



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



August, 2024

From the President's Desk

[Version française](#)



Every time I put together the Peacemaker I wonder what type of content we will have. I pray that some of the articles will be meaningful and will speak to at least one person. I am always thrilled when our readers take the time to send in a testimony of what God has done and is doing in their life. Testimonies are like manna for those who may feel like they are alone in their workplace or personal situation. So, please consider writing something for your newsletter. Just send it to fcpo.aapc@gmail.com. Likewise, it is always encouraging to receive your feedback. When I receive feedback, I always make sure to pass that on to the author of the article. Please feel free to reply to this email with your feedback.

On average 60% of the Peacemaker email delivery get opened. I always wonder about the other 40%. Often when I follow-up with some, I find out the Peacemaker although successfully delivered, went into their Junk Mail folder. To avoid this, please enter info@fcpocanada.ca in your address book to ensure successful delivery into your inbox.

Looking forward, it will be great to meet some of you at upcoming events. Next for us is the annual First Responders BBQs, September 21st (see page 8). There we are honoured to occupy the first table where folks pick up their plates and utensils for the delicious BBQ fare they are about to enjoy. Once again we are looking for volunteers to help out at those tables. If you can help, please let us know

at: fcpo.aapc@gmail.com what location you would like to attend.

God bless,

Ron

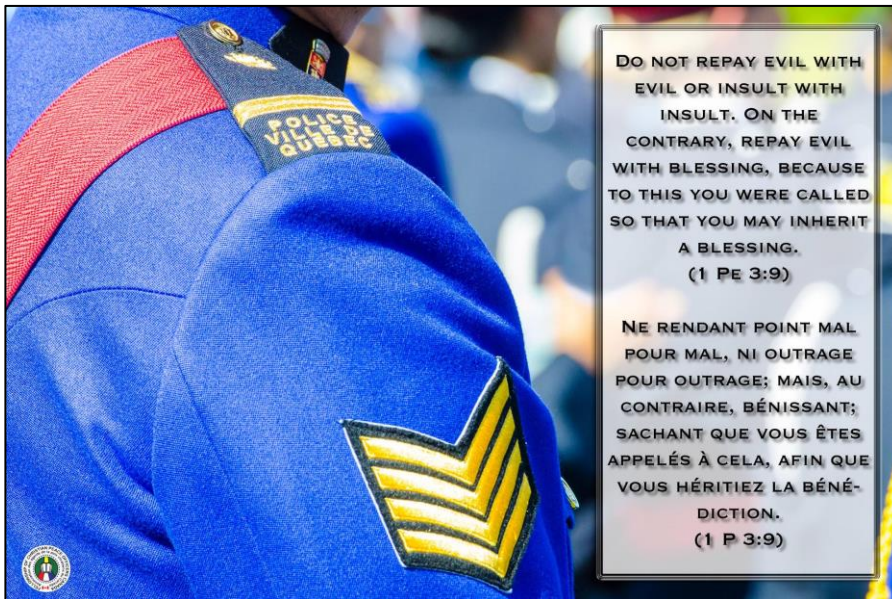
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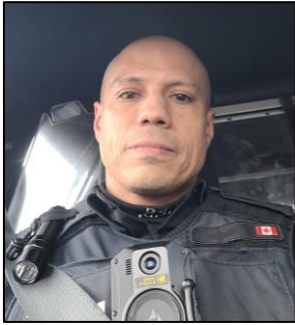
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The Goodness of God

Cst. Juan Vargas



My name is Juan Vargas and I have been a uniform constable for 24 years. I currently work in Toronto Police Service, 11 Division, in PRU (Primary Response

Unit) capacity.

I was born in Lima, Peru and lived there until the age of 13 when I migrated to Canada. The predominant religion in Peru is Roman Catholic, which is the religion I was brought up in. Growing up I would attend church from time to time as most families did. I have to say that although I wouldn't have considered myself a practicing Catholic, I always believed and felt a connection to God.

Upon migrating to Canada I attended a Roman Catholic high school, thus continuing in the Roman Catholic faith. I was married in church and baptized my 3 children as per Roman Catholic customs.

I have to say although Catholicism involves the worship of saints, I never really followed this practice. My approach has always been to have direct conversations with God, although I have to admit that these conversations mostly occurred in times of need and by way of repetitive prayers.

As the years went on I found myself hardly ever attending church and with time even my conversations with God came to a full stop.

As the years went on I found myself hardly ever attending church and with time even my conversations with God came to a full stop. I

should clarify that I never stopped believing, but simply chose to stop having conversations with my father and creator.

Thanks to all the things God has provided for me I have lived a great life. I have a wonderful, beautiful wife, 3 exceptionally smart, wonderful children (not so little, my oldest being 22 years of age and I am proud to say that she is a paramedic with Peel Region). I am very proud of all my children,

My life by any standard has been great, but as good as it was, I always felt that something was missing.

although at times it may not seem that way as

I believed that tough love was necessary to raise responsible, respectful adults. I am also thankful for my career choice and the ability to positively impact society (well...most of the time ...I have put my foot in my mouth in more than one occasion).

My life by any standard has been great, but as good as it was, I always felt that something was missing. This feeling of emptiness over time would morph into some kind of guilt. I could not understand why having all the things mentioned above would bring me happiness, but not necessarily Joy.

