



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



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From the President's Desk



In this edition of The Peacemaker, we are reminded that our journey in policing, and in life, is never ordinary. It is shaped by calling, refined through challenge, and sustained by faith.

Within these pages, you will encounter powerful testimonies of God's faithfulness in the lives of those who serve. From a remarkable career marked by purpose and perseverance, to deeply personal accounts of struggle, healing, and restoration, each story points to a truth we must never forget: **we do not**

walk this path alone.

You will read about resilience in the face of loss, the quiet battle with mental health, and the courage it takes to seek help. You will be encouraged to reflect on your own calling - to serve not just with authority, but with humility, compassion, and Christ-centered purpose.

There are reminders here for all of us: That the "valleys" we walk through are not without meaning. That God is present even in the darkest moments. That our work is more than a profession - it is a mission field.

Whether you are currently serving, retired, or supporting those in the trenches, this issue speaks to the heart of what it means to be a Christian in law enforcement. It challenges us to remain steadfast, to wear the full armor of God, and to trust Him in every circumstance.

As you read, my hope is that you will be encouraged, strengthened, and reminded of the incredible privilege we have/had - to serve others while representing Christ in all we do.



Stay safe. Stay faithful. And never lose sight of the One who has called you.

God bless,

Ron

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My Testimony

Insp. John W Kelsall, Ret'd



Greetings to you all,

My name is John W Kelsall. I was an Ontario Provincial Police officer retiring as Commander of the OPP's Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU – Hostage Rescue, High Risk Critical Incidents) after over 33 years of service. The path I took to get there – only our Lord and Saviour could orchestrate such a way.

I was born to Christian parents in Winnipeg 65 years ago. Both my parents were also blessed and born to Christian parents and raised in godly families as well. When I was 3 years old running around my mother's family farm at Starbuck Manitoba my Opa said to my Oma "that boy one day will either

be a police officer or a preacher". As it turned out, I became both!

How that "prophecy" came true required divine intervention. On 21 Dec 1969 at the age of 8 after hearing the Sunday morning service, the Lord convicted me of my sin and at the side of my father I confessed my sin and asked Jesus Christ in as my Lord and Saviour. At that moment I was indwelt by the Holy Spirit and was renewed in Christ with a new heart and mission. Jesus was and is the Son of God and is indeed King of everything.

I soon realized at that young age that my decisions would be impacting myself and others for eternity. I wanted to make Christ centered decisions from hereon in. A few years later around the age of 13 I started to get a strong impression that I should become a police officer. That was my underlying theme as I grew up.

In the summer of 1976 after living 10 years in Montreal, my Dad was transferred to Toronto. At the suggestion of a Christian buddy who I met at my high school our family started attending his church Erindale Bible Chapel in Mississauga. It just so happened that an OPP Sgt. Stan Ferguson working at the Provincial Police Academy (PPA) was attending that church. He was the leader and Captain of a Christian Boys Group called [Christian Service Brigade](#) (CSB).

One night Sgt. Ferguson put on a demo of all the equipment and provided a briefing on TRU. Sgt Ferguson was a trainer of the OPP's newly formed Hostage Rescue Unit in 1975 called TRU, created in response to the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. There was an Ontario Olympic venue at Kingston where the Royal Family would be attending to watch the yachting events. The OPP formed TRU to protect the Royal family and respond as a Counter Terrorism Unit to critical threats

based on what had happened at Munich in 1972 (Israeli hostage crisis).

From that night in an elementary school gym in Mississauga seeing all that equipment and hearing about TRU, I knew that the Lord wanted me to join the OPP and become part of TRU. Sgt. Ferguson also became my mentor for life and advised my Christian walk and career to this day.

After graduating from McGill University in 1984, I was accepted into the OPP and posted to Exeter Detachment in Southwestern Ontario in June of 1985. I commenced general law enforcement duties all the while thinking and preparing for TRU Selection.



However, the Lord had other things to do first. I was blessed to have a Christian Corporal who invited me to his Church. After some reluctance in attending his small country church, I was blessed to meet my wife Sharon there.

The Lord gave us a beautiful family with 3 daughters – Amanda, Debra and Jenna along the way.

Sharon and I are a Team and there is no greater joy in serving Jesus together.



Five years into my job as a general law enforcement officer I had the opportunity to attend TRU Selection at CFB Borden. TRU Selection was 2 weeks of “hell” and required the candidate to function and perform team and individual tasks at all hours of the day and night without a whole lot of sleep in a complete state of exhaustion. Most candidates were not successful and had to be at the top of their game physically and mentally to even just to be selected to attend.

As it turned out I was neither physically or mentally ready when I walked onto the grounds of CFB Borden for TRU Selection. 4 months previous I had badly injured my back in a weightlifting accident that left me in the worse shape of my life and in pain. However, when we are weak, He is strong! When I approached the obstacle course for the first performance check – the Lord healed my back, and I was able to thrive during Selection and was successful.

I was posted to West Region TRU as a part time tactical officer in 1990 (after my initial tactical training) while waiting for a full-time position on one of the OPP’s 3 TRU teams. In 1992 I was posted to East TRU where eventually I became a Sniper, Rappel master, #1 entry and Trainer. I served on that Team for over 5 years and then did a 2-year stint on the OPP’s Witness Protection Unit followed

by a promotion to Sgt in charge of the entire training program for TRU. Seven years later with a promotion to S/Sgt I was seconded to the RCMP's O Division Emergency Response Team (ERT) where I performed duties and participated in their training all over Canada. It was surreal to be wearing a RCMP tactical uniform and carrying all their gear. Great fun!

Upon completion of that amazing secondment, I returned to the OPP and was put in charge of the OPP's In-Service Training Program responsible for all qualifications and update training for the OPP's 6100 sworn officers. During that time, I also had an opportunity to go to Afghanistan for a 1 year Mission from Nov 2011 to Nov 2012 where I was embedded with the New Zealand Defence Force on a mentoring and training mission to the Afghan National Police (ANP) in the Province of Bamiyan found in the northern mountain Region of Afghanistan – Hindu Kush Mtn Range.



The Lord kept me through all that and allowed me to see and experience things unlike anything you would find in Canada. I truly thank Him (and my family and friends for their prayers) for His protection and Grace. I returned to Canada and ready for the next "Mission".

