



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



November, 2025

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From the President's Desk

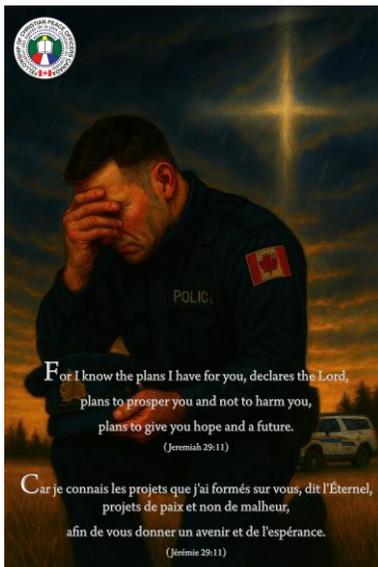


I recently spent time reading the Book of Job, and it struck me in a way it never had before. Like many, I was familiar with Job's name being synonymous with suffering and patience, often used to compare someone going through hard times. But as I read more deeply, I realized there was so much more to his story - powerful truths that speak directly to our walk with God.



Job was a righteous man. The Bible makes it clear - his suffering was not a punishment for wrongdoing. He hadn't sinned or brought it upon himself. What Job experienced was part of a greater plan - one far beyond his understanding. His friends came, full of opinions and judgments. They were convinced he must have offended God somehow. They spoke with confidence, but without true understanding. Yet in the midst of confusion, heartbreak, and physical pain, Job never let go of his faith. He questioned, he mourned, but he never turned his back on God. He remained faithful, even when God was silent. That is steadfastness.

How often do we face situations on the job that make no sense to us? Maybe it's a missed promotion, a desired posting, assignment, or course. Maybe it's working under a difficult supervisor or being treated unfairly by a service's policy. Perhaps it's enduring an internal investigation, criticism, false accusations, or feeling isolated. In those moments, it's easy to ask, "Why, Lord?" But just like in Job's story, there's always a bigger picture - God's picture. As children of the Most High God, we can rest in the truth that our lives are held in His hands. Nothing happens without His knowledge. Nothing is wasted. His plans are always for our good, even when we don't understand them in the moment.



So if you find yourself in a season of difficulty or confusion, take heart. Stay rooted in the Word. Hold on to your faith. Remember Job - not just for his suffering, but for his unwavering trust in God. God is always at work behind the scenes, and His purpose is far greater than anything we can see. Trust Him. Stay the course. Remain steadfast!

God bless,

Ron

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Struggle Is Not Surrender: A Reflection

Lisa Blazewicz, Winnipeg Police Service



I'm originally from Newfoundland, moved to Manitoba to complete my post-secondary studies, and stayed here for love. I am a civilian member of the Winnipeg Police Service with 17+ years of experience working in Crime Analysis. I don't pretend to know

what it's like for officers' day in and day out, but I am someone serving alongside them in a different capacity.

For those serving in law enforcement who quietly carry weight that's often unseen, I hope this reflection reminds you: struggling doesn't mean failing. It means you're still fighting the good fight!

I was watching a video today when these words were spoken: "Struggle is not surrender." That intrigued me, and I felt compelled to peel back the layers.

Just a couple weeks ago, I found myself stuck in a moment of frustration - trying to solve a problem that seemed impossible. I wrestled with the inner noise - my inner critic, my judge and jury. It would have been easier to give in, but I pushed through that noise.

Watching that video today made me realize struggle isn't about surrendering; it's about the fight to keep moving.

That led me to wonder: what is struggle, really? Struggle, as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary, is "to try or fight very hard in order to do or get something." It requires

Effort - it requires movement. When one struggles, they are in motion - wrestling, pushing, a push-and-pull kind of interaction. Perhaps it's the attempt to break free. Perhaps it's the reach for something just out of grasp. A struggle is not weakness - it's strength in action. It's the body, mind, or spirit refusing to give up.

Struggling involves tension, resistance, and resilience. While surrender can sometimes be a wise letting go, struggle is a sign that one is still trying.

From my current perspective, I see struggle as a catalyst for growth. It's rarely easy - often painful and sometimes invisible to the outside world. Those who struggle are often the ones who say, "I'm fine," when inside, they're anything but. There's courage in that quiet perseverance.

