, the Canadian FCPO was incorporated with the federal government as a stand-a-lone non-profit charitable organization known as Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers Inc. The founding fathers were: Dino Doria, Dick Hayward, Bob Hooper, George Weir, Richard Turnbull, Norm Brown and Tom Karanfilis. More chapters soon sprang up in

Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. As of December 1987, FCPO - Canada had chapters in every province except for Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, for a total of 31 chapters with approximately 1,200 members.

The National Presidents: Dick Hayward (1983 - 1989); Harold Bennet (1989 - 1990); Larry Wilson (1990 - 1995); Tony Baker (1995 - 1997); Jim Snee (1997 - 2000) Ron Seney (2000 - 2006); Andrew Cowan (2006 - 2009); Marvin Massecar (2009 - 2013); and, Ronald Mostrey (2013 - Present).







On July 21, 2014, we were officially re-registered as “Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada”. Over the years we have lost many of our chapters. Mostly this has been due to people being transferred, retiring etc. **To celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary it would be great to see a rejuvenation of chapters. If you would like to start a chapter, please contact us at [fcpo.aapc@gmail.com](mailto:fcpo.aapc@gmail.com).**



1982 (L-R) Marlen Wells, Tony Rocks, Police Padre Rev. Jones, u/k child, Norman Brown, John Walker, Dino Doria, Mike Connolly



Our Logo: In the center is an open Bible representing God's Word. Above it is a ray of gold, signifying Heaven. The colors surrounding it (and their meaning) are:

-  Black, representing sin
-  Red, which stands for Christ's blood shed on the cross
-  White, showing what happens to our sin when covered by His blood
-  Blue, indicating the waters of baptism
-  Green, denoting new life in Christ and growth in Him
-  Yellow, for Heaven and the streets of gold



# What time is it?

By: Rev. Claude La Barre



Rev. Claude La Barre

I have a question for you. What time is it? My answer: It's Game Time! If you have practiced any kind of sport, especially a team sport, you have probably heard this kind of expression.

My name is Claude, and I was a firefighter in the Canadian Armed Forces, a paramedic in Montreal, and now, I am a retired college teacher and trainer, having taught and trained our future paramedics for 21 years. I am also an ordained Evangelist with the Ministers Network of Canada.

I grew up in a small town in Northern Ontario where I played hockey (of course). I have 3 boys and one daughter and 5 grandchildren. My daughter is an Education Assistant and quite the motivator. The eldest of my boys plays hockey, coaches and is also a referee. Professionally, he is a Police Officer in Toronto. My two youngest boys are still at home and play football.

Now as their football team approaches the field, they have a couple of cheers. One of them is: "What time is it!" And the answer from the team is: "It's game time!" The other cheer is: "We are the Vikings - the mighty, mighty Vikings!" That's the name of their football team. Then, one of the coaches gathers the whole team on the sideline and he "motivates the troops", in a rather loud voice, walking up and down amongst the players, reminding them of who they are and what they are there for! Let's just say, they didn't come to lose. Then they jump up and down in unison and cheer themselves on. That's when they break off and hit the "ground running", ready and fired up to start the game!

All of this might sound familiar to those of you that have practiced some sort of sport, especially at a competitive team sport level. Why did we do all of that? Wasn't it to motivate us, to stir ourselves up and to help us get ready for the game?

Some might say: "Yes Claude, but that's only emotionalism." Well maybe it starts with our emotions. They might need to be stirred up a little, but it usually ends up in a solid determination to accomplish whatever needs to be done. And during that time of having ones "nose to the grind", most of us need a little "pep talk" to get us stirred up again. And that's normal.

Remember David in 1 Samuel 30:6: "Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, (talk about having a bad day!) because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**" And then again with Timothy's "coach", the great Apostle Paul in Timothy 1:6: "Therefore **I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you** through the laying on of my hands."

So what time is it? With everything that has happened in the last couple of years (COVID), we might need to remind ourselves that we are "The Christians - the mighty, mighty Christians!"

Yes, it has been tough, and for some it might still feel that way. And maybe some are saying that there is nothing we can do and that we are in the time of the great apostasy and falling away of the Church. Well, that could be true in part, but ... “Where sin abounds, GRACE MUCH MORE ABOUND!” (Romans 5:20). And we are destined to win as it is said in 1 Corinthians 15:57: “But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”. Do you want more? How about the fact that we have been made “more than conquerors” as found in Romans 8:37?

