

# FCPO - CANADA



# The Peacemaker

August, 2025

Version française

#### From the President's Desk



Like many of you, I'm enjoying the daily devotional *Stories of Faith and Courage from Cops on the Street*. We gave away 140 copies! These stories are not only encouraging, but they also reflect the challenges for those who serve and protect. I've included one story in this issue that I found particularly meaningful. Let's be honest - we all know a colleague who could benefit from a trip to "Charm School". And if we're really being honest, maybe we've needed a trip ourselves at times!

This issue is very special for me, as it features a testimony from my dear troopmate and brother in the Lord, Jim Cook. The six months I spent in basic training with him and 30 other guys was among the most enjoyable and challenging times of my life. Anyone who's been through a "boot camp" type environment knows the physical, mental, and spiritual tests it brings, as well as the tight bonds of comradery. We truly were only as strong as our weakest link, and on any given day, that could have been any one of us.

Jim went on to become a highly respected and accomplished police officer, known for his undercover work and determination as an investigator. He's seen more than most - and he's currently facing some very tough times. His testimony, which he was kind enough to share with us, is powerful. I thank God that he found the Lord years ago. <u>Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers</u>. I've included a photo of our troop with Jim highlighted. If you look closely, you might even spot a much younger version of me!

Please check out our <u>YouTube channel</u>. We're uploading some great archival footage - starting with a video from our 1983 conference. You'll catch a few of our "old-timers" in action. Be sure to subscribe, so you'll get notified as we add new content. As I often say, testimonies are timeless. **If you feel so led,** 



please consider sharing your story for this newsletter. You never know who your words might encourage.

God bless,

Ron

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## Jesus is Real!

Cst. Jim Cook (Ret'd)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

My name is Jim Cook, and I served with the RCMP beginning in 1978.

As the son of an RCMP officer, I spent my early years moving from detachment to detachment across Canada. One of the greatest gifts of that time was the opportunity to experience this beautiful country, particularly the Northwest Territories, which left a lasting impression on me. But there was a cost too - my father's demanding career eventually contributed to the breakdown of my parents' marriage when I was just 12.

Cst. Jim Cook (Ret'd)

Despite that, I looked up to the young RCMP members who took the time to include me - taking me for drives, playing ball with me etc. They inspired me to follow in their footsteps. That dream became reality when I went to Depot for 6 months of basic training as part of a 32-man troop. We were young, full of hope and purpose, and proud to wear the red serge. We all graduated together - an accomplishment I'll never forget.

Back then, faith wasn't something I gave much thought to. I wouldn't have considered myself a Christian or even spiritual. But life in law enforcement - especially in the 1980s - has a way of putting your beliefs, your purpose, and your soul to the test.

> BACK THEN, FAITH WASN'T SOMETHING I GAVE MUCH THOUGHT TO.

In May 1980 I attended a devastating bus accident involving young men my own age (23-24), all of them burned and broken. I was also there the night my friend and fellow member, Cpl. Ole Larsen, was

murdered in Climax, Saskatchewan. Later, during five intense years working various major undercover operations, I saw the darkest parts of human behavior. I witnessed things no one should have to see. The experience nearly cost me my life when the HA sent people to La Ronge to "deal with me." I was moved into the Witness Protection Program in 1988, still with no understanding of who God was or what He wanted with me.

> **EVERYTHING CHANGED ONE QUIET** DAY IN POND INLET, NUNAVUT.

After a short stint in Ottawa I was posted back to Canada's beautiful north. Everything changed one quiet day in Pond Inlet. Nunavut. I was alone. out in the detachment's Boston Whaler boat, heading toward Bylot Island. There was no reason to stop - but I did. The ocean was calm, the

sky clear, and then I heard a voice. Not in my head - but truly spoken. It told me I was here for a reason. That I needed to reach out to my Indigenous friends from high school and speak with them about the Creator. It was a moment I can't explain - but I have never doubted its reality since.

## HE TOLD ME I'D LIVED LONG ENOUGH WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST IN MY LIFE.

Later, in Wrigley, NWT, I met Father. George, a Catholic priest who flew into the community. I shared my story, expecting skepticism, but he believed me. He told me I'd lived long enough

without Jesus Christ in my life. Through our conversations and through the influence of a friend of mine, Charlie Tale, who was an elder in the community and a strong Christian man, I began to understand that the Creator - the God who saved me so many times - was Jesus Christ. I accepted Him into my life and have never turned back.



