



# FCPO - CANADA

## The Peacemaker



August, 2019

From the President's Desk




On July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Toronto Police Service HQ, we launched "Project Sword". In this issue, we have the latest update on this very exciting project. This project was borne out of the need to do something to address the plague of police despair and suicide. Our good friend MC Williams has shared with us a very heart-wrenching article on this subject, with some great links. Therein, he pointed out that America is seeing an average of one police suicide per day. It is a crisis, but not one without hope! Please seriously consider MC's article and share it widely with your colleagues and loved ones.

We have a great article on leadership from Bruce Ewanyshyn. In the [May 2018 issue of the Peacemaker](#), I touched on the same topic in an article I called "*Being the Good Boss*". There, I referenced a presentation I had been privileged to hear early in my career as a young sergeant. The presenter was Deputy Chief Mark Kroeker from LAPD. He spoke on leadership and the importance of integrity at our 1993 conference in Moncton, NB. While going through [our vault](#), I came across a recap of his presentation, and am very pleased to present that important article again in our "*From our Vault*" feature. All peace officers are leaders, some become leaders of leaders. **I strongly encourage all our members to give this a good solid read.** The state of leadership within the various law enforcement communities would be greatly enhanced if we all had leaders who followed Deputy Kroeker's wise leadership counsel.

FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE.  
SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD, IT  
PENETRATES EVEN TO DIVIDING SOUL AND SPIRIT,  
JOINTS AND MARROW; IT JUDGES THE THOUGHTS  
AND ATTITUDES OF THE HEART.  
(HEB 4:12)

CAR LA PAROLE DE DIEU EST VIVANTE  
ET EFFICACE, PLUS TRANCHANTE  
QU'UNE ÉPÉE QUELCONQUE  
À DEUX TRANCHANTS, PÉNÉTRANTE  
JUSQU'À PARTAGER ÂME ET ESPRIT,  
JOINTURES ET MOELLES;  
ELLE JUGE LES SENTIMENTS  
ET LES PENSÉES DU COEUR.  
(HE 4:12)



God bless,

God bless,

Ron

**Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada**  
372 Rideau Street, Suite 234 Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1G7  
Ph: (604) 200-FCPO (3276)  
[fcpo.aapc@gmail.com](mailto:fcpo.aapc@gmail.com)  
[www.fcpocanada.com](http://www.fcpocanada.com)

# God Always Makes a Way for His People

By: Dino Doria, Ontario Director



Sgt. Dino Doria (Rtd.)

The book of Exodus is the story of God rescuing the children of Israel from Egypt and forging a special relationship with them. Exodus is the second book of the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses), and it's where we find the stories of the Ten Plagues, the first Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments. It's hard to miss this one! The entire book is about God hearing Israel's cries for help, rescuing them from their oppressors, and making them his own.

## God's Covenant

Like the rest of the Torah, covenant is a big theme here. God makes a solemn, binding agreement with the people of Israel, establishing himself as their God and them as his people. This relationship comes with certain expectations, with benefits for the Israelites if they uphold their end of the agreement, and consequences if they do not.

The Lord always makes a way for His people. The children of Israel needed a way out of Egypt, although many had seen God's hand at work in their daily lives they continued to doubt that God would do it again. When we reflect on these actions and lack of faith we realize that we are not much different today. We doubt that God can do it again, we forget, we complain, we turn our backs on God, and yet He is ready to forgive us for our sins on a daily basis because Jesus made a way for us when He died on the cross for our sins. *"Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"*. John 4:16.

God did make a way for the children of Israel. It caught them all by surprise when God parted the sea so that they could escape pharaoh's grip and his army chasing them down. God is sovereign and His ways are not our ways but He always makes a way for His children. Trust in the Lord and do not doubt - He is God and we are not. Stop trying to figure out the outcome instead concentrate and rest in "His Ways"! God hears your cries...and in His Way, and in His time, He reveals His way for us.

