



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



November, 2026

[Version française](#)

From the President's Desk



It is a privilege to share another edition of The Peacemaker with you. This issue reminds us of the importance of remaining rooted in Christ as one navigates the challenges of the profession.

Our calling extends beyond the badge and uniform. We are called to reflect Christ through our integrity, courage, compassion, and service to others. As the articles in this edition highlight, we must stand firm in our faith, recognize God's goodness even in difficult circumstances, and allow our lives to reflect His transforming work.

We are also reminded that we are not meant to carry our burdens alone. Through prayer, Christian fellowship, and mutual encouragement, we can strengthen one another and continue serving faithfully.

Thank you to all our contributors for taking the time to share their experiences, insights, and reflections. Your willingness to share your faith and encourage others is an important part of the work of the FCPO – Canada. May the words in this edition inspire you to deepen your relationship with the Lord and reflect on how your faith shapes the way you serve others each day.

Thank you for being part of this fellowship and for the important work you do, or have done, in your communities. May we continue to stand together in faith, support one another in times of challenge, and bring the light of Christ to those around us.

Whatever circumstances we face, may we remember that God remains faithful and that our service can be a meaningful expression of our faith.

May the Lord continue to guide and strengthen you, bless your families, and give you wisdom and courage in all that you do.

God bless,

Ron

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What Happened on Parliament Hill?

Sgt. Gilbert Boufard (Ret'd)



On a Saturday evening, March 15, 2003, following a conference with Scott Holtz of [Rivers in the Desert Ministries](#), a group of believers gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for a time of worship and prayer.

Scott Holtz, who has since passed from this life, was known for his passion for prayer and worship. Many who knew him remember his desire to encourage believers to seek God's presence through prayer, worship, and the sounding of the shofar.

As the sound of the shofar echoed beneath the Peace Tower, many of us sensed the presence of the Lord. The worship seemed to fill the area around Centre Block, creating an atmosphere that many described as heavenly. During the gathering, several people stated that they were seeing angels. While not everyone shared that experience, those who did were sincere in what they reported witnessing.

I had brought my 35mm camera and took several photographs during the worship. The following day, wanting Scott to have copies before returning to the United States, I took the film in for processing.

When the photographs were developed, one image immediately caught my attention. A white form appeared above the worshippers, resembling a cloud, mist, or vapour. Thinking it might be a defect in the film or processing, I asked the photo clerk to examine it. After looking at the negative, he confirmed that the image was part of the original photograph and not something that had occurred during development.

What made the photograph even more interesting was that it was frame number seven on the roll of film. Throughout Scripture, the number seven is associated with God's completeness and perfection. It is also noteworthy that none of the other photographs taken that evening contained a similar image.



Some may call that a coincidence. As Christians, we often say there are no coincidences with God. Whether the fact that the image appeared on frame number seven has any significance is something each reader can consider for themselves.

Was it an angel? I cannot say with certainty.

What I do know is that several people present that evening stated they were seeing angels. I also know that an unusual image appeared on only one photograph, and that photograph happened to be number seven on the negative.

More importantly, this experience taught me a valuable lesson. As Christians, we should be careful not to dismiss the experiences of others simply because we have not experienced the same thing ourselves. God does not reveal Himself to everyone in exactly the same way.

Scripture teaches us to test all things and hold fast to what is good. At the same time, we should remain humble enough to recognize that we do not have all the answers. Throughout the Bible, some people witnessed things that others around them did not see or understand.

Whether the image was a natural phenomenon, something supernatural, or simply a mystery that will remain unanswered until eternity, I leave that to the Lord.

What remains clear in my memory more than twenty years later is a group of believers gathered on Parliament Hill, worshipping Jesus Christ and seeking His presence. Perhaps that is the most important part of the story.

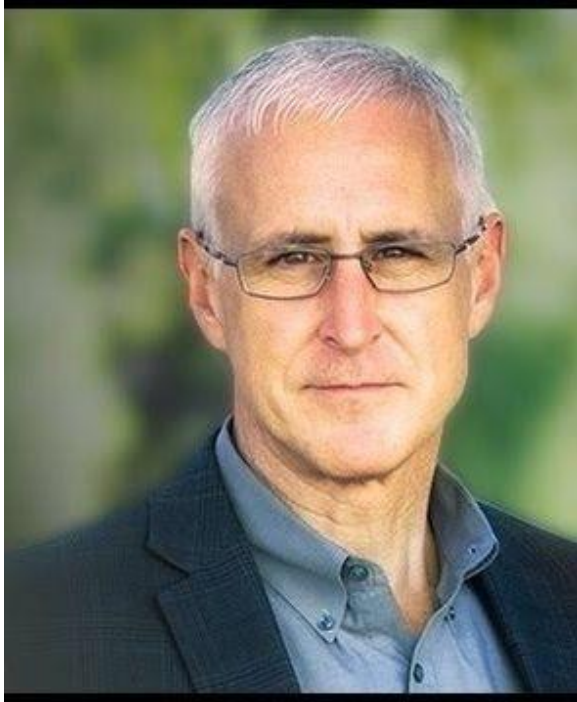
Thank You Jesus.

Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12



As a Detective, I'm Not A Christian Because It "Works" for Me

[J. Warner Wallace](#)



At the age of thirty-five, it seemed like I had everything I could possibly want. I'd graduated at the top of my class in my undergraduate and graduate programs, earned the honor recruit award at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Academy and was in an incredible job assignment, working as a member of a five man career-criminal surveillance team. I had been with my wife for eighteen years and we had a great family. We just purchased our second home in a community I had admired since childhood. Nothing could have been better. This was the status and condition of my life when I walked into a Christian church for the first time.

I wasn't looking for answers; I thought I already had all the answers. In fact, most of my friends came to me for advice. I was the

guy you came to if you wanted to ask a question about how to work an investigation, how to maintain a good marriage, how to raise your kids. I was happy, content, and full of myself. I definitely wasn't the kind of person who thought he needed help or needed fixing. My self-confidence had grown into arrogance. I was opinionated, sure of myself and difficult to reason with. I was sure I was right, and my life seemed to confirm this at every turn. I was in control and my decisions seemed to be producing the life I wanted.

That first pastor described Jesus as a wise teacher, the smartest man who ever lived. That intrigued a self-serving, arrogant guy like me. For purely selfish reasons I became interested in what Jesus might have to say about life, family, work, and all the things I thought I had already mastered. So I began my investigation of the gospels, not to find God, but simply to steal from Jesus the wisdom he allegedly possessed. Along the way I became convinced the gospels were reliable eyewitness accounts. I eventually examined the Gospel itself, the message of [Salvation](#) offered through Christ alone, and became a Christian. I moved from certainty related to the accounts, to certainty related to my own desperate, fallen nature and need for a Savior.

Life on this side of my decision hasn't always been easy. It's been twenty-two years since I first trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior. I still struggle to [submit my prideful will](#) to what God would call me to do. Christianity is not easy. It doesn't always "work" for me. There are times when I think it would be easier to do it the old way; easier to cut a corner or take

a short cut. There are many times when doing the right thing means doing the most difficult thing possible. There are also times when it seems like non-Christians have it easier, or seem to be “winning”. It’s in times like these that I have to remind myself that I’m not a Christian because it serves my own selfish purposes. I’m not a Christian because it “works” for me. I had a life prior to

Christianity that seemed to be working just fine, and my life as a Christian hasn’t always been easy.

I’m a Christian because it is true. I’m a Christian because I want to live in a way that reflects the truth. I’m a Christian because my high regard for the truth leaves me no alternative.

J. Warner Wallace is a Dateline featured cold-case homicide detective, popular national speaker and best-selling author. He continues to consult on cold-case investigations while serving as a Senior Fellow at the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He is also an Adj. Professor of Christian Apologetics at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and a faculty member at Summit Ministries. J. Warner presently serves as a chaplain for his agency and holds a BA in Design (from CSULB), an MA in Architecture (from UCLA), and an MA in Theological Studies (from Gateway Seminary).

United in Christ, Serving on the Thin Blue Line



Paul Lee, Executive Director, FCPO-USA

Warm greetings from FCPO-USA to our brothers and sisters at FCPO-Canada!

Dear FCPO-Canada Family,

Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ here in the United States! We want you to know how much we appreciate you, how excited we are about what God is doing through our ministries, and how much we look forward to seeing how He might bring us closer together in serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

One Body of Christ, One Mission

We live in a world filled with uncertainty. Trade disputes, tariffs, political division, and troubling headlines can make it seem as though everything around us is falling apart. Yet our hope is not anchored in governments, economies, or world events. Our hope is in Jesus Christ!

Regardless of which side of the border we call home, we belong to the same body of Christ. We serve the same Lord, share the same Gospel, and have been entrusted with the same Great Commission.

And what a mission field we share! **There is no greater mission field than law enforcement.** Every shift brings opportunities to influence our fellow officers, encourage our coworkers, serve our communities, and reach families who desperately need the hope of Jesus.

While so many influences pull people away from God, we must stand together in truth, love, and unwavering faith. Our families, fellow officers, and the people we encounter every day need to see Christ reflected in us.

As Ephesians 6:13 encourages us, we are to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand firm. And Jesus' prayer in John 17:21 reminds us of the importance of unity among His followers.

Let's Stand Together!

Looking ahead, FCPO-USA plans to order another supply of Thin Blue Line [Filament Bibles](#) next year*. Our hope is to include both the FCPO-USA and FCPO-Canada logos, along with QR codes directing readers to our respective

websites. What a wonderful opportunity to place God's Word into the hands of officers while helping them discover a fellowship of believers who understand their unique calling!

More importantly, I ask that we begin praying earnestly for God to open doors for our ministries to come together in a deeper way. Imagine Christian peace officers from two nations, united in Christ, encouraging one another, sharing resources, developing spiritual leaders, and reaching officers who may never otherwise hear the Gospel.

We may serve under different flags, but we stand beneath the same Cross!

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your faithfulness to our Lord and your commitment to serving those who serve.

Please know that we are cheering you on, praying for you, and looking forward to what God may have in store for our ministries together.

Please know that we are cheering you on, praying for you, and looking forward to what God may have in store for our ministries together.

May the Lord continue to strengthen your hands, encourage your hearts, and use you mightily as His ambassadors on and off duty.

With much love and Christian fellowship,
Your Brothers and Sisters at FCPO-USA

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding

in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)

God bless,

Paul

Paul Lee (Retired Captain, Chattanooga P.D.)