Life went on, and as it did, that feeling would at times subside and at other times be amplified by watching my own success, but not being able to fully enjoy it. Now, my path to Christianity has a bit of a comical start, where I would listen to podcasts about supernatural things (this is where I draw the line ...too embarrassed to say what it was...no concerns there it was all morally clean). These podcasts led to watching and

listening to online Christian Ministries, mostly involving near death experiences (in keeping with the supernatural theme...lol).

In July of 2022, I was invited to a BBQ that was being held at Extraordinary Church, located in Mississauga. The invite came via a long time work partner (someone who I also consider a best friend and now my brother in Christ) who had been a Christian for a very long time; however it was a topic that we never spoke about at any depth in the car. I suspect God was waiting for the right time to bring up the subject.

So I attended that BBQ and if I am totally honest, I was just looking for a way to kill a Sunday afternoon with my son and enjoy some food (there was also a petting zoo set up for children).

One thing that jumped at me was the fact that there wasn't any religious talk, but instead was a fun filled afternoon with good food, games and people having fun.

That afternoon came and went and I returned to my life as usual. However, I did start following the online services. I would take my son to a class once a week and during that hour class I would go for a walk and would listen to the Sunday service.

This went on for some time and on September 11th, 2022, I finally attended a service at church. It just so happens that on that day there was a pastor from another church preaching. The message on that day was about "The Goodness of God" and coming back home to your faith. I must admit that the message had a profound effect on me to the point that I had to fight back the tears not to make a spectacle of myself (which I failed at). Unbeknownst to me, there would be an altar call at the end of the service, which got me by surprise. I have never experienced such an internal fight to stay put in one place,

but on that day I failed miserably. I tried my best to control my emotions but I simply could not. It dawned on me that if I had been successful at anything in my life and if "I" had made a good life for myself, it had not been by my own strength, but by God's will and grace. His Goodness and guidance throughout my life became very clear to me in an instant.

I have been attending that church ever since and more often than not, the strong feelings I described above are present. A lot of things have happened in my life since developing a relationship with Jesus and my creator. The things I have experienced I cannot explain, but I am convinced that they are supernatural in nature and connected to my new found relationship with God. I have been trying to educate myself in my faith and I am finding out that there is so much to learn.

It has taken some time for me to write this. I think I have been held back by fear to be singled out and ridiculed. I have come to learn that in my case this fear has been part of the process. I call it a process because there has been a profound change in me, which has taken some time to occur. That process of course is never finished, all I can do is continue in my walk with Christ and let him and the Holy Spirit guide me in hopes that when is all done, I have been a good and faithful servant in God's eyes.

So if this resonates with anybody, I am here to tell you that walking with Jesus is not easy, but is sure worth it. I no longer see or approach life the same way. In some places I simply no longer fit - and that's ok with me. As long as I can continue to grow in my faith and become closer to my Celestial Father...that is all that matters.

God bless,

Juan

Follow us on



Walking the Narrow Path of Being - My Brother's Keeper

Dino Doria, Ontario Director



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

As a retired officer I see and hear of the frustration, discouragement and daily struggles that our first responders experience.

Many of my colleagues have become disillusioned by these negative experiences that promote low morale due to lack of support in all arenas of their duties and are leaving at an unprecedented rate across North America.

I'm writing this article to remind our brothers and sisters serving in the front lines wherever they are, that there is coming a day that ALL injustice will be dealt with by our Commander & Chief Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of

Glory.

Behold, I (Jesus) am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to the merit of his deeds (earthly works, faithfulness). I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End [the Eternal One]. Revelation 22:12-13 Amplified Bible

As Christian Officers, consider the calling that our Lord has given you - take a moment to reflect on this fact.

As Christian Officers, consider the calling that our Lord has given you - take a moment to reflect on this fact. Our encouragement as first responders will not come from the

experiences that we witness daily. Our sustaining power and perfect peace comes when we daily dedicate our trust and obedience to the Lord Jesus.

You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You--in both inclination and character, Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].

Trust [confidently] in the LORD forever [He is your fortress, your shield, your banner], For the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages]. Isaiah 26:3-4 Amplified Bible

Isaiah 26:3-4 in other translations:

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. KJV

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ESV


People with their minds set on you, you keep completely whole, Steady on their feet, because they keep at it and don't quit. (The Messenger)

It says to those in the present that "perfect peace" is possible here and now. The Lord provides this to those whose minds are focused on the Lord through trusting in Him. Perfect peace is not a state

without any anxiety at all, or one where life is always easy and perfect. The prophet is describing internal peace.

What does it mean God will keep you in perfect peace? It refers to tranquility. The perfect part of it refers to it keeping us, mind, body, and soul, in perfect peace. Now that is a promise! Praise the Lord for that kind of promise! It is only in times of great distress that we really appreciate that kind of peace!

Throughout my military and policing seasons these verses did give me a peace that surpassed all human understanding in the midst of turmoil. It allowed me to carry out my duties unwavering steadfast in accomplishing my mandate. The scripture also reminds us that we are to be steadfast in His promises in other words “Hold the Line!” and be comforted that Jesus has already Won the Battle! “We are not fighting for Victory but from Victory”.



**DO NOT GIVE WAY TO NEGATIVE
CIRCUMSTANCES OR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS.
REMEMBER THE MANDATE THAT THE LORD
HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH.**

Reflect on this as you carry out your daily duties - Do NOT give way to negative circumstances or negative thoughts. Remember the mandate that the Lord has entrusted you with. He will equip you to be an overcomer indeed. Hold the Line - Be Steadfast in the Lord and continue to honour the mandate that He has given you as a First Responder. Be an Overcomer

regardless of the daily adversities that come your way! Ask the Lord to help you and He will.