Dino

## Join Today!

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

Join online at: [www.fcpcanada.com](http://www.fcpcanada.com)



# Project Sword – The Launch

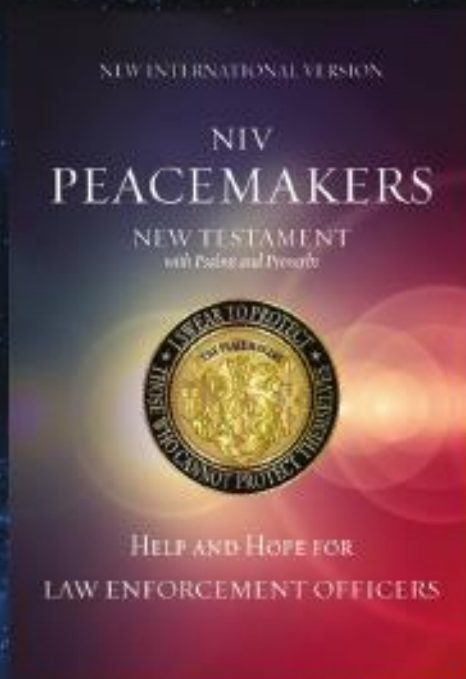


Well, we're off and running! Project Sword is the most ambitious project we have ever taken on! We want to be able to offer a free [Peacemakers](#) book (a pocket-sized New Testament, with Psalms and Proverbs, with real-life articles by police officers and chaplains) to every peace officer in Canada! We started our distribution with our launch on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Toronto Police Service HQ. There, we gave out 71 copies to officers who attended the event. Thanks to Blueline for their [article](#) covering the launch, and Janet Mabie for her [article](#) in Spur Ottawa.

Our initial target is to distribute 10,000 copies. To do this we need to raise approximately \$30,000. That is huge for a small charity like ours! However, we believe God will provide the funds. Already we have received much favour, and thank all our donors for their participation in this most exciting project. I encourage all our readers to tell their friends, church leadership and other organizations about this project and inspire them to partner with us on this historical offering.

We are updating the progress of the project regularly on our [homepage](#). A list of [distributors](#) is now available on our website.

# Help & Hope for Law Enforcement Officers



Get your free copy of this special law enforcement pocket-sized New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs, with real-life helpful articles by officers and chaplains. This book offers timeless wisdom and hope for all those who are called to serve & protect.\*

\* Produced by Zondervan in partnership with the American Police Chaplains Association

**Offered to all Canadian peace officers**



Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada  
[www.fcpocanada.com](http://www.fcpocanada.com)

372 Rideau Street, Suite 234  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1G7  
email: [fcpo.aapc@gmail.com](mailto:fcpo.aapc@gmail.com)



# Regina AGM Update

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> in Regina, Saskatchewan.



**Video - Click here to watch Ron's Project Sword message**

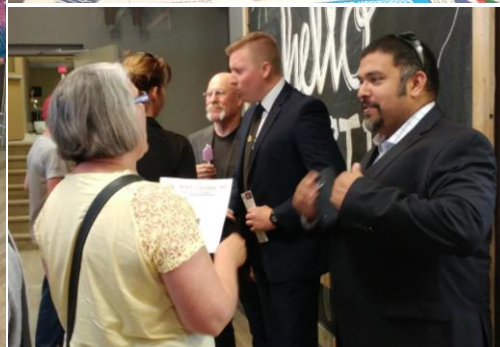
Ron Seney has retired from the National Board. President Ron, paid tribute to Ron S. for his many years of service to the FCPO, having served as President, Vice President and most recently, Atlantic Director. Ken Smith has also left the national board but will remain as the president of the Koinonia chapter in Moncton, NB. Ron likewise thanked Ken for his contributions to the board and dedication to FCPO. John Wright was elected as the new Atlantic Region Director. All other board members will remain in their positions.



The following day, some of the board members attended [Gateway Church's](#) morning service. This church is located close to the RCMP's Training

Academy (Depot). Over the years, many of the cadets have attended that church while undergoing their basic training.

Pastor Brian Larratt warmly welcomed the FCPO members and gave an opportunity for Ron to inform the congregation about FCPO and "Project Sword".