Zachary Andrew Cook 1996 – 2017 ♥

Still, faith doesn't mean a life without pain. Losing our beloved son <u>Zachary</u> to cancer was the most crushing loss my wife and I have ever endured. And now, I face my own terminal illness: ALS.

Each day brings new struggles - losing the use of my hands, the coming silence as I lose my voice, and the fight for every breath. But even now, I do not fear death. I know where I am going. My frustrations lie in the physical limitations - but spiritually, I cling to the faith that sustained me through so many dark hours. My wife's unwavering belief in God has been my anchor, and I know my family will be okay when I'm gone.

To my fellow officers - those who serve, or have served, through sleepless nights, unspeakable trauma, and the burden of duty - I urge you: <u>seek the Lord</u>. He is real! **He is the way, the truth, and the life!** You do not have to carry the weight of this job alone. He has carried me, and He will carry you too.



Troop 7 78/79

## What do you see?

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





Every summer, when the weather is good, I take a daily bike ride along the Ottawa River. It's a peaceful 3 hour ride, but there's one spot that never fails to stir

something in me - a makeshift shelter tucked beneath an overpass.

One day, I stopped and took a photo of it for this article. Something about that "residence" made me pause and ask a simple question: What do I see?

Instinctively, here's what I saw: an eyesore! A stolen bicycle! A stolen grocery cart! Three stolen blue recycling bins! I imagined the person inside - probably a young or middleaged man with an outstanding warrant! Most likely someone struggling with mental illness and/or addiction.

That's what I saw as a former police officer. And, to be frank, I'm probably right. But here's what I didn't see: someone's child. Maybe someone's sibling, a friend, or a person loved by someone. I didn't see the soul within that shelter.

Like many of you who have worked the streets, the job changes the way you see the world. We get used to reality as it is, not as it could be. It's a kind of numbness we develop.

Like many of you who have worked the streets, the job changes the way you see the world. We get used to reality as it is, not as it could be. It's a kind of numbness we develop.

I remember being a teenager and seeing a man passed out on a sidewalk. I went over, genuinely concerned. I suspect many people would've done the same. He was just intoxicated. Once I became a cop, I quickly learned: passed out drunks were just part of the job. The concern faded. Empathy was replaced by Apathy.

That's just one of the many ways the job "taints" us. Over time, we start to sort people into categories. I used to say that there were "Daytime People" and "Nighttime People." The first group went to work, school, and lived their lives peacefully. The second group? Nothing but trouble: drinking, fighting, breaking into places etc. etc. We labeled some youth as "good kids," and others as "scrotes".

But that's not how most Christians think! Policing changes you. It has to. But it shouldn't define you. Maybe we all need a reset - a daily reminder to see every person as a soul, as someone deeply loved by God, someone in need of grace and redemption.

Honestly, I don't know if I can live that out perfectly. But I'm going to try. And every time I ride past that shelter, I'm going to pray for the person inside.

Follow us on

## **Join Today!**

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>. Membership is free! Members receive this quarterly newsletter.

Join online at: www.fcpocanada.com

## Charm School for Officers ... in truthful speech and in the

power of God, with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left.. 2 Corinthians 6:7 Officer John T. Campbell, California Highway Patrol (From the book "Stories of Faith and Courage from Cops on the street, page 180)



When things turn out contrary to an officer's expectations, that officer can exhibit emotions such as disappointment, anger, and frustration. Since such emotions can affect our behavior toward people with whom we come in contact, many departments have initiated "Charm School" for officers who get a lot of citizen complaints.

An illustration of the need for Charm School is the thin line between truth and judgment. Truth is when an officer stops a suspected violator for driving under the influence. When alcohol impairment seems above the legal limits the officer should arrest the driver

by saying, "You're under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol." This is a truth that can be verified by investigation. Judgment enters in when the officer says (in so many words), "You're under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, you piece of garbage." By the addition of a comment like that, the officer has crossed the line between truth and judgment. Because the officer is angry at the violator's words or actions, the result can be that he charges the citizen with more violations to teach him a lesson.

Christian officers shouldn't need Charm School. Instead, we should let God order our steps and reflect Bible truths in all we do. The problem is that many Christian law enforcement officers, like far too many Christians in all walks of life, have not yet matured. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 3, the apostle Paul lamented that instead of being able to handle life like mature adults, the Corinthian believers were still acting like infants. For officers who are not believers, the situation is even worse.