However, the Lord had something else in mind. Throughout all my assignments and duties, I have served the Lord. His grace and

forgiveness have kept me on Mission despite my bad decisions and frailties. As we all know, we live in a broken and fallen world and we all need Jesus. There is so much more going on than we think. What we see in the end is temporary and what we do not see is permanent.

Sometimes the walk becomes a crawl due to circumstances we never foresaw or thought we were prepared for.

On January 5th, 2014, my wife and I received a phone call that would change us forever. An OPP K9 officer (and friend) calling from the scene of a fatal MVC near Petawawa told me in the best way he could that my oldest daughter Amanda (2nd year Med Student at U of Ottawa) had been killed. The news crushed us and numbed our senses. I remember saying to God – "that's harsh"! Amada had trusted Jesus as her personal Saviour as a little girl, and we had that hope we would see her again, but I could not understand how God could allow this. We had faith and hope in Christ but this was not what I had expected.

However, the Lord was saying to us in His comfort and peace – "don't waste your sorrow". The Lord forged a bond in Sharon and I that enabled and taught us things not otherwise attainable. He taught us the difference between Happiness and Joy – the difference is sorrow. Sorrow will wipe out happiness in a second because it is situation dependent, but God's Joy grows out of sorrow and transcends everything, because it is based on God's promises and Hope (His Hope does not disappoint -Romans 5:3-6).

We were put on Mission (Mission Amanda). The Lord used this tragedy and turned it into a triumph with Mission Amanda. We started an Organization in Amanda's Memory to spread seeds of Faith Hope and Love while

blessing others. Every year a new charity is blessed with support and the good news of Christ is shared ([InfiniTEA and Beyond 2026](#)). We are grateful for these opportunities and wouldn't change a thing. The Lord's promises of – *I will never leave you or forsake you* (Heb 13:5-6), and *my Grace is sufficient* (2 Cor 12:9) – are real!

While reeling in the grief of Amanda's homegoing and only 7 months later, I went through a Commissioned Officer Promotional Process, and the Lord blessed me with being promoted to Inspector. I was placed in charge of the OPP's Emergency Response Program responsible for TRU, Emergency Disposal Unit (EDU), Crisis Negotiator (CN) and the Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS). I have had the opportunity to serve along some of the finest men and women to be found in policing.

I retired in 2018 after 4 years as the Commander – a long way away from that 15-yr old boy in 1976 in a gymnasium in Missauga watching a TRU demo. Only the Lord can do that.

I then transitioned to Senior Technical Advisor to the Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS) at Parliament Ottawa where I worked for 4 ½ years setting up a Critical Incident Command Program along with a Crisis Negotiator Program and blueprinting a Public Order Unit (POU) and an Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Today I am a grandfather to be and serve in my local church. I am part of the Leadership Team for the OPP's member supported network – Shield of Faith (SOF). I am also a leader helping other First Responders overcome PTSD through a 12 week Faith based Recovery Program conducted by [REBOOT Recovery](#). It is a joy to journey with other First Responders on their Pathway



to healing. The Mission never ends. There is no retirement with Christ!

I said all that to say this; through it all I have learned a few things about how to live life and to make it count for Jesus. I call it the 5 Ms: Mortal, Maker,

Morality, Mission and Mentorship.

1. **Mortal:** 100 % were going to die. Life is fleeting and short. Only what is done for Christ will count.
2. **Maker:** Who's your Maker? Who do you worship? Yourself, your work, some hero or Jesus Christ?
3. **Morality:** What's your basis for right and wrong – is it absolute or situational? Is it a sliding scale or based on what God says? Your morality comes from who you worship, and who your maker is.
4. **Mission:** What's your mission? There are 2 types 1) Being and 2) Doing? Being missions are forever – Servant of Christ, Husband or Wife, Father or Mother, Grandparent etc. These roles are the most important and count for eternity. Doing missions are temporary with a start and end – like your job. They are a platform for Jesus – you work for Him. With Missions there are 3 components: 1) Make sure it makes a difference for Jesus 2) Don't get diverted or compromised 3) Finish strong! And remember, your identity comes from Christ in your Being Missions and not your doing missions.

5. **Mentorship:** Are you being mentored and are you mentoring anyone? What is the message you are receiving and giving? Are you engaged and accountable?

In conclusion, my Life verse is 2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

There is power, love and clarity where the Lord has called you. Live in His presence everyday by reading and studying His Word and dwelling in community with fellow believers both on and off the job.

I know this life is hard, but the Lord will show the way and how – trust Him and be consistent.

Healing depression

Garry Gasser, Services Correctionnels Québec



than I thought for me to fall.

In January 2024 I took on an interim role as a unit chief (1st degree supervisor, like a sergeant). It was stressful but I already had a solid base of 13 years working in the prison. After several months, the lack of space in the prison to juggle different categories of inmates and the drone deliveries with broken windows were starting to get to me. I was

I just came back to work from a year on sick leave for depression. I always thought depression was for other people. I was able to push through and get the job done. I was wrong. It just took a bit longer

Your Church and FCPO are an awesome resource for help and give encouragement and to know that you are not alone. We are part of a mighty Force, and you have a role that is eternally important.

So be that humble and faithful servant leader for Jesus.

The best is now and yet to come! You will not regret!

God bless.

JK

having episodes of anxiety at work, but a few deep breaths and I was back to normal.

I had an appointment with my doctor for my medication (unrelated) and I had a feeling I had to talk to her about work. When I was talking about my job, I started crying. My doctor was a bit surprised and asked me if I wanted to take time off work. I answered that we were short staffed, and they needed me. My doctor took the decision for me to put me on sick leave. She told me to find a psychologist and we would see each other in 5 weeks.



I WENT BACK HOME AND BASICALLY TOLD MY WIFE I HAD 5 WEEKS TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME AND GET BETTER.

I went back home and basically told my wife I had 5 weeks to find out what was wrong with me and get better. She just gave me a look that said I was wrong. My wife has an annoying average of being right 90% of the time when we get into an argument, and she was right again. It took 1 whole year for me to get back to work.

In my quest to find a psychologist, I wanted one that shared my faith. I was able to find one in a directory but when I reached voicemail, the message said she didn't take any new clients. I left a message asking if she knew any Christian psychologists. The next day, she called back and told me she couldn't take me on as a regular client, but she could see me if there were cancellations during the day and she had a spot open the next day! God sometimes provides in mysterious ways and sometimes He provides plainly what we need. "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19 (ESV).