In the Old Testament book of Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV. The meaning of the word steadfast is strong devotion or loyalty to a person, belief, or cause. Steadfast is defined as unchanging, firmly fixed in place, immovable, and not subject to change. This word is used to describe God's love for us; an unchanging love that reveals His character.

So be encouraged in these facts - trust in the living Christ to be rooted and grounded in His Love.

Prayer found in Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV): *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

He has "Set Apart" His children - to carry out His will here on earth. What a privilege we have to be the Guardians of “Serving & Protecting” - to walk the narrow path so that we may continue to be “our Brother’s Keeper”.

Be encouraged by the power of His Holy Spirit - His Peace be with you all as you carry out your daily duties.

God Bless,

Dino Doria MSc



I Swear. Or do I?

Ronald Mostrey, FCPO – Canada, President



One of the fundamentals of our justice system is that charges and evidence be accepted as “sworn”. In Canada, traditionally officers have sworn on the Bible when joining a law enforcement service, laying charges, or giving evidence in court. They have had the alternative of “affirming” and now in some jurisdictions even swearing on eagle feathers.

Although some assume that if one does not swear on the Bible, they must not be a Christian - that is not always the case. Some point to scripture found at Matthew 5:34-37

But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

When I started my policing career, I was impressed to see bibles everywhere throughout the detachment. However, they weren't being read, but rather were there as a requirement needed to lay charges.

I like most officers used them to swear my charges, and had no issue using the Bible to swear an oath in court. Then a couple years into my service when I was serving in Red Serge duty at a citizenship court, I noticed that the Koran was being dished out with the Bibles, and people were just swearing on “a book”. I'm sure some never even looked at what book they had, let alone what its contents meant to them. This gave me pause to think about how we as police were treating our Holy Book. I saw members swearing on the Bible, even kissing it before they presented their evidence in court, well-knowing that some of those members lives were not at all in line with the very book they were kissing. I had an epiphany. Given the Bible was more than just “a book” to me - I decided I would always just affirm my charges and evidence. To each their own, but for me that worked. From then on, I just always let my “yes” be yes, and my “no” be no.



In Memoriam

Longstanding FCPO-Canada member Ross Souch, passed away peacefully at age 91 on March 17, 2024. Ross was a retired Auxiliary Inspector who was the senior founder of the AUXO Unit at the Toronto Police Services. As a polio survivor, Ross had physical challenges that meant that he could not serve in the regular force; however, he was so grateful for his years in the Auxiliary where he developed strong and lasting bonds with regular force and Auxiliary officers.

In 1995, while he was on duty at the Billy Graham Crusade, Ross found himself alone in a room where he dropped to his knees and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. He later referred to the complete peace that he experienced afterwards. In recent years, he was enduring increasingly, challenging physical decline and he was heard to say on several occasions, “I wish the Lord would take me.” On April 1, 2024, family and friends were joined by officers from OPP, retired TPS Senior officers, retired and active Auxiliaries who attended and participated in the Celebration of Life for Ross. The family wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the beautiful tributes of love, respect and honour expressed for Ross. Until we meet again.

Are you Offended?

Cst. Chris Byers



Cst. Chris Byers

As peace officers, we often see people at their worst. People who are not happy with us and who can be quite vocal about it. There are also those members of the public who seem to take every opportunity to criticize our actions. Many of us also have struggles with some of the people we work alongside of. People who may rub us the wrong way for a variety of reasons, or who even try to use us as competency examples on their way up the promotional ladder. Sound familiar? I know it's happened to me! In any event, whether it's a member of the public, or those we work with, there are certainly an abundance of opportunities for us to become offended.

In Luke 17:1-4, Jesus is speaking with his disciples and tells them that offenses will certainly come, but that we are called to forgive. Jesus goes on to say that if your brother sins against you seven times in a day and repents seven times, we must forgive him. We're probably all quite familiar with this passage of scripture. It's good to forgive - of course - that's a no-brainer! But knowing and doing are two different things. You can have a head knowledge of something, but until it penetrates your heart and you see it as important, you are probably less likely to act on it.

Proverbs 18:19 says, "A brother who is offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and quarrels are like the bars of a citadel." (NASB)

Think about that for a minute. Think about the imagery of a strong city with a fortified wall around it. Think about watchmen and archers assembled on the top of the wall and soldiers waiting inside, all with the singular goal of protecting the city by not letting anyone in. Proverbs is telling us that it's easier to breach what I just described than it is to win an offended brother. That's powerful language that is deserving of our attention.

I think it's important that we realize how dangerous and debilitating offense can be and that we ask the Lord help us to keep our spiritual eyes and ears open to this attack from the enemy. Keep in mind that Jesus said it is impossible for offence not to come, but he didn't say it's impossible not to be offended. If we can learn to see offence for the danger that it is and learn to not take the bait, I believe we can begin to walk in victory.

Have you ever become offended about something and then typed up a really long and passionate e-mail to the person, or to many people? Did you press the send button or did you sleep on it first? I will admit that I have done both. Sometimes when I have taken a step back, slept on it, prayed about it and re-read the e-mail, I have made some significant edits or chosen to simply delete the e-mail altogether. The Bible speaks to this kind of restraint in Proverbs 19:11 where it says, "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense." (ESB) I love the way that is worded...it is his *glory* to overlook an offense. I don't know about you, but that inspires me to want to make it a matter of course in my life to overlook offences when they come. And they *will* come!