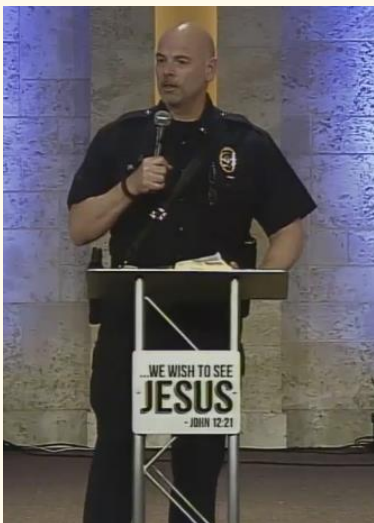


After the service, many of the worshipers visited a table set up in the foyer to meet the FCPO members and learn more about this ministry.

# “Cops, Suicide, and God”

**Suicide is a cancer in our God-ordained profession. Praise God, there is a cure!**

By: Police Lt. (Ret.) & Chaplain M.C. Williams



It is once again time to take a fresh, wholly biblical approach to a "cancer" in our God-ordained profession: **police suicide**. So what does God have to say to us on this subject? And is there a "cure" for what ails us?

Each year in the United States alone, perhaps tens of thousands commit suicide, and maybe a million more attempt

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*In our police world, up to one officer a day takes their own life.*

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it. In our police world, up to one officer a day takes their own life. With such daunting numbers, what

help can we offer our police brethren? For ourselves? Why and how must we promote life and hope to those who seek death? Praise God, His Word -- the Bible -- gives us THE answers!

But what about medicine? Secular psychology? There is already an abundance of statistics, studies, articles and theories on our increasing suicide rates, including the issues of suicide in law enforcement and the military. Sadly, and legitimate mental health and medical conditions aside, there appears to be little in the way of a "cure" -- just ongoing and often ineffective "treatment" while our suicide rates continue to skyrocket.

In contrast, the real causes and solutions to our suicide problem can be found in God's Word. Accordingly, let's take a few minutes to explore what He has to say to us on this issue:

The Bible reveals that God gives life to all His creation (as Job said, “*In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind*” -- **Job 12:10**). Life is a gift from God and a stewardship entrusted to us for a time. Therefore we have a moral obligation to live and to promote (backup) the sanctity of life to others and for ourselves. Moreover, for the genuine, born again believer, the Bible tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit: “*Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*” (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**). The Lord Jesus also tells us, “*I have the keys of Death and Hades*” (**Revelation 1:18**), indicating His authority in life, death and eternal judgment. Clearly, to destroy oneself (self-murder) dishonors God and is in fact sin. But stay with me here -- real hope is forthcoming!

## Suicide and the Bible

The word *suicide* comes from the Latin *sui* (“of oneself”) and *caedere* (“to kill”). Thus the term refers to “the act or an instance of taking one’s own life voluntarily and intentionally.” One who dies in this way does so because he has willfully decided to die, contrives the means by which his death comes, and then carries out the fatal deed.

The Bible records just a few examples of those who either took their own lives or who were killed at their own request:

- Abimelech was a son of Gideon, a judge of Israel ([Judges 8:31](#)). After the death of his father, Abimelech ascended to political power in part by killing all but one of his 70 half-brothers ([9:5](#)). While engaged in a military campaign, he was severely wounded by a woman who dropped a heavy millstone on his head (verse 53). Abimelech asked his armor-bearer to kill him, “*Lest they say of me, ‘A woman killed him.’*” (verse 54). So the young man killed him with his sword, and Abimelech died as a judgment from God because of the murders of his brothers (verse 56).
- Saul served as the first king of Israel and Judah, but he disobeyed God in several ways and forfeited the kingdom. In his final battle with the Philistines, Saul was severely wounded and asked his armor-bearer to kill him, saying, “*Lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me*” ([1 Samuel 31:3–4](#)). When his assistant refused, Saul fell upon his own sword and died, followed by his armor-bearer (verse 5; [1 Chronicles 10:4–5](#)).
- Ahithophel served David as the king’s counselor ([1 Chronicles 27:33](#)), and his son Eliam was one of his 30 mighty men ([2 Samuel 23:34](#)). But when David’s son Absalom conspired to overthrow his father, Ahithophel joined Absalom’s coup ([2 Samuel 15:12, 31](#)). Ahithophel gave Absalom shrewd counsel which the new king initially followed. But when his recommendation about killing David urgently was not followed, he went home, set his house in order, and hanged himself ([17:23](#)).
- Zimri served Baasha, king of Israel, as a chariot commander, but he killed the king and his family and then ruled in his place ([1 Kings 16:9–11](#)). His reign lasted only a week before the people of Israel appointed Omri as king (verse 16), who consequently laid siege to the city in which Zimri had taken refuge (verse 17). Seeing his imminent defeat, Zimri “*went into the citadel of the king’s house and burned the king’s house over him with fire and died*” (verse 18).
- And then there is Judas Iscariot -- one of Jesus’ 12 disciples -- who betrayed Him ([Matthew 26:14–16, 20–25, 47–50](#)) before hanging himself. While we find biblical evidence of regret, there is no evidence that he ever repented and turned to Christ in faith.

The Bible also records several men who wished for death but were not granted their momentary yearning. In each case the Lord provided help and a greater mercy for them to continue living. These are cases not unlike what we experience as police officers.

- Job's situation was so bad that he regretted being born ([Job 3:11](#)) and asked “*Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?*” ([3:20–22](#)). But at the end of Job’s trial, God blessed him in incredible ways ([42:12–17](#)).
- Moses "the cop" asked the Lord for death because of his own inadequacy in caring for the immense burden of the people of Israel, saying, “*If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness*” ([Numbers 11:15](#)). In response, God did not kill him, but instead arranged for 70 assistants to help Moses lead and care for the people (verses 16–17, 24–25).
- The correctional officer of Philippi was about to kill himself when he assumed that his prisoners had escaped (a death penalty "IA" violation -- [Acts 16:27–28](#)). But Paul stopped him, saying, “*Do not harm yourself, for we are all here*” (verse [28](#)). Instead of death, the Lord brought salvation to the CO and his household (verses [30–34](#)).

In each case, God demonstrated His loving care and concern for people, His compassion, His abundant blessing, and His offer of salvation (a genuine, personal relationship with Him leading ultimately to eternal life in heaven). These men found God to be their “*refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*” ([Psalm 46:1](#)).

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***“the Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18).***

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God invites all people—especially those in desperate circumstances—to love, obey, and hold fast to him and thereby find life, for “*the Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves the*

*crushed in spirit*” ([Psalm 34:18](#)). Every person can become a redeemed child of God by repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith for their salvation ([the Gospel](#)). Death came into the world as a punishment for Adam’s sin of disobedience ([Genesis 2:16–17](#); [Romans 5:12](#)), and the appropriate penalty of sin against God is death ([Romans 6:23](#)). But Jesus, the perfect Son of God and the ultimate "cop," died in our place rose again to prove that He had conquered death for all who believe in Him ([John 3:16](#); [2 Corinthians 5:14–15](#)). We are saved not by what we do or don’t do, but by what Jesus Christ has done for us. Those who have trusted Christ have new reason to live in the present age and in eternity, as David said, *For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.* ([Psalm 56:13](#))



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*Those who have trusted Christ have new reason to live in the present age and in eternity.*

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Yes, what we do in law enforcement, especially in our current "war on cops" climate, brings about added elements that have a direct impact on our suicide issues.

Our own sin issues (yes, we're a mess) add to our problems. But we should take solace in knowing that ours is a God-ordained profession ([Romans 13:1-4](#), [Psalm 144:1](#)) and calling ([Psalm 82:3-4](#), [Isaiah 1:17](#)), and that He has a plan for our lives if we will but wholly surrender ourselves to Him as Lord and Savior. He is in fact "**The Cure**" for what ails us!