But it's not all doom and gloom. In the struggle, one can stretch, a little at a time. Upwards, toward the light. And downwards, letting the roots grow deeper. Both directions matter.

Still, even in that growth, I don't believe we're meant to struggle alone. Struggle can be an isolating place. But isolation isn't where we're meant to stay.

If you're in the midst of the wrestling, reach out. Even the smallest connection can remind you: you're not alone. Needing support doesn't make you less strong - it reinforces your strength. It breaks barriers. And sometimes, reaching out is the bravest part of the struggle.

In law enforcement, we say, 'Watch your six' - cover your blind spot, have your partner's back. Spiritually, it's no different. God doesn't just walk beside you - He watches your six. In the moments when you feel exposed, weary, or unseen, He sees what you can't. And often, He sends someone else - a friend, a chaplain, a brother or sister in uniform, to stand in that gap.

As for me, I'm learning that connection matters more than I ever realized. The walls I built for self-protection - and heavily reinforced - need to fall. I'm removing them brick by brick ... slowly. Judiciously. I'm not naïve - I do get it wrong sometimes. Therein lies the struggle.

You ask what I do with the bricks I remove? I keep them. They are still quite useful. I'm using them to build a bridge - not just for myself, but for others. A bridge that says, 'You can cross here. You're not alone'.

There's a way forward, even if it's slow and uneven. This bridge is built from the struggle - and it leads to connection.

I'm reminded that even Jesus struggled - not just in body, but in spirit. His suffering built a bridge, too - one we all get to cross.

What has struggle taught you lately?

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Open Your Eyes: A Thanksgiving Message of Blessing, Mercy, and Hope

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



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

Preamble - how I was touched to write this article.

I prayed that the Lord would inspire me to write an encouraging word for this issue of the Peacemaker. As I prayerfully meditated on what God has and continues to do in my life - it became crystal clear. The Holy Spirit began to open my eyes pointing out blessings that I sometimes take for granted - blessings that are all around me daily. My heart was stirred to be thankful in all things and in all circumstances. So here it is...

A Message to Stir the Heart of Every Listener — Christian and Seeker Alike

Introduction: “Pause and See”

During this Thanksgiving season (Canada & USA), I invite you to pause. To look up. To open your eyes.

In the whirlwind of modern life - with screens, notifications, deadlines, and distractions - many have forgotten the art of seeing. But God, from the very beginning, has been pouring out blessings. Some seen. Some unseen. All present.

This is not just a message to the believer. This is a message to every human heart. Because the fingerprints of God are everywhere - in creation, in history, in your life - whether you’ve noticed them or not.

From the Beginning: Creation as the First Blessing

Let us start where everything began: Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

What is the first blessing of God? Existence itself. He didn’t need us. But He chose to create us - and not just in survival mode, but in abundance.

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. – Genesis 1:31

Science confirms the fine-tuned nature of our universe. The gravitational constant, the strength of the strong nuclear force, the position of the Earth in the solar system - all set with mind-boggling precision. Secular scientists refer to it as the Anthropic Principle: the universe appears “designed” for human life.

What does Scripture say?

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Psalm 19:1

The very laws of physics point to a Lawgiver. The precision of DNA, the miracle of birth, the beauty of ecosystems - all are evidences of a Creator who blesses.

Human Life: Formed, Loved, and Breathed Into

Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Genesis 2:7

Modern biology reveals we are made of the same elements as the dust of the ground - carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen. Coincidence? Or design?

You were not an accident. You were breathed into existence by a personal God. What a blessing to be known and formed by the Creator Himself.

God’s Ongoing Provision – Past and Present

Throughout the Bible, we see God’s daily provision:

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

He gives food to every creature. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:25

Even now, the Earth yields fruit. Photosynthesis captures light and turns it into food. Rain falls. Crops grow. Our bodies function with breathtaking complexity.

We live in a finely tuned biosphere - 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen - just right for life. Too much or too little of either, and we couldn't breathe.

Coincidence? Or is it the daily grace of a faithful God?

Scientific Discoveries that Echo Scripture

1. The Universe Had a Beginning

For centuries, skeptics mocked the biblical idea of a "beginning." But in the 20th century, the Big Bang theory confirmed the universe had a starting point.