Executive Director

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers-USA

www.fcpo.org



**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN
PEACE OFFICERS - USA**

* Editor's note: We are working closely with FCPO-USA on some exciting initiatives. Stand by for more news about this in the future!

Every Contact Leaves a Trace: What Does Your Life Leave Behind?

Cst. Chris Byers, OPP



In forensic identification, one of the principles we work with is known as [Locard's Exchange Principle](#). Edmond Locard was a 19th Century French criminalist known as the "Sherlock Holmes of France". His exchange principle, known by all modern forensic identification officers, states that

"Every Contact Leaves a Trace." Simply put, when two things come into contact with one another, there is an exchange of material. Something is left behind and something is taken away.

A fingerprint, footprint, fibre, or DNA. Every contact leaves a trace.

As a forensic investigator, I've seen firsthand how something that seems insignificant at first can become important later. A small trace can help tell a much bigger story. But there's something about this principle that goes beyond the crime scene, because our lives leave traces too.

Think about the people who have influenced your life. A parent, a teacher, a coach, a friend or pastor. Maybe even a police officer who took the time to encourage you when you needed it. Their influence may not always have been obvious at the time, but something was left behind.

Perhaps it was a word they spoke, an example they set, a lesson they taught, or a moment when they showed you kindness, courage or compassion. We are influenced by the people we come into contact with, and whether we realize it or not, we influence others too. The question is: What are we leaving behind?

What Happens When We Encounter Jesus?

The Bible tells us that following Jesus isn't simply about adding Christianity to our lives. It's about Jesus changing our lives. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (ESV)

If Paul's words are true - and I believe they are - then an encounter with Jesus should leave a trace. Not because Christians become perfect - we don't. We all still make mistakes, we still struggle and we still have things in our lives that God is working on.

But something should be changing. Things like our attitudes, our priorities, our willingness to forgive, our love for others and our desire to know God's Word. The evidence I'm talking about isn't about perfection, it's about transformation.

Jesus described this kind of change in John 15 when He talked about a vine and its branches. A healthy branch connected to the vine produces fruit, and that gives us something to think about. If we are saying that we have encountered Jesus, what evidence would someone else see?

Would they see more patience? More kindness? A willingness to forgive? Greater compassion? A growing hunger for God's Word? An increased desire to serve? To be clear, none of these things can save us and we don't earn God's acceptance by becoming better people. We know that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus, but when

God's grace truly gets a hold of someone's life, it leaves evidence.

What Trace Are You Leaving?

For those of us who serve others - whether as police officers, first responders, pastors, parents, or in countless other roles - this question is worth asking, because people are watching. Our families see us when nobody else does. Our coworkers see how we respond under pressure. The people we serve see how we treat them. And the people around us may never hear us preach a sermon, but they will see how we live.

So what trace are we leaving?

Years from now, what will people remember about the way we treated them? What evidence will remain from the way we lived? And perhaps most importantly: If Jesus has truly touched our lives, can people see the evidence?

We don't need to manufacture it. We don't need to pretend. We simply need to remain connected to Him. Because every contact leaves a trace. And when our lives come into contact with Jesus, that contact should leave evidence. Not perfection, but evidence.

Chris is a Forensic Identification Constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. He also serves as Discipleship Pastor at South Porcupine Pentecostal Church and as Chaplain with [Blue Line Church](http://www.bluelinechurch.ca), a Christian ministry serving police officers and first responders.

For more information about Blue Line Church or to contact Chris, visit www.bluelinechurch.ca

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Breaching the Spiritual Barricade

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

“With You I can attack a barricade, and with my God I can leap over a wall.” (Psalm 18:29, CSB – added emphasis)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...” (2 Corinthians 10:4, ESV)



In my police SWAT days, I was a “breacher” - the guy with the big hammer (yes, there is a connection between using my initials—MC and “hammer”) used to tactically breach a door and sometimes even a wall (a “barricade”). And interestingly enough, there is a very strong biblical connection to the concept of breaching a barricade (wall, stronghold, door, etc.). In this short study I’ll share the biblical concept of what it means to tactically triumph over our spiritual barricades or be the warriors God called us to be.

Throughout history, cities and military bases (castles) have been protected or reinforced with walls - aka, a “barricade” of wood or stone. And for an army to defeat a walled city or castle meant breaching those walls. Jerusalem was surrounded by walls that were breached and destroyed many times throughout history. Like knights of old, we still use armor (our body army) and shields (our badge is symbolic of a knight’s shield). And we have the “walls” of armor that are used to protect tanks, military aircraft and naval warships today. And all of them can be “breached” (defeated).

So, what is the biblical (God speaking to us) nexus to this? First, read Psalm 18:29-42 and Psalm 18 in general (Psalm 18 is sometimes called “the warrior’s psalm”). I shared the text of v. 29 above, and the message should be clear. We who serve under the command of Christ our Captain (the biblical word is literally translated as “commander-in-chief”) and “warrior king” (Exodus 15:3) are empowered by Him to overcome (breach) barricades — including the spiritual kind.



GOD HAS DIRECTED US TO NOT RELY ON HUMAN TACTICS, STRATEGY AND WISDOM, BUT ON THE POWER AND WEAPONS HE SUPPLIES US WITH AS REVEALED TO US IN HIS WORD, THE BIBLE.

