

FCPO - CANADA



The Peacemaker

February, 2024

From the President's Desk

Version française



It goes without saying that we are living in troubled times: wars; rumors of wars; good is seen as bad, and bad is seen as good. Despite these troubles, we need to praise the Lord 1 for his faithfulness to us - we have much to be grateful for.

For 2024, I believe we also really need to consider what we value.

Some people choose to keep important papers and valuables in a bank's safety deposit box (or as criminals would say - a "safe place" to hide cash until it is laundered!). A safety deposit box can carry an annual fee of anywhere from \$60 to \$500. That expense may be a worthwhile expenditure for some. It really depends on what's in there - how valuable the items are. Barring items of sentimental value, it is hoped that the annual fee does not outweigh the value of the items.

After my father passed, I received the contents of his safety deposit box. There were important papers there - funeral wishes, his will, etc. But then there were also 6 coins. On the face of it, it looked like they might be valuable. The 1921 British penny looked interesting enough. I quickly researched it and learned it had increased a whopping 3,000% - it was now worth \$3.00! The other coins were likewise of no great value. In fact, they totaled up to about \$13.00! My brother and I flipped for the coins. He won the penny!

All this brought me to thinking of what we value in life, and maybe at times we are mistakenly valuing the wrong things (\$\$, prestige, status, toys, etc.). What my father thought was valuable, was not. What he did have was of great value, but could not be kept in a safety deposit box. He had family, friends, coworkers, and most of all, he had the Lord in his life.

For 2024, let's consider what we value.

God bless,

Ron



Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:19-20

Ne vous amassez pas des trésors sur la terre, où la teigne et la rouille détruisent, et où les voleurs percent et dérobent; mais amassez-vous des trésors dans le ciel, où la teigne et la rouille ne détruisent point, et où les voleurs ne percent ni ne dérobent. Matthieu 6:19-20

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New Year Resolution?

Cst. Cheryl Tomlinson-Thompson, Toronto Police Service

God, starting a new habit can be hard, but I want to dedicate time to pray with You each day. Help me to develop a discipline of prayer, offering You thanks for all that You are doing in the world. In Jesus name, Amen. A prayer I repeated to God from the YouVersion app (March 4)



Cst. Cheryl Tomlinson-Thompson

I am hanging my head in shame as I type this excuse we all have, at some point as Christians - In the hustle and bustle of our daily hectic lives, it gets hard to find time to pray, to find time for God. Yes we do take the few hours on Sunday or Saturday to go to church, we recite our graces for our meals, and slide in a quick sideway prayer before bed which comes after hours of television binging, online surfing, [enter your activity here]. Our activities sometimes put us to sleep, so no "thank yous", and no praises to our Creator.

It would be so admirable to say I reached first thing in the morning for my cellphone to find the Bible App. I again will be the first to admit, I

first check the time, who texted, who read my texts, who did not respond after reading my texts, who called, who posted, who liked my posts, new emails, my calendar, [enter your app here], and maybe, just maybe, we may read the scripture of the day. How about a morning prayer? If Christianity had a grading scale, I was not doing too well on the spectrum. I needed the strength of God to draw me back to where I should be as a child of the Most High God.



Chest pain and shooting arm pains started while I was at work. A coworker joked about heart attacks. The night of March 6, I called the EMS and was transported to the hospital. The good news was my heart was well, the bad news - there was a tumour discovered in my upper left chest cavity,

being the size 7 x 5 x 5 centimeters.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2-3 (NIV)

Dump truck MVC – that was how I felt. Luckily I was still in an examination room of the emergency department. Every strand of my being became unraveled. My knees gave in and I found support, leaning unto the hospital bed. Hot sweats and cold flashes overcame my body. I could not decide if I wanted to remove my clothing layers, or pile more on. My body shivered uncontrollably. There were so many questions.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

God! I cried, You have never failed me! I had come to the end of myself. Father God, please carry me. Sharing this information with my family was going to be hard. I however needed to notify my work about what was happening. I went into work 2 days after and called in my colleagues for a sit down. The look

of horror and disbelief was pure. I felt I could read their minds, "How can TT, the Christian, have cancer"? "How can God let this happen to her"?

I started speaking by faith believing, "It will not be cancer" I told them repeatedly, I was looking for a hall pass. One colleague remained silent the entire time, his wife worked as a nurse on the Oncology floor of a hospital.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (NIV)

There was nothing that Cheryl could do on her own at this point to remedy this situation. I had come to the end of self...but GOD!

Being a Christian does not mean we will not face hardships, we do not get a hall-pass. We however have a God that is faithful and sticks closer than a brother. God's presence around me was evident. I know my Heavenly Father was fighting for me.

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

Coram Deo is a Latin phrase translated "in the presence of God" from Christian theology which summarizes the idea of Christians living in the presence of, under the authority of, and to the honor and glory of God¹. Yes, I too questioned why all this was happening. My Heavenly Father knows me more than I know myself, and so He rightly should, after all, He created me. I have not been a "bad" person. I do try to be a good Christian. I am passionate about giving. I am ardent about being a voice of the vulnerable and the disenfranchised.

All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him. 2 Samuel 14:14 (NLT)

God knows my end and my beginning. I believe He saw me going down a path of destruction where my soul would have been lost. God does not inflict illness, but He may allow it for my better good. I know this will not be the death of me. God has spoken numerous promises over my life, through different ways including through His word, since this all started, and even before. God and His Word are one. God cannot lie and He watches over His word to make it come true. I wholeheartedly trust in my Heavenly Father.

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. Hebrews 6:18 (NLT)

I am also reminded that at times we face trials which are necessary so God can manifest himself through them.

¹ Wikipedia.org

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him." John 9:1-3 (NLT)

This verse gives us hope that even in sicknesses, disabilities and injuries, we can be vessels by which God's power is displayed. Persons looking in will get to witness God's power work through us. My constant prayer is for God to be glorified in this situation.

In the Bible, we see how Joseph suffered but it was for the better good of not just him, but of his family and his entire Israel nation.

This experience has drawn me so much closer to Christ. I find myself praying constantly, just thanking God for His grace which are the good things God gives us which we do not deserve, and thanking Him for His mercies which are the times God spares us from bad things we do deserve.



