



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



February, 2025

Version française

From the President's Desk



A new year always prompts us to think of a fresh start and perhaps a vision for the year. In this issue, given I did not receive many articles, I decided to write about one of the highlights of my career and something I hope will inspire others in this new year. Christian officers need to recognize that they have been placed in a God ordained profession, having significant influence on individuals and communities. Other than conducting yourself with integrity and professionalism, there are opportunities to really make a difference within your sphere of influence. Sometimes it might just be sharing the Gospel message with a colleague or citizen, other times it might be putting into action a gargantuan vision!

I'm very excited about our new FCPO cards with the message, "God is always present". With a QR code, these are a great "modern" way to introduce a colleague or a citizen to the Gospel message. Please be sure to check out the video and request your supply (see page 2).

We had an overwhelming response to our special Christmas initiative to provide members with Grant Wolf's daily devotional, "[Stories of Faith and Courage from Cops on the Street](#)". Delivery got held

up a bit by the postal strike, but by now everyone who asked for the book should have received it. May you be inspired and blessed by each of the stories. Please let me know if you didn't get yours.

All Christians have a story of how God has been with them - please consider sharing yours in the Peacemaker.

God bless,

Ron

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada

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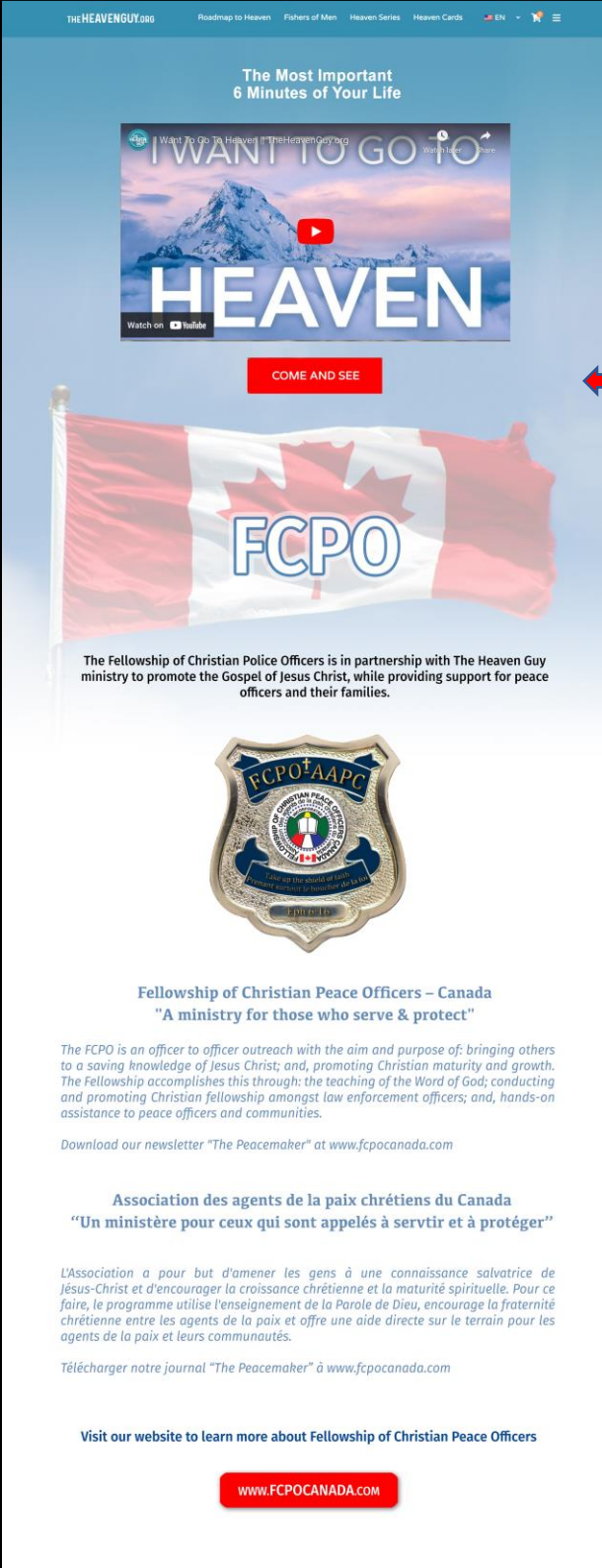
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New FCPO – Canada Card!



The screenshot shows the FCPO Canada website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'TheHEAVENGUY.ORG', 'Roadmap to Heaven', 'Fishers of Men', 'Heaven Series', and 'Heaven Cards'. Below this is a video player titled 'The Most Important 6 Minutes of Your Life' with a thumbnail showing a mountain and the text 'I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN'. A red arrow points from the text 'one to a page with a link to our website' in the adjacent text block to the video player. Below the video player is a large Canadian flag with 'FCPO' written on it. Under the flag, there's text about the partnership with The Heaven Guy ministry. Below that is the FCPO logo, which is a shield with 'FCPO + AAPC' and 'CHRISTIAN PEACE OFFICERS' written on it. At the bottom, there's a section for 'Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada' with a description of their mission and a link to their website.

The Most Important 6 Minutes of Your Life

I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

HEAVEN

COME AND SEE

The Fellowship of Christian Police Officers is in partnership with The Heaven Guy ministry to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while providing support for peace officers and their families.

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada
"A ministry for those who serve & protect"

The FCPO is an officer to officer outreach with the aim and purpose of: bringing others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; and, promoting Christian maturity and growth. The Fellowship accomplishes this through: the teaching of the Word of God; conducting and promoting Christian fellowship amongst law enforcement officers; and, hands-on assistance to peace officers and communities.

Download our newsletter "The Peacemaker" at www.fcpocanada.com

Association des agents de la paix chrétiens du Canada
"Un ministère pour ceux qui sont appelés à servir et à protéger"

L'Association a pour but d'amener les gens à une connaissance salvatrice de Jésus-Christ et d'encourager la croissance chrétienne et la maturité spirituelle. Pour ce faire, le programme utilise l'enseignement de la Parole de Dieu, encourage la fraternité chrétienne entre les agents de la paix et offre une aide directe sur le terrain pour les agents de la paix et leurs communautés.