He alone stretches out the heavens. Job 9:8

In the beginning, God created... Genesis 1:1

2. Life is in the Blood

The Bible stated long before modern medicine:

For the life of the flesh is in the blood... Leviticus 17:11

Today, we know blood carries oxygen, nutrients, and immune cells - the very essence of life.

3. Earth Hangs on Nothing

He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing. Job 26:7

A poetic truth, scientifically accurate - written thousands of years before gravity was understood.

4. Joy and Gratitude Affect the Body

Modern neurology shows gratitude improves immune health, sleep, and mental wellbeing. The Bible already told us:

A cheerful heart is good medicine... Proverbs 17:22

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you... 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Greatest Blessing: Jesus Christ, Our Living Hope.

All creation, all Scripture, all blessing points forward to the ultimate gift: the coming of Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son... John 3:16

When we lost paradise through sin, He didn't abandon us. He entered into our brokenness. He took on flesh, lived among us, and bore our sin.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope... 1 Peter 1:3

Through Jesus:

- We are forgiven (1 John 1:9)
- We are adopted (Romans 8:15)
- We are promised eternal life (John 17:3)

And that leads us to the final chapter.

The Blessed Hope: Eternity with God

From Genesis to Revelation, the story is not one of chaos, but of redemption.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain... Revelation 21:4

This is the hope we have — not just of past blessings, but future ones.

Call to Action: Open Your Eyes and Be Thankful

So I ask you today:

- Have you seen the blessings of your life?
- Have you paused to recognize God's hand in history, science, and your story?
- Have you responded to the gift of Jesus Christ?

Let us no longer walk as the blind in a world full of light. Let us open our eyes and say with David:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Psalm 103:2

Be thankful for:

- The breath in your lungs
- The sun that rises
- The science that reveals wonder
- The Saviour who redeems
- The hope that endures

This Thanksgiving: Stop; Identify; Recognize; and Worship.

Every good and perfect gift is from above... James 1:17

Final Encouragement

If you are a believer: Live in overflowing gratitude. Be a witness to the world of what it means to walk blessed.

If you are not yet a believer: Consider the evidence. Look at the blessings. Open your heart to the God who made you, loves you, and calls you by name.

The blessings are everywhere. From Genesis to Revelation.

Open your eyes.

Behold your blessings.

Give thanks to the Lord.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Amen.

God bless,

Dino

Mission Reflections: Serving in the Dominican Republic

Cst. Brad Lawrie, Hamilton Police Service



In fall 2024, my daughter Elizabeth invited me to join a mission trip with [Advocates of Love](#) to a children's home in the Samaná province of the Dominican Republic. Elizabeth and I have always shared adventures - road trips, concerts, car events (Mustang Week) etc. So, joining her on this mission felt like a natural next step. Elizabeth was chosen as a young adult mentor; I joined as a police officer to help with team safety and security. But I wanted to do more - to make a spiritual and personal impact. So I prayed, and God gave me an idea.



I decided to connect with local law enforcement in the Dominican Republic. Knowing how police culture differs globally, I hoped to build bridges by sharing small tokens - patches, toy cars, stickers etc. from my department and the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. I was able to bring a generous supply of these gifts. I visited a police station in Las Terrenas, where I met local officers and shared the gifts, praying they would lead to Gospel curiosity and connections.

Throughout the week, our team engaged in various outreach efforts - games, Bible camps, school visits, a movie night, a community BBQ and a pancake breakfast with Niagara maple syrup! It was inspiring to see how the children at the orphanage are being given real futures.



Elizabeth

But the true highlight came unexpectedly. One of the boys at the orphanage, Angel, wants to be a police officer. When I gave him a special package of police gifts, including a dog tag from the FCPO, his joy was overwhelming! He stuck by my side the rest of the week, and I realized that while I came hoping to reach officers in uniform, God had prepared this moment for Angel - and for me. This experience reminded me

that sometimes our plans are just the starting point for God's greater purpose.



Cst. Lawrie and future cop Angel!

I would be very pleased to communicate with anyone wants to learn about other mission trip opportunities to Advocates of Love and Samaná province. My email is bradlawrie@me.com.

Lawn Care

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



Often, as I go about my daily routines, I find myself reflecting on how these ordinary tasks can mirror aspects of our Christian walk.