I know I have been talking about people that we deal with at, or as a result of, our work. But what about our family members, or our brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you offended with someone at church? Are you offended with a family member that thinks differently than you politically? I believe that if we will allow ourselves to receive the revelation from God about offense and choose to embrace the wisdom that Proverbs provides us to overlook it, we will be better placed to walk in love in every relationship and shine our light for Jesus! And isn't that what it's all about?

Editor's Note: Chris is a Forensic Identification Constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. Chris is also a Commissioned Minister and serves as Chaplain for Blue Line Church – a web-based Christian Ministry geared towards the spiritual growth of Peace Officers. For more information about Blue Line Church, or to contact Chris, visit www.bluelinechurch.ca



callin'
ALL POLICE
FIRE
PARAMEDICS

**FIRST RESPONDERS
APPRECIATION BBQs**

September 21, 2024
12:30 - 7pm

Peel Police 11 Division - 3030 Erin Mills Pkwy, Mississauga ON
Peel Police 12 Division - 4600 Dixie Road, Mississauga ON
Peel Police 21 Division - 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton ON
Peel Police 22 Division - 7750 Hurontario Street, Brampton ON
Toronto Police - 11 Division, 2054 Davenport Road, Toronto ON

Who is Your Boss?

Colt Charlabois



And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Colossians 3:23

My stepfather used to say, “Everyone has a boss.” As a lifelong entrepreneur, I couldn't agree more. We're either working for a leader, a client, or a reputation. This means that we all have to

receive feedback from someone else at some point. But what happens when the feedback tears you down?

I can remember working for a guy who told all of our customers I was the best bicycle and snowboard technician in town. The first time I heard it, I beamed with pride! Until a customer complained and my boss informed me that, despite what he tells customers, I was actually the WORST tech he had ever hired. It was devastating news. I loved my job.

In reflection, my greatest shortcoming as a technician had less to do with how well I adjusted the gear shifter or how sharp I made the edge on a pair of skis. Those were skills I could have improved upon. The real issue had more to do with my character.

After hearing the boss label me his worst mechanic ever, my attitude changed. I grumbled. I slacked off. I made jokes about him behind his back. Ultimately, I resigned from giving my best. Why would I? He didn't treat me very well, I told myself.

By deciding not to give my best, my attitude toward the work continued to erode.

By deciding not to give my best, my attitude toward the work continued to erode. I was toxic to culture and the boss eventually transferred me to a

location where I worked alone. The penalty for being a poor team player I suppose. When my attitude refused to change, he eventually cut back my hours and I was forced to find work elsewhere. Which makes sense in retrospect.

Over the years, I've led employees who didn't perform well. I've had to adjust a role from time to time and shuffle responsibilities in hopes they would rekindle their passion for the work.

God had allowed me an opportunity to forge a steady and faithful attitude toward serving others, regardless of how they treated me.

Looking back to that job as a technician, I learned that my reaction to his feedback - whether warranted or not - only hurt me in the process. God had allowed me an opportunity to forge a steady and faithful attitude toward serving others, regardless of how they treated me. As though I was working unto the Lord. But I was too concerned about myself to see it.

Rather than judge a person or their delivery, I've found it more helpful to hold in my reactions. To bite my tongue. To wait, asking God if there is some truth in what they are saying. Or at the very least, ask Him if He would strengthen my character so that I wouldn't so easily take offence.

Essentially, I want my Father in Heaven to be Lord of my emotions so that I'm not tossed about by the feedback that blows in.

Whether you're dealing with a boss, client, neighbour, friend or even a spouse, we are called to put forth our best, regardless of the feedback received.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have you resigned from giving your best?
2. Who have you deemed as unworthy of your full effort?
3. Who might the Lord be using to forge your character in this season?
4. What emotions do you need to submit to His Lordship in order to see the full picture more clearly?

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. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5 NIV



Colt is a certified SUCCESS coach, trainer of coaches and owner of Kingdom Business [Coaching](#), a Christian Life and Business Performance consultancy that helps productive people stay out of the redline to build business without regret.

For the past ten years he's worked in both US and Canada, coaching business owners and Christian leaders to find their calling, live true to their God-given purpose and relish in the impact, rather than striving to maintain an image that's not serving them.



**WORKPLACE
NETWORK**

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

A Shadow on the Snow

Herman Russell, Retired Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery Officer

I have been a Christian since childhood and saved by the Blood of Jesus! My wife Rita and I attend Eastern Gate Pentecostal church in St. John's, Newfoundland. I know all too well the dangers that peace officers face each and every day as they do their utmost to help bring justice and serve their jurisdictions in their line of duty. My prayer is continuously for their safety and those of their families. I pray that those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ will come to know Him as their personal Saviour. He is our Rock in time of need and will be always by our sides, will never let us down and will guard and protect us in all situations. He has been my strength; my Guiding Light and He has been everything to me that I could ever ask for.

During this past winter, one day I was looking out my trailer window in Port Blandford, Newfoundland, on a beautiful moonlight night, when I saw what I thought was a fallen aspen tree outside my trailer. After taking a closer look, I saw that it was actually a shadow in the form of a cross which was cast on the snow from the large aspen tree by a bright shining moon.

After praying that night, words came to me so fast that I barely had the time to put them to paper and it took me just twelve minutes to write what came to me in "A Shadow on the Snow".