Now as I stated above, suicide is in fact a sin. But an unpardonable sin (as some "religious" groups falsely teach)? **No!** Should you ever commit suicide? **Absolutely NOT** (it is one of the most selfish things any human could ever do). Do some Christians (we're still sinners) commit suicide? Yes. Despair, sadness, addiction, pain, etc. are part of our human nature -- our "sin problem" -- and each of us must draw near to God in faith, repentance and hope that He **will** forgive us, restore us and help us through the difficulties of life. Our God is faithful!

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*Our God is faithful!*

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Think on this: do you really want your kids, spouse, partners/colleagues to find your dead body and have to deal with that fallout? To leave them without benefits and insurance (for example)? Brothers and sisters, this should be the very antithesis of who we are as cops! Beyond that, PLEASE don't take a step you can NEVER walk back ("*...just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment*" -- **Hebrews 9:27**). Reach out! Reach out to a trusted friend. Reach out to ME...I'm here for you. **More importantly, reach out to God** -- He WILL help you through whatever you're dealing with and help you to use if for His glory!

And then finally, it is vital that you understand the cure to both our sin and suicide problem begins with a genuine, life-saving and radically life-CHANGING personal relationship with God in Christ. Do you have that? If so, share your story with others. If not, keep reading for the why and the Who!

With that, PLEASE take the time to explore and share the following wholly biblical resources:

[What does the Bible \(God\) say about suicide?](#)

[Suicide and Salvation](#)

[Suicide From a Christian Perspective](#)

[Help for Those Fighting or Grieving a Suicide](#) (plethora of resources/links with this one).

With that, I'll close this study with the same invitation I give each week (again, life-saving "**backup**" that carries eternal ramifications). If you're reading this and have never surrendered in faith (been radically born again -- [John 3:1-21](#)) to Jesus Christ, please consider the following:

(1) Do you falsely believe that you can "earn" or otherwise "badge" your way into heaven and escape hell because you consider yourself to be a "**good**" cop or "good" person? That you can be "good" enough without God? Take the [Good Person Test](#) and see how you do!

(2) Jesus' first recorded words in His earthly ministry were and remain, "*Repent and believe in the Good News*" (**Mark 1:15**). To [repent](#) is a "180" -- a complete, **radical** change of mind and heart as it relates to our sin (as God defines it). To "believe" (*pisteuo* in the original Greek) as Jesus intends it here is to wholeheartedly trust and **surrender** your life to Him in faith in the same way we have "faith" that our body armor will do its job against the rounds it is intended to stop; that a well-maintained weapon will function properly when used in defense against criminals intent on destroying us or others; or that our parachute will open when it is supposed to (we stake our very lives on it)! For more, see [What does it mean to believe in Jesus?](#)

(3) This same concept of "**believe**" (the saving kind) is further revealed in [John 3:1-21](#) where Jesus says, "... *you must be born again*." Again, note our Lord's emphasis on the word "**must**" (not "may" or "should" or even "someday"): this is ultimately the life-saving AND life-changing personal relationship (and NOT "religion") with Jesus Christ that I stress here every week (see [What does it mean to be a born again Christian?](#) [hint -- there is no other kind]). Folks, it is only through this miraculous event that we can be made "righteous" before a just and Holy God and thus become part of His family.

(4) NOW then, with this in place, go to: [How can I be saved?](#)

(5) Need more? Then check out this powerful, short video message shared by my fellow "radical," Maj. **Travis Yates**: [Cops and Salvation](#).

(6) Have you now said "yes" to Jesus as Lord and Savior but are wondering what to do next? The "now what" is also an important part in dealing with the issues that can lead to suicide and sin in general. Click on, [Now what?](#)

Questions? Need more backup? I'm here to **serve** -- [contact me](#).

Radically yours,  
MC



[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. Led by MC Williams, TCLEM is affiliated with the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – USA, and provides Bible-based support, fellowship and accountability for officers worldwide. TCLEM also seeks to infuse Christian servant-leadership into the policing profession and equip the Christian officer to boldly share and live the Gospel.