My cellphone screen time had gone up astronomically. This time, it was not because of the "other activities" we spend all our time with on our phones, but I have become addicted to the Word of God. My Bible app is constantly being used. I stay up until midnight just to see/hear what message God has for me with the Scripture of the Day. I cannot get enough of the Word of God. I recall trying to read the Bible from the beginning once before, I gave up as I was doing it all wrong. I did not seek divine guidance at the time. Now I bask in the Word, hanging on to its every word and learning more and more about my God.

Editor's note: Praise the Lord, Cheryl is now cancer free! This article contains excerpts from her as yet unpublished book, "God's Persistent Pursuit". Cheryl is the Group Lead for Healing Strong-GTA. Their mission is to connect, support, and educate individuals facing cancer and other diseases through strategies that help to rebuild the body, renew

the soul and refresh the spirit. She can be contacted at: HealingStrongGTA@LimitlessGTA.com

To Our Valued Associate Members

The FCPO is a unique ministry for those who "serve and protect". The prime purpose of this ministry is to encourage and support peace officers as they grow and strengthen in their relationship with Jesus Christ. FCPO is led by a team of serving and retired peace officers. Our membership continues to grow as more and more officers find out about this organization. We currently have over 900 members. We are blessed that over 300 of those members are "associate members" (non-voting).

Much like the valued support staff that supports peace officers on the job, we have a cadre of folks that support this ministry. What a great sign of support it is when hundreds of God-fearing Canadians stand shoulder to shoulder with us! They are spouses, parents, friends, office staff, co-workers, neighbours, and just other fellow believers who found out about us and just want to keep abreast of what God is doing amongst Christian officers in Canada. They support us with prayer and some bless us with donations (we are a registered charity). We need the backup! God bless our associate members, and **THANK YOU** for being an important part of this ministry.

Growing in Our Faith

Rev. John Kurish



Rev. John C. Kurish

As we begin this new year how about we look at a very important topic - our faith. I do not know what this new year holds for any of us, but one thing is for sure, God desires that each one of us would grow strong in our faith as we grow in our relationship with Him.

Each of us needs to remind ourselves of what the author of the book Hebrews stated in Hebrews 11:6.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

Again, with the new year in mind, it is very important that we tackle this topic and ask the Holy Spirit to walk with us and help us grow in our faith so that our relationship with Jesus Christ will bear even greater fruit. Growing in our faith.

Paul reminds us that it is our hope in Christ that will enable us to grow stronger and stronger in our faith. Consider what he said in his letter to the Christians in Rome concerning Abraham.

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Romans 4:18-21 (ESV)

Yes, Paul tells us that Abraham "grew strong in his faith" and urges us to walk in Abraham's footsteps. He calls us to believe like he believed. So then, how do we do this?

We begin by looking to God's promise, not our circumstances. Remember, Abraham believed God in spite of his circumstances. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations. Abraham's situation looked bleak. Yet, God promised him multitudes of descendants. There was only one small problem, and that was that he, Abraham, was well past child-producing. He considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old). He also considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. Not only was Abraham almost 100 years old, but Sarah his wife was very old, and she had never been able to have children her whole life.

How are they going to have children? If Abraham had based his hope on his circumstances he would have given up. But in hope he believed against hope, God's promise gave him hope in his hopeless situation. He put his hope in God's promise, not his circumstances.

You and I may feel hopelessly unrighteous. We may feel like God could never forgive us for the sins we have committed, that he would never accept us. But we must not look at ourselves, just like

Abraham did not look at himself, but like Abraham, we must believe God's promise of grace. God counts me righteous in and through Jesus Christ!

Our teenager may seem hopelessly lost. Our finances may be out of control. We may lack direction for our lives. Our marriage might be frustrating, or our church might be a mess. Look to Jesus Christ! Don't look to yourself. Look to the promise of the gospel, everyone who believes in Him shall be saved. Look to His promises to draw near to those who draw near to him. Yes, He promises to hear and answer our prayers.

Give glory to God because He is able to look past our inabilities and failures and see what and who we can become through Jesus Christ. *No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.* Romans 4:20-21(ESV)

Abraham strengthened his faith. Here's how: He grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God. How about each of us begin to give glory to God, start thanking and praising Him for His every promise. Yes, thank Him for saving you and declaring you righteous in His Son, Jesus Christ.

He has promised to be with us when we pass through the waters and walk-through the fire. He has promised to be with us when we pass through the waters and walk-through the fire. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised that nothing will be able to separate us from His love. He has promised to

give us everything we truly need to glorify him. He has promised that we can do all things he requires through Christ who loves us. Would you praise Him for these things?

As we look to our circumstances; it may not <u>look</u> like God is being faithful. It may not <u>feel</u> like God is with us in these waters. It may <u>feel</u> like He has abandoned or forsaken us. We may not <u>sense</u> His love. But **we must not waver concerning the promise of God!**

Rather, we need to grow strong in our faith as we **give glory to God**, as we are fully convinced that God is able to do what he had promised. Consider what the Psalmist wrote: *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.* Psalm 43:5

Keep thanking God, keep praising Him in faith in the midst of your hard times. Yes, Jesus, we thank you that you are with us. Thank you that you promised that your steadfast love never ceases. I Praise you that your mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

Growing in our faith is not complicated. Look to God's promise and glorify Him. So, as you enter this new year, what and who are you going to believe today? God's word or your circumstances? God's promises or your feelings? God's bedrock pledge of faithfulness or your wavering emotions?

Let us walk in the footsteps of Abraham and grow Strong in Our Faith. Growing in our Faith.

God bless,

Rev. John C. Kurish Encounter Durham

Authorities

Jonathon Matula, Community Peace Officer, Red Deer, Alberta



Jonathon Matula

When I became a Community Peace Officer, I would be riding with my Field Training Officer conducting traffic stops on Northern Alberta highways. I would ask him questions like "do I have the authority to have this vehicle towed?" He would respond with turning the TOUGHBOOK® laptop in my direction saying, "Look it up for yourself... the Alberta Traffic Safety Act, section 77". At first I was frustrated that he wouldn't just tell me the answer, but later in my enforcement career I was so glad he taught me to study the legislation and bylaws for myself. Another senior officer admonished me, "Don't be so eager to get out on the road - once a week take a couple hours in your shift and study the legislation and bylaws for yourself - it will give you confidence when you are out there doing your job". Also he said, "You won't memorize everything verbatim, but one day you will see a situation and it will raise a red flag in your mind prompting you to

look it up".