As long as there are citizen complaints, departments will need "Charm School." Unfortunately, these secular schools won't accomplish as much as they should because they're not tackling the real issues: unsaved officers and "baby Christian" officers. Without a "heart understanding" of how God wants us to act in relationship with others, their behavior won't change much. God said in the book of Romans he has "ordained" officers as his ministers of justice. Some officers - even Christians - may need "Charm School." But to be true to their ordination, what officers really need is Christ.

## The Power of Forgiveness - Restoring

## Peace through Grace

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



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

As Christian police officers, we have seen the cost of anger. We've stood in the middle of family disputes, witnessed the fallout of betrayal, and responded to workplaces shattered by bitterness. But more than that—we have wrestled with it in our own hearts. We know what it feels like to be hurt, misunderstood, or wronged. We also know the struggle of forgiving.

But the Holy Spirit has shown us something deeper: forgiveness is not weakness — it is spiritual strength. It's not about forgetting the offense — it's about choosing peace over poison.

#### What Forgiveness Is

Forgiveness is a command, not a suggestion.

Jesus said clearly, For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

Forgiveness is a decision to release someone from the debt of hurt, just as Christ released us. It means letting go of the right to retaliate, and instead, trusting God to deal justly with all things.

Forgiveness restores peace — not just with others, but within ourselves. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.* Matthew 5:9

When you forgive, you become a vessel of God's peace in your home, your workplace, and your marriage.

#### What Forgiveness Is NOT

Forgiveness is not the same as trust.

Forgiving someone doesn't mean you immediately trust them again — trust must be rebuilt. But forgiveness is the first step toward healing. Forgiveness is not excusing or minimizing the wrong. It doesn't say "it didn't matter." It says, "Yes, it hurt. But I choose to release it to God."

Forgiveness is not forgetting — it is remembering with grace instead of bitterness.

#### Why Forgiveness Is So Critical

When we choose not to forgive, we hold onto something that God never designed us to carry.

Hebrews 12:15 warns us: See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Bitterness is a poison that spreads. It starts in your heart but spills into your home, your job, your marriage — and eventually, your health.

Proverbs 14:30 says, A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy (or bitterness) rots the bones.

Science confirms what Scripture has already told us: Unforgiveness contributes to stress, high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression. Forgiveness isn't just for the other person—it's for your soul, your body, and your future.

#### **Restoring Peace Starts With You**

You may be reading this thinking of: a family member you haven't spoken to in years; a coworker who stabbed you in the back: or a spouse who let you down...

Let the Holy Spirit lead you to healing. Don't wait for the apology. Make the first move.

Romans 12:18 says, If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

That's what we've chosen as police officers
— not just to enforce peace, but to live it.

#### The Cross Is Our Model

The greatest act of forgiveness was shown at the cross. *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.* Luke 23:34

Jesus forgave us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). He didn't wait for us to get it right - He chose grace, and in doing so, gave us eternal peace.

#### A Call to Action

If there is someone you need to forgive — family, friend, spouse, coworker - let today be the day. Don't let the enemy steal your peace another moment. Choose freedom. Choose healing. Choose forgiveness.

#### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,

We ask for Your strength to forgive as You forgave us. Heal the wounds in our hearts and give us the courage to release the pain we've carried for too long. Make us peacemakers in our homes, our departments, and our communities. Let Your grace flow through us, bringing restoration, reconciliation, and revival.

*In Your holy name,* 

Amen.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven. - Luke 6:37

Peace begins with 1 decision - Forgiveness.

God bless

Dino Doria MSc



# Canadian Law Enforcement Appreciation Retreats

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

#### You are invited!

In recognition of your invaluable service, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team warmly invites you and your spouse to this exclusive retreat. Designed specifically for law enforcement professionals, this event offers an opportunity for rest, encouragement, and spiritual enrichment.

- **Relevant Wisdom**: Hear from seasoned speakers who will address unique challenges faced by officers and their spouses and provide strategies for thriving both personally and professionally.
- **Biblical Insights**: Gain fresh perspectives through discussions rooted in Biblical teachings that encourage faith and resilience.
- Renewal & Connection: Enjoy a serene setting where you can relax, connect with God, and strengthen your commitment to your Christian walk.

Join us for an inspiring retreat aimed at revitalizing your spirit and supporting your journey as a law enforcement officer. Your service is deeply appreciated—reserve your spot today in Alberta or Ontario.