A Shadow on the Snow
Herman Russell

*While looking out a window as I oft' times did before,
what presented itself to me was a sight to behold,
A shadow on the snow appeared like a fallen tree...
of a rugged cross on which Jesus died for all humanity.*

*I thought at first a tree had fallen to the snow-covered ground, But a second glance
showed me there were shadows all around...
Of God's great love and sacrifice as He died upon a tree,
To free us all from sin and death, in the end to set us free.*

*As I pondered there a shadow sure it was,
From a small tree standing all alone representing to me the lost.
I quickly through discernment learned that it was meant for me,
For I surely knew that long ago Jesus died on such a tree.*

*Many times, throughout the seasons this shadow I saw before,
As animals, birds and humans played, sang and laughed galore.
But in this lowly spot, it never occurred before to me,
That like this moonlight shadow, Jesus lives so close to me.*

*Oh, what a sight on a moonlight night, a beauty un-compared...
of a shadow dull, but a moonlight bright, and yet a life not spared,
A wayward glance, yes, a second chance, I believe is there for me...
Of a Savior's love, from a shadow cast, for a sinner, yes, that's me.*

*The things of nature surely are closely watched and, in His hand,...
Calvary's blood still flows all around and reaches throughout the land.
Whenever I look at a shadow, I now can plainly see,
That His life is still evident, even in the shadows of a tree.*

*So now I know why shadows appear on the snow or on dry ground,
It is to remind me, that He is alive and always around,
And when I gaze out my window, and there, as far as I can see,
Those shadows represent to me; there is life beyond Calvary's tree.*

*The shadow moved away in silence, as the winter moon went down,
But beyond the horizon I could see, dull shadows on the ground,
I'll sleep tonight with a greater hope, for in Jesus it will be,
For tonight I saw my Jesus, in His shadow, beneath the aspen tree.*

*The shadow of the aspen tree is no longer there,
Why? Because it was just that... A shadow like the life we live down here.
Every night there'll be more shadows, 'though I may not be there to see,
But for one thing sure, His shadow, will continually watch over me.*

*The moon has set, the shadow gone, no longer there to see,
But in my heart, it lingers on, a reminder of Calvary.
The swiftly fleeting shadow, like our life on earth is gone,
But a new life is just beginning, in the morning after dawn.*

Letters to the Editor

S/Sgt. Garth Hampson (Ret'd)



S/Sgt. Garth Hampson (Ret'd)

Dear FCPO,

I read with great pleasure the tribute you paid to George Beverly (Bev) Shea in the last issue of the Peacemaker. In my retirement years I used to spend many hours with a businessman in Winchester by the name of Roy Fawcett. He had a piano/organ shop at his farm west of Winchester on the way to Mountain, Ontario. Roy was like family to Bev Shea going as far back as when Bev's father was the local pastor in Winchester. I would often sing concerts at the theatre there to raise monies for various charities.

Each summer, Bev and his wife would journey from their home in North Carolina to spend the summer at their cottage near the Quebec-Ontario border. My first meeting was when he came in the back door of Roy's farm home. It was like the start of a big family reunion and both my wife and I were made to feel right at home as if

they had known us for years.

When Bev celebrated his 95 birthday, Roy rented the hockey arena in Winchester and arrangements were made to have this international event in Bev's honor with a massive party of over 4,000 residents from near and far gathering to celebrate this gentle giant who brought so much hope and inspiration to the world with the Billy Graham Crusades. The day before at the main traffic stop on the highway leading into Winchester arrangements had been made to have a sign installed advising passersby's that Winchester was the Home of George Beverly Shea. I even got to sing the national anthem along with the crowd that had gathered. I was wearing my RCMP Review Order. It was at that time that George told me that he had applied for the Force as a teenager. With his great physique he would have been a great contributor to police work. He was informed that he might be posted to the Yukon and that just was not for him.

At the "Gathering of the 4000" next day in the arena it was a hot and humid summer's day. Roy made arrangements for air conditioning units to be placed on stage where all the lights had been installed. I was asked to lead the 400 voice choir in the great hymns of the early Crusades and particularly the hymn "[How great Thou Art](#)" which Bev himself had brought to world's attention. I also sang a solo of one of Bev's favorite songs. He came over and thanked me and that is when I took out the RCMP Stetson from under my chair and put it on his head. He was thrilled and in many of his letters that followed over the years he would tell me how envious members of the Crusade were when they saw the Stetson hanging on his coat tree!

Bev was very dedicated to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and he made millions of friends through this community outreach. I was particularly keen that this all was generated by a proud Canadian!

Editor's Note: Garth retired after a 34 year career with the RCMP in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Ottawa. He toured across Canada and around the world as a renowned soloist with the [RCMP Concert Band](#). Garth is well-known and dearly respected in the National Capital Region for his magnificent baritone voice and his many volunteer activities. Garth is a [recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers](#).

In Valor There is Hope (A Warrior's Hope)

Police Lt. (Ret'd) & Chaplain MC Williams



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd)

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.” (Hebrews 11:33-14)

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” (Judges 6:12)

Under one of the lions on our Wall (the [National Law Enforcement Memorial](#)) are carved the words, **"IN VALOR THERE IS HOPE"** (a quote from First Century Roman historian and senator, Gaius Cornelius Tacitus).