It's awesome dealing with a situation and being able to reiterate the legislation or bylaw relating to it and under what act or regulation it is found in. Eventually I relocated my position to a small city where I became the lone peace officer in town. That being said, I needed to know my authority - there was no supervisor or FTO I could speak with. I had to study my authorities to know what I was doing out there.

I remember receiving a complaint from a local citizen advising me of a neighbor being noisy. He attempted to tell me that the law stated that noise levels were restricted at all times of the day. I began to question where he had acquired this information. He responded with "Berkley Noise Ordinances". I advised my complainant that Berkley was a city in California which has no bearing on our Canadian laws (this is what happens you rely on Google without thinking!). Furthermore, I was able to quote the Community Standards Bylaw of the city I worked in, specifying specific times of the day when the noise bylaw was in effect.

I have more than once heard of a myth during traffic stops when asking for insurance documents: "Don't I have 24 hours to produce my insurance?". (In Alberta auto insurance is private and not something we can readily look up on nights or weekends). I respond with quoting the provisions of the Traffic Safety Act (section 166) advising my driver that they are obligated to produce required documents upon demand of a peace officer forthwith (without delay). I then ask the driver why I would let them drive away in a vehicle when I have no clue as to whether or not they have an auto policy in force.

It's the same when we study our ultimate authority - the Bible.

but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers. Psalms 1:2-3 NIV

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8 NIV

When we study God's Word and meditate on it (don't just speed read to get through it - read for quality, not quantity), His Word gives us the authority to walk into situation with boldness and confidence.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he disarmed the Devil by claiming the authority of scripture: After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:2-11 NIV [Emphasis Added]

We can rely on God's promises in the Bible the same way we rely on knowledge of the authorities available to us in the various laws we enforce. When we know our legal authorities, we can be confident that any action we take, or charge we lay, will be appropriate. When we quote scripture and the reference where it is found, we can disarm any meaningless myth the Devil will try to throw our way.

When we know our "authorities" found in scripture, God promises us that we will be successful and prosper at whatever we do. Upon advice of a Christian brother, I bought a 5x7 photo album along with 5x7 index cards. During my devotions, whenever a scripture would really stand out to me I would write it on an index card and regularly review my collection. I call this my "Marinade Book". It's important for us to "marinade" ourselves in God's Word. It changes us from the inside out! Time to shut off or cut down on social media, TV, and all other useless distractions and focus on God's Word!

I would encourage all my fellow FCPO brothers and sisters: know your authorities - both in Christ and as an officer.

God bless,

Jonathon Matula

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 <u>any Christian</u> who agrees with our <u>Statement of Faith.</u>

Join online at: www.fcpocanada.com

The Need to Know

C/Supt. Ronald Mostrey (Ret'd), President FCPO-Canada



C/Supt. Ron Mostrey (Ret'd)

All of us are familiar with "The need to know" principle. Investigations often hinge on keeping information about an investigation as tightly held as possible, especially in the case of an undercover operation. Back in the day, I did a couple undercover operations where my cover was blown by leaks from within police departments. One target was a police officer's son, and in another operation the target was a police officer's brother. These leaks clearly came from within, by officers who did not "need to know". The WW2 idiom "loose lips sink ships" also applies to sensitive and covert investigations. Leaks such as those are frustrating and kill an operation, let alone putting the operator in potential danger.

In other investigations we want a lot of information to get out to all possible ears. Most crimes are solved with the help of the general public. Witness come forward, and soon we get on the right path towards identifying a suspect(s).

I know some peace officers who live a good Christian lifestyle. They regularly attend, and are active in their church. They know the Lord, they love the Lord, and they are strong in their faith. However, when it comes to work, they play an "undercover role" as a Christian - they get by, hoping no one will "out them" or insinuate that they are not "one of the boys". They are covert! I get that - I've been there! Once I knew, and fellowshipped with other Christian officers, I came "out".

As Believers, we know that God called us into the profession. We serve(d) Him daily in the way we perform(ed) our duties. However, one of the most important missions of our job is to be a light to our colleagues, the majority who know nothing about the truth of the Gospel. They do not know that Jesus is real. They do not know that He is the truth and the way. We have important information that needs to get out to all possible ears!

We have a variety of colleagues. Some we feel have it "all together" and are doing great, others - not so much. It does not matter what their state in life is, if they have not accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour - they are lost. Like you and me before we accepted Jesus, there is an empty vacuum in their life. It is up to an individual to either accept or reject Jesus, but they need to know who He is and what he offers (eternal life, and a more abundant life here on earth). The answer to all life's questions, problems, and blessing is Jesus!

In the November 2022 Peacemaker, I wrote about the book "The Ten Second Rule" by Clare De Graaf. The premise of that book is: Just do the next thing you're reasonably certain Jesus wants you to do (and do it within the next ten seconds before you change your mind!). Folks, I firmly believe this applies to us in the workplace. If you feel led to share the Gospel (The Good News) with a colleague - just do it! It may be the only chance for them to learn about Jesus from a credible ("non-religious") person. There is a big difference between a "Bible Thumper" and a colleague who genuinely cares about the spiritual health of their colleague.

We work with a lot of high-quality, excellent people. However, many just move from day to day never giving much thought to why they are here, what their purpose is, and where they are going when life's journey ends. All at some point question "what's it all about?" and what's The Answer?

Everybody ought to know . You are well placed to tell your colleagues how Jesus has changed your life and how you found The Answer! With the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit, I encourage you to make that a priority for 2024.

God bless,

Ron

What Does God Tell You Today?