Télécharger notre journal "The Peacemaker" à www.fcpocanada.com

Visit our website to learn more about Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers

www.FCPOCANADA.COM

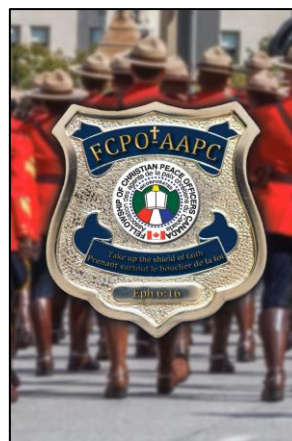
We have found a unique way to spread the Good News and create greater awareness of our Fellowship. Last year, Dino Doria made a connection with a Florida police chaplain, [Mike Tobey](#). Mike is the founder and Executive Director of "[The Heaven Guy](#)" ministry.

In partnership with Mike, we developed a small card that contains a QR code that takes one to a page with a link to our website and an important video from Mike's site: *The Most Important 6 Minutes of Your Life*. Check out the video: <https://theheavenguy.org/the-fellowship-of-christian-police-officers>.

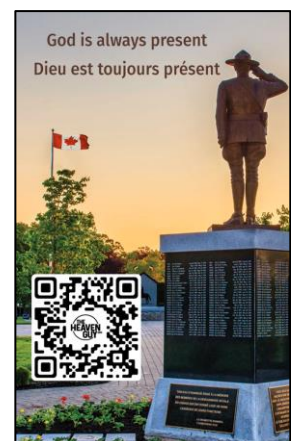
This card is a great way to introduce a colleague both to the Gospel message and FCPO – Canada. It is also something that can be given to anyone that needs to know the Good News.

We would like to send you some cards (free), for you to give away as you are led. **Just send us your name and mailing address.**

[Order Here](#)



Front of card



Back of card

Trust in the Lord - Always

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

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success". Joshua 1:8



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

My faith journey began 47 years ago. During these years I continue to learn that Christ never fails to keep His promises. In life we don't know what a new day brings. It can range from joy and happiness to sudden stress, anxiety, and hopelessness. We all have or will experience unexpected hardships in our lives. It is in these difficult circumstances that I realize how important it is to know and rely on the word of God.

Knowing His word and meditating on his promises brings me closer to knowing His great love for me during difficult times. Instead of dwelling on the negatives that a situation brings, I'm continuing to realize that He is always present with His love and comfort. During these times He reminds me to trust Him in a deeper way.

When we go through difficult incidents we must remember that the Lord has not left us - He loves us and is waiting for us to incline our thoughts, feelings and emotions, towards Him.

This is accomplished through Faith and Trust in His promise that "He will never leave us as orphans." **John 14:18**

As a believer in Jesus Christ, and retired police officer I have responded to various traumatic incidents that are still etched in my mind. Although I remember each incident, the most important memories are how the Lord made a way for me to endure, and build my character in trusting Him more.

As I look back in my rear view mirror of life; I can testify that the "Lord Jesus is Alive"! I have seen the power of the Risen Lord at work through every situation even when events did not turn out as I expected.

I came to realize that the Lord always has a greater plan and that He is God and I am not.

I came to realize that the Lord always has a greater plan and that He is God and I am not. I have also understood that it's easy to declare "I trust in the Lord!" especially when I have some control over the situation, however when I experienced events where it was humanly evident that I had no control over the situation - my emotions, anxiety and nervousness defaulted to a lack of trust mindset. I found that my faith, trust, and internal peace in the Lord was hijacked because of my undisciplined mind focusing more on the negative events than trusting on the Lord.

As the Lord helps me to grow in disciplining the arenas of my mind - the word of God

becomes rooted and grounded in my mind as the default.

As I focus on His word the Lord helps me find my pathway back to His internal peace of mind in every situation. His holy word insulates me from the 3 cousins - worry, anxiety and fear. **Isaiah 26:3. Clearly states, *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.***

Through it all the Lord continues to help me grow my faith and trust in Him. By His Grace I'm learning to surrender the arenas of my thoughts, feelings and emotions, and surrender them at the cross. He is helping me to bring every thought into captivity and replace it with His holy word. He continues to show me that His word is my sustenance. Through all my adversities He makes a way for me to walk a closer walk with Him and be Victorious, because He is Victorious and has already won the battle at Calvary.

What Does It Mean To “Take Every Thought Captive”?

As a way of life, taking your thoughts captive means choosing what you allow to take root in your mind. Knowing His Word is our foundation in how we discern if a thought is a pretense that sets itself up against God. Taking your thoughts captive means speaking God's authority over them, and believing what God desires for you.

God doesn't desire you to condemn yourself. He calls you to his mercy.

God doesn't desire you to condemn yourself. He calls you to his mercy. And if your thoughts are making you feel unworthy and

unlovable, it's time to revisit the promises of God in the Bible. Author Christina Patterson says, “Our thoughts lead to our beliefs, which lead to our actions, which lead to the quality of our Christian faith. Our thoughts have too great of an impact for us not to guard them - sheltered in God's Holy Word”.

In [2 Corinthians 10](#), Paul is exemplifying that in the midst of trials, believers shake off critics and cling to Christ's teachings. If your thoughts start imprisoning you in doubt, fear, or worry, stop and remind yourself of what God's word says, *Cast all your [anxiety](#) on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7).*

Every situation brings new challenges to strengthen my endurance and character in my faith journey. I can confidently say: *I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I Confidently trust.* Psalm 91:2. AMP.

He continues to strengthen my faith, endurance and Christian character by teaching me to trust Him in every situation. He continues to demonstrate His power over each situation. Indeed His Peace surpasses all human understanding. *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.* Isaiah 26:3-4 NIV

In closing, I leave these thoughts with you: The Lord will continue to build your character and trust in Him through all events good or bad. **Rejoice in the Lord - He is in control and He loves you very much!**

God Bless you!

Dino Doria MSc
FCPO Ontario Director

In His Service - Here and Abroad

Cst. Jozina Dykstra



Cst. Jozina Dykstra

I was adopted at 6 months old into a loving Christian family with 3 other siblings. My parents raised us to know the love of Jesus and we went to church twice on Sunday, went to a Christian elementary and high school as well as on various mission trips. My parents demonstrated and instilled in us a desire to have a personal relationship with Jesus and my faith has always been a big part of my life

IN 2021, AT THE AGE OF 39 I FELT I WAS NOT LIVING UP TO MY GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL AT MY DESK JOB AND I APPLIED AND WAS HIRED WITH PEEL REGIONAL POLICE AS A CONSTABLE.

although I had my moments of rebellion and distance, God brought me back to his fold and I am so grateful to be a child of His. Like my earthly adoption I feel so undeserving of and grateful for the life He provides.