In our therapy sessions, we concluded that my anxiety stemmed from my childhood. I won't go into the details, but I'll resume by saying my father was an alcoholic that used violence against his children when things didn't go his way. I also don't remember him telling me he loved me, or if he did, I didn't remember it and definitively didn't feel it. A complete contrast to how our Heavenly



MY PSYCHOLOGIST EXPLAINED TO ME THAT JESUS COULD HEAL MY SOUL RETROACTIVELY.

Father loves us. "Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;

your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings". Psalm 36:5-7 (ESV)

My psychologist explained to me that Jesus could heal my soul retroactively. He could go into my past and heal me even before I gave my life to Him. She gave me "homework" to do that consisted of taking time with the Lord at home and going back to the traumatic events in my life and Jesus would show me that He was there with me, even if I didn't know it at the time. It was hard, and took longer than I thought, but eventually I was able to go back to those events, not have them affect me and even imagine them ending in a better way.

When we go through dark times in our lives, we sometimes think God abandoned us, but He is the Master of the universe "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Rom. 8:28 (NIV). We often realise long after our trials and tribulations that those same hardships shaped us in our walk with Christ. Like Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his own brothers, to finally rise as the second in command in Egypt. Or Ruth, who never rose to prominence, but was simply an ordinary woman who believed in God, despite facing the loss of her husband, poverty and moving to a new land. God cares for all of us, no matter our status.

I eventually got through my childhood and felt better, only to have flashbacks from Afghanistan and feel worse again. Something my psychologist told me, and I did not know, but is logical, is that getting better psychologically is not a linear path. Unlike physical trauma, you don't get better in a predictable and straightforward manner.

If you work on it with the Holy Spirit, it might look more like a graph of the stock market than a nice upwards line. If you're feeling better on average, you're getting there. If you trust God and follow the Holy Spirit, you're on the right path, even if you don't know where you're going.



I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL PSYCHOLOGICALLY. MY MISTAKE WAS TO LET MY EGO TELL ME THAT OTHERS ASKED FOR HELP, NOT ME.

I think it's important to ask for help when you are not feeling well psychologically. My mistake was to let my ego tell me that others asked for help, not me. I was wrong. My doctor stopped me from working and had me find my psychologist, and for that I am grateful. I was fine with God protecting me "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Ps 18:2 (ESV) but

I didn't let God heal me. My problem was that I didn't let Him into all the parts of my heart. I sealed off the parts where I felt small and helpless and tried to bury them as deep as possible. Those parts are precisely the ones the Lord wants to heal. "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people" Matt 4:23 (NIV). Not just physical ailments, every disease, even the ones of the soul.



I ENCOURAGE YOU TO OPEN ALL YOUR HEART TO OUR FATHER AND IF JESUS IS NOT YOUR SAVIOUR, I HUMBLY SUGGEST YOU GIVE YOUR LIFE TO HIM. IT IS THE BEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE.

I encourage you to open all your heart to our Father and if Jesus is not your Saviour, I humbly suggest you give your life to Him. It is the best thing I have ever done. May God bless you.

Tell Everyone!

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

Calling the Police

Three alumni build a case for Christians pursuing a law enforcement career.

Reprinted from [Resound](#), Redeemer University, Nathan Reid-Welford

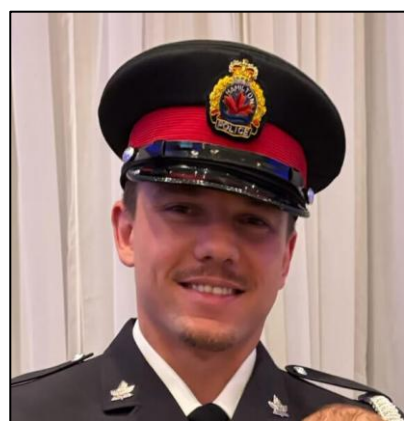


Sgt. David Kerkhoff & Scout (FCPO – Canada Representative, Ontario)

It's probably the most rewarding career you can pursue.

Second-year uniformed patrol officer Foster Brown '22 benefits from speaking about a relatively fresh job, not one that has worn him down over a long career. But given the sentiment of Redeemer alumni Sarah Postuma '05 and Dave Kerkhof '96—whose law enforcement careers span 18 and 29 years respectively—Brown's assertion may well stand the test of time.

These individuals' stories show collective but unique journeys of God directing them toward policing, and how Redeemer University and their faith have informed and enhanced their callings.



Cst. Foster Brown

For Kerkhof and Brown, their Redeemer studies refined their vision for pursuing their careers.

Interested in policing as a teenager, Kerkhof found social sciences an appropriate substitute for a lack of criminology program at the time. "I geared papers toward policing and kind of made my own criminology course." With the school's co-op program just developing, Kerkhof interned as an auxiliary police volunteer officer with Halton Regional Police Service. In addition to the position's tasks, he wrote a paper on how he melded his faith into the experience.

Intrigued by criminal justice courses—a part of Brown's degree 20 years later—an internship with Liberty for Youth provided a similar vocational push.

Working with at-risk youth in a real-world, here-and-now experience, and showing up to crises and dealing with them helped him lean into the fruits of the Spirit and develop a necessary understanding of grace for those he encountered.



Cst. Sarah Postuma

“Policing was reinforced as a perfect avenue.”

But for Postuma, policing was not seen as a likely career path while attending Redeemer. Graduating with a kinesiology degree, she began working at a downtown Hamilton rehabilitation clinic. Exposed to different languages and cultures, she improved her cultural awareness and communication skills, valuable assets for her first policing interview a few years later. Feeling a push from God toward law enforcement, spurred on by constantly seeing strong and confident female officers, Postuma reflects that he was leading her step by step.

in God directing my path.”

“God’s hand is in the resume and skills I developed in jobs and at Redeemer. Attending was an important steppingstone

But more than any head knowledge, theories or applications, the presence of faith has been a foundational component for the officers’ approaches over their careers.

“You see sin’s consequences in the world,” Brown explains, noting how police are usually called when someone is at their worst. “Understanding sin helps you meet people where they are and try to find a good outcome. [This] can only be achieved by having unconditional love.”