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



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

As Christians we are called to be instruments of His light in a world of darkness. To be ready to give an account of our faith at any moment. As Christians officers we should pay close attention to the following scripture found in 2 Timothy 4:2 NIV

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

I'm about to share an amazing example of how I was called to give an account of my faith to a fellow officer. Here is the story;

I had been recently transferred to a new police division in Scarborough, Ontario. On my first day shift I walked into the guardroom where some officers were having lunch, I was about to sit down when this officer came towards me smiling. I thought he was

about to welcome me to the new platoon. As he loudly called out my name, he asked me this question, "Dino - what does God tell you today?". As I was totally caught off guard, my mind raced as to how I was supposed to answer this officer whom I had never met or shared the gospel with. I also noticed every officer in that guard room was looking at me. He asked me again "What does God tell you today"? I felt my mind go blank until I shot up a quick prayer to the Lord - Lord what do I tell this officer? The Lord quickly brought to mind this important fact - tell him this, "God tells me that He

God puts people in our lives for many reasons - as officers we know when people are phonies and imposters but we also know when people are real. loves you very much"! As he heard my response he backed down, turned around and had nothing more to say to me. However it did not end there, every opportunity he saw me - he would ask the same question again, and my answer was

always the same. "God tells me that He loves you very much"!

God puts people in our lives for many reasons - as officers we know when people are phonies and imposters, but we also know when people are real. Perhaps this officer was searching, maybe he

wanted to see how real my faith was. So I prayed about this officer and asked the Lord if I was to share more about my faith and I felt that the Lord was leading me to give him a New Testament Bible.

When we ask the Lord, be ready for the opportunity to happen.

As I went to work for a day shift, I prayed to the Lord that He would create an opportunity to give him the Bible. When we ask the Lord, be ready for the opportunity to happen. Midmorning I bumped into the same officer and sure enough he asked me the same question, Dino - what does God tell you

today?", and I responded with the same words. "God tells me that He loves you very much"! As I was telling him this the Holy Spirit prompted me that this was the time - give him the bible.

As he saw me take it out of my uniform shirt pocket - he asked me what I was selling - I replied I'm not selling anything. It's a New Testament which is a free gift of God. As I handed the New Testament bible to him, he asked me this question, "Do you think I need this"? I replied I'm just the messenger being obedient to God - I said we all need it, and that only he could truly answer that question. He took it and said, "Okay I will read it".

We often don't know whether the seeds we are led to plant materialize into new life for Christ but one thing is for sure God's word never returns void. Sometime later, I was transferred to another unit and lost touch with this officer. I heard he had been promoted several times and was now a Staff Sergeant but had no more contact with him.

Over 30 years had passed since this experience. I was attending an FCPO conference down east when I met a Christian Halifax Police officer who asked me if I knew a certain Toronto Police Staff Sergeant - saying, "He is a Christian officer who retired from the TPS and is living here now. This is long shot but here is his name". When I heard the name I said, "it rings a bell but I don't think it's the same officer I used to know in Scarborough". I asked him to reach out to him and ask him if he knew Dino Doria.

Weeks later the Halifax officer got back to me telling me that the officer did in fact know me and related the same story depicted in this article. He went on to say that he was a tough nut to crack but that he had accepted the Lord as his Lord and Saviour in the early 2000s. He also said "I have one up on Dino - the Lord is using me to plant churches here in the East Coast", and he sent his regards to me. We often don't know whether the seeds we are led to plant materialize into a new life for Christ but one thing is for sure, God's word never returns void.

It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55:11 NLT

So, I ask you the same question that was asked of me - "What does God tell you today?" The answer hasn't changed nor will it ever change. *Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.* 2 Timothy 4:2 NIV

God bless,

Dino Doria MSc

The Outlaw (Part 2)

Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn, Brandon Police Service Chaplain



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

As promised, this message is the sequel to my <u>August writing</u>, "<u>The Outlaw.1.</u>" Much has taken place since I wrote the previous message including being called upon to process the most horrific murder scene of my 33-year career.

For the past 15 years, I have had the honor of instructing students attending the Police Studies/Public Safety program at the Assiniboine Community College. Men and women aspiring to become police officers receive instruction through eight to ten sessions in my area of expertise – Forensics. On the afternoon of my first session, I

introduce the students to two case studies in which I was the lead forensic investigator: a double homicide involving multiple areas of impact and four weapons, and a homicide involving torture. The former, being the Joubert double homicide from Sept 4, 2004, was the most traumatic scene I had encountered and processed. Considering it was described by the RCMP's most veteran bloodstain pattern analyst as the worst blunt force trauma double homicide he'd ever processed in Canada, I always thought and hoped it would be the worst one I would ever process. My partner and I spent three days at the scene, while three bloodstain pattern analysts took two days to conclude their examinations.

In "The Outlaw.1," I wrote about GIGO; that is garbage in, garbage out. I shared that what you absorb through your five senses affects the wellness of your body, soul, and spirit. Examining evidence to determine angles of multiple impacts at various locations, associating multiple weapons with the impacts, examining non-fatal and fatal wounds, collecting and processing every piece of physical evidence with the hope that we could determine and link a suspect(s) to the scene and to the bodies, can potentially overwhelm the senses and result in post-secondary trauma. While explaining some of the scientific findings of that case to the college students, I have had a moment in probably half the sessions I have taught over the years when I had to pause, take a breath, and clear my throat before continuing the presentation. In keeping with my intent to remain transparent, I share with each class that, six months after the investigation, I left my first wife. Three months after that, my partner who assisted me processing that scene left his wife. I emphatically emphasize to the students that law enforcement will change your life; it is vital for the promotion of overall wellness in every officer's life that they take the time to process the "garbage in," so that the garbage can come out in a therapeutic way before it manifests through hostility or anger in the workplace or at home.

The soul (mind, will, emotions) is like a sponge; what happens upon the application of force upon a sponge that has absorbed too much liquid? The spray shoots out in multiple directions with no element of control. Anything in close proximity to the sponge is stained by whatever the sponge was holding onto. We need to take inventory of our soul so that we can recognize when it is time to gently squeeze out the garbage that has built up, before more is absorbed. Otherwise, the exceeded tolerance levels may turn into a forceful, uncontrolled spray of your garbage that strikes your peers, friends, family, or an arrestee. We are familiar with the saying, "don't poke the bear." We want to avoid becoming the bear so that we can tolerate the pokes of life.