In 2021, at the age of 39, I felt I was not living up to my God given potential at my desk job and I applied and was hired with Peel Regional Police as a constable. God's hand was visible through the entire process from connecting me with a recruiter who is also a believer and still a mentor and close friend and by placing me in the same hiring class and OPC pod as another believer who has become like a sister to me.

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MY JOB AND FEEL I AM MUCH MORE ABLE TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF GOD IN A ROLE THAT SUITS THE SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES GOD WOVE WITHIN ME.

I absolutely love my job and feel I am much more able to be the hands and feet of God in a role that suits the skills and capabilities God wove within me. I do find the shift work and long hours challenging as I'm not as resilient as I was in my 20s but I don't believe I would have been ready if I'd applied any earlier and I have so much more life experience to apply to calls.

This past year has been one that forever changed my family. In August 2024, after many health issues, I lost my dad who had just turned 70. Knowing he was fully restored and with Jesus was a comfort but his earthly loss has still been painful to process.

Three weeks after my dad passed away, my 43 year old sister-in-law had an unexpected cardiac arrest and due to the 20 minute delay in CPR assistance, she suffered an anoxic brain injury. She is a wife to my brother and a mother to my nieces and nephew, ages 7, 5, 3 and 18 months.

While the doctors speak of hopelessness and end of life care, we know our God is bigger than science and has knit her together before and is capable of knitting her together again. She is still in a persistent vegetative state and we continue to pray for God's healing hands to work a miracle, although we accept that some tough decisions may need to be made, and pray for strength and clarity as my brother has to make unbelievably difficult decisions that no spouse should have to face. Also heavy on our hearts are their 4 young kids who face the possibility of spending the remainder of their lives - the big landmark occasions and the quiet daily routines, without their mother.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity to help.

Prior to these events I had booked a trip for November 2024 to travel with my brother and his family along with our extended family to see firsthand the work my cousin is doing through his mission in Guatemala (<https://www.dreaminvestgrow.org/>) While it was difficult to make the trip without my brother and his family as planned, I am grateful to have had this opportunity to help install stoves in the village huts to help reduce smoke inhalation related respiratory illnesses as well as help build a school in a mountain village in memory of my grandparents.

This experience was a much needed positive moment in 2024 and I'm grateful for the deeper connections I was able to make with

family while extending God's love to the rural people of Guatemala.

I would be lying if I said these past few months haven't tested my faith. There are so many examples of the power of prayer in the Bible and trying to reconcile the goodness of God when prayers seemingly go unanswered has been difficult and at times dark. True to God's timing I came across these words from [Beth Moore](#) this week, **"The privilege of wrestling with such a holy and mysterious God still beats the numbness, the pitiful mediocrity, of an otherwise life. Sometimes we don't realize how real He is until we've experienced the awesomeness of His answerless Presence, He Knows that what we crave far more than an explanation is the unshakable conviction that He is utterly, supremely God."**



Cst. Dykstra in Guatemala - note the FCPO t-shirt!

As in Psalm 23, I have had many still and peaceful times where it is so easy to see God and his guidance. And although it has been at times difficult to see Him in this deep dark valley shadowed by death, **I know He is still there.**

Police Chaplaincy in Canada

Hillar Alkok, RCMP Chaplain, Cochrane, Alberta



Chaplain Hillar Alkok

A few years ago, I spoke to a graduating class at Toronto Police HQ on the topic of Police Chaplaincy. I started by asking the class of smartly dressed individuals a simple question: how many know

what a Chaplain is? Of the approximately 70 recruits, only 2 raised their hands. I was surprised, but followed up with another easier (I thought) question: how many know what a pastor or priest is? Four people raised their hands.

I had helped establish police chaplaincy in Ukraine a year or so earlier when I travelled there with Bruce Ewanyshyn from the Brandon Police Service. The spiritual aspect was well understood, and we even had non-Christian officers promoting the idea of chaplains. Yet in the largest city in Canada, young officers had no idea who a chaplain was.

That is part of the issue facing police chaplaincy in Canada: few understand why we are even there. Chaplains themselves are part of the problem. I was a pastor for 14 years and I tell new police chaplains that a pastor and a chaplain are not the same thing. Far too many still think our role is to proselytize and preach to the rank and file. The other common mistake is that we think we are only there to perform ceremonial functions.

If you are around peace officers for any length of time you know that this is a recipe

for a closed door. Yet, most officers would greatly benefit from the spiritual and emotional support offered by a seasoned chaplain. The question becomes: how do we reach these officers who face trauma, marital problems and other stressors?

Perhaps, our role as chaplains could also be seen as “conduits” to mental health professionals either within or outside the service.

From 2003 to 2005, my wife and three children lived in the country of Estonia as missionaries. I facilitated Ethics training for the National Police through a group called [Pointman Leadership Institute](#), based in Los Angeles. It is an organization established and run by Christian peace officers. God gave me the only Christian contact within the Estonian Police, and she just happened to oversee training. No preaching was involved but everything taught was based on the Word of God. Remember, this country had been under Communist rule from 1944 to 1989.

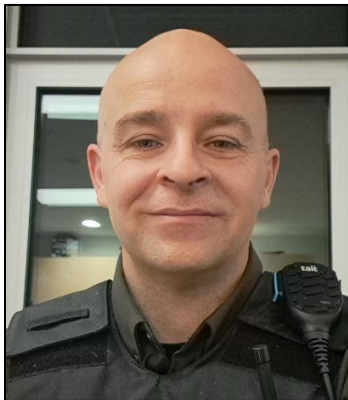
While in Estonia, I got to play in a hockey league when they found out I was a goalie and Canadian to boot. Being a goalie opened many doors for me over the years and it did the same when I returned from Estonia and applied once again to be a chaplain for TPS. As we walked to the Unit Commander's office for my interview, he turned around and stated, “I hear you're a goalie” - I got the job! This might not sound overly spiritual to you but hang in there for a minute. As mentioned, the Lord has a way of opening doors, and for me it was being a hockey goalie. I had played with guys at my first posting and even years earlier at Maple Leaf Gardens with peace officers who had the ice every Tuesday and

Thursday morning. Now let's get back to the term "conduit".