You see, amid all of that has happened and what is happening and what is going to happen, WE, through HIM, are destined to win! And it starts with “the one in the mirror”. We can start by remembering that **“it’s game time”** and that we have been trained for such a time as this. **“Game on”! It’s our time!** And we are not alone. There is a Remnant as mentioned in Romans 11:5: “Even so then, at this present time **there is a remnant** according to the election of grace.” There always has been a Remnant just like in Joel 2:32 where it says: “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among **the remnant whom the LORD calls.**” And it is a large and noisy group just like in Micah 2:12: **“I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together** like sheep of the fold, Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; **They shall make a loud noise because of so many people.**” WE are not alone!

But some might ask: “What of those fallen away in the great apostasy?”. The answer is found in Isaiah 10:21: **“The remnant will return**, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God.” This is how Revival starts. It starts with ONE. Let us, each ONE of us, be the ONE. Let us remember and let us remind ourselves of what the Lord has done and what He is doing and what He is going to do! Here’s one example of how God sees the future in Amos 9:11-15:



**“On that day I will raise up** the tabernacle of David, **which has fallen down**, and **repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins and rebuild** it as in the days of old; **That they may possess the remnant** of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says **the LORD who does this thing.** **“Behold, the days are coming,”** says the LORD, **“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,** And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow *with it.* **I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall**

**build the waste cities** and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and **eat fruit from them.** I will plant them in their land, and **no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,”** Says the LORD your God.”!!

So “What time is it?” It’s game time! It’s time to remember who we are in Christ. To remember what He has done for us and for others. It’s time to remember what He is going to do. It’s time to stir ourselves up and to help stir up those around us. Let the Remnant awaken! Let the Remnant gather itself up and cheer itself on as ONE TEAM and hit the “ground running”! **It’s revival time! Let’s Go in HIS MIGHTY POWER! Let’s Go!!**





## From our Vault

Articles from [past Peacemakers](#) make for a great second read. And for many of you - the first read. They are timeless. We opened the vault for this issue, and hope you will be blessed again by this contribution.

## Why I Believe in God

By: Sgt. John Walker (Metropolitan Toronto Police Force)

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [Fall 1992](#)



Sgt. John Walker

When I was 12 years old my mother walked out leaving six children behind. My father, a commercial artist, had to quit his job and work out of our home to take care of the children. My father's faith in God kept us going.

In high school, I hung out with the "wrong" crowd. I became an atheist. I thought that God was just something that weak-minded people believed in. I had to drop out of my first year at the University of Toronto after contracting mononucleosis.

I worked in Alcan Canada Foils in Scarborough and saw men punch in and out with what seemed to me to be no real meaning in life. Two questions plagued my mind: Why are we here? Where are we going? I didn't buy evolution even as an atheist. There just wasn't evidence for it.

I met a girl. She had graduated from the University of Calgary and had travelled through Europe and ended up living in Unionville. She read a book called "The Late, Great Planet Earth" by Hal Lindsay. She was shocked into believing in God by the book which compared current world events to Bible prophecy.

We argued philosophy and religion nightly for two months. In the end, she had knocked down each argument that I had as an atheist. As a result, I became a believer and never looked back. I don't pretend to be righteous but I do have those questions now settled in my mind.

I believe that if you seek God you will find him. God wants us to believe in him not because we have seen him but because we have faith in Him. John 20, verse 29, says: "Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet believed".

**Let your colleagues, family, and friends know about FCPO!**

**Membership is free! Members receive this quarterly newsletter.** We have 2 types of membership: Regular Membership (voting) is for current or retired peace officers, while Associate Membership (non-voting) is for [any Christian](#) who agrees with our [Statement of Faith](#).