Echoing this, a fundamental perspective for Kerkhof was recognizing that everyone is created by God and falls short. “I’m mindful of how I treat people. Yes, I have a God-ordained role but I’m no better than anyone else; the people I deal with are no different than I am.”

For Postuma, now working as an investigator in Hamilton Police Service’s victims of crime unit, faith has strengthened her understanding that God’s will is behind everything.

Though there’s bad in this world, there’s also good. I pray that God uses me, and other officers, to have a small part in his plan to redeem this world.


“I pray I can do my part in building the strongest case possible to bring justice and hold people accountable when they victimize others. But I find peace knowing God is in control.” Accepting this, the best thing she can do is “remain kind to all involved.” Such awareness has informed Postuma’s view of success. “I occasionally fall for the world’s version—promotions, money,

popularity. But it's actually about being in line with God's will and the purpose he created me for."

Beginning his career in 1997, Kerkhof shares Postuma's sentiment. Just recently promoted to sergeant, he understands that God used this delay to humble him and ensure he remained committed to serving for his glory and Kingdom. "It's not about me receiving awards, promotions or status, but if I do, I'm to use them for him."

Kerkhof cites leadership as an opportunity to mentor younger officers and remind them of the goal of helping others. Brown, though just establishing his career, seems to understand this mindset.

"The core of policing is to live as Christ. I want to do everything I can to honour him and die for his gain. Through that lens, I understand the risk but also the reward and I can have confidence."



THE CORE OF POLICING IS TO LIVE AS CHRIST. I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HONOUR HIM AND DIE FOR HIS GAIN. THROUGH THAT LENS, I UNDERSTAND THE RISK BUT ALSO THE REWARD AND I CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE.

These alumni demonstrate that Christians bring a vital and necessary perspective to policing and law enforcement. For them, this demanding work is not just a career path, but a calling where their beliefs keep them engaged in the essential mission of serving the public.

"You bring a different and important perspective," explains Postuma. "Though there's bad in this world, there's also good. I pray that God uses me, and other officers, to have a small part in his plan to redeem this world."

A Christian Officer's Sure Hope

[Police Lt. \(Ret'd\) & Chaplain MC Williams](#)



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd)

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may **know** that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." (1 John 5:13-14, added emphasis)

The central focus and calling of this ministry is to share the **SURE hope** found **ONLY** in a genuine personal relationship with Jesus Christ (a Christian as God alone gets to define it) with those in our God-ordained (**Romans 13:1-4**) but mission field of a profession.

Mission field? While there are in fact many agnostics and atheists serving in law enforcement, the largest segment are

those who "believe" in God (like even the demons do - [James 2:19](#)) but have never surrendered to Him in repentance and faith.

Beyond this hard truth is the reality that the majority of officers also hold to a false belief that our service in law enforcement can save us (or get us a "Get Out of Hell - FREE" card). Friends, as I share often, God could not be more clear:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Praise God, He has in fact provided a way -- [the ONLY Way](#) -- for us to be saved and have the **sure hope** of spending eternity with Him and our fellow Christian loved ones (versus an otherwise sure eternity in hell for those who die having rejected Him). It is this **sure hope** that I cling to with all my strength in the wake of my bride's passing: I WILL be reunited with her when my own race (life in Christ) is done.

Scripture - God's inerrant (without error) and unchanging "policy and procedure manual" we know as the Bible, has so much more for us on this sure hope. Here is just a two-verse sample:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **(1 Peter 1:3-6, added emphasis)***

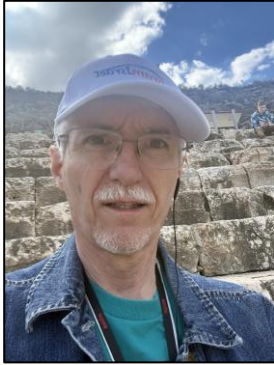
*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. **(John 14:3)***

Genuine, biblical, sure hope for the Christian is a reality and not a feeling. Biblical hope carries no doubt. Biblical hope is a **sure** foundation upon which we base our lives, trusting that God always keeps His promises. Sure hope (confident assurance) can be ours when we trust and wholly embrace the words from our Savior, "*He who believes on Me has everlasting life*" (**John 6:47**). Accepting that gift of eternal life means our **hope** is no longer filled with doubt but, rather, has at its **sure** foundation the whole of God's Word, the entirety of God's character, and the finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Fellow servant-warriors, do YOU have this **sure hope** found ONLY ["in Christ"](#)? In the ultimate cop/warrior? In short, are you in fact "saved" (a genuine Christian) as God defines it? If you died today, would you go to heaven or to another very real place called hell? By what standard? And are you sure of your answer? If not, or if your answer is "I don't know", then it is again with a Code 3 sense of urgency that I implore you to "*repent and believe*" (**Mark 1:15**) in Christ alone (no "other" way) today.

FCPO Challenge Coins in Israel!

Roy Hiebert, Church Ministries Rep
[Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries Canada](#)



On February 22, 2026, a group of 51 Canadians embarked on an 'Up to Jerusalem' tour with the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries Canada. I am also an Associate Member with the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. One of my goals for this tour of Israel was to distribute 15 FCPO Challenge coins. Kibbutz members, shop owners, IDF soldiers and former soldiers were some recipients of these coins. What follows are some of the stories of the distribution of these coins.

One of our group leaders John Plantz worked for several years as a civilian with the RCMP. He was the first person in Israel that I presented a Challenge coin to.

At the kibbutz run hotel Nof Ginossar, there was a gym, where I met an employee of the hotel. He was from Africa and took time to stand with Israel by serving at this kibbutz. Between sets we discussed many topics. He was happy to meet a Canadian and receive such a unique coin from a group of retired Christian Peace officers.

Our tour was going flawlessly until the 7th day, when war began. We were limited to our hotel until the plan was completed to evacuate us out of Israel via Cairo.

While at the Dan Panorama Jerusalem, we all walked past the hotel gift shop on our many trips to the hotel safe shelter (bunker). On our way back out of the bunker, I was able to

connect with Amir, the gift shop manager. I bought souvenirs for friends who asked for t-shirts, hats, playing cards, etc. For some purchases I texted friends with pictures of what the gift shop had available.