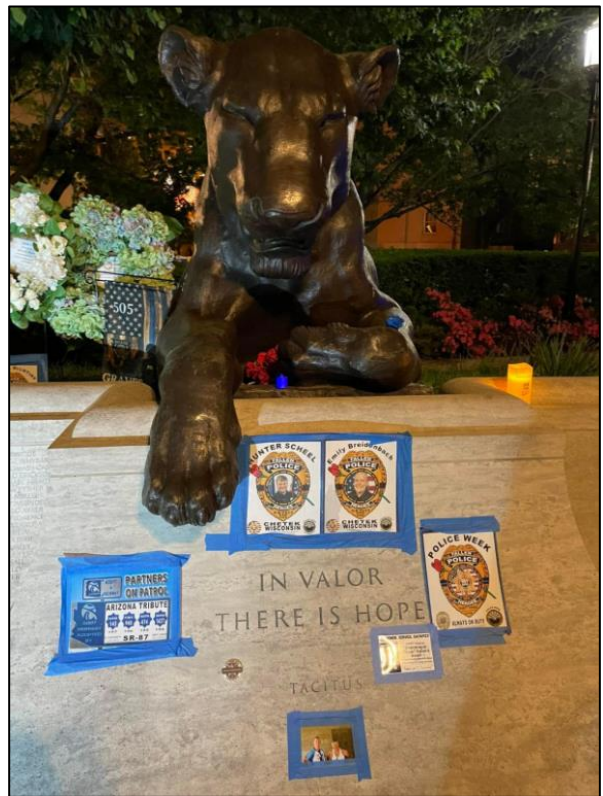
Now Tacitus was no Christian. In fact, he was a supporter, eye witness and "reporter" of Emperor Nero's horrific treatment of Christians ([Tacitus on Christ](#)). So what then does this quote actually mean, who does it apply to, and why am I basing a Bible study on it?

As shown on our Wall, the simplest meaning of these five words is that the **valor** demonstrated through our honorable and courageous service as peace officers (a God-ordained calling) gives **hope** to those we serve and protect. But is there more? Is there not a biblical nexus to Tacitus' Latin phrase (*Spes in virtute*) even if he did not intend it so?

The word translated as “valor” in English is the Latin word for “virtue” (*Virtūs or virtute*). The original meaning is military courage and strength, or “valor.” A valiant warrior is one who displays valor. In Latin, “*vir*” literally means “man,” and so this is a kind of root virtue pointing us to the Roman military notion that “manliness” is that height of virtue that a truly valiant man shows in the heat of battle.

So, what then is our biblical nexus here? Well, let's start with the two passages of Scripture I shared above. In **Hebrews 11**, we find the "heroes of the faith." But what (or Who) gave them valor? Who gave Gideon (**Judges 6:12** -- whom God found cowering and hiding in a winepress) -- his valor? God alone! In fact, without Him, we are ultimately powerLESS.

Thirteenth century theologian and philosopher Thomas Aquinas, teaching on this subject, associated heart, soul, mind, and strength (valor) with the four cardinal virtues of temperance, justice, prudence and



courage. Are these virtues not foundational with how we are to serve in our God-ordained (**Romans 13:1-4**) profession of law enforcement?

Look again at [Hebrews 11:32-34](#) where the writer describes God's "heroes of the faith" who, acting under the power (valor) of God Himself, "...enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight." While this is most certainly "cop stuff", the context is clear: they could accomplish nothing outside of God's valorous strength and power (and not of themselves, lest they should boast -- **Ephesians 2:9**).

So biblically speaking, the word "valor" describes a Christian servant-warrior's God-given courage, strength (might), fearlessness, and bravery, especially in military combat and in what we do in as LEOs on the "thin blue line."

In the Hebrew, the concept of "valor" is repeatedly used to describe God Himself (the ultimate warrior - **Exodus 15:3**). It should therefore be no surprise that those of us who follow Him can rightly say, "*Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies*" (**Psalms 60:12**).

One anonymous Christian writer put it like this:

"Anyone who desires to do valiantly for His Lord and Master must first prepare his heart. No one knows when the opportunity for valor will arise, but all can be 'ready for every good work' every day (**Titus 3:1**). Anyone who desires to do valiantly must martial (a military/police word) and be willing to hazard everything he holds dear for the cause for which he stands and for that which he loves -- with his whole heart, soul, mind and strength, withholding nothing (**Matthew 6:21**). Anyone who desires to do valorous deeds must wholly submit his interests to his one and only Master (**Matthew 6:24**)."

More? Consider just the following:

- (1) **Ephesians 6:10** -- "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*"
- (2) **Daniel 11:32** -- "*The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits*"
- (3) **Psalms 18** and **Psalms 144** (and so many more).

And then we come to the concept of **HOPE**. God also makes it clear in His Word that unless we first know Christ as Lord and Savior, our acts of human valor and so-called "good" deeds are ultimately without hope and power (see **John 3:1-21**, **John 14:6**, **Acts 4:12**, and more).

Clearly, as Edward Mote wrote in his famous hymn ("The Solid Rock"):

*"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand..."*

Friends, the meaning is crystal clear: unless we repent of our sin and are *born again* (**John 3:1-21**) in Christ (again, the ultimate "Servant-Warrior" --[Revelation 19:11-16](#)) alone (**John 14:6**, **Acts 4:12**), it is impossible for us to ever be "good" enough or have enough "valor" to give us the hope of heaven and escape an otherwise righteous judgment in hell. So yes, "**IN VALOR THERE IS HOPE**" but only if that valor is grounded in the hope that is found in a genuine, life-saving/life-changing personal relationship with Christ alone.