#### Jasper, Alberta

November 8 - 10, 2025

Where: <u>Chateau Jasper</u>, 96 Geikie Street, Jasper, ABCost: \$295/individual, \$325/couple (includes lodging and meals)

Mono, Ontario

November 16 - 18, 2025

Where: <u>Hockley Valley Resort</u>, 793522 3rd Line EHS, Mono, ON Cost: \$295/individual, \$325/couple (includes lodging and meals)

https://www.billygraham.ca/canadian-law-enforcement-retreat-november-2025/

### Letters to the Editor



Good day, in a past edition of the Peacemaker, there was an invitation for new FCPO members to write an introduction. I have been a member for some time now, but here is a brief bio for me.

My name is Hans Mulder. I am a confessing member of the Reformed Congregations in North America and I live in a rural area near Hope, British Columbia. My wife Amber and I have four children. I have been employed as an Environmental Enforcement Officer with the

Environment and Climate Change Canada Enforcement Branch since 2021. Previous to this I have had a varied experience as a park patrol officer, a border services officer with CBSA, a provincial tobacco enforcement officer, a Transport Canada boating safety officer, and a provincial liquor and cannabis inspector, while concurrently serving as a reservist, starting as a Cadet Instructor Cadre officer, then an infantry officer, and now as a logistics officer.

I find my current peace officer role particularly fulfilling, as I feel it helps me meet our responsibility of dominion and stewardship over God's creation, just as Adam was called to dress and keep the Garden of Eden. When I am afflicted with doubts, my work in creation helps remind me daily of the evidence of our heavenly Father's existence. In an increasingly secular world and public service where being an openly believing Christian is becoming more difficult, I appreciate the existence of the FCPO to support officers in being a light, despite our inherent flaws.

Regards,

Hans Mulder





#### We do not receive any direct funding from the United Way.

However for those who will be participating in your local workplace United Way campaign this fall, please remember your charitable donation can be specifically designated to FCPO – Canada by using our registered charity number on the form (120365804 RR0001) in part B or C (depending on if you are a Federal, Provincial, or Municipal employee).

Other ways to donate, including online donations can be found on our website.

Thank you for your financial support for this unique ministry.

## **Breaking Free From My Own Prison**

is

**CBSA** Officer Catherine Thouin



**Officer Catherine Thouin** 

Catherine, and I have been Border Services Officer for more 10 years, assigned to a land border crossing in the province of Quebec. But above all, I am a single mother to two wonderful five-

name

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year-old twins.

I was raised in an evangelical Christian family and have experienced many ups and downs in my walk with the Lord. From the very first day of my marriage, I carried a heavy secret. Paralyzed by shame, I felt bound to honor my vows at all costs—even within the confines of an abusive relationship.

Despite what I was enduring at home, I continued to share the Gospel with my colleagues and found joy through one of my greatest passions: my work as a peace officer. What a blessing it is to serve and protect the public and to make a difference in people's lives!

The weight of condemnation surrounding the idea of divorce kept me trapped. What kind of example or testimony would I be to non-believers? How would fellow Christians perceive my family situation? And what about my children?

Though I remained silent about my struggles, I never stopped praying and interceding through our Advocate before the Father. One day, I finally made the decision to seek help. With the guidance of a Christian mental health professional, I was able to break down the false beliefs and lies of the enemy that had held me captive for so long. I was finally able to step out of the prison I had locked myself in. It was one of the best decisions I've made for my spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

My family's response was immediate - full of compassion, kindness, and support. Since then, I've had the privilege of walking alongside and encouraging colleagues going through their own family challenges.

In the midst of the storm, the Lord gave me the strength to start a ministry that now supports thousands of parents of twins and triplets.

Remember: even in the middle of our greatest trials, our Savior can use us to show His love and mercy.

In solidarity,

Catherine

#### http://www.mamanspieuvres.com

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1



## A Career and a Calling

Rev. Andre Bigras, Quebec Director, FCPO - Canada



Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

It has been 15 years since I retired from the RCMP and redirected my time and effort to full time ministry, pastoring The Potter's Wheel Christian Fellowship Church. I planted that work in Aylmer (Gatineau) Quebec in 2004 and I pastored that church for 17 years.

In 2021, my wife (Sandra) and I moved to Moncton New Brunswick. It took over a year to adjust as we were still living with COVID and the restriction that imposed.

In retrospect, I come to realize my career as a police officer was preparing me for ministry as I gave up many opportunities so as to have a schedule that would permit me to be out in the community, given the organization desired community-based policing.

Being attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch Surveillance Unit for 16 years, I witnessed the devastation of crime and drugs and how it negatively affected families and

communities.