I was able to share with Amir why our group was there and the work of FOI Canada. He in turn shared about his life in Israel. Our group had a church service one afternoon in a large room across the hall from the gift shop. While Amir didn't stay for the whole service, I saw him standing at the back of the room while I was sharing a message intended for our time on the Mt of Olives (based on Luke 19:28-44).

Later that day I visited Amir in the gift shop asking him about anything he might have related to archeology. He showed me some stones that had a Star of David fixed to it. I explained that today we were to have gone into old Jerusalem to see the place where no one stone was left on another. I also mentioned that there were those in the time of Jesus who did not recognize their visitation.

I did buy some of those stones with Jewish symbols attached and Amir threw in one extra at no cost. I gave him an FCPO Challenge coin. He asked many questions about the coin and FCPO. As I left, I thanked him for his time and said that I'm expecting that the people of Jerusalem would not overlook the things which belong unto their peace.

I met a Jewish family at the Dan Panorama hotel in Jerusalem. As I was watching them play pool the younger brother (Jonathon) introduced himself and asked about my visit to Jerusalem. After sharing my story, he introduced me to his older brother Ariel and his Zaida (grandfather) David. Jonathon

mentioned that he was 12 ½ years old, so I asked if his Bar Mitzva would be this summer. He explained those plans then added that his parents were giving him a gift of traveling anywhere in the world. He mentioned Canada as a place of interest, then asked if I could help him find kosher restaurants, and other businesses or synagogues of interest in the GTA. I informed him that the Friends of Israel Canada office was in Toronto and we would gladly do what we could. I gave him my FOI Canada business card and a Challenge coin from the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. I said this group was praying for the peace of Jerusalem. He explained this to his Zaida, showing the coin. Jonathon's brother Ariel invited me to join their pool game.

That evening after supper, I introduced myself to an IDF soldier, with his weapon slung over his shoulder. His girlfriend was with him. He explained that he was assigned to the hotel. After a brief conversation I explained the work of FCPO, then presented him with a Challenge coin. I saw him several times in the hotel bunker conversing with people and giving direction.

At breakfast I met an American man who was with the [Officer's Christian Fellowship \(OCF\)](#)¹. He heard about the FCPO Challenge coins I was distributing and invited me to join him for breakfast, where he introduced me to the OCF team. They were brothers Paul & Eric with Patrick and Michelle. OCF have a similar coin to the FCPO Challenge coin. I gave one coin to the group and enjoyed exchanging stories of praying with and blessing peace officers and veterans. After breakfast, I met Ariel at the pool table again. I asked if his young brother Jonathon would share the Challenge coin with him. He

said that was highly unlikely, so I reached in my pocket and gave him his own Challenge coin. Ariel was preparing for IDF service so he'd carry the coin with him to show his comrades.

From Jerusalem we traveled 6 hours by bus to Eilat, where we stayed at the Eilat Dan Panorama hotel. It was good to sleep uninterrupted by any sirens and 90 second trips to a bunker.

On the beach at Eilat, a man walked up to me calling me by name. Brian told me that he met me 2 years ago at the FOI table at Mission Fest in Winnipeg. Since then he moved to Eilat where he is now engaged to a local Eilat girl named Nellie, whom he introduced me to. Brian had already met some of our group when he joined them in a swim on the Gulf of Aqaba. He said only Canadians or Russians would be swimming at this time of year. In talking with Nellie, she explained that her brother was employed with the IDF, so I gave her a Challenge Coin from the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. Nellie said she would give it to her brother Ben. Nellie was born in Eilat and became a Christian at a young age shortly after her Jewish parents accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Lord. They attend a local Messianic Church. Their Pastor operates a Hostel in Eilat.

During breakfast at the Dan Panorama Eilat hotel, I met a couple with their infant child. I introduced myself to the couple and found out that he is a Marine Biologist and she is a Psychologist. I offered them each a Canada Israel flags lapel pin as well as an FCPO Challenge coin. They asked what brought me out to Eilat during war time. I explained that I was with Friends of Israel and that we hosted a group of 51 Canadians touring

¹ A U.S.-based Christian organization serving members of the military community.

Israel. They asked about FOI and the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. They invited me to come back to Eilat where they would show me some of the strides Israel is making in Marine Biology, and Psychology.

After finishing breakfast at the Eilat Dan Panorama, I walked around to different tables offering the Canada Israel flags lapel pin to anyone who was interested. At one table I met two IDF soldiers. One was busy at work, but the other talked with me. I gave them each a flags pin and a Challenge coin. He asked several questions about FOI and the Challenge Coin. I asked if I could get a picture of him holding the coin. He concurred. Later when I was in a meeting (about the rest of the travel plans out of

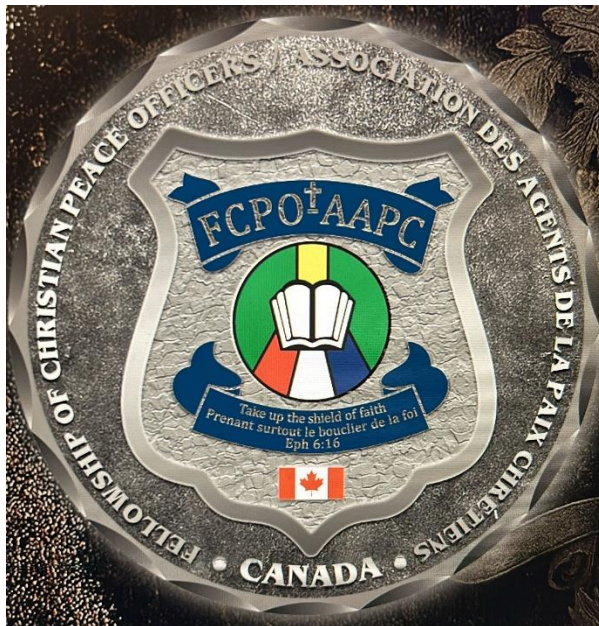
Israel), John Plantz called me out of the meeting. I followed John out and there was the IDF soldier I spoke with earlier. He was told by his partner that photos were not allowed, I was asked to delete the photo, which I did immediately, in front of him. He thanked me again for the coin and conversation, then wished us well for the trip back to Canada.

From Eilat we bused to the Israel/Egypt border then a ten hour bus ride on a secondary highway to Cairo, where we flew on various flights back to Canada. My flight path was 18 hours (not including layovers) flying Cairo, London, Vancouver, Regina arriving on March 5th back home in Winnipeg.