I live in a city where watering your lawn is only allowed on certain days - and even then, it's usually limited to manual watering with a hose. Still, I take pride in maintaining a nice lawn. In fact, I have an ongoing friendly competition with one of my neighbors to see who can keep the best-looking lawn each year!

Like most lawns, mine has its thriving, lush areas - and then there are those stubborn spots that just don't seem to flourish. Naturally, I focus a lot of attention on the brown patches, doing whatever I can to bring them back to life. After all, no one wants an otherwise green lawn to be marred by dry, neglected areas.



But one day, as I was tending to those trouble spots, I had a moment of reflection. I realized how much of my effort went into reviving the struggling parts of my lawn, while the healthy, vibrant sections received very little attention. And that got me thinking: isn't our Christian walk a lot like that?

In our spiritual lives, we often focus our prayers and concern on those who are in crisis - the sick, the hurting, the lost, and the broken. And rightly so. They need our intercession and support. But what about our fellow believers who seem to be doing just fine? The faithful, the strong, the dependable servants of God - those who are steadfast in their walk?

It's easy to assume they're okay, that they don't need as much from us. But just like a lawn, even the healthiest areas need regular care. A green patch, if left unattended, can quickly become overrun with weeds or fall prey to pests. In the same way, a strong believer can face spiritual attack, burnout, or discouragement - often silently.

We all know people who once walked closely with the Lord, who were vibrant in their faith, but for one reason or another drifted away. Perhaps they experienced hardship, loss, or disappointment that weakened their spiritual resolve. And while restoration is always possible, wouldn't it be better if they had been nurtured before they reached that point?

The lesson my lawn taught me was simple but powerful: Don't just water the dry patches - water the green grass too. In my Christian walk, that means encouraging, supporting, and praying for those who are strong in the Lord. They need it just as much as anyone else. We must ask God to sustain them, protect them, and keep them strong and steadfast.



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: [Chateau Jasper](#), 96 Geikie Street, Jasper, AB
Cost: \$295/individual, \$325/couple (includes lodging and meals)

Mono, Ontario

November 16 - 18, 2025

Where: [Hockley Valley Resort](#), 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/>

Introducing the new FCPO – Canada Challenge Coin

We are pleased to present the newly commissioned FCPO – Canada Challenge Coin. This beautifully crafted coin serves as a powerful reminder to “take up the shield of faith” and that “the Lord is our strength and shield.”

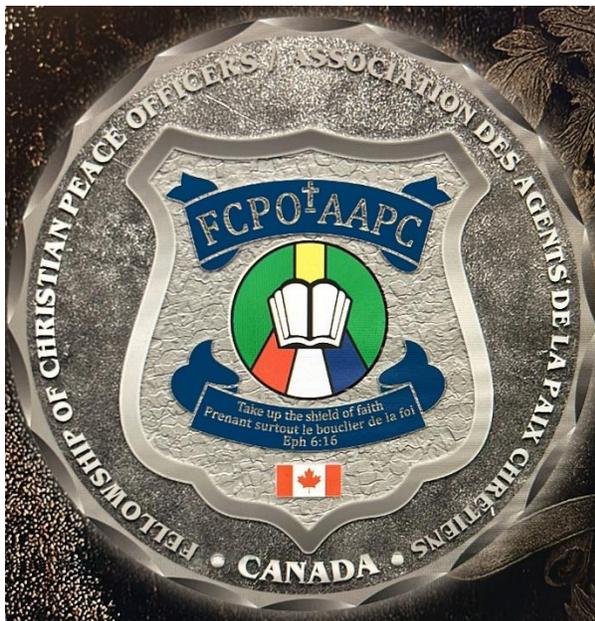
Whether you carry it with you on duty or proudly display it at your workstation or office, this coin is a symbol of your commitment to serving in your God-ordained calling. Let it be a constant reminder that the Lord is with you as you serve the King of Kings.

Looking for a meaningful gift? This coin makes a perfect Christmas present for someone special in your life.

\$20.00 per coin

To order, simply email fcpo.aapc@gmail.com with the number of coins you’d like and your mailing address.