So, do you have this God-given valor and hope? Are you sure? Let's dig a little further as I bring this study to a close.

As I stated, Tacitus was not a believer. While his writings indicate that [he may be have been an eye witness to Jesus' trials and crucifixion](#), there is no evidence he ever came to a saving faith. As such, his famous words will ultimately fall on "sinking sand" (aka, quicksand). Accordingly, understand that an officer or soldier (or anyone) seeking to rely on his/her own valor, deeds, strength, etc. to gain lasting "glory" (heaven) -- without Christ -- will fail (even if we survive this profession, short of rapture, age will defeat us all).

But what about the other lion on our Wall in DC with the quote from [Proverbs 28:1](#) -- "[The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.](#)" Who are "the righteous" here? While there is a quasi-secular focus, we need to understand that, ultimately, ONLY those who have been made righteous by what Christ did for us on the cross will have an eternal reward in heaven. As with biblical **valor**, ONLY God who can make us "righteous" and give us the strength (valor) to be "*bold as lions.*"

So, is it right to honor and remember our fallen on Memorial Day and during Police Week? To use their stories to inspire us to "serve and protect" with valor and honor? Absolutely! But we must also understand that all the heroism and valor in the world, without being in a right relationship with Christ, is utterly without hope (and [Valhalla is nothing more than a hopeless pagan myth](#)).

Especially during Police Week and Memorial Day, as I visit our memorials and cemeteries, I ask myself, "How many of these heroes died without a saving faith (without hope)?" And it is these thoughts and questions that should inspire us to have a "**Code 3**" (lights and siren) sense of urgency to share the hope we have in Christ with the lost (the hopeless) so that they will have every chance to be saved (backup of the eternal kind) and spend eternity in heaven. Ultimately, that's our mission and purpose here!

Again, regardless of one's worldly valor (our honorable services as police officers), unless we pass from this earth in a right relationship with Christ, our deeds are truly "sinking sand" (worthless, hopeless), and we will NOT be spending eternity in heaven.

Praise God, He -- the most valiant of all warriors -- is also the King of all hope, and His loving desire is that "*none should perish*" in hell (**2 Peter 3:9**). But this comes with the truth that [He alone is the ONLY way](#) we can have the assurance (eternal HOPE) of heaven (**John 14:6, Acts 4:12**).

[Strength and Honor](#) (*Virtūs et Honos* in Latin)!

MC



[The Centurion Law Enforcement Ministry](#) is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian outreach by, for and about law enforcement (police, deputies, investigators, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and military personnel. TCLEM provides Bible-based support, fellowship and accountability for officers worldwide. We also seek to infuse Christian servant-leadership into our profession and equip the Christian officer to boldly share and live the Gospel.

Sharing Project Sword with Assiniboine Community College Police Studies Graduates

Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn, Brandon Police Service Chaplain



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

On Sept 6th, Class Coordinator Sgt. Alice Potter invited me to present a session on police chaplaincy and emotional/spiritual care. At the outset, one student shared with the class that he equated chaplaincy with one word - "hatred." There were several interesting and open conversations about faith that day while I shared highlights of my journey through 33 plus years of law enforcement, without and with faith. Exposure to daily trauma will erode resiliency if a first responder does nothing to strengthen their resolve. I ended the session with a prayer of encouragement. Just prior to praying for the grads prior to their ceremony, I handed each one a Project Sword Bible explaining where it came from and its purpose.

From January through April, I've had the privilege of spending many hours instructing these students in Forensics and Crime Scene Management. Through time shared in conversations outside the classroom, the students have grown to appreciate the emphasis I stress on complete selfcare - body, soul, and spirit. I was able to paint a more detailed picture of chaplaincy across Canada which I've gleaned through my relationships with amazing CPCA chaplains. We are "Stronger Together" because our emphasis is on inclusivity and diversity achieved through embracing leaders from all faith backgrounds. Law enforcement officers and their families are diverse in their beliefs; therefore, in order to truly serve them with excellence it takes multi-faith leaders to provide effective emotional and spiritual care. This seemed to resonate with the students.



I was able to speak into their lives one more time prior to their graduation ceremony. I shared that law enforcement inevitably changes all those who choose a career to serve and protect a community. We all have inherent prejudices and left unchecked, the daily trauma of law enforcement will prey on those prejudices, and those prejudices will become the building blocks of discrimination. Mindsets that embrace inclusion and diversity of all ethnic and faith backgrounds places us on a path of tolerance. However, my challenge to these students who will soon be sworn in as law enforcement officers is not to settle for a path marked by tolerance. My faith walk has revealed to me that when we can truly celebrate in our heart the differences in one another, we remove the power of prejudice and we flatten discrimination from ever raising its ugly head. I challenged the graduates today to begin to celebrate ethnic, faith and individual choice differences in preparation for their amazing careers in law enforcement.



Thank you graduates for the honour of speaking into your lives, allowing me to share a copy of Project Sword provided through the FCPO Canada, and praying one more time for protection over your body, soul, and spirit. All God's best to you in fulfilling the call on your lives to be peacemakers.

Canadian Law Enforcement Appreciation Retreat

Kananaskis, Alberta

November 3-5, 2024

“He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to Him.” Proverbs 2:8

In appreciation for your service, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team invites you and your spouse to the Canadian Law Enforcement Retreat. Come and be encouraged by expert speakers who will discuss challenges faced by officers’ families, share Biblical insights, and offer valuable instruction on surviving and thriving in the law enforcement world.