Have You Got Yours?

We still have a small supply of our beautiful new challenge coin. **Get yours before they run out!**

A great way to show your support for FCPO – Canada. Only \$20.00 per coin. To order, simply email fcpo.aapc@gmail.com with the number of coins you'd like and your mailing address.



Only Jesus Could Fill the Void

Cst. Mark Luchetta, Toronto Police Service



As I was contemplating a talk I was to give at a church men's breakfast when the Holy Spirit helped me realize the similarities between some scripture and wearing a police or military uniform.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, detailed how we must fight our battles in spiritual realms with specific instruction, comparing it to a Roman Soldier's uniform of the day. A helmet (for salvation), breastplate (of righteousness), belt (of truth), shield (of faith), sword (of the spirit), and shoes (of the Gospel).

Rather than getting into a full-blown sermon at the men's breakfast on each one of the articles of the uniform and what they're meant to be, it pressed on me that the key to wearing the "uniform" was to wear it in its entirety.



**I WOULD NEVER CONSIDER LEAVING
THE STATION OR BASE WITHOUT
ANY PART OF MY UNIFORM, YET WE
TRY TO ENGAGE THE ADVERSARY
EVERYDAY WITH ONLY PARTS OF**

As a police officer and a former soldier, I would never go out on patrol without wearing my helmet, vest, belt, use of force options, C7 rifle, radio and boots. We dedicated 3 to 6 months of training at the base and police academy prior to being sworn in, on how to

properly wear our uniform and tools, in order to utilize them correctly and effectively in the course of our duties. I would never consider leaving the station or base without any part of my uniform, yet we try to engage the adversary everyday with only parts of the "armor God".

For example, I would engage everyday trials and tribulations with the "sword" of the spirit, using the word against our enemy, speaking scripture at situations, but failing to wear the entire armor and wondering why nothing is working. I was failing to protect my heart and maintain my self-worth with the "breastplate of righteousness", protecting my mind from negative with the "helmet of salvation", doubting and fearing because I did not take hold of my "shield of faith" etc.

I also had an epiphany while preparing for the men's breakfast that wearing my entire military/police uniform came with practice, every day from sunrise to sundown. Others who had gone before us, Sergeants, Corporals, Constables, teaching and showing us how to properly put our uniform on and how to engage the enemy with it. Yet in Christian circles, we forget the word "FULL" when reading Ephesians 6. We do an insufficient job on teaching others how to wear the FULL of armor of God and then try to fight the adversary without our full potential.

I strongly encourage my fellow brothers and sisters in uniform, to continue to strive to wear the FULL armor daily and utilize the power of the Holy Spirit that comes with it.

God Bless.



callin'
ALL POLICE
FIRE
PARAMEDICS

**FIRST RESPONDERS
APPRECIATION BBQs**

September 19, 2026
12:00 - 7pm

Peel Police 11 Division - 3050 Erin Mills Pkwy, Mississauga ON
Peel Police 12 Division - 4600 Dixie Road, Mississauga ON
Peel Police 21 Division - 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton ON
Peel Police 22 Division - 7750 Hurontario Street, Brampton ON
Toronto Police - 11 Division, 2854 Davenport Road, Toronto ON
Toronto Police - 23 Division, 5230 Finch Avenue W., Toronto ON
Toronto Police - 41, 42 & 43 Divisions, 4331 Lawrence Ave. E, Toronto, ON York Police -
429 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket, ON
Calgary Police - Journey Church - 10307 Eamon Road NW, Calgary, AB

The Dark Room

Ecclesiastes 3:11 – “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”

Lisa Blazewicz, Winnipeg Police Service



When we look at photographs, we rarely pause to consider the process behind them. In photography, only one person enters the dark room – the photographer developing the film. They handle the materials with care, preparing the chemicals and gently placing the film into the solution. The film already holds the image, but only through careful development does the masterpiece appear. Timing is crucial. They remove the film at precisely the right moment and hang it to rest under the soft red glow, allowing the image to slowly reveal itself.

If someone enters the room uninvited, exposing the film too quickly, the image is ruined. It appears whitewashed, unrecognizable. If left underdeveloped, the image remains hidden, its truth unseen.

Life is much the same. God, the ultimate photographer, works with perfect timing. He created us intentionally, in His image, uniquely designed to reflect His glory. Our growth and transformation are deliberate processes, each moment measured with care.

Many of us want to rush the process – perhaps all of us at some point! We catch a glimpse of the potential masterpiece and long to see it complete. But rushing can mean missing lessons that only patience and time can teach. Like the careful work of an officer on a challenging case, every moment of preparation, patience, and vigilance contributes to the outcome God is shaping. The image may appear beautiful, yet without proper development, it risks fading under pressure, or becoming distorted.

The dark room is not easy. It is quiet and uncertain. But the Photographer knows exactly what they are doing. If we trust Him, He will finish the work. Every moment of waiting, every challenge endured, is part of the careful development process. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, God has made everything beautiful in its time – beauty for ashes, film into photo, and transformation through endurance.

Patience does not mean inactivity. It means trusting the Artist to reveal the masterpiece at the perfect moment. I want to step into the dark room, trusting the Artist as He continues to develop the masterpiece within me. The shadows may be deep, the process unseen, and I cannot do this on my own, but I know He is faithful.

I invite reflection: are you willing to trust Him with your own development, even when the process feels uncertain —on the job, at home, and in life?

Additional Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 61:3; James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 5:3-5.

A Calling to Serve

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



As peace officers, we are privileged to serve in a career that carries immense responsibility and profound impact. It is more than a job -

it is a calling. Each day, we are entrusted with the authority to protect, to uphold justice, and to stand in the gap for those who cannot stand for themselves.

Yet in the midst of the daily grind - the long hours, the stress, the repetition - it is easy to lose sight of that calling. Fatigue, frustration, and routine can dull our sense of purpose. We can begin to see the work as just another shift, another call, another report.