Fast forward to Sept 2, 2023 on which date I became the lead forensic investigator of a murder by axe and sledgehammer ... I can no longer tell the ACC students that the Joubert double homicide was the

most horrific crime scene I have processed. A thirteen-hour callout began with my collection of evidence from a suspect in custody, followed by a transition to the recording, examination and collection of physical evidence at the crime scene, and concluded with the examination and preparation of the deceased for lockup at the morgue. Thereafter, I recognized that my soul was saturated with "garbage in" from what my five senses had absorbed. I knew this was only the beginning of the investigation since there were many exhibits to process, and there was an autopsy to attend within a couple of days. One of my concerns throughout the crime scene investigation was for the wellbeing of two of my peers who had assisted me throughout the day. Police chaplaincy is not something I separate myself from while engaged in forensics. There are times when short breaks are a requirement for the body, and those are the times to engage in conversations regarding the wellbeing of soul and spirit. Those breaks did take place and healthy conversations did occur enabling us to process what our senses were absorbing. There would also be the follow-up conversations over the next few days; I am happy to report that the two officers are very resilient and are doing well. Both were a huge blessing to me and through teamwork, the tasks were completed well.

Within a few days of the initial scene processing, a few of my peers approached me having read "The Outlaw.1." They wanted confirmation that what I had wrote in my message preceded the homicide. I confirmed that I had sent out the message to all my peers on Sept 1st; whereas, the homicide occurred on Sept 2nd. They found it quite intriguing that I had written these words: "Uncontrolled GIGO is a constant threat to the wellbeing of every police officer's soul. As a Forensic Ident officer, I cannot choose the type of crime scenes I investigate. When a brutal murder occurs on my watch, I do not have the luxury of refusing service, nor would I want to put either of my two peers in a situation that I would not be willing to handle. The detectives who respond to investigate a murder do not have the option of avoiding interviews with those who loved the victim and were witnesses to the crime." One of those officers who asked me about the timing of my words above, made the comment that the suspect is evil; they too had spoken with and dealt with the suspect of this murder.

If a widely accepted dictionary acknowledges spiritual forces, why do so many think that a person needs to be religious in order to accept that a person not only has a body and a soul, but also has a spirit? Let us now transition from the wellbeing of the soul to the wellbeing of the spirit. In my opinion, the actions of the alleged suspect that the physical evidence defines are not within the realm of morality by any stretch of the imagination. In "The Outlaw.1," I wrote of the evil I sensed when I dealt with cop killer Robert Sand. The Oxford dictionary defines the noun evil as "profound immorality and wickedness, especially when regarded as a supernatural force." Evil defined as

an adjective is "(of a force or spirit) embodying or associated with the forces of the devil." Those are dictionary definitions, not biblical definitions. Both definitions have supernatural or spiritual connotations, and the adjective that describes a deed, is associated with the devil. If a widely accepted dictionary acknowledges spiritual forces, why do so many think that a person needs to be religious in order to accept that a person not only has a body and a soul, but also has a spirit?

The greatest "Outlaw" to our spirit is the devil or Satan. God outlawed him from Heaven, and God has given us His word, the Holy Bible, for us to use to protect our spirit from the attacks of the devil. 1 Peter 5:89 reads, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith ..." (NIV). Satan is the most notorious outlaw in existence and God has given us the laws to keep him in line; one of those laws noted above appears in verses eight and nine of 1 Peter 5. Since he is an outlaw, the devil will not abide by the laws unless we enforce them. As police officers, we know our powers of arrest. We are familiar with the

Criminal Code statutes, and we know how to apply our authority in order to protect life and property. In Canada, there are laws against murder, robbery, assault, property offences etc. What would happen if law enforcement officers failed to enforce the laws? Murder, robbery and other crimes would abound and be the norm in our society. The laws require enforcement so that there is peace. It works the same way in the spiritual realm. Spiritual laws appear listed throughout the pages of the Holy Bible. If we trust God and believe His Word, we become persons of faith who speak God's promises over our life and our situations.

After processing all the "elements" of the Sept 2nd murder, I could have begun to think of how the Sept 4th 2004 double murder changed my life. I could have focused on the negative fallout from 2004 to 2007 and began wondering and talking about all the "what if's" such as, what if this trauma is the one that puts me over the top and I become overwhelmed with PTSD; and, what if the PTSD causes my second marriage to fail? Satan knows your authority as a Believer to enforce God's laws through your words and your thoughts. He wants you to focus on your problem, not the solution. He wants you to focus on the "what if's" until fear begins to raise its ugly head. Once fear takes root, peace is vanquished, and it becomes exceedingly difficult to see the truth of God's promises.

Satan is a thief and a killer and we give him authority when we allow doubt and fear to enter our vocabulary. Satan is a thief and a killer and we give him authority when we allow doubt and fear to enter our vocabulary. I have quoted this scripture of Jesus many times in my messages over the years: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and

have it to the full" John 10:10 [NIV]. The *Criminal Code* gives us as law enforcement officers the authority to enforce the laws. The Holy Bible gives all those who choose to believe, the authority to silence the devil and his schemes.

In 2007, I embraced faith through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and began reading and studying the Holy Bible. I shared that the murder of Sept 2nd 2023 was more traumatic than the double homicide of Sept 4th 2004; so how am I doing? I am doing very well. One of my superiors remarked to me that they thought I would have taken a couple of days off after the incident; truth be known, I did not need to take time off because I started dealing with the trauma immediately when I

arrived home. In 2004, I had no understanding that we are body, soul and spirit. In 2004, my soul absorbed the garbage and I did not release it. I had no use for God or faith, and I had never read or studied the Holy Bible. In 2007, I embraced faith through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and began reading and studying the Holy Bible. After returning home on Sept 2, 2023, my soul sponge was gently squeezed, and I released the tears from all that my senses had absorbed. Afterwards, I was ready for prayer and reading/speaking God's Word over my spirit, which is the first line of defense against the devil. I only needed to squeeze the soul sponge once this time; however, I understand since 2007, that prayer and the reading of God's Word is the daily defense in protecting my spirit and soul from the spiritual attacks of the evil one.

Putting on the "Armor of God" daily from Ephesians 6: 10-17 is how I live my life. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" Ephesians 6:10&11 [NIV]. Keep the Outlaw outlawed from your life and the peace of God will abound in your body, soul (mind, will, emotions) and spirit.

Labels?

C/Supt. Ronald Mostrey (Ret'd), President, FCPO-Canada

Labels are often used to try to define a person. For example, if a person likes to swim, they can be labeled as "A Swimmer". If a person likes to run, they can be labeled as "A Runner". If a person smokes, they can be labeled as "A Smoker". Sometimes just one event can put a label on someone: steal one item, and you will be known as "A Thief". Murder one person, and you will be known as "A Murderer".