The question chaplains need to ask themselves is how do we build relationships with those who I call a "gated community"? If the Lord has put us in a place to be a blessing to law enforcement and their families, how can that happen if they don't know us? That is why ride-alongs are so vital and why sitting in on parades or bringing in snacks are ways in which we gain trust and even credibility. That is why the idea of simply being a "ceremonial" chaplain never works.

Give our 100%

Agent Guy Nadeau, Quebec Representative



Agent Guy Nadeau

When we do our job, we have to do it carefully, treat people with respect - even if they don't deserve it (imagine if God did the same thing with us, we would be in trouble!) Sometimes files deserve more energy, patience, perseverance, etc., from us - do it 100%. Imagine if we were paid a percentage of the effort we put into our work, we might be disappointed to get 75%, maybe half of our salary for the effort put in!

As Christian peace officers, you are in a sense "chaplains". When the men and women you work with know that you care for them, they will be more likely to open up to you. Those that volunteer as chaplains, need your support because we know that cops like to "talk" among themselves.

I leave you with one last thought. Remember that those around you who may need help, want a safe place to approach. Their Wellness Units may not be that, so if a chaplain can be that person, they can help navigate to any resource that might benefit that cop in crisis.

Think about the work God has started in our lives and what we would be like if He had neglected the details of our lives. He promises to finish what he started in us until Christ returns. We should therefore strive to reflect His nature of excellence and thoroughness in everything we do. We have been promised that God has begun a good work in us and will not stop until it is finished. Let us not be stubborn and refuse to allow him to do what he said he would do.

We often neglect spending time with him, reading the Bible, talking to him... that's where he reveals himself to us.

Heavenly Father, I invite you to complete the good work you have begun in me. May my service to my community reflect your nature of excellence, today and forever. Amen.

I am convinced that he who began this good work in us will complete it for the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

“What are you going to do with your life”?

Cst. Matt Poupart, Truro Police Service



Cst. Matt Poupart

I was brought up in church and was saved at a very young age. My dad is a pastor and has started two churches in PEI and several home groups over the years. I have seen a lot of amazing works of God throughout my life and have been absolutely blessed as well.

God had a call on my life at a very young age. A while ago I was going through some of my junk in storage and found my first yearbook from primary or grade one. At the back of it where everyone puts what they want to be when they grow up, I put “a police officer”. I didn’t know any cops growing up and

was never in too much trouble. I didn’t watch cop shows and really didn’t know much about the profession at that time. Growing up I lived up to the “Preacher Kid” stereotype. We moved several times due to dad’s calling. I didn’t handle it well and found myself into drugs and alcohol and everything that comes with it. But I always came back to what I knew, and that was that God loved me no matter what.

I was a teenager out of control.

I was a teenager out of control. Once I was sent to a little place in Caledon Ontario called [Teen Ranch](#) to get my “stuff” together. There I found God once again. I worked there for several summers. I had awesome encounters with God there. Just recently I have been blessed to take my daughter there for horse camp and work as their healthcare. As soon as you drive onto the Ranch property you know God is there. I get emotional talking about the Ranch as I feel that this was the real turning point for me and ultimately saved my life. Although when I would come home, I would get back into some of the same habits,

but I knew that God was always with me from what I learned working on the Ranch.

While we were living in BC, I recall being prophesied over several times. Although I don’t remember what they were, I still knew that God desired to have an intimate relationship with me. I was Baptized in the Holy Ghost while living there and today still pray in tongues all the time especially when I don’t know what to pray.

My family moved to Nova Scotia, and I got involved with the Fire Service in a small village just outside of Truro called Brookfield. I spent up until my mid 20s there, working three and sometimes four jobs to pay the bills. I was in and out of church and had several unhealthy relationships and fell back into some of my old habits, but could still feel God nudging me. I remember being in a church service with my dad in New Brunswick and the pastor looked at me and called me out and gave me a word which said “you’re like a plane in the sky circling, God wants you to land and come to Him and you won’t, eventually you’re going to run out of gas” that is a paraphrase, but it always stuck with me.

The Chief of Police came in the store one day and looked at me and said, “What are you going to do with your life”?

At 24, I ran out of gas. Burnt out from always working and partying when I had the time. I was working at a hardware store in Truro. The Chief of Police came in the store one day and looked at me and said, “What are you going to do with your life”? You should be a police officer”. I had forgotten about what I wrote in that yearbook - I applied and was accepted into the Atlantic Police Academy.

After several relationships, I met my wife, Amy. Something was different about her. We were married right after I started my career in Truro. God blessed us with a beautiful home and an amazing little girl. Amy and I had our struggles with having children. We went through two miscarriages and were devastated. We were in church on a Sunday and a friend of mine, Pastor Scott Nary, prophesied that we would have a child in the very near future. Well God doesn't lie, and I think it was within weeks we were pregnant again with our daughter, Olivia.

I have had a great 16 year career so far.

I have had a great 16 year career so far. I also own a [guiding business for hunting and fishing](#) which is a desire of mine since I started hunting. Sitting in a treestand one cold morning I thought about what I was going to do once I retire. Then it popped into my head and my heart started pounding. I want to do this, but take people with me. I started thinking and daydreaming about a name and what it would be like. As I was dreaming, I missed the buck I was after! I have met so many great people with this company and have gained lifelong friendships.

I have spent most of my policing career in General Duty. I spent 5 years in the Drug Enforcement Unit where I got to do a lot of amazing things and met some great people. I seized a lot of drugs and guns. But all of that came at a cost. I have been put through the wringer mentally and emotionally. I started drinking again and was told that due to my nature, the job had taken a toll on me. I was put off work for over a year and had to see a psychologist. I was falling back into some of my old habits. I needed to sleep at night and to stop the night terrors. I was in and out of church and when I was there, I was most likely hungover. My psychologist who is absolutely amazing, dealt with a lot of my issues, but I just still didn't feel normal.