## In Memoriam

On June 5, 2019, FCPO associate member Jan Howlett, the beloved wife of long-time FCPO member Ross Howlett (ex-Toronto Metro PD), passed into the presence of her Lord and Saviour, after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

Many will remember Jan and Ross were very active with FCPO in years gone by. A number may remember them for their trumpet solos at some of our events.

Jan loved and served the Lord Jesus Christ throughout her entire adult life. Ross and Jan had been married and totally devoted to one another for over 46 years.

Jan authored "[The Treasure of His Company](#)" a compilation of her poetry, artwork, inspirational stories and Scripture. Jan was also a noted watercolor artist containing Scripture, as well as a Bible speaker to women in churches and beyond.

Jan founded Garments for the Gospel distributing thousands of clothing items and stuffed bears to needy children around the world. Jan was also co-founder, along with her husband Ross, of Feeding His Lambs Ministries Canada.

### [Jan Howlett Obituary](#)



## 100 Holes of Golf!

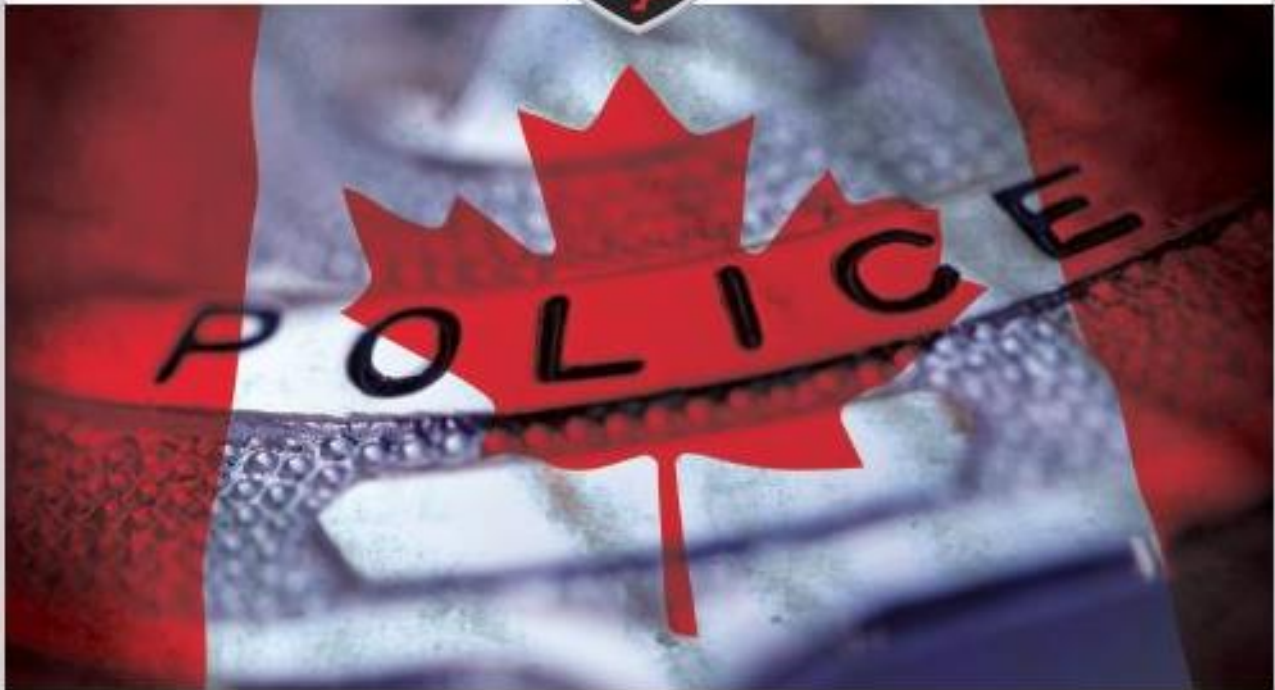
On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, Golf Warrior and long-time FCPO member Steve Rowe got up at the crack of dawn and played 100 Holes of Golf! Golf is very enjoyable when you're playing 18 holes, but when your target is 100 holes, that's a different story! Steve loves golf, but he loves the vision of getting the Peacemakers book into hands of peace officers across Canada even more! Thanks to a number of generous pledges, Steve raised \$4,260.68 for Project Sword! A huge "thank you" to Steve and all donors who supported his herculean effort. What a great start to our fundraising need!