The “tactical” “battle plan” God has here for His faithful (meaning, genuine, born again believers) is that we are to “wise up”, armor up, and wield/train with our spiritual weapons (Ephesians 6:10-18) of warfare through which God empowers us to pull down strongholds (breach barricades). And please understand that God has directed us to not rely on human tactics, strategy and wisdom, but on the power and weapons He

supplies us with as revealed to us in His Word, the Bible.

Another biblical (and tactical) illustration of breaching barricades (“pulling down strongholds”) is found in the battle of Jericho (a walled city) in Joshua 6:1-27. When God’s people in Joshua’s day, by faith, followed God and obeyed His commands, the supposedly impregnable walls of Jericho were breached. The battle was God’s, fought His way, and according to His instructions. Humanly speaking, the whole episode seemed absurd and impossible, but when we walk by faith and in obedience to God’s will (battle plan), even the mightiest of walls can be breached.

What about the mental walls we deal with as cops (for example, PTSi — I prefer “injury” to disorder). While modern psychology reveals no actual “cure” for what ails us (no cure is found in the DSM - only diagnoses), Christ is the “Cure” when we surrender to Him in faith as Lord and Savior. And part of that cure is tearing down (breaching) the strongholds and “walls” of this life.

So, what are our spiritual “breaching” tools (weapons) for breaching barricades (strongholds) and triumphing in spiritual warfare? They include (but are not limited to) spending time “training” in the Word of God (our spiritual sword - the Bible), prayer (talking to God), being in regular “iron sharpens iron” fellowship with other believers (including being planted and

serving in a solid, Bible-teaching church), putting on (and keeping on) our spiritual body armor, and the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives (and thus relying on God’s divine power and not our own).

Without Christ, the already hard life we live in law enforcement is very likely to bring about failure at multiple levels. But when we are serving and protecting under the loving leadership and protection of Christ our “Captain”, He will empower us to tactically triumph and breach any “wall” our enemy (Satan) sets before us.

So, do you have that power? A spiritual, tactical “breaching hammer” if you will? Friend, the only way you can is by first repenting of your sin and placing your whole trust in Christ as Lord and Savior - by being born again in Him alone (John 3:1-21, 14:6) - a “Christian” as only God gets to define it. And NO, we can’t “badge” our way into Heaven or out of Hell — Jesus is the ONLY way (Ephesians 2:8-10, Acts 4:12).

If you are reading this and have [yet to surrender all to Christ in faith \(meaning you’re currently unsaved and lost\), now is the time to do so](#). As I share often, we can’t “badge” our way into Heaven (or out of Hell). “Repent and believe...” (Jesus, Mark 1:15) now whilst you still can. Why do it now? Because there are no “second chances” after this life ends. Make a decision today so you can breach the spiritual barricades tomorrow.



[The Centurion Law Enforcement Ministry](#) is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian outreach by, for and about law enforcement (police, deputies, investigators, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and military personnel. TCLEM provides Bible-based support, fellowship and accountability for officers worldwide. We also seek to infuse Christian servant-leadership into our profession and equip the Christian officer to boldly share and live the Gospel.

Standing Firm When the Job Changes You

Matthew Baumgartner

For nearly twenty years, I have worked inside correctional institutions.

Anyone who has spent enough time in corrections knows that the job follows you home if you let it. You spend your days around conflict, manipulation, violence, anger, stress, and people experiencing some of the worst moments of their lives. You learn quickly to watch people, read situations, anticipate problems, and keep your guard up. Those skills can keep you safe inside a prison. They can also change you.



THERE IS A TOUGHNESS THAT COMES WITH THIS PROFESSION. SOME OF IT IS NECESSARY. YOU CANNOT WORK IN A CORRECTIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR LONG WHILE BEING EASILY SHAKEN.

Over the years, I have served as an officer, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and now as a major, responsible for institutional security. I have supervised staff, responded to emergencies, dealt with violence, made difficult decisions, and watched good correctional officers become tired, cynical, angry, and burned out.

There is a toughness that comes with this profession. Some of it is necessary. You cannot work in a correctional environment for long while being easily shaken.

But there is a difference between becoming strong and becoming hardened.

I began thinking about that distinction as I started looking more seriously at my own faith.



YOU CANNOT WAIT UNTIL YOUR WORST DAY TO DECIDE WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

I have not spent my entire adult life as the person who had all the answers spiritually. Quite the opposite. My faith became something I began examining more closely later in life. I started reading Scripture differently. Instead of treating the Bible as something distant from everyday life, I began looking at what it said about the things I actually dealt with: anger, fear, leadership, temptation, integrity, courage, forgiveness, exhaustion, responsibility, and standing your ground when doing the right thing costs you something.

I also started looking for Christian material written for people like us. There are many good devotionals available, but I often felt they were written for a life that looked very different from mine.

A correctional officer might read a devotional in the morning and, an hour later, walk into a housing unit where two people are fighting. A supervisor may have to make a decision that affects someone's safety or career. An officer might get threatened, cursed at,

manipulated, or assaulted and still be expected to act professionally five minutes later. I wanted something that acknowledged that reality.

That idea eventually became *Stand Firm: A 365-Day Bible Field Guide*.