[Order Here](#)



A Police Officer's Hope in Grief

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, NLT)



Yes, the grief I've experienced and am still dealing with in the wake of my bride's passing is unlike anything I've ever experienced before in my life. In fact, it is nothing short of **guttural** (the meaning can't truly be understood until you experience it). Before Diana went home to heaven, I thought I was well-acquainted with grief: Over the course of my career, I have held dead/murdered children and dying/dead brother officers in my arms. As a chaplain I continue to deal with it. I have--far more than most--been up close and personal with death and the grief that comes with it. I lost a parent. I've grieved deeply when I've lost a K-9 family member (only us "dog-people" will get that). But none of these things prepared me for the grief I dealt with (and am still dealing with) in the aftermath of my dear bride literally passing from my arms and into those of our Savior. I used to say (when coming alongside those hurting), "I get it." I didn't, but **I do now**.

And folks -- guess what? Short of **rapture** for the believer, death WILL come for us ALL: meaning we WILL lose loved ones in this life.

So, what then, is my hope? What is different about the hope and assurance I have as a

believer in Christ (a Christian as only He gets to define it)? And how can we, as believers, "traverse" this incredibly difficult journey of grief?

Friend, the Cure has a Name: Jesus Christ. In Him alone we find the cure, hope and pathway to "making it" through this incredibly difficult journey grief. Folks, our true hope is found ONLY in a genuine, saving faith in/relationship with Jesus Christ. And, no, it is NOT found in secular psychology, alcohol, sex outside of marriage, or suicide. And the Scripture passage I shared here reveals that our hope and our grief is DIFFERENT from that as unbelievers (read [1 Thessalonians 4](#) in context).

Here's what I KNOW: My bride, aside from being nothing short of magnificent, was and is an "all in", wholly committed, born again believer in Christ. Because (and ONLY because) of this saving relationship, she literally leapt from my arms into those of our Savior at the very moment she took her last breath in this life. And make no mistake: she is not "dead"! Don't you believe it! She is NOW more alive than ever -- with no more cancer, no more pain - forever! And, because I too know Christ as Lord and Savior, I too have the sure hope (assurance) of joining her in Heaven when my time comes. Accordingly, I do not grieve as unbelievers (who have NO hope if they elect to stay that way) do.

And how do I "keep going" as Diana encouraged me in her last days before going

Home to Jesus? The same three things I urge EVERY believer (emphasis on believer) to do:

(1) Daily time crying out to God in prayer (for me, sometimes this looks like yelling -- and God is ok with that).

(2) Daily time in His Word, the Bible. I supplement this by immersing myself in worship music and Christian teaching through the Net and on the radio during my day.

(3) Regular fellowship with other believers (aka, "church", small group Bible studies, etc.). No, this is NOT optional, and it is why I'm re-launching our Centurion cop-church meetings.

Hard? Guttural hard! And I'm not sure when (if ever) that will end. No, I'm not going to "get over it" (you need to walk away from those who insist that you do so). But, again, this I KNOW: I WILL be reunited with Diana in Heaven when my time comes! I have much comfort in that, and I'm seeking God's help to stay in the fight and finish the race (**2 Timothy 4:7**) God has called me to until then:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful."



So, what about YOU? Do you have this sure hope? If not, I implore you, "repent and believe" (Mark 1:15) in Him today. And, if you do know Christ as Lord and Savior, then I implore you to have a Code 3 sense of urgency in sharing the hope you have with those who are currently without hope (including your kids, fellow officers and others who are not saved).

Finally, for the believer, here are some excellent resources (in addition to the Bible) that have and are helping me along my journey of grief:

(1) [**The Widower's Night -- A Journey from Death to Life**](#) by Christian professor, Dr. W.B. Brock written in the wake of his bride's passing.

(2) [**How to Get Through What You'll Never Get Over**](#) by Bill Prater (another "little" book -- just 80 pages long).

(3) [**On Spiritual Combat: 30 Missions for Victorious Warfare**](#) by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dave Grossman. It is an excellent devotional that is part of my own quiet time. And, make no mistake, grief comes with incredible spiritual warfare.

(4) [**Guttural Grief**](#) (short article that is rich with hope).

(5) For a deeper dive: [**Do Not Grieve as Those Who Have No Hope.**](#)

Questions? Need help? Prayer? Just [**reach out**](#) -- I'm here for you. And yes...keep praying for me!