NOV. 3-4, 2019



KANANASKIS VILLAGE, AB



## CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RETREAT

### KNOWING THE GOD WHO PROTECTS AND SERVES

In appreciation for your service, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team invites you—and your spouse—to the Canadian Law Enforcement Retreat. Come be encouraged by speakers who will discuss the unique issues faced by officers' families and share insights from God's Word.

**Check-in begins Sunday, Nov. 3 at 3:00 p.m. | Sessions begin at 4:30 p.m.**

**Retreat ends Monday, Nov. 4 at 4:00 p.m.**

Location: *Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge*  
1 Centennial Dr., Kananaskis Village, AB T0L 2H0

\$200/individual

\$225/couple

(cost includes lodging, food, sessions, and materials)

*For more information, visit [BillyGraham.ca/CLER](http://BillyGraham.ca/CLER) to register today.*

**BILLY  
GRAHAM**  
*Rapid Response Team*

"HE GUARDS THE PATHS OF THE JUST AND PROTECTS THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO HIM." —PROVERBS 2:8, NLT

# Servant Leadership

By: [Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn, Brandon Police Service Chaplain](#)



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

Will a promotion change how you perceive yourself, or will your perception lead to a change in the administration of your newly acquired leadership role? I find myself writing on a subject I have little experience in; however, I have been inspired to enter this conceptual realm of “promotion and leadership” as a result of two recent interactions with two different Patrol Staff Sergeants.

In my 29th year of policing, I am a member of the league jokingly referred to in policing circles as the CFL – “Constable For Life”. It is not a bad thing, and it is not a lonely place; in February, a constable assigned to the Community Policing Unit retired with 29.5 years of dedicated service. He logged over 200 notebooks in his career, documenting thousands of community contacts through his various roles of service and protection. On the day of his departure (Feb 20th), one of our younger officers remarked, “there goes one of the good guys”. Grant served with excellence and a positive attitude, generating a great appreciation for him

within our community and our Service. Although a CFL’er, he had a sphere of influence within which he was a leader, albeit without the title of Sergeant, or Staff Sergeant, Inspector or Chief. His presence is missed by our BPS family and our community. Grant demonstrated with excellence a facet of leadership within policing. The focus of my writing will be on a different sphere of influence: a leadership role resulting from promotion of rank.

In February, I hosted a Brandon Ministerial Association meeting at BPS. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to providing a tour through the building and interacting with staff from different departments and functions. It began with a warm welcome from Chief Balcaen and concluded with the area I specialize in – forensics. I am pleased to share that the highlight for the ministers was neither my area nor what I shared; it was an impromptu meeting with a Staff Sergeant in charge of the platoon of the day. Well spoken, and articulate, this S/SGT explained the workings of a platoon from the aspect of first responders all the way through to the function of Crisis Negotiators and Incident Command. He generically shared some enlightening experiences stemming from his roles and responsibilities. All of this was impressive to the listeners but the strategic aspects of policing took a back stage when he began to talk of how his main function was to look after those under him – to serve those whom he leads. He perceives his role to include everything from encouraging and nurturing career development in his officers, to their psychological wellbeing

after traumatic calls. BPS has an Employee Wellness Team and a Chaplain, but I agree with his statement that the caregiving begins on the front line with defusing and debriefing. A relationship of trust between the operational S/SGT and his officers can go a long way to preventing long term distress while promoting mental wellness. I have heard this S/SGT counsel officers, and in my role as Chaplain, I have heard from officers that he has made a difference in their mental wellness. When working weekends, as calls for service allow, there is a platoon sit down breakfast. I made the remark to this S/SGT that although he does not see himself as a pastor, his heart demonstrates the servant nature of a pastor to those under his watch. He is demonstrating the model of Servant Leadership.