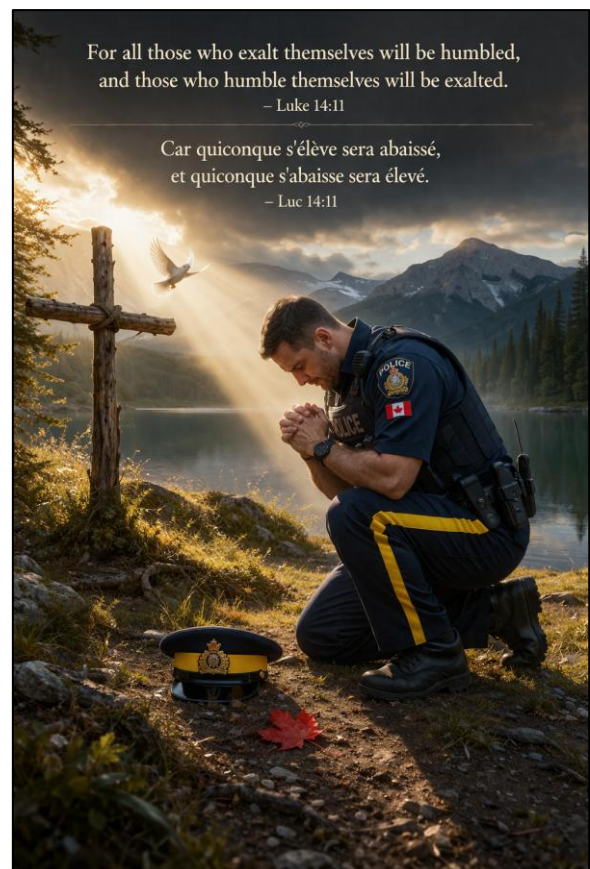
But the truth remains: God has placed us in this role for a reason. We are here to do good, to serve others, and to carry out our duties in a way that reflects His will. As Scripture reminds us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23).

At times, however, we can forget this. We have all encountered colleagues whose demeanor can come across as harsh or arrogant in their interactions with the public or even with fellow officers. And if we are honest, there are moments when we, too, may have appeared that way.

This is where we must be vigilant. Humility is not weakness - it is strength under control. It is a conscious choice to treat others with dignity, patience, and respect, even in the most challenging circumstances.

God's Word also calls us to a higher standard: "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). This is not only a calling for our personal lives, but for how we carry ourselves in uniform each day.

As followers of Christ, we are called to something greater. We are not just representatives of law and order; we are representatives of God. Our words, our actions, and our attitudes should reflect the character of Christ.



For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
- Luke 14:11

Car quiconque s'élève sera abaissé,
et quiconque s'abaisse sera élevé.
- Luc 14:11

Imagine how different our interactions would be if we consistently asked ourselves: How would Jesus respond in this moment? How

would He speak? How would He treat this person standing before me?

Serving with humility, compassion, and integrity does not diminish our authority - it strengthens it. It builds trust, fosters respect, and honors the One who has called us into this profession.

Let us not lose sight of the privilege we have been given. Let us guard our hearts against pride, and continually renew our commitment to serve as Christ would have us serve.

Because in the end, we are not only protecting and serving our communities - we are representing Him.

The Historical and Spiritual Significance of the Road from Jericho to Jerusalem: Growing Faith in the Valley of the Shadow of Death (Psalm 23)

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

Historical Background:



Psalm 23 is not written in abstraction; it breathes the geography and lived reality of ancient Israel.

The road from Jericho to Jerusalem was infamous in the ancient world. It descended and rose through steep ravines, narrow passes, and shadowed valleys.

When my wife and I visited this area we noticed the Caves dotted the limestone cliffs - perfect hiding places for robbers. Jesus later draws on this very road in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30), reinforcing its reputation as dangerous and threatening.

Many scholars associate this terrain with “the valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23:4).

The Hebrew phrase *tsalmaveth* implies deep darkness, danger, and the looming presence of death - not necessarily death itself, but its shadow. In this way, David grounds the psalm in real, lived fear, not poetic exaggeration.

Key insight: God does not promise a road without danger - He promises His presence on the dangerous road.

“Even Though I Walk in the valley our faith journey”: Faith Is Formed in Motion.

Psalm 23:4 begins with movement: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...”

David does not say camp, run, or turn back. He walks. Walking implies endurance, trust, and forward progress. Valleys are transitional places - not destinations. Spiritually, this teaches us that valleys are often God’s classrooms rather than His punishments.

In Christian life, faith is rarely forged on mountaintops. It is shaped in the shadows where:

- fear is confronted,
- self-reliance is stripped away,
- and trust in God becomes necessary, not theoretical.

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” Romans 5:3–4

The valley becomes the place where character deepens and faith matures. This is God’s classroom.

God’s Creation in the Valley: Seeing with Opened Eyes

Valleys in Israel were not barren wastelands. In fact, they often held hidden streams, shade, and unexpected life. David’s shepherd imagery reflects this truth. When our eyes are opened in seasons of hardship, we begin to see God’s creation and His care more clearly.

Water: New Life in the Valley

“He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.” Psalm 23:2–3

Water in the valley symbolizes renewal in the midst of struggle. Streams often ran at the valley floor, fed by unseen springs. Spiritually, this reflects how:

- God sustains us quietly,
- growth happens invisibly,
- and renewal comes when circumstances seem bleak.

Jesus echoes this imagery:

“Whoever believes in Me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:38

Christian growth often occurs not despite the valley, but because of it. Like roots that grow deeper searching for water, believers grow stronger when faith is tested.

I Will Fear No Evil”: Courage Rooted in Presence

David’s confidence does not come from the absence of danger but from the presence of God:

“For You are with me.” Psalm 23:4

Notice the shift from talking about God to speaking to God. Valleys move theology from theory to relationship. Fear loses its grip when we know we are not alone.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... when you walk through fire you shall not be burned.” Isaiah 43:2

God does not remove every threat; He removes the power of fear.

The Shepherd’s Rod and Staff: Protection and Guidance

“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” —Psalm 23:4

Both tools were essential to a shepherd, and both speak powerfully to Christian growth.

The Rod – Protection and Authority

- Used to fend off predators
- Symbol of the shepherd’s strength and readiness

Biblical parallels:

- “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.” (Psalm 18:2)

- God’s Word as a weapon: “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

The Rod reminds us that God defends us, even when danger surrounds us unseen.