MC

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God's creation draws us near

Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn (Ret'd) Brandon Police Service (Honorary Chaplain)

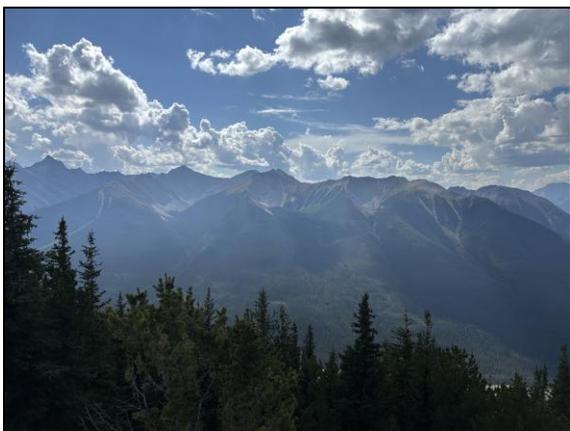
"... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings ..."

Hebrews 10:22 [NIV]



As a person of faith, you have experienced those precious moments when you sense the close presence of the Almighty God. God's Word assures us that when we seek him with all our heart, we will find him (Jeremiah 29:13). You may have sensed His presence during corporate worship, or when revelation comes while meditating on His Word, or while listening to a message that brings understanding and insight. Those are just a few examples of intentional actions to draw near to God.

Additionally, I believe that God's creation draws us near, whether it's while gazing upon the majestic snow-capped Rocky Mountains, or camping under the blanket of a star filled night sky in Northern Manitoba, or being sprayed by the waves crashing against the rugged shoreline of Peggy's Cove.



These illustrations are examples of where the mind usually goes when we think of God's creation. However, my most recent experience brought me an immeasurable

appreciation of how God can draw us near to Him through His created beings; persons who are not walking in direct relationship with Him. I believe God delights in showing us mysteries that demonstrate how vast in wisdom and complexity He truly is. Isaiah 55:8-9 reveals, *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,*” says the Lord. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts* [NKJV]. In the midst of a less than godly police culture, we can encounter a closeness to God that overwhelms the chaos through a profound love and appreciation for God and His created beings.

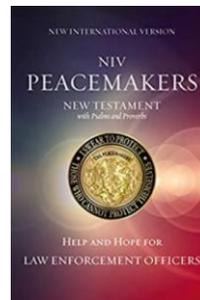
As a faith-filled law enforcement officer, you may have experienced a closeness to God while providing peer to peer support during a coffee break with a fellow patrol officer. The officer trusted you with a problem and God gave you wisdom coupled with impactful words to guide your peer through their crisis. Hearing from God has always drawn me close; these are truly reverential moments. Perhaps your nearness to God drew from the words He gave you which upon sharing them made an impact upon your peer. Perhaps your sense of nearness to God came while convincing a jumper to come down from a bridge railing, or simply from listening to a homeless person share their journey and at the end being led to pray encouraging God-filled words over them.

As a police chaplain, you may have experienced moments while in service to law enforcement officers where you felt close to

your God. Perhaps you sensed His presence while sitting quietly at an early morning roll call. Perhaps you felt near to your Creator while performing in an official capacity such as leading a Regimental Funeral, or joining two officers in a matrimonial ceremony. Maybe the closeness to God occurred while assisting officers after a traumatic incident through the facilitation of a diffusing or a debrief. As we know, a diffusing is far from being a peace-filled environment; and yet your heart was filled with love and compassion for the officers because you sensed God's love for them.

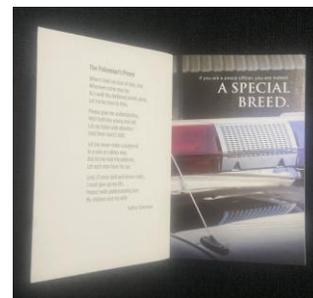
A police recruit class isn't exactly where I thought I'd be feeling a closeness to God, more tangible than what I've experienced over the past fifteen months since retiring from Brandon PS, and moving to Prince Albert, leaving behind my police family, friends, and our fellowship community. Since my wife and I moved, we haven't connected closely with similar faith-filled persons in PA. I've continued worshipping God in our new home, praying and listening to messages but it's been a solitary season, and I can count my encounters with God on one hand. I've appreciated my trips back to MB and the opportunities to minister and do contractual teaching at Assiniboine College, an accelerated BPS Recruit Class and most recently unpacking my two-week course to Troop 3 of the Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS).