Two days later, a different S/SGT came to me bearing a printout of a screen shot of an email message that was shared with him by an Inspector of the Fredericton Police Force. These two officers connected while on course together at CPC Ottawa. I was delighted to read that the author of the email was one of my colleagues, a CPCA Chaplain serving the Fredericton PF, and with whom I connected with at a CPCA conference in Orillia in 2018. Chaplain Verner Drost had sent an email to his Inspector to encourage him through sharing a Bible scripture and an interpretation of the passage. We are all aware of the tragic shooting deaths of Constables Robb Costello (45 years young with 20 years of service), and Sara Burns (43 years young with 2 years of service) on August 10, 2018. The Fredericton Police Force leadership shoulder the role of nurturing back to health a police service that has been forever affected by the violent loss of two family members. This

daily struggle for the officers is not something that continues to make the National news headlines. No longer is the shooting at the forefront of the minds of Canadians outside of NB; yet the need to keep these women and men in daily prayer is more imperative now than ever as the staff battle daily with the aftermath of this tragedy.

Our BPS S/SGT shared with me that he and the FPF Inspector had discussed how promotions to positions of rank authority affect changes within the individual officer; this takes us back to my opening question: “will a promotion change how you perceive yourself, or will your perception lead to a change in the administration of your leadership role?” It was within this context that the FPF Inspector shared how deeply the email from his chaplain had touched him. In exchange for his sharing, our BPS S/SGT discovered the answer to a question he was pondering; it struck a chord of revelation and truth and meaning to him. The emailed message by Chaplain Verner was entitled “Servant leadership”.

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***“WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME  
GREAT AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR  
SERVANT” MATTHEW 20:26 GW***

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The email begins with this scripture found in Matthew 20:25-28 (GW); *“Jesus called the apostles and said, “You know that the rulers of nations have absolute power over people and their officials have absolute authority over people. But that’s not the way it’s going to be among you. Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant. Whoever wants to be most important among you will be your slave. It’s the same way with the Son of Man. He*



*didn't come so that others could serve him. He came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many people."*

Following the scripture, the chaplain shared his interpretation of servant leadership based upon what Jesus modeled. Chaplain Verner Drost wrote: "It's all about servant leadership! It's a serve first approach versus a lead first approach (which is about power and position). A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and wellbeing of people to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the exercise of power by one at the "top of the pyramid," servant leadership is

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***The servant-leader puts the needs and well-being of others first and helps them develop and perform at their best."***

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different. The servant-leader puts the needs and well-being of others first and helps them develop and perform at their best." Our BPS S/SGT said the explanation of the scripture was what touched him the most. The servant leadership role is what church leadership should be modelling and was directed to model by Jesus who first introduced it over 2000 years ago. However, for leaders outside of church settings, this may be a new concept. For many outside the church who were exposed to the messes "the church" has made over the past 2000 years, they may have a legitimate disdain for any of the practices in operation by church leaders. Until eleven years ago, I was one of those with a flavor of disdain for church leaders because I didn't understand that what I had witnessed in operation was not based upon the Biblical teachings of Jesus but mans' manipulation

of scripture and misinterpretations. I painted all churches with the same brush until I received revelation through the Holy Spirit of how God intended man to operate, not only within churches but within society; this being servant leaders.

A wonderful conversation took place after the S/SGT had shared the email. We shared about some past church experiences and because of Chaplain Verner's correspondence, I was able to continue the conversation regarding servant leadership. Servant leadership was best modelled through Jesus himself. He presented it to his disciples through acts of humility like washing their feet, mentoring them in the Word of God, and ultimately giving his life as a sacrifice to all mankind so that our relationship with our Creator could be restored. Although police officers may never wash each other's feet, there are many examples of officers giving their lives to protect those they have sworn to serve - Fredericton being one recent example. As a police officer promoted to a higher office of Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, or Chief, the example of a servant leader is one who seeks to invest themselves in the lives of the officers under them. This challenges other leaders within the