I did not write *Stand Firm* because I consider myself a theologian. I wrote it because I have spent most of my adult life in corrections, and I know what this work can do to a person.

The title comes from an idea repeated throughout Scripture: stand firm. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:13, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” Those words sound different when you have spent years working behind a fence.

Standing firm does not mean becoming cold. It does not mean pretending fear, stress, anger, or doubt do not exist. It means deciding what you are going to stand on before the difficult moment arrives.

In corrections and law enforcement, we train constantly for situations we hope never happen. We practice emergency responses. We learn policy. We train with equipment. We develop plans. We understand that preparation matters because during an emergency you rarely have time to start figuring things out. I have started to see faith much the same way.

You cannot wait until your worst day to decide what you believe. You build that foundation beforehand. A few minutes in Scripture today may seem small. So does one training exercise, one workout, or one good decision. But those small choices accumulate. Eventually they become the foundation you fall back on when life gets difficult.



MY FAITH HAS FORCED ME TO ASK A HARDER QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STRENGTH IS NO LONGER ENOUGH? EVENTUALLY EVERY PERSON REACHES SOMETHING THEY CANNOT CONTROL. THAT IS WHERE FAITH STOPS BEING AN IDEA.

That is what I wanted *Stand Firm* to be: something a correctional officer, police officer, soldier, firefighter, first responder, or anyone serving in a difficult profession could pick up every day and actually use.

But writing the book also forced me to confront something about myself. It is easy to tell other people to stand firm. It is harder to examine where you have not.

I have made mistakes. I have allowed work to occupy too much space in my mind. I have carried frustration home. I have worried about things I could not control. I have relied too heavily on myself.

My faith has forced me to ask a harder question: What happens when strength is no longer enough? Eventually every person reaches something they cannot control. That is where faith stops being an idea.

For me, this has become less about appearing religious and more about learning where my foundation actually is. Jesus said in Matthew 7 that the wise man built his house upon a rock. The storm still came. The rain fell. The floods came. The winds blew. Following Christ did not prevent the storm. It changed what happened when the storm arrived. That speaks to me because officers understand storms.

We know there will be another difficult shift, another crisis, another tragedy, another conflict, another decision we wish we did not have to make. Faith does not promise us an easy profession or an easy life. It gives us something solid to stand on inside of them.

After almost twenty years in corrections, I still believe this profession matters. I have tremendous respect for the men and women who walk through those gates every day knowing they may face something most people will never experience. But I also believe those officers need something protecting the person underneath the uniform. For me, that increasingly means Christ.

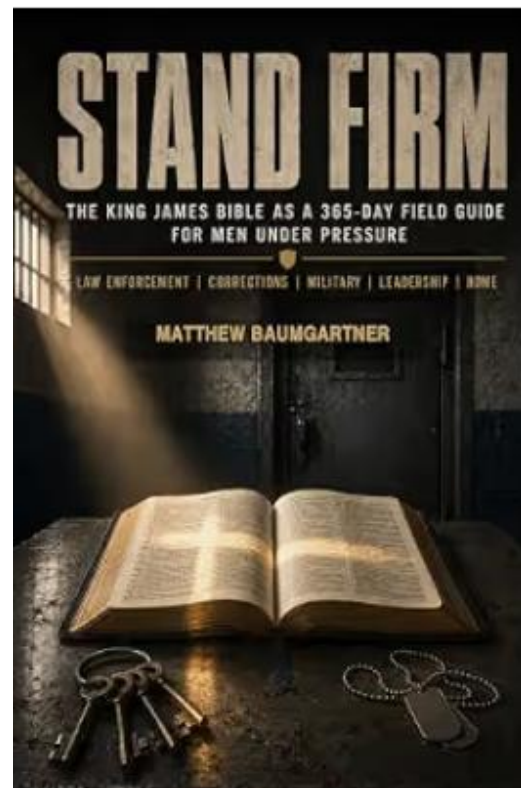
My hope for *Stand Firm* is simple. If one officer reads a page before work and handles a difficult situation differently because of it, if one supervisor makes the right decision when the easier decision would have been wrong, if one burned-out officer realizes they are not alone, or if one person decides to open a Bible again, then writing it was worth it.

The uniform eventually comes off. The career eventually ends. What remains is the man or woman who wore it. And when

everything around us is moving, there has to be something that does not.
For me, I am learning to stand firm on Christ.

Link to book:

<https://a.co/d/02aditz0>



Let your colleagues, family, and friends know about FCPO!

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

Join online at: www.fcpocanada.com

First Respomders Appreciation BBQs

S/Sgt. Steve Rowe, (Ret'd)

Wow moment! On Saturday September 19th on a cool and windy Saturday a small group of Toronto and area FCPO members participated in the 6th annual First Responders Appreciation BBQ at various locations in the GTA. This was the 5th year for the FCPO to participate. Local churches prepared gourmet BBQ fare (not hamburgers/hot dogs!) as a way of thanking First Responders from police, fire fighters, paramedics and support staff.

Each event location was at a Police Division office. Peel, Toronto and York Region have local area churches provide amazing food. The FCPO had the first table where officers picked up their food container and utensils. FCPO, police-orientated materials were made available.