During Day 1 of my ten days, I shared my background with highlights of how my faith strengthened me to persevere through the many traumatic events I encountered during 33+ years in law enforcement. I shared of the importance of physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness and of the availability of valuable resources such as EAP, Employee



Wellness Teams, Peer supports, Peer psychologists and counsellors, and police chaplaincy. As a police chaplain, a faith resource I share which has been packaged specifically for law enforcement officers is the "Project Sword" book containing inspirational faith-filled stories from peace officers.

These stories are inserted throughout the pages of the New International Version of the Holy Bible, which includes the Books of Psalms and Proverbs. The Project Sword book begins with a prayer and an invitation to "A Special Breed"; namely peace officers.



By the end of my first week with the recruits, three of them privately approached me asking for a copy of Project Sword which I was

delighted to provide to them. I receive these books free from the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada. Since the Project's start in 2019, I've handed out many copies to my peers at BPS, graduates from college and recruit classes, and officers from other police agencies.

Before returning for my second week, two additional police recruits contacted me asking if I could bring additional copies to class. Thus, Day 1 of Week 2 began with sharing that I had brought more copies, and that recruits could approach me in private if they were interested. To my surprise, one after another raised their hand or rose from their chair to receive the Project Sword book.

An additional 11 copies were given to the police recruits Monday morning. On Tuesday morning, two of the new recipients approached me in private thanking me for the book and sharing that they had read some of the stories and were pleasantly surprised by the impact the stories had on their hearts. One shared that he never thought a book like this would make him feel this way, and he was looking forward to reading more of it. My heart was full as I listened twice in one day to these Manitoba First Nations PS Recruits who were being touched by the words in the book. This had been my prayer before returning for my second week, and as God was answering my prayers, my closeness to the Lord began to deepen.

As I prepared Tuesday evening for a new set of training scenarios on Wednesday morning, I felt God impress upon me to be bold and offer something I had not done prior to a graduation day. I reached out to two of the three recruits who had shared with me that they were Christians, and I asked them to send out an invitation to all the recruits who had received a book to meet with me before class on Wednesday morning for a message and for prayer. On Wednesday morning, all 14 recipients of the Project Sword NIV Holy Bibles arrived early to gather with me. I shared some specific scriptures that had been key to building resilience during my policing career, and scriptures that remain impactful today. I shared more of my journey in faith and about being a disciple of Jesus Christ. I invited any who felt comfortable receiving prayer to join me in a prayer huddle. To my delight, all 14 gathered together, arms over shoulders, in a tight circle as I prayed over them. The presence of God was in the room and when the prayer was done, one recruit who was not one of the three who identified

as Christian said, "we should start every day this way ... it feels so good." I heard other voices agree with him. God was in the room. We took a group photo to seal the moment. The following week while back in PA, I received a message from one of the Christian recruits expressing his gratitude for the spiritual wisdom I passed along. He also wrote, "that morning was one of the best I've had since I've started." Gathering together in prayer changes the atmosphere. I'll close by sharing that throughout that week I felt God's love for every one of the recruits. One scripture I shared with them on Wednesday tells them that they are, "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The "fearfully" refers to the profound and sacred nature of God's act of creation; the "wonderfully" refers to the intricate, complex and beautiful nature of each person's unique individuality. A celebration of each individual and what they bring to the MFNPS Troop 3 is what I had in my heart during Week 2. I believe that is part of why I felt closer to God while spending time with them; closer to a greater extent than I have in over 15 months.

MFNPS Troop 3 will stand out for me because of who they are as individuals with each having a big heart. Those big hearts will be a blessing to those in the First Nations communities they serve after they graduate. Once again, I'll share the advice I shared that Wednesday: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23).

All God's best to these fine men and woman. I'll be praying for them and I ask you to pray for them, and to continue to pray for all First Responders throughout our beautiful nation of Canada. God bless you immensely for serving as police chaplains or law enforcement officers.



United Way

REMINDER

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.

Tell Everyone!

Membership is free! Members receive this quarterly newsletter.