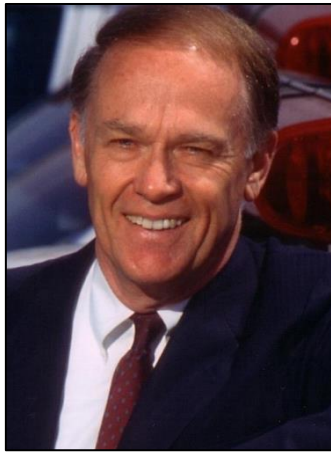
I was introduced to [Dr. Ron Horner](#). He told me that I was going through a spiritual attack. I went through his program and was instantly released from all I was going through. I was healthy again and was able to return to work with a new set of skills and able to recognize when I was dealing with the same issues.

God still continues to bless me and take care of me and my family. When God has a calling on your life, and you are walking with Him, He will take care of you. He will put the right people in your life at the right time and take away people that are standing in your way of what He has in store for you.

As men, we are called to be the head of our households - we have responsibilities. We need to be firmly rooted in God's Word and be praying with and over our loved ones every day. I may be protected by police issue armour, but I rely on God's armour according to Ephesians 6. I read Psalms 91 and Psalms 23 and would encourage all to do the same.

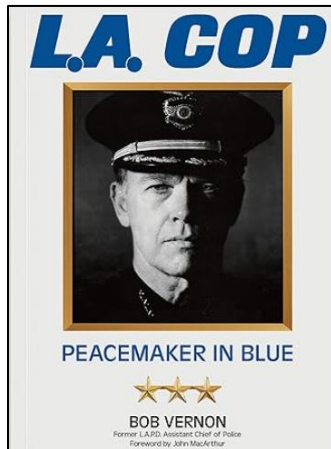
And one of my favorite verses is Psalm 144:1 the Lord is my Rock, **He trains my hands for war and my fingers for battle.**

In Memoriam - Chief Robert L. Vernon



Former Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Robert L. Vernon passed away on October 19, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife Esther on September 1st.

Chief Vernon was an inspiration to many of us. A strong Christian leader, who promoted integrity and leadership in policing. He helped inspire the development of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers in Los Angeles in 1972, always encouraging officers to share their faith in Christ with their partners and other police officers with whom they come in contact. After a 37 year career with the LAPD, Chief Vernon founded the [Pointman Leadership Institute](#), an organization that provides ethics and leadership training to police services worldwide.



We were privileged to have Chief Vernon as our keynote speaker at our 2010 conference in Toronto. He will be greatly missed, but we know he is now in the presence of Esther and his Lord, Jesus Christ!

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matthew 25:21

Chief Vernon's Testimony

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

Please let your colleagues, family, and friends know about FCPO - Canada!

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

Join online at: www.fcpocanada.com

A New Role – a New Partner

Russ Ideson, Chaplain, Chilliwack RCMP



Chaplain Russ and Taffy

Several years ago I retired and moved to BC to relax and enjoy the West Coast climate and this new stage in my life.

In May of 2022, I was offered a chaplain position with the RCMP in my now hometown of Chilliwack. It took almost a year to get the required security clearance, but then I was ready to take on the role.

**HAVING BEEN A POLICE OFFICER IN
ONTARIO (PEEL REGIONAL POLICE)
FOR MANY YEARS, I CERTAINLY
APPRECIATED THE RIGOR AND
STRESSES OF THE JOB.**

Having been a police officer in Ontario (Peel Regional Police) for many years, I certainly

appreciated the rigor and stresses of the job. I have always been concerned about the well-being of those who serve and protect, but the formal role of “Chaplain” was new for me.

Once in the position I was finally able to move about, get to know people, go to briefings, and go for ride-alongs, but I was still confused about my role, and how to function in the RCMP world. It’s huge, has many rules, traditions, and things I was not familiar with. **Then God got involved - Wow!**

Last year I was asked to be on a committee to assist in planning the [Canadian Police Chaplain Association’s \(CPCA\)](#) annual meeting, to be held in Vancouver in October 2025. I had previously joined this organization, and had taken many training courses to assist me in my new role as Chaplain.

The first meeting was held at the Vancouver Police Headquarters. The VPD is also involved in the planning of this event.

The meeting was going well, when a VPD sergeant asked me, “Have you ever seen a Calming Dog”? No, I had not. I was introduced to a beautiful Black Lab, who put her head on my knee, as I petted her head. The sergeant asked, “How is your stress level now”? Going down like an elevator was my reply! I was hooked on this idea. I knew the RCMP did not have one of these, and I knew I was getting a message from above.

The next day, I looked up a local breeder of golden retrievers. The owner said they just had a litter, but they were all sold. She loved the idea of a Trauma Support Dog, and said

that perhaps next year they would have a suitable dog from their first litter. Oh well, so much for that.



**IF YOU CAN GO AND LOOK AT A 10
WEEK OLD GOLDEN, AND NOT TAKE
YOUR CHEQUEBOOK OUT AND PUT
HER IN THE CAR, YOU DO NOT HAVE
A HEART!**

Two weeks later, my wife and I were having lunch, and the phone rang. "Russ, one of our little female puppies has been returned to us, the person who purchased her, had a medical issue, and can't keep her. If you want to come and look at her, please do, she is 10 weeks old, and partly house trained".

If you can go and look at a 10 week old Golden, and not take your chequebook out and put her in the car, you do not have a heart! God, had struck again - I now had a dog.

The next step was to find someone at the Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment (Chilliwack) to listen to my story, and like the idea of a Trauma Support Dog working in this detachment. God, swung again - hit a home run!

"We love that idea, but we do not have a budget for something like this". I had a powerful helper and was not giving up on this yet.

God swings again: "However, if you are willing to take the dog on, with no help with feeding, etc. we will explore this further". I would have to feed her, and care for her anyway, this was not a stumbling block.

I could not afford the cost for training the dog, but I could do so much myself. I would need a lot more help to get this dog trained to be effective, and actually have a legal vest saying what she was a working dog.

Wham, another swing from above! I was introduced to a trainer, who understood my problem. She spoke to me at length and understood the need. The next day I got a call from [Citadel Canine Society](#) - Home Run! We talked at length about my plan, and my financial problem to get where I wanted to go.