It was amazing to see again Church's having an opportunity to provide food and say thank you to a First Responder. Jesus said, "Go into all the world". This is what the churches have now done since 2020. As currently serving or retired peace officers, we had the opportunity to engage with those on the frontlines.

So many of the First Responders when they hear... "thank you for your service", they smile and also say, "thank you for doing this".

At the 4 locations the FCPO were involved in, probably 500 first responders attended.

I encourage our members ibn the GTA to circle September 18th 2027 on your calendar and plan to assist in next year's Appreciation BBQs.

The organizer of these BBQs, GTA lawyer [Brian Prill](#), has a vision to see them professionally implemented across Canada. I encourage folks to discuss the idea with their local church and contact us or Brian for further information.

Here is a short video taken at the York Region BBQ:

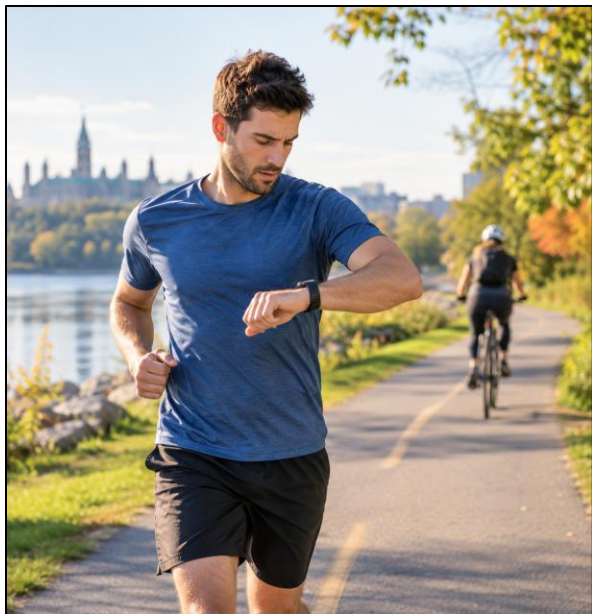


Praise the Lord for this blessed event!



Checking Our Spiritual Pace

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



As I cycle along the beautiful trails of Ottawa, I share the paths with runners moving with focus and determination. Ever so often, I see them glance down at their watches - checking their time, measuring their pace, making sure they're staying on track to meet or exceed their running goal.

Those small moments often make me pause. They remind me that in our walk with Christ, we also need to check our spiritual time. Not with a stopwatch, but with the quiet examination of the heart. Scripture calls this self-examination: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Are we walking closely with the Lord? Are we moving in step with His Spirit? Are we living the life He has called us to live?

Jesus told us what that life looks like. It is a life of obedience, faithfulness, and mission. He gave us our life purpose in the Great

Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19–20)

This is not a suggestion. It is the calling placed on every believer - including those serving in law enforcement.

Our good friend MC Williams often reminds us that this commission is "911 urgent" - that our colleagues need to know about, and receive Jesus as their personal Saviour. In policing, we understand urgency better than most. When a call comes in, we respond immediately because someone's wellbeing may depend on it.

MC's reminder is simply this: The spiritual needs around us are just as urgent - and far more eternal - than the calls we respond to on duty. Scripture echoes this sense of urgency: "The night is far gone; the day is at hand." (Romans 13:12) "Behold, now is the favorable time; now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

But how do we live this out in a profession where trust is earned slowly, where authenticity matters, and where words can be met with caution?

A quote often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi offers a gentle reminder: "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Scripture reinforces this idea of witness through conduct: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

In the unique law enforcement culture, this often becomes our most effective testimony.

Our actions, our integrity, our compassion, and our courage speak loudly - sometimes louder than words ever could.

But just like the runners on the trail, we must check ourselves frequently. Scripture calls us to spiritual awareness: “Let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

“Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.” (Ephesians 5:15–16)

Are we walking in love? Are we living in obedience? Are we shining His light? Are we staying on mission?

The trails remind us of something simple and deeply spiritual: A steady pace requires attention. A faithful walk requires reflection. And a Christ-centred life requires continual alignment with His Word.

May we all keep checking our spiritual pace and keep moving forward with hearts devoted to Jesus.

The Goodness of The Lord Continues to be Manifested

Oh taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. Psalm 34:8

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



When You Have Seen Too Much

As Police and Peace Officers, we occupy a unique place in society. We are called when things have gone terribly wrong. We respond to fatal collisions, domestic violence, assaults, suicides, child abuse and countless other incidents that expose the darkest aspects of human behaviour.

We are called to uphold the law, protect the innocent and bring order to situations filled with fear, anger, desperation and grief.

One retiring officer once expressed his experience in these words: “I feel that I have fought a war!”

For those who have served for many years, that statement can resonate deeply. We knew the nature of the work when we took our oath, but knowing what we signed up for does not necessarily prepare us for the emotional and spiritual weight of what we will witness.

After years of seeing humanity at its lowest, an officer may find himself asking, Where is the goodness of God? If God is good, why does He allow innocent people to suffer?

These are honest questions that deserve thoughtful answers. The Bible does not deny suffering, nor does it ask us to pretend that evil is good. Instead, it calls us to remember the character of God, even when our circumstances are difficult to understand.

“For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.” Psalm 100:5

The goodness of God is not dependent upon whether our day has gone well. God's goodness is part of His character. He remains faithful, merciful, just and compassionate even when we encounter circumstances that break our hearts.