Society has long-sought to "soften" certain labels that relate to sinful activity. The best example is adultery. A person who commits adultery could be called "An Adulterer". Instead, they are just called someone who had "an affair" or who "cheated" - <u>much softer language ...</u> Committing fraud on income tax returns, or not declaring items at the border is called "cheating".

Being a "Christian" is a label with various interpretations.

If a person adheres devoutly to a certain religion or practice, they receive the label "Religious" - a very broad label. A sub-label is

"Christian". Again, that is a pretty broad label. It is estimated that there are 2.6 billion Christians in the world. Being a "Christian" is a label with various interpretations. For some it means they were baptized as a baby into a "Christian Religion". For many, it's being a "C & E Christian" (attending church only at Christmas and Easter). Those of us who have made a conscious decision to accept and follow Jesus as our personal saviour, are often labeled as "Born Again Christians".

There is a trend now to remove "stigmatizing labels". Previously, an individual who was called "A Drug Addict" is now referred to as "A person with a substance use disorder". We used to call an individual who was living on the street "Homeless". They are now referred to as "A person experiencing homelessness". The removal of labels can be helpful, as current circumstances or a solitary act may not appropriately help to identify the individual as a person. In that respect, notwithstanding the "political correctiveness" of it, perhaps putting the emphasis on "person" is not such a bad thing. Perhaps as Christians, we should think of persons as "souls" (e.g., a soul experiencing homelessness).

I am a Born Again Christian!

I have noticed some Christians when speaking about accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour, no longer refer to it as being "Born Again". Perhaps because the world has mocked those words (e.g., "Oh, they're one of those Born Again Christians!"). They prefer to use

terms like "came to faith" etc. Nothing at all wrong with that, and I certainly offer no criticism - it's just another way of expressing a life-changing decision. For me, "Born Again" works! I like it because when Nicodemus was speaking with Jesus about what it takes to get into Heaven, Jesus explained, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* John 3:3. If that term worked for Jesus, it should work for us, to explain the need for "starting over" with Jesus at the helm in our life's journey, notwithstanding how others use the term negatively. I accept that label - I am a Born Again Christian! I always hope someone will ask me what that really means.

As for other labels - we all can be simply labeled as "Sinners". For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23. The difference is that some have been saved by grace, and some are lost. The Good News is: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Serving the Lord

S/Sgt. Tom Huntley (Ret'd) AKA: "Boomer", Toronto Police Service



S/Sgt. Tom Huntley (Ret'd)

I was raised in a denominational church. Until I was 17 years old, I attended church every Sunday when I was home. In the church I was active in roles that youth normally were involved in. There was no separate youth group or youth Bible focused study. We just had Sunday church followed by a brief Sunday school until I was a teenager. Then I became a reader on Sundays.

After a 2 year stint with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves I started my 32-year policing career in Toronto. I completely stopped attending church and fell far away from God, although I was a believer that something superior had to be out there. Jesus to me was a great man and a great teacher, but my limited human logic would not let me accept the God in Jesus.

Something was pulling me. I didn't know what, but I knew I was not a happy man. I was more angry than happy. Through many years, though, I secretly listened to the Thru The Bible radio show when I was in the car. Dr. J Vernon McGee spoke in a manner of down to earth reality.

I completely stopped attending church and fell far away from God, although I was a believer that something superior had to be out there.

In Feb 1994, I had a dinner meeting with my police Inspector who was a Christian. At almost 41 years old, it was the first time I had heard of John 3:16, and it explained as salvation. The light went on and suddenly John 14:6 came clear to me.

Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. At that very moment, in a Chinese buffet restaurant in Toronto, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and my Lord. There would be no turning back.

I had been blessed with a new life and wanted to share it.

I began to see more of Him through reading, studying commentaries, and praying. I had been blessed with a new life and wanted to share it. No longer did I view racist or sexist jokes as funny. I was moved to more compassion for those I had to arrest and charge. It wasn't that I was excusing

their actions, but I was understanding that they, like me, had numerous opportunities to change their lives around. I would help if I could. I desired as well to help my non-believing peers at work and outside. At first some accepted my change, many did not. In 1994, I joined the FCPO, and became editor of the Peacemaker. I had no editing experience and trusted God to lead me to the education and people with that talent for my experience and fine-tuning. I held this position for 11 years and left when I was ordained by the Evangelical Christian Church in Canada (Christian Disciples) and commenced work in volunteer ministry.

Along with a close brother in the FCPO (Mike Cassidy), we founded a ministry called Full Ahead Christian Ministries. It is a non-denominational and completely volunteer ministry dedicated to service to seniors and military and police veterans. Our ministry also has a heart for all first responders, both active and retired.

A Cop's Legacy Police Lt. (Ret'd) & Chaplain MC Williams

Understanding our own calling through the life and the <u>lasting</u> legacy of Officer Garrett Swasey



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd)

in leaving a truly lasting (eternal) legacy.

Each year on this day (November 27th), I share the **LEGACY** of <u>Officer Garrett Swasey</u> (University of Colorado-Colorado Springs P.D., EOW 11/27/2015). His legacy is both powerful and lasting, and it serves as a template to help us create a lasting legacy (hopefully minus the line of duty death, of course).

Today marks the 8-year anniversary of the evil-filled (demonically influenced) rampage in Colorado Springs, Colorado during which Garrett was slain. As I shared then, Garrett was not just a fellow cop, but also a fellow minister/preacher. While most law enforcement officers don't share the latter calling (teaching/preaching ministry) as I do, Garrett's life, and the last message he gave at his church before he was killed, are powerful examples for us to follow

Soon after Garrett's death, fellow missionary Jordan Standridge wrote the following that I'm strongly pressed to share with you again:

- Garrett Swasey was the officer killed trying to rescue people at a Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs. Garrett was shot while saving people at a place he abhorred. He was an elder of a church that believed in the inerrancy of Scripture, and that abortion is evil. Let that sink in.
- A man who hated abortion and hated murder who gave his life helping others didn't hesitate about going to Planned Parenthood to save lives.
- Officer Garrett Swasey was also a preacher. In his last sermon at his church where he served as an elder, he encouraged his congregation to consider Christ and the Gospel. One thing he said in his last sermon stuck out to me. He said he never seemed to be quoted on the things that he'd like, but he always got quoted on the things he said that he didn't like (every preacher probably knows exactly what he means by that).
- Well, in honor of his heroic effort and our common love of Christ, I'd like to honor the Lord by quoting things Garrett said in his last sermon. I hope they bless you as they have me.

- Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers, therefore we must not be ashamed to call each other brothers in Christ. We are not born brothers, but it is something that happened to us after birth. We are redeemed by Christ despite our betrayal.
- If we were able to be more attentive, we would be able to love Christ more and be able to obey him more. We are part of a family. Your sin affects me and my sin affects you. Exhortation comes with the territory, it's part of being part of the family of God.
- We must accurately consider our fallen state, but it's easy to be self-absorbed. When we are accurately considering our fallen condition, we very quickly just become focused on that and forget about Christ and forget about the Gospel. Even in an attempt to be more attentive to it! However, we're not the object of our own faith. Christ is!
- One of the challenges is that the idea of Immanuel (God with us) becomes commonplace. I think
 it's important for us to renew and refresh in our minds how amazing it is that God walked among
 us.
- We were once enemies of God. To truly grasp this, we need to understand man in his natural state is opposed to God. We like to think they are neutral no they are not neutral, and it's important also to understand that God is opposed to man because of sin. So there's this clash going on between God and man because of sin.
- With God we have this mentality we don't want to change. I like my sin! I enjoy my sin! So, in the midst of all of that we decide to change God!
- People say, "I'm a halfway decent person!" "God's going to let everyone into heaven, because He's so loving and merciful." This really diminishes the idea of what sin is, and how it impacts our relationship with God and how opposed He is to it.
- We tend to want to do our own thing "rugged individualism." But in spiritual matters we are utterly dependent on Christ. We cannot stand before God on our own merits!
- Jesus is the cornerstone, and we are merely stones being added to it. Jesus is the builder of the
 house, and He receives more glory than the house. And if we're the house, He gets more glory
 than we do.
- Our objective is not to bring glory to ourselves but to bring glory to God. How? By transforming our lives through the Gospel. Apart from that it can't be done, not in our own strength.
- Everything we have comes from the Lord and everything we have should glorify the Lord. And everything we need is provided by God because Christ is sufficient.

- Perseverance is not something that we do in order to obtain salvation; it is merely evidence of us being in the house of the Lord. So if you are not in the house of the Lord, you are not persevering. Perseverance is the evidence of us being in the house of the Lord; it is not the means of us being there. If it were, it would be works (Garrett read Ephesians 2:8-9). We aren't saved by perseverance; we are saved by grace!
- Today if you hear His voice, do what He says today. Not tomorrow, not "let me sleep on it." But today! Before it is too late! Today, if you hear His voice do not harden your heart! (Garrett was quoting from Psalm 95 and Hebrews 3:7-8).

TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO WHAT HE SAYS - Douglas MacArthur says, "History of failure TODAY. NOT TOMORROW, NOT "LET ME SLEEP ON IT." BUT TODAY! BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Garrett then ended his message with these incredible words:

can be summed up in two words: too late." I think it speaks to the illustration I'm about to give, where the devil and his cohorts are

devising plans to get people to reject the gospel.

So one of them proposes, "Well, let's go to them and let's say there's no God." And silence prevailed over the group because even the devil knows that most people believe in some kind of Supreme Being. "There are no atheists in foxholes!" Another said, "Let's tell them there's no hell, no future punishment for the wicked." That was turned down too because men obviously have consciences and know that sin has to be punished somehow. And so this gathering was about to end in failure. And there came this voice at the back of the room. "Let's tell them that there is a God, there is a hell, and that the Bible is the Word of God, but tell them there is plenty of time to decide. Let them neglect the gospel until it's too late." And all hell erupted in a glee, because they knew if a man procrastinated on Christ, they usually never accept Him.

There is much for us to consider today. We must consider the object of our consideration. What is it? Let us exhort one another to consider Christ, not as we would imagine Him but as He is written about in the Scriptures. And finally, let us not harden our hearts to the Gospel!

Jordan ended his message about Garrett with these words that I echo again today: "...may we all learn from Officer Swasey, to value life knowing it is God who gives it. To be courageous in life, to have our eyes fixed on Heaven and to implore those around us to understand life is short, and that today is the day of salvation!"

I say "AMEN" to that! Folks, part of Garrett's lasting (the eternal kind) legacy is that God has used his life, service and sacrifice as a means of leading the lost to a saving faith in Christ, and to encourage the "lukewarm" (Revelation 3:14-21) to repent and recommit their lives to Him. The Gospel was shared at Garrett's funeral to a captive audience (it's not like all the uniformed officers could just get up and leave) in much the same way that it was shared at Fairfax County Police Detective Vicky Armel's Line Of Duty Death service (another Christian officer with a lasting legacy). Sadly, many resisted the call to "repent and believe" (Mark 1:15) and come to a saving faith (some were even angry about it). Many resist it still. But even that is part of Garrett's legacy (the truth was and continues to be shared), and I will continue to play it forward.

So how can we use Garrett's legacy to build our own? By surrendering all to Christ as Lord and Savior and living "ALL IN" for Him. By having a "Code 3" (lights and siren) sense of urgency to share the Gospel with others. By being the kind of officers (husbands, wives, parents...) God has called us to be. Friends, when an unbeliever repents and comes to a saving faith through our obedience (the Great Commission is not the "little suggestion" or "great omission"), we have indeed created a legacy that will last for eternity.

Accordingly, if you are reading this today and have yet to surrender in faith to Christ as Lord and Savior, it is in Garrett's memory and legacy that I implore you to make **TODAY** the day of your salvation (tomorrow is guaranteed to no man). Understand this: Garrett is not in heaven today because of his service in law enforcement, being a preacher, or for being the good man he was. NO! Garrett is in heaven today only because, prior to his death, he repented of his sin and turned in faith to the ONLY One who could save him (and the only One who can save YOU).

Finally, please lift Garrett's widow and family (blue and natural) in prayer today.

God bless, and watch your "6" out there!

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.

The **Power** of Prayer

Agent Guy Nadeau, Quebec Representative



Agent Guy Nadeau

We know that prayer is very effective. The Bible is full of promises. If one believes, one will also cast out demons in the name of Jesus. I won't teach you anything about the fact that we are often confronted with demonic forces in our work. I share with you situations that I have experienced. Several years ago I asked God to demonstrate to me the power of the blood of Jesus, because we often hear that His blood is powerful. Yes, He saves us, but also He delivers people.