Through my time as the coordinator of Drug Awareness Section, I learnt about drugs and their effects and became self-taught about Harm Reduction of which I opposed. I still am with the Drug Prevent Network of Canada. This has given me the privilege of speaking on this topic, many times locally and internationally in Florida and Mexico.

I had the privilege of being the Member/Employee Assistance Program Coordinator where I witnessed the inner hurts and issues of members, employees and family. Being a Chaplain for the RCMP, I had the privilege of officiating marriages, funerals, attending at the bedside of dying members and families in times of need. All of this preparing me for ministry. I realized that my calling was to provide spiritual guidance to my colleagues and congregation as a chaplain and pastor, and to serve my community as a member of the RCMP.

REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER ROLE I PLAYED,
THE GOAL WAS ALWAYS HELPING PEOPLE.

Regardless of whatever role I played, the goal was always helping people. This work now continues through the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers, whose goal is to reach fellow brothers and sister in red/blue with the "Good News".

Seeds of salvation were planted in my spirit in 1983 by an ex-offender <u>Ernie Hollands</u> (God has a sense of humour) and in March 1987, my wife and children gave their heart to the Lord at a <u>David Mainse</u> Crusade in Pembroke Ontario.

My journey of compassion began in 1990 when I become involved and volunteered with the Union Mission,

MY JOURNEY OF COMPASSION BEGAN IN 1990 WHEN I BECOME INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEERED WITH THE UNION MISSION, A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN IN OTTAWA.

a shelter for homeless men in Ottawa. Without realizing it at the time I would learn about social health issues of the community and how many fell through the cracks. We were good at putting Band-Aids on open wounds.

Volunteering every Monday evening at the Mission speaking to the men is where I learned the plight of many and of their secondary issue

being drugs. One had to earn the men's respect as they were leery of a policeman in their midst. Later I was asked to become a Board member and the go between with the men seeing they knew and trusted me. I would also speak on behalf of the Mission, to educate and sensitize the church and community to the reality of the streets. I participated in a promotional video for the Mission. My goal was building bridges which fell in line with community policing philosophy.

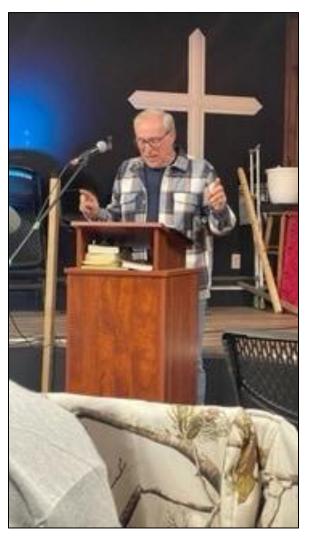
The next phase of my community work was as president and volunteer of Ottawa Innercity Ministries (OMI), an outreach ministry to the hurting of the streets. This ministry had only one employee, a part time worker and one volunteer who walked the streets of Ottawa supplying food, clothing, and medical supplies. Their office was the trunk of a car.

Six years later, the ministry had moved 3 times as needs arose for more space and the ministry now had 4 employees and over 100 volunteers. We hosted two drop in centres and 3 medical clinics (once a week) meeting the need of this hurting community.

Through OIM I was invited to be the closing key note speaker for the International Association of Justice Volunteering (volunteers within the prison system). From this engagement, I was asked to be on this International Board and became one of their spokesman. The volunteer coordinator for the Pittsburg Minimum Security Institution in Kingston asked me to be their main speaker at the volunteer appreciation supper. I attended in Red Serge (in prison) and it is there that I met Al Parker an inmate who said that the inmates had heard positive things about my work in the streets of Ottawa and wanted to hear what I had to say.

I then went on several speaking engagements within the prison and with Al Parker to sensitize people to the human side of this population. This led me to being interviewed on 100 Huntley St. on two occasions and a promotional video was done showcasing Ottawa Innnercity outreach work.

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Through the International Association of Justice Volunteers, I also had the privilege to speak on their behalf addressing issues of the street and prisons in San Diego and Colorado. The association, sadly closed its doors after 9/11. My goal was, building bridges between the prison, the community, the police and the church. God then called me to full time ministry at The Potter's Wheel Christian Fellowship.

Fast forward to January 2024, once again I became involved sharing the Word at <u>Harvest House Atlantic Drug Rehabilitation and Shelter</u> with the men and women in recovery and whoever walks in off the street.

After introducing myself and mentioning my police background, you could sense the walls coming up. I mentioned that we were on a journey of trust and in time we would feel comfortable one with the other. I answered the call of God once more to reach out with the "Good News".