Sometimes God's Goodness Arrives Wearing a Uniform

Consider the occasions when an officer arrives at a terrible scene. A family is devastated, a child is frightened, a victim is injured or someone has lost a loved one. Where is God's goodness in that moment?

Sometimes it is manifested through the officer who protects the vulnerable, comforts a frightened child, prevents further violence or remains with a grieving family. It may be seen in the paramedic who refuses to give up, the dispatcher who calmly guides someone through a crisis or the investigator who diligently pursues the truth.

We may be looking for God to perform an extraordinary miracle, yet overlook the opportunity He has placed directly before us to help another human being.

Romans 13:4 describes lawful civil authority as "the minister of God to thee for good." This does not mean that every action by every officer is automatically good. Rather, it reminds us of the God-given purpose of lawful authority: to restrain evil and protect what is good.

Our calling carries tremendous responsibility. We must exercise our authority with integrity, fairness, humility and compassion.

Perhaps, on one of our most difficult calls, someone will see a glimpse of God's goodness because we were there.

Training Our Eyes to See the Goodness of God

As investigators, we are trained to examine evidence, establish facts, question witnesses and look beyond the obvious. We know that an initial impression does not necessarily reveal the whole picture. Perhaps we should apply that same discipline to our spiritual lives.

After repeatedly witnessing tragedy, we can gradually become so accustomed to the darkness that we overlook the goodness still present around us. We remember the terrible calls, but do we also remember the lives protected, the victims comforted, the justice pursued and the kindness shown?

The Apostle Paul instructs us in Philippians 4:8 to think upon things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. This is not an instruction to ignore evil or minimize suffering. It is a reminder that evil must not become the only thing we see.

Lamentations 3:22–23 tells us that God's compassions fail not and that His mercies are new every morning. We can begin each day by asking ourselves five simple questions:

- Look back: What has God brought me through?
- Look around: Where can I see goodness, kindness or compassion today?
- Look within: Am I carrying bitterness, anger or unforgiveness that I need to surrender to God?
- Look up: Am I trusting the Lord, or relying entirely upon my own understanding?

- Look forward: Who might need my protection, encouragement or compassion today?

These questions help us take inventory of our lives and recognize blessings that we may have begun to take for granted.

David prayed in Psalm 139:23, “Search me, O God, and know my heart.” That is a prayer worth carrying into every stage of our service.

When We Cannot Understand God’s Ways

One of the greatest challenges for both Christian and non-Christian officers is the question, Why do bad things happen to good people?

When an innocent child suffers or a family is destroyed by violence, simplistic answers are neither helpful nor appropriate. We should listen, acknowledge the pain and be honest when we do not have an explanation.

The Bible itself contains people crying out to God in anguish. David asked, “How long wilt Thou forget me, O LORD?” Psalm 13:1. Job struggled to understand his suffering. Scripture does not conceal their questions.

Christianity does not promise that we will understand every tragedy. It points us to Jesus Christ, who experienced betrayal, injustice, rejection, suffering and death. At the Cross, we see that God did not remain distant from the suffering of humanity.

Joseph’s life offers another powerful lesson. Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery and unjustly imprisoned, Joseph eventually recognized that God had brought good out of circumstances intended for evil. He declared

in Genesis 50:20, “Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.”

Joseph did not suggest that the evil committed against him was acceptable. He recognized that evil did not have the power to defeat God’s purposes.

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us that God’s thoughts and ways are higher than ours. As investigators, we understand that we may not have the complete picture when we first arrive at a scene. We gather evidence, establish facts and reconstruct events.

In a similar way, we must recognize the limits of our own understanding. We see one moment in time; God sees the whole of eternity.

This does not mean we stop asking questions or seeking justice. It means that when answers elude us, we can continue to trust the character of God.

The Evidence of God’s Goodness

The Christian faith invites us to consider the evidence of God’s goodness throughout history and in our lives today.

Psalm 19:1 declares, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” The extraordinary order of the universe and the complexity of living systems invite profound questions about our origins and purpose. Scientific discoveries can deepen our appreciation of creation, although science alone does not prove the Christian faith.

For Christians, the ultimate demonstration of God’s love is found in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” The Christian message rests upon the death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8.

We also see evidence of goodness in the lives of people who demonstrate courage, forgiveness, sacrifice and compassion. For those who have placed their faith in Christ, these qualities remind us of the transforming work of God.

As good investigators, we must be willing to examine the evidence honestly. We should neither ignore difficult questions nor overlook the reasons for hope.

The question is not whether we can explain every tragedy - we cannot. The question is whether the suffering we witness requires us to conclude that God is absent or that goodness no longer exists.

Scripture calls us to a different conclusion: God remains good, even when we cannot understand His ways.

Remember Who You Are in Christ

Our identity must never rest solely upon our badge, rank, position or years of service. Those things change, and eventually our careers come to an end.

For those who are in Christ, our identity is rooted in Him. Second Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. Ephesians 2:10 describes believers as God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

Our occupation may be our assignment, but our relationship with Christ shapes who we are and how we serve.

After a difficult shift, we may carry memories that remain with us for years. We may struggle with questions, disappointment or

weariness. In those moments, we need to renew our minds through God's Word, prayer, fellowship and the encouragement of other believers.