They said they would pay for all of "Taffy's" training. A letter to Citadel from our Detachment headquarters approving me, as the handler, and Taffy as a Trauma Support Dog was all that was needed. We started training on November 1st.



**NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY I WAS
ASKED TO BECOME A CHAPLAIN AT
THIS STAGE OF LIFE.**

Now I understand why I was asked to become a Chaplain at this stage of life. I know we are in for a lot of long hours training. But I just can't wait to see how many officers' lives this four legged animal will touch.

Taffy has now been announced to the detachment, everyone is excited they are getting a Trauma Support Dog, and I will be her handler. She started her service in early January - training in progress and doing well!

Lord, thank you for this opportunity, I know you will be beside us throughout this journey.

Chaplain Russ Ideson
Chilliwack RCMP

A Gargantuan¹ Vision!

Ronald Mostrey, President, FCPO - Canada



C/Supt. Ron Mostrey (Ret'd)

I think we all will agree that working in law enforcement is a great job! For most of us it was a calling.

Usually for the first several years all is great – the adrenaline rushes, the fact that every day is different – every call or event is different. Often challenging, but you know that you are loving it! Then at some point (it happens to all of us), you get tired of dealing with drunks, idiots, and fools. You get tired of the excess paperwork and internal strife and politics. You feel like you're just spinning your wheels. At that point it can seem that the “calling” has turned into just a job.

I reached a point in my career, where routine call to call often became a bit boring and people (souls) became just a component of files. Police work was easy with “been there – done that” being a routine day. Same old drunks, idiots and fools, day in and day out (actually usually night in and night out!). It seemed that 80% of the world fell into that

category (especially on Friday and Saturday night shifts!). And that only because that's the 80% we deal with every day!

It was time to hit the reset button! I knew God put me in this career for His purpose! Time to put aside internal problems (bad bosses or nonsensical policies), and time to again connect with my real boss, and do His will. Time to seek Him for a gargantuan vision!

At some point, I got a gargantuan vision. I can't say 100% that it came from God or if it was just a good idea, but as I have written before, if it's a good idea that you think Jesus would like – just do it and give Him the glory. So here I am writing an article about something significant in my career, and I give Him all the glory!

The Gargantuan Vision

Community Policing was an old concept becoming “new again” in the early 90's. I was a young sergeant in charge of a small detachment in Northwestern Alberta (McLennan). I realized that I could make a bigger difference and promote a better society. I had a Community Consultative Group (CCG) made up of a good spectrum of citizens from that community. As I recall, their biggest concern was the amount of break and enters. We had about 35 house

In our discussions we theorized that the root of the problem was that no one was promoting “Responsibility”.

¹ Gargantuan: tremendous in size, volume, or degree (MERRIAM-WEBSTER)

B&Es in the previous year. Usually the culprits were young people.

In our discussions we theorized that the root of the problem was that no one was promoting “Responsibility”. We had a relatively new Charter of Rights (1982), but there was no corresponding “Charter of Responsibility”. So, we made up our own!

Once we developed it, we had it printed. It then became a question of how we were going to distribute it to folks.

One of the CCG members suggested we just include it with the Town’s utility bill. I thought it would be an easy task if instead I just went door to door with it and actually met people and discussed The Charter with them and asked them if they agreed with it, to sign it. I thought that would be easy – a town of 1,200 people – no problem. Well, it ended up taking me 6 months! But what great engagement with folks! They were not all drunks, idiots and fools. In fact, the vast majority were great welcoming citizens very supportive of the police.

I spent many hours having tea with residents who welcomed me into their homes to have a chat about rights and responsibilities. I started with the “bad guys” – young folks who had been doing the B&Es. I spoke to them about how we were all just souls travelling this world together. Why not live in a safe and secure environment? We also did some great policing – catching the ones who did crimes (no matter how minor)!

I went to all the five schools in the region and spoke about our rights and responsibilities to every grade from K to 12. At the end I would ask if they would be my partner. I then looked them in their eyes and shook hands with every single child and adolescence.

The following year my members did the same thing with Charters that were similarly developed for the other towns and villages we served.

The next year, one of my members, [Cst. Pete Brunelle](#) who was an artist, made a painting of his concept of “community policing”. A painting showing the community in partnership with the police. We took the painting and had it printed on t-shirts. With generous donations from the RCMP Veterans Association, our local Royal Purple lodge, and others, we ordered t-shirts for every child and adolescent from K to 12. When we took the orders from the schools, I was surprised that the smallest size we were asked to order was an adult small. I asked a principal of one of the schools why that was, as I knew that would be huge on a kindergarten student! She told me the children wanted to use it as a nightshirt to sleep in - Wow!

During Police Week, in special school assemblies, we gave the shirts out to all the students. At one school (Eaglesham), all the students wanted us to stay behind and autograph their shirts. It was an afternoon of “policing” - autographing t-shirts!

What happened?

Everyone in the community signed The Charter (except for one bad guy!). So, basically 99.9% agreed with The Charter. That formed the foundation of all the other initiatives we took on to reduce crime. Our overall crime rate was slashed in half. The next year we had 1 B&E (a disgruntled estranged spouse who kicked in a back door of his previous home). Unfortunately, our reward for having such a substantial reduction in crime, was that I lost my corporal’s position as it was needed at a “busier” detachment! 😞

In my last year there, our initiative was to have folks declare their home a “Crime Free Zone”. We made a sticker that we asked people to pick up one at their town halls or our detachment. On the reverse side of the sticker it had the McLennan Detachment phone number and the Crime Stoppers number. Folks stuck the sticker on their front doors or windows. It was great to be able to see all the stickers on the homes, where people had declared “No crime welcome here!” And maybe – just maybe, anyone thinking about doing crime near that home, knew that the occupant had the reporting numbers right handy – ready to call!

I often think about the “eternal impact” of these initiatives. I knew I was serving and protecting and making a difference (which we all joined for).

I sometimes wonder if any of the kids I shook hands with ever became police officers. I also wonder if my 3½ years there made a significant difference long-term. In any case, I sure enjoyed my “calling” there!

I now wonder if this article will inspire any of our members to “hit the reset button” and see if God gives them a “gargantuan vision”. If it does – **go for it!**



Town of McLennan Charter of Responsibility

I am grateful for the country in which I live.