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

Join online at: www.fcpcanada.com

First Responder Appreciation

On September 20th, we were delighted to once again take part in the Annual First Responders Appreciation BBQs, held across Peel Region, York Region, Toronto, and Calgary.

These wonderful events were once again led by Toronto lawyer and Grill Master Extraordinaire, [Brian Prill](#), whose deep respect and support for First Responders continue to inspire. Thanks to Brian and the many dedicated volunteers from local churches and community organizations, attendees were treated to an impressive selection of grilled specialties. As in past years, the only rule for the chefs was simple -“no hot dogs or hamburgers!”

Events like these serve as a meaningful reminder that behind the “Thin Blue Line” stands a grateful community that truly values the dedication and service of those who protect and serve.





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.

Prayer Changes Things

Chaplain Paul Lainen, Toronto Police Service

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [Summer 2003](#)



My screen saver on my office computer is a constant reminder to people that walk in to see me of where my life is at just now:

"Prayer changes

things!" I had another screen saver there before but it never quite caught anyone's attention the way this one does. Besides which some things have happened in my life which have made it a real struggle for me to even want to change it. Has some of those things happen to you recently?

Here we all are on automatic pilot in our lives. I'd have to say that I have the best job in the whole country as Coordinating Chaplain for the Toronto Police Service. Some days you're up, some days you're down but it's like any job or calling. Then of course while you're sailing along, wham! My wife got sick and not just "I've got a cold kind of sick" but so sick that she can't work anymore. Top it all off with a reduction in disposable income. Can't make the mortgage payments anymore. Applying for disability takes time and appeals. And then there was me, five months into disaster and I am sent to a specialist for a colonoscopy but the "see you in two years" sendoff I got from the hospital turned into a "see you in two

days" from the doctor's office! You can guess what I was thinking.

It wasn't that I was not praying at the time - I was. Some of my more conservative friends disputed whether I was praying hard enough.

I was praying. I really was praying! At some moment in all of what transpired in my life it looked like my vertical communication pipeline to God had failed. I wondered, was I off my game? I mean I have been doing this all of my life, talking to God. I felt pretty confident that I could leave God in charge of my life for the times that I needed God to be in charge.



**I HAD FORGOTTEN THE
FUNDAMENTAL RULE IN VERTICAL
COMMUNICATION TO GOD.**

When had I started doing that? I mean when had I started this nonsense of praying to God, trusting God to take my life over and then taking back my prayer and doing it all myself.

That revelation to me was a wake-up call. I had forgotten the fundamental rule in vertical communication to God. Sender error!

I get these e-mails from people about the C-Nile virus that affects the sender of the e-mail. Can't remember whom they sent what to. It's even worse than that. Sender error in prayer has to do with the corruption factor. I keep forgetting that my life is not perfect it has been corrupted by SIN. Now there is a word you don't hear every day!

That corruption factor is responsible not only for sender error in prayer but a lack of faith. At the bottom of my communication problem with God was my own personal lack of faith in what God could do.

Can you imagine it! I have been riding with peace officers at times even in harm's way protected only by a bullet-proof vest. I mean that was it! I had a brain cramp' (one of those disastrous thinking mistakes that can get you killed) or a faith cramp (a disastrous moment of lack of trust in God that can get you killed) more likely. I had just been talking to myself the whole time and not really talking to God at all.

HERE IS MY CHALLENGE TO YOU WHO MIGHT ALSO BE DOING WHAT I WAS DOING. THE LORD SAYS, "WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME WILL BE GIVEN." REMEMBER THE TARGET OF YOUR PRAYERS, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER BUT ALSO REMEMBER THAT "IF YOU HAVE THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED YOU CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS."

Here is my challenge to you who might also be doing what I was doing. The Lord says, "whatever you ask in my name will be given." Remember the target of your prayers, is our heavenly Father, but also remember that "if you have the faith of a mustard seed, you can move mountains!"

The looping prayers that I thought were vertical communication with God had me as the target and my faith had just been whittled down by life's events. I couldn't answer my prayers and my faith in myself was shot. I replaced those looping prayers with Father directed prayers inspired by the Spirit and in the name of Jesus, but it has taken some real repentance on my part and I have seen now how prayer changes things.

Prayer changes things only as long as the right Person is in charge of the sender and redeeming the communication.

It is true! Prayer changes things!