The Staff – Guidance and Correction

- Used to pull sheep from danger
- Keeps the flock on the right path

Biblical parallels:

- “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
- “Those whom the Lord loves He disciplines.” (Hebrews 12:6)

In the valley, correction is not cruelty - it is care. God’s guidance keeps us from falling into deeper darkness.

We emerge from the Valley: Stronger Faith, Deeper Trust

The valley does not have the final word. Psalm 23 ends not in fear, but in abundance and confidence:

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” Psalm 23:6

Those who walk through the valley emerge with:

- deeper compassion,
- stronger faith,
- clearer vision of God’s faithfulness.

“After you have suffered a little while, [God] will restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.” 1 Peter 5:10

Conclusion

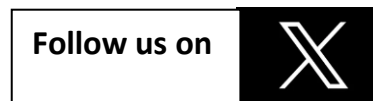
The road from Jericho to Jerusalem reminds us that danger, shadows, and uncertainty are part of the journey of Faith -Yet Psalm 23 teaches that the valley is not a place of abandonment - it is a place of formation.

In the valley:

- faith grows roots,
- character is refined,
- and God reveals Himself not only as Creator, but as Shepherd.

We walk through the shadow, but we walk with Him - and that makes all the difference. Keep in mind - You are not alone in the classroom of the valley.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart - if you seek Him you shall find him.



NOTICE
2026 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at New Hope Community Church, 47529 Homestead Road, Moncton, New Brunswick on June 5, 2026 at 1:00 pm (EDT). If you wish to connect from a distance, please let us know and we will make such arrangements.

Everyday Carry

Cst. Chris Sleep (Ret'd)



Jack Churchill was a soldier who served in the British Expeditionary Forces during the Second World War. He was known for bravery and for disregarding his own safety, eventually earning himself the nickname "Mad Jack." It wasn't merely his combat prowess that earned him that nickname, rather, it was the equipment he carried.



Mad Jack was known for always having three things on his person: a longbow, a set of bagpipes, and a Scottish broadsword. Stories have been told of Mad Jack piping as he

stormed enemy positions, and although he later denied it - that he once killed an enemy combatant using that bow. He believed in his equipment so much that he was once quoted as saying "Any Officer who goes into action without his sword, is improperly dressed." In a modern sense, Mad Jack treated these three things as his "everyday carry."

Everyday Carry is a term that gets thrown around military or paramilitary circles. In its original context, it referred to your combat equipment. These days it may refer to something special such as a knife, a watch, or pen, but more often than not it simply refers to your wallet, phone, and keys. These are the items that I need to have with me everywhere I go, that assist me on a day-to-day basis.

When the Israelites wandered in the desert, the Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant before them. God had charged them to be the priestly tribe of Israel, and as such as they wandered the desert, the Ark which contained the real spiritual presence of the Lord rested on their shoulders.

In Numbers 10:33 it says, "So they set out from the mountain of the Lord and traveled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest" (NIV). The Spirit of the Lord that they carried with them guided them in their steps. In Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Moses tells the Israelites, "these commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (NIV). For the Israelites in the desert, the Spirit of the Living God, present in the Ark of the Covenant, was their everyday carry.

In 2017, during my time in the RCMP, I responded to a fatal collision. I'd responded to many collisions before, but this one was different. A man had taken his own life by way of deliberate head-on

collision with a semi-truck. The sights, smells, and moreover the sounds that I heard that day left scars that I bore for years. During my years as a police officer, I drew away from Jesus. In 2022, two years after leaving the RCMP God brought me back to himself, but I still carried with me the hurts from my past. This pain had, in fact, become my everyday carry.

2 Corinthians 4:10 teaches that "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body" (NIV). Thanks be to God that the pain we carry is not the end of our stories.

This past fall I attended a freedom prayer session with one of my Pastors at my home church in New Brunswick. During that prayer session Jesus, through a vision, took me to the side of that highway in 2017. He stood there with me next to the flaming wreck of the car that had haunted me for eight years. Hand on my shoulder, He told me, "it's okay, you don't have to carry this anymore." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I was able to place that memory at the foot of the cross.

When we have Jesus in our hearts, he's not just a "carry" for this day. Jesus is the true everyday carry. Jesus is in

our presents, our futures, and our pasts. I carry the love of Christ with me on that highway in 2017 in the same way that I do today.

During those times where we're tempted to pick up our hurts and relive our pain, let's remember Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (NIV). Whatever we lay down at the feet of Jesus we no longer carry with us. I encourage you today to let Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who gave his life for you, to be your everyday carry.



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.

Is He Your Friend?

Cst. Art Francis, Metro Toronto Police

Reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [Summer 1993](#)

Lorraine asked me if I knew a police Roy. Roy at the age of 52, died as a result of cancer. Then she said, "When you attend so many funerals and the people are in your age bracket, you realize how precious life is and the need to keep in touch with each other."

Is growing old and dying a problem for you? What makes absolutely no sense to me is dying young. As a young boy I wanted to do things older boys did. Now I know that getting old happens fast. I am now in the position where I pick the paper each morning and read the obituary section to find my name missing only to go back to bed, after a hearty breakfast.

I thought her statement was incomplete. I also know we would not agree on some issues about life, especially the question "is He your friend"? Grief is something we all experience because statistics on death tell us that one out of one dies, but the greatest mystery must lie in the historical life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

To understand how to get the maximum benefit out of any car, stereo, T.V or appliance, we look at the instructions and follow the rules. The Bible offers us a set of rules that show us how to derive the maximum benefit out of life. But do we choose to follow these instructions?

Several facts exists. Jesus came and lived among His people. He was crucified and nailed to a cross. He died and was buried. He rose from the dead. His tomb is empty. Many continue to deny Him these truths and more so, the words He spoke.

Jesus was the friend of Lazarus, (Jn. 11:43,45); the maiden in Mt. 9:25 and the young man in Lk. 7:14, 15. He can be your friend if you trust Him. Jesus said; "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (Jn. 11:25).

We need to be real, quiet, supportive and available for each other but we must remember that "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

He gave the instructions about life and holds the key to death. If you know Him, you are assured of the loving sovereignty of God and the promise of His resurrection, looking ahead for where there will be no pain, death, sorrow, tears, and adversity; knowing "that hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5:5), I do not know if Roy knew Jesus as his friend but will you be able to say as Job did: "I know that my redeemer lives, and at last....I shall see God" (Job 19:25-26)