I recognize that along with the rights and freedoms I enjoy and cherish, comes responsibility.

I recognize that the foundation of Canada is built on commitment to family and friends.

McLennan is a community of individuals, families and friends. It is my desire to ensure McLennan is the best possible place to live for me, my family and friends.

I shall strive to keep and to uphold the laws of the land.

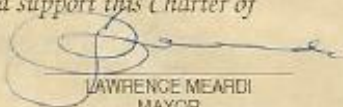
I shall establish and maintain a safe and secure environment for myself and my family.

I shall foster and support an environment that maintains McLennan as a safe and secure Town for all to enjoy in peace and harmony.

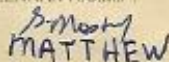
I shall support and uphold the members of the McLennan R.C.M.P. Detachment as they strive in partnership with me to provide safety and security to the citizens of McLennan.


I shall endeavour to uphold and support this Charter of Responsibilities.


SGT. RONALD MOSTHEY
DETACHMENT COMMANDER
McLENNAN R.C.M.P.


LAWRENCE MEARDI
MAYOR
TOWN OF McLENNAN




MATTHEW


"ON THE WINGS OF CHANGE"



(L-R) Retired Sgt. Ken Smith along with retired S/Sgt. and Pastor Andy Bigras were asked to participate in a special Remembrance Day service at the Hope Wesleyan Church, Shelburne, NS, to pay tribute to first responders. Pastor Andy shared a message of Hope while Ken shared his personal testimony. Following the service they shared information about our ministry.

A Cop's Ultimate Award Commendation

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

"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant...Let's celebrate together!'" (Matthew 25:21)



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd)

As police officers, awards and commendations are given for valor, outstanding police work; length of service, being wounded in the line of duty (the police purple heart), retirements and more. Our award ceremonies are a big deal (well, at least for the brass and our families, of course). Sadly, we joke (sort of) that it takes 10 "atta-boys" to equal a single "rip" (write up; "Come in and shut the door"; meeting with the Chief or Internal Affairs, etc.).

In my career, I won a lot of awards but never really sought them (although, like anyone, I hoped to be recognized for doing good work). In fact, because of some really bad "leaders", positive recognition seemed to just get me in more trouble 😞. But we should not be serving in law enforcement for awards" (medals, certificates, plaques...). Certainly in my case, my goal was never about recognition

but rather seeking to make a real difference fighting against evil and for those who couldn't fight for themselves. And I was very much aware that once my time on "the Job" came to an end, I would be forgotten pretty soon thereafter (a sad truth in our God-ordained but sin-sick profession that also has a nexus to police suicide).

Then, when I came to a genuine saving faith in Christ (the ultimate Servant-Warrior, "Police Chief" and "Command-in-Chief"), I finally had an "award" goal I truly wanted: to one day stand (kneel) before my Lord and hear Him say to me, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (versus the "other side of the coin" that no one should ever want to hear and what I deserved had I not turned to Christ in faith -- stay with me).

So, how can we get invited to the ultimate award ceremony for the chief of all commendation letters? Where do these words of commendation come from (and mean)? And why should it matter (it does -- a LOT)? Well, glad you asked!

In **Matthew 25** of our "policy and procedure manual" we know as the Bible, Jesus shared a [parable](#) (the Parable of the Talents) about a "master" and three trusted servants (think a Chief or Commander, and three officers under their command) to paint a word-picture about how we should live as we wait for His return. In this case, the master in this story had to go out of town and left his three "officers" (servants) large sums of tradable cash to invest or otherwise spend wisely. These are counted using the measure of "talents," which in the ancient world was an enormous weight of precious metals. A single talent might have been as much as a common laborer could earn

in twenty years. The master (chief) then returned some time later (the context seems to indicate that it was a long time) met with his servants to see what they did with their assignments and the money he gave them when he left.

The first servant has made his report. He used his master's five talents to earn another five talents. The master trusted the servant with great wealth, and the servant earned the equivalent wealth for his master.

How did the master respond? He called his servant "good and faithful" and exclaimed, "Well done!" He rewarded his servant in two ways. First, he tells the servant that because he has been faithful over a little, he will make the servant responsible for a great deal more (think promotion and a raise). Second, he welcomes the servant to share in his own personal joy. In other words, the master welcomes the servant into a closer connection to himself, managing more of his own estate, and walking in joyful relationship with him. Jesus is showing us that those who use what He gives to them to increase what is His (it is ALL His) will also be rewarded with greater opportunity and joy when He returns.

Frankly, this is something that every true believer in Christ (a Christian as He alone gets to define it) should strive and long for when we finally stand before Him in heaven after death or rapture.

Now again, let me be clear: we can't "earn" heaven (or escape hell) by our so-called "good" deeds or service in law enforcement (regardless of the number of worldly commendations and awards we earn in law enforcement) or anything else. On the contrary, God is clear in His Word that we are NOT saved **by** any "work" we do but rather by grace alone through faith in Christ alone ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). However, we ARE

saved **for** "good works" ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). Jesus also spoke of laying up treasures in heaven ([Matthew 6:20](#)), and His Parable of the Talents also hints at [various rewards](#) (crowns, medals) for those who faithfully serve Him in this world.

But please understand, the ONLY way anyone can hear, "*Well done, good and faithful servant,*" from King Jesus is by first being **saved** (born again in Christ alone - [John 3:1-21, 14:6](#)). Those unbelievers who reject Christ's free (for us) offer of salvation will NEVER hear those words! [Hebrews 11:6](#) assures us that without a genuine, saving faith in Christ alone, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God (or receive any kind of reward).

So how can we serve God in such a way that, when our time comes (and it IS coming), we will in fact receive our "Well done...!" commendation? Consider the following:

(1) First, we MUST repent and come to a genuine, saving faith in Christ -- to answer Jesus' call to "*repent and believe*" ([Mark 1:15](#)) by being radically [born again](#) in Him alone (and see, [What does it mean to "repent and believe"?](#)).

(2) Then (and only then) once you've come to genuine saving faith in Christ (a Christian as only He gets to define it), begin to regularly pray (talking to God) and study His Word (the Bible).

(3) Get baptized AFTER you come to faith (baptism does NOT save you but it is an important act of obedience).