They now have a different and positive view of the police and of society and the Church. Bridge building continues from a different perspective yet with the same goal of always helping people. My philosophy is as long as one has breadth, there is hope.

We have to look at policing from a broader perspective with the goal of showing people, our human side and role as police officers by being hands on in their plight for a better life. Susan Brandt gave me a statute of a homeless man that she sculptured. On the bottom of the statue, one reads *Jesus in* 

distressing disguise. One never knows whom one will meet when reaching out to the less fortunate of society.

#### I am blessed to have had the privilege of serving God and Country.



#### **Rev. Andy Bigras**

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25: 37-40 (NIV)

## Are you in?



As a fellowship, one of our greatest challenges has always been the ability to connect with one another. Where we have chapters, that connection happens as soon as a new member joins and is made aware of their local chapter. However, even there, the connections made are usually local. Because we maintain

everyone's membership as confidential, only the FCPO leadership is privy to who our members are.

Have you ever been transferred or seconded to another service and wondered if there was anyone there that

On our website we have included a password protected "opt-in" member directory.

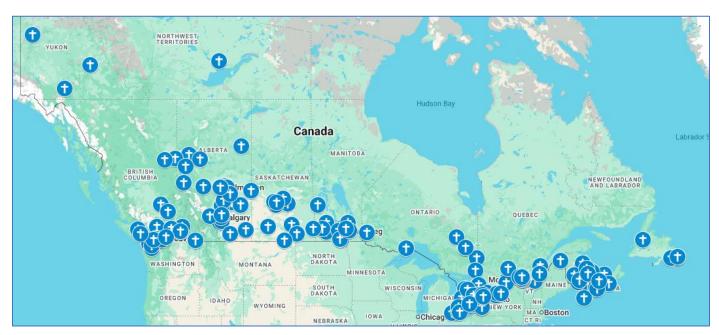
you could enjoy fellowship with? Well... we have got the solution! On our website we have included a password protected member directory. This directory just includes the member's name, city, service or agency, and email address. That is then

projected on the map of Canada, so one can easily see the number of FCPO members across Canada.

This directory is only available to serving and retired officers who have agreed to be added to the directory themselves (opted-in) and been issued a password.

As of this writing, there are 325 members who have opted-in to the directory. It's a great way to see who else is a member of the Fellowship, and to potentially connect with, someone or have someone connect with you.

To add your name and obtain a password, just send an email to us asking to be added to the directory. <a href="mailto:fcpo.aapc@gmail.com">fcpo.aapc@gmail.com</a>. If you are in the Directory, please check to see if we still have your correct rank, location and status (serving/retired). If you forgot your password, just let us know.





## 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.

## **Are You Listening?**

Andrew Cowan, President, FCPO - Canada

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: Spring 2008

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed! I have the Holy Spirit's power! The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made-I'm a disciple of His! I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, depend on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor with power. That's what it means to be a disciple of Jesus''! (A national pastor who was later martyred in Africa).

It is always interesting to look at our respective careers both while in the midst or at others who have retired. When we are on the job we too often focus on the rank, the position and the resources under our control. It seems that we also attribute (as do the public) our rank as decidedly marked to our abilities.

How many of us and the public have looked at the 50 year old front desk guy as a performer or wonder why they don't just retire and how did they even get hired? In reality some of the best cops I know are the lifelong Constables who never strove for promotion, never wanted glory and day in/day out performed their duties simply to make a difference.

We all started out this career wanting to make a difference, to change lives or to help someone but somewhere, somehow along the way may have lost sight of the bigger picture.

We all started out this career wanting to make a difference, to change lives or to help someone but somewhere, somehow along the way may have lost sight of the bigger picture. Rank, honours, accolades don't matter at all in the scope of eternity yet we all at some point strive for it.

What matters is that where you are and what you are doing is where He wants you to be and intends to use you.

What matters is that where you are and what you are doing is where He wants you to be and intends to use you.

If you are feeling down, wondering why that promotion passed you by or what is in store for you wonder no more - God has something bigger and better in store as He is in control of it all.

Two years ago I wondered why a job which seemed perfect didn't come through. Now I know the answer which came as a promotion this fall only weeks after the passing of my wife.

This also meant that I didn't have to move the kids, had Staffing off my back for at least 2 years, didn't have to move offices and amazingly enough, it was better than "that perfect job" two years ago. Funny how it all works out even when we wonder at the time why He didn't give it to us then...

I am always amazed how God can speak when we just take time to listen and when we remember that He is in charge.

God Bless

Andrew Cowan