In the church during a youth meeting, a demon manifested itself through a teenager. Prayer and the fact of having bound the spirit in him allowed us not to have had to intervene physically.

At my work on another occasion, we were called to the psychiatry ward at the hospital to control an individual in "crisis". He was agitated and shouting. We took him to a contention bed to strap him

down. The Holy Spirit told me to go to his head to pray. We were just some police officers and nurses.

I started to pray (only whispering in his ears). I found myself praying in tongues, a foreign language not known to me, but coming from the Holy Spirit. The guy in a loud and <u>different voice</u> said: "You pray to God -He is stronger", and he then he became calm. I was certain the voice came from the demon that had possessed him. A fellow police officer who saw me whispering and saw the situation

change, asked me what I was doing. I explained it to her.

Last week, a therapy center called us about a man mental crisis, who had just left the center on foot in a highly-agitated state.

Last week, a therapy center called us about a man mental crisis, who had just left the center on foot in a highly-agitated state. On the way there, I prayed to bind

any demonic spirits in the man. Once there, the guy saw me in the distance, and waved his hand to me - he was very calm. He agreed to go to the hospital. The man had substance abuse problems. He told me that he had demons within him. He needs the Lord to deliver him.

The same day, a 10-year-old boy attempted suicide with a knife. He had beaten his mother, and was taken to the police station. He previously had been in crisis on several occasions, where he had to be controlled by the police. I had not been assigned to this particular call, however the station sergeant called me back to the station to transport the child to a foster family. Before speaking to the boy, the sergeant told me that they needed to restrain him. I begin to pray, again in tongues, and bind some spirits (always discreetly but audibly) while the Director of Youth Protection (DPJ) spoke with the boy. I then spoke with the young lad about authority, and the need to obey authorities. I told him about my children, and how they needed to respect my authority (all authority comes from God). After our chat, we left the room and he went with me without any resistance. His attitude had completely changed.

Prayer makes all the difference.

We all known that our work has changed (many more mental health problems). I am not a doctor, there are a lot of physical or chemical problems. But when I pray in situations such as these, and see with my own eyes how the situations change

drastically, I know there had been demonic influences. I'm talking to you specifically about my police work, but each peace officer is faced with different situations. Prayer makes all the difference (in the family, between colleagues, citizens, etc.)

The Lord wants to take us to another level and turn us away from the things that distance us from Him.

The Lord wants to take us to another level and turn us away from the things that distance us from Him.

Confess your sins one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed; for the prayer of the righteous, prayed with zeal, has great effect. James 5:16 NIV

And these signs will follow those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name; they will speak new languages; Mark 16:17 NIV



From our Vault

Articles from <u>past Peacemakers</u> 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.

Hey Buddy - Got a Minute?

S/Sgt. Tom Huntley, Toronto Police Service
This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: <u>July - September 1997</u>

While on lunch one day I picked up a magazine and read an article on the need to have a friend who is more than an acquaintance, but a confidant. The writer described his entry into the army as an officer trainee. His first assignment was his toughest - find a friend who would stick with him, prop him up when he is down and depend on him for total support. This friend was to be selected right away from a pool of men he had just met in his boot camp.

The writer pointed out that we weren't meant to be alone and separate from one another. The history of the earliest Christian period indicated that the hermits who lived alone in the wild in order to spiritually meditate maintained contact with others like them. They may not have spent Saturday nights together around a campfire but they did do what comes natural, what comes from God. They sought other human company.

As a peace officer do you have a Christian buddy? Or, have you had to face your tough times alone with your thoughts?

I can think of many situations where I could have used that Christian buddy. Had I been a born again Christian at the time I could have used a confidant when I was involved in a fight that injured me. Instead, I waited home alone in pain while recovering. Or, when I was facing a possible assault charge over something that occurred during a struggle with a prisoner I could have used a Christian perspective instead of the well-meaning but non-helpful guardroom response of, "Ah don't sweat it Boomer, I've been

there and they'll never convict you. A good cop has to get into trouble or he's not doing his job".

Have you ever had similar experiences?

Consider for a moment this statement: "The importance of having that one person you can talk to is Biblically endorsed".

Through this article I realized that Jesus knew the need and the power of a mentor. When He sent the 72 out into the world He sent them in pairs. Going alone they could have covered much more ground for God but Jesus knew they would not have been as effective as He needed them to be. He knew that each person had to lean on the other for support because there would be bad times ahead. "Go, I am sending you out like lambs among the wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals". Luke 10:3-4. Jesus knew he could send them without materials because they would be provided for, but he could not send them without each other's support.

The life of the Apostle Paul is a lesson on close friendships. Here is a champion of the faith who travelled extensively through the Mediterranean. All of his writings include the need for his friends. In his letters Paul greeted his friends, wished them well, travelled with many and, in one known case, refused an open door in Troas because his friend Titus would not be there with him 2 Cor 2:12-13.

If you don't have a Christian Peace Officer mentor now is the time to go out and find one. It may take some work and should take some prayer but God will see to it that you are taken care of. If you know of someone who could use a Christian Peace Officer mentor now is the time to be one. Corrections Officers are assaulted and spat upon, Conservation Officers field obnoxious abuse from those claiming to be "sportsmen" and Police Officers face physical and emotional

threats each day. You may be the one person who helps to keep a fellow peace officer together as you bring Jesus into their lives through the close contact of being a buddy.

Yours in Christ,

Tom Huntley

FCPO - Canada Shields



In our last issue of the Peacemaker we wrote of how the Golden Triangle Church on the Rock in Beaumont, Texas, so very generously supplied us with 500 custom made FCPO - Canada shields. We have had a fantastic response from folks that wanted this shield.

We still have some left! Again, they are available for:

- ✓ Any serving or retired Canadian peace officer
- ✓ Any FCPO Canada member

If you would like one, please let us know at fcpo.aapc@gmail.com.

Order Now

We would be pleased to send one to you free of charge. Wear it as a witness that *God is our refuge* and strength, a very present help in trouble, and be a strong witness for our Lord and Savior.





FCPO - Canada 2024



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