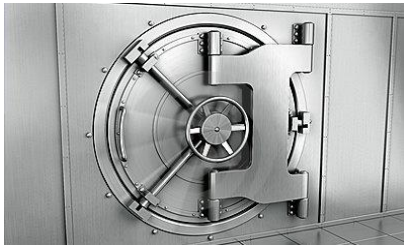


When: November 3-5, 2024

Where: Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, 1 Centennial Drive, Kananaskis Village, AB

Cost: \$295/individual, \$325/couple (includes lodging and meals)

<https://www.billygraham.ca/canadian-law-enforcement-retreat-november-2024>



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.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

Cst. Art Francis (Metropolitan Toronto Police Services)

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [July – September 1997](#)



P.C. Art Francis

"How are you today?" and you respond "fine thanks" or "I'm well, thank you very much". But often, we say that rather lightly or tritely, said Chief Grant Waddell of the Niagara Regional Police Force, in his opening remarks to

FCPO and supporters.

Chief Waddell is a Christian who has a great responsibility in a high profile position. He attributes this as the leading of God in his life. His challenge to us on "Vision" and "Wellness" is evident of his own experience and faith in the word of God.



"WE, AS PEACE OFFICERS, HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE ECONOMY OF GOD".

In dealing with the issue of vision, he reminded us of a true story of Sir Winston Churchill who, in Britain's darkest hour, said "Don't despair, I am planning the invasion of Europe". Churchill was a leader with vision who was able to rally his people at a particular time and gave them some cause for hope. Chief Waddell also shared

with us about a Roman Catholic priest named Father Jersey who, at the request of the steel workers in Gdansk, ministered to them and encouraged them; "not men of diplomacy and political correctness" he said, "but men who had a yearning in their hearts for freedom, in the very early days of Eastern Europe".

Father Jersey became a martyr to a cause. He had a vision but did not live to see the walls of Berlin falling down or his nation becoming free. But he saw in the early days the hope, a little flame and a little candle of freedom that was burning bright.

Referring to Proverbs 29:18 Chief Waddell said "without vision, men perish. For I have in my own experience seen a vision in a particular ministry and a particular avenue of work and have followed that dream and have created something of value, something of lasting goodness".

The wellness factor was the second point in the Chief's address. "The wellness factors are not from Grant Waddell", he pointed out. "They are from a female doctor, Jo Cannon, of UCLA. He then cautioned us to do our own checks and balances as he talked about the following factors and posed important questions for each of us to ponder.

#1 FULFILLING RELATIONSHIPS: "How are things at home, with the kids and yourself,

between you and your spouse, the extended family? And how are things with you and God?"

#2 PHYSICAL FITNESS: "Are you exercising, getting enough rest, looking after that body that has been given to you for a time?" asked the Chief.

#3 POSITIVE SELF ESTEEM: Chief Waddell suggested that if he were to ask ministers, psychiatrists, medical practitioners and psychologists, what is the one common denominator they have found in dealing with their patients? A fair amount would say "it seems to be a bit of, or lack of, self-esteem that comes through".

#4 WORK SATISFACTION: There is an expression these days that somebody has an attitude and it is given a derogatory connotation, "this guy's got an attitude". The Word tells us to be a good worker for the Master,' he said. The Chief believes that he has no more authority than the youngest constable on the job and would suggest that the attitude should not be status, wealth, grandeur or rank. All the work that we do, that we are seized with, that is our privilege to have, should be done for the Master.

#5 STRESS: He quoted the baseball player Casey Stengle who said "the future ain't what it used to be. Chief Waddell then commented "And isn't it the truth. It's not quite the way we thought it was going to be but how are you dealing with that?"

#6 ECONOMIC ESSENTIALS: is at the bottom of the scale. He noted in times of social contracts (now restructuring), in the midst of all the problems of financing and governments, he asked "do you have a shirt on your back, bread on the table, a roof over your head?"

There is an expression, he told us that came to him forcibly since moving away from the big metropolis. "In some of our society we know the price of everything and the value of nothing. The things which are meaningful, good, wholesome, of external significance, of much deeper

relevance than all of the other material, unfortunately gets shoved so far to the side that it sometimes slips off".

While listening to the Chief I found myself looking to the cross and realizing that Jesus Christ had a vision in what the Chief called "deliverance day".

Chief Waddell reminded us that we, as peace officers, have a special place in the economy of God. He said something to make us think... "that police officers and correctional officers were the ones who took Christ to the cross, who got out the dice and marked down the scores, who took part in the scourging and who made fun of the robe and crown of thorns. In a sense it was our hereditary colleagues and we're not proud of that" he said.

Next, reference was made to others such as the Centurion, when Jesus said in Mark 8:10, I have never found faith like this, even in Israel. He also spoke about those who were present at the cross to hear Him say forgive them, they know not what they do, and those who kept guard at the tomb.

The battalions of God are far larger, far more infinite than any battalion that ever marched, Roman or military army of any kind. Many of them finished the course and may have heard the "well done" and they await us. Tomorrow can be a day of victory for every person because deliverance day has happened, deliverance day in happening right now!

Chief Waddell said "Today do not be uncommitted, today do not be apathetic, let us not, ladies and gentlemen, somber in the sunset. Rather, let us take up our cross, His cross, and march with our faces to the sun, victors with Him in our relationship".

Chief Waddell finished with this "Of all the wellness factors, relationship is the most important one and, at the end of the journey, to hear His "well done".