We should also remember that seeking appropriate support when the burden becomes too heavy is not a failure of faith. God can work through trusted friends, chaplains, counsellors and professional support to help us through difficult seasons.

Nahum 1:7 offers this assurance: "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of

trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him."

The Goodness of the Lord Is Still Being Manifested

Psalms 23:6 declares, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." These words do not promise a life without hardship. They remind us that God's goodness and mercy remain our source of hope throughout our journey.

As Peace Officers, we will continue to encounter the brokenness of humanity. We will attend calls that are difficult to forget and face circumstances that we cannot fully explain. But let us not allow the worst things we witness to become the only things we remember.

Let us continue to serve with integrity, uphold justice, protect the vulnerable and extend compassion to those who are suffering. Let us take time to recognize the good that remains in our families, our colleagues, our communities and our own lives.

And when we cannot understand God's ways, let us remember His promise in Psalm 27:13:

“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

The goodness of the Lord has not disappeared simply because we cannot always see it. Sometimes we recognize it immediately; sometimes we understand it only years later. And there may be questions that remain unanswered until eternity. Until then, we continue to serve, protect, investigate, comfort and pursue justice.

A good investigator looks beyond the obvious. A Christian officer must also learn to look beyond the darkness and recognize the goodness of God.

God was good yesterday. He is good today. And He will remain good forever.

“O taste and see that the LORD is good.” — Psalm in m 34:8

God bless all who serve, and may the Lord renew our strength and open our eyes to His goodness each day.

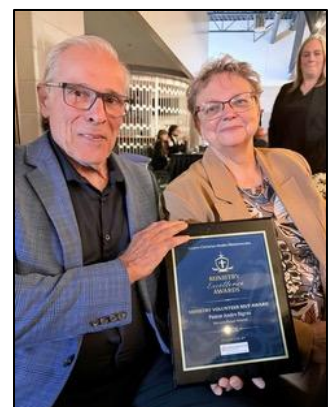
Victory Church, Port Perry - Men's Breakfast



On October 3rd Dino was the guest speaker at this event which was spearheaded by Toronto Police Service Detective Constable Mark Luchetta.

**Congratulations to FCPO – Canada, Quebec
Director S/Sgt. Andy Brigas (Ret'd)**

Andy was recently recognized by Kingswood University for his volunteer ministry work with [Harvest House Atlantic](#).



EDITORIAL

Walking the Fine Tightrope: The Changing Face of Police Chaplaincy

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

Serving as a police officer requires immense physical, mental, and spiritual resilience.

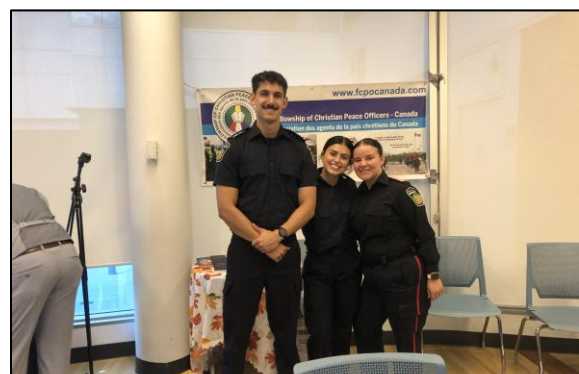
For generations, Christian police chaplains have stood on the front lines with us, providing the spiritual grounding necessary to navigate the darkest moments of our profession. While the inclusion of various faiths reflecting Canada's diverse mosaic has been a welcome evolution, a troubling shift is occurring across many police services under the banner of secularism.

In a concerted effort to appear entirely secular, many services are erasing the traditional title of Chaplain, replacing it with

terms like “Spiritual Wellness Advisor”. In more extreme cases, chaplaincy programs are being eliminated altogether. This rebranding is not merely semantic; it directly impacts the ministry these individuals provide. There are now instances where a chaplain's prayers must be reviewed and approved by police management before they can be offered up at official ceremonies.

Every God-fearing Christian chaplain knows this standard is deeply flawed. True chaplains answer to the Almighty, not to a commanding officer. As a result, these dedicated servants are left walking a fine tightrope, balancing their divine calling against the rigid constraints of a modern secular bureaucracy. They need our prayers now more than ever as they navigate these profound operational challenges.

On a positive note, some forward-thinking services recognize that a one-size-fits-all approach does not support true spiritual well-being. Services like Peel Regional have actively encouraged the creation of “Internal Support Networks” (ISN). These networks



2026 Thanksgiving Celebration - Peel Regional Police Service

function as sanctioned clubs, allowing officers with shared values to gather. For the many Christian officers in Peel, this framework allows them to freely fellowship, support one another, and keep their faith vibrant while serving their community.

As we look ahead, let us commit to praying for our chaplains and supporting internal networks that keep our faith anchored on the job.



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.

FCPO Featured on Living Truth

Reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [November, 2017](#)



Our Toronto director, Sgt. Jesse Weeks* (Toronto Police Service) and Steve McKenzie (York Regional Police), were recently featured in a segment of [Living Truth](#). They shared the realities of a calling in policing and how they are serving the Lord daily on the job.

Click → [Watch Jesse & Steve](#)

* Editor's note: Congratulations to Jesse – now Staff Sergeant Jesse Weeks! *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.* Psalm 75:6–7