(4) Get planted in a solid body of other Christians (aka, "church") where God's Word is taught soundly and without compromise. Surround yourself with other believers. Start to SERVE in your church (including church security for which we are uniquely trained).

No, church attendance is NOT "optional" and yes, many good churches have something going almost every day of the week (just because we work on Sunday does not give us a "pass").

(5) Ask God to send you a mature believer (think of it as a "FTO") to **disciple** (Christian mentorship, field training) you in your new faith.

(6) Begin to share your faith (the Gospel) with others (again, the [Great Commission](#) is not the little suggestion or some kind of "optional" thing for Christians). See ["How can I shared my faith with others?"](#)

(7) Serve and live obediently, righteously, courageously and honorably both on and off duty. Be the faithful spouse God has called you to be. Lead your children by example. For us in law enforcement, God has in fact ordained us to be His sworn "*ministers*" (the original Greek word is simply translated as "servant") for "*good*" (the law abiding) and a lawful *terror against evil* (the lawless and those who seek to prey on the innocent and weak) -- **Romans 13:1-4**.

Friend, it comes down to this: love God more than anything, and love/serve others sincerely ([Mark 12:30-31](#)). At the [Judgment \(Bema\) of Christ](#), those who are faithful to the Lord who saved them will rightly hear, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*" No true servant of the Lord could ask for more. And know this: all glory for any "well done" commendations rests on Him alone. Frankly, without what Christ did for us on the cross, we all deserve an eternal "life sentence" in hell.

And speaking of hell, you do NOT want to hear the other set of words reserved for those who pass from this life having rejected Christ as Lord and Savior: "*I never knew you, depart from me you worker of iniquity*" ([Matthew 7:21-23](#)).

At the end of our lives, we will ALL will all stand before Jesus to give an account. Believer and unbeliever alike will one day kneel and confess that Jesus is Lord (the unbeliever will then "believe" but will not be saved -- and will ultimately face judgement and eternal punishment in hell -- see ["What is the Great White Throne Judgment"](#)). I beg you...please don't choose that path.

Friend, God put us on this earth for a purpose (His purpose). His desire is that "*none should perish*" (end up in hell) but rather that all would come to repentance and faith (**2 Peter 3:9**). He truly wants you to be at the greatest awards ceremony of all time so that you can hear, "Well done..." while giving Him all the glory and praise.

Tragically, many still reject Him. Ours is a true mission field of a profession. My heart aches for the lost, and part of my call is to do all I can to share the hope I have in Christ with them (and especially those in our very special profession). Accordingly, and as I shared in this message, the key to hearing "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" starts with coming to repentance and a genuine saving faith in Christ alone (no "other way" -- **John 14:6, Acts 4:12**). Do you have that?



[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.



From our Vault

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

Making Your Conversations Count

[S/Cst. Bonnie Schmidt](#) (Ret'd)

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



HAVE YOU EVER MISSED A "GOLDEN" OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR FAITH?


Have you ever noticed what a master Jesus was at making His conversations count? For example, His encounter with the woman at the well in John 4:1-25. He was to the point, bold and challenging, yet loving. Her response? Faith in the Messiah. He never missed an opportunity to make His conversations count.

Have you ever missed a "golden" opportunity to share your faith? I have many times, but one particular time stands out in my mind. It happened while I was still a member of the RCMP and a very young Christian. A female member I was working with had noticed a change in my life. She wanted to know more about Christianity and why I was so committed to it.

Unfortunately, I couldn't answer many of her questions because I lacked biblical knowledge. I was also fearful of what a fellow officer might think of me. I didn't realize that she was searching for spiritual truth too. Shortly after, she resigned from the Force and enrolled in a New Age program. She became immersed in that philosophy because they

supplied answers to her questions about the spiritual dimension of life.

For me, she was a missed opportunity. I failed to make a very important conversation with her count. If you're like me, you regret those missed opportunities. Why not plan in advance some of the ways in which you can make your conversations count?



TO EXPERIENCE AN ABUNDANT AND FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO PRAY, CONFESS ANY SIN, THEN ASK THE LORD TO FILL YOU WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

The first thing you can do is to ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. To experience an abundant and fruitful Christian life, all you need to do is to pray, confess any sin, then ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

Then, begin to ask the Lord to show you specific people in your family, your neighbourhood and workplace that you can share with. Ask Him for opportunities with those people and for conversation openers.

The second thing you can do is to think ahead about which conversation openers you could use in talking with someone about Jesus.



To introduce the subject of faith, you may say, "Are you interested in spiritual things?", or "Do you attend church?" The stressful nature of policing brings plenty of opportunities to capitalize on a fellow member's spiritual needs. In those circumstances, try being bold and ask "Where do you think God is in all of this?"

Many Christians feel unprepared when it comes to sharing their faith because they are. Always be ready to tell people your story. Be sure you explain what your life was like before Christ, exactly how you accepted Christ, and what your life has been like since. Writing your testimony out will help you to organize your thoughts. You'll be better prepared to give it verbally when asked.

Finally, use the 'tools of the trade'. There are many resources available that will help you share your faith effectively. Booklets such as "Steps to Peace with God" or "The Four Spiritual Laws" will help you lead someone to Christ. Carry a copy with you. Be familiar

with the booklet's content, especially the prayer at the end.

Do you remember the missed opportunity with the female member I told you about? I did have a second chance to share my faith with her almost 10 years later. This time, I was prepared. I shared my testimony with her and planned my conversation openers carefully. I challenged her on her opinions about the bible and Jesus. Did she pray and invite the Lord into her heart? No. But my missed opportunity became a "golden" one.



Your greatest evangelistic tool will be you! People, especially peace officers, are searching for the meaning to life, just like the woman at the well. Take a cue from the Master and view people as He did. You'll seldom miss an opportunity to make your conversations count.



Follow us on



Editor's note

Bonnie was a member of the RCMP between 1977 and 1987. She returned to post-secondary education later in life, earning a Ph.D. in Canadian history from Simon Fraser University in June 2014. She has several publications to her credit, including [SILENCED - The Untold Story of the Fight for Equality in the RCMP](#) and articles for the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* and *Canada's History Magazine*. **She continues to serve the Lord!**
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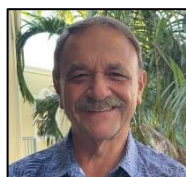
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