**Join online at:** [www.fcpcanada.com](http://www.fcpcanada.com)

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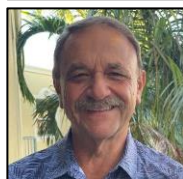
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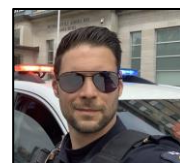
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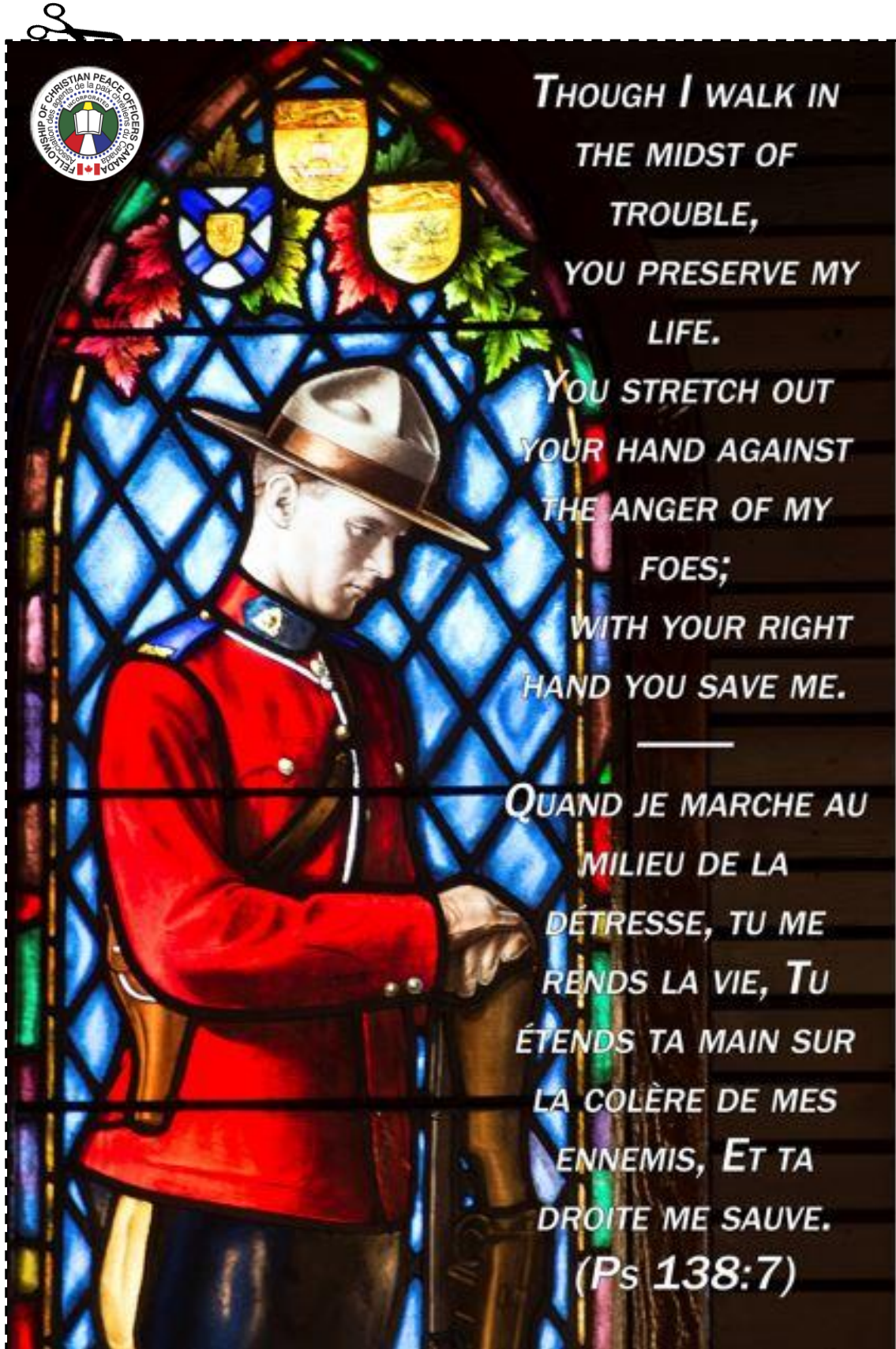
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# Psalm 138:7



THOUGH I WALK IN  
THE MIDST OF  
TROUBLE,  
YOU PRESERVE MY  
LIFE.

YOU STRETCH OUT  
YOUR HAND AGAINST  
THE ANGER OF MY  
FOES;  
WITH YOUR RIGHT  
HAND YOU SAVE ME.

QUAND JE MARCHE AU  
MILIEU DE LA  
DÉTRESSE, TU ME  
REND LA VIE, TU  
ÉTENDS TA MAIN SUR  
LA COLÈRE DE MES  
ENNEMIS, ET TA  
DROITE ME SAUVE.  
(Ps 138:7)

This is a photo of one of the beautiful stained glass windows from the historic [RCMP Chapel at "Depot"](#) (Training Academy).

This would make a great addition to a workstation, or perhaps a detachment or station exit door! A great reminder for officers as they depart the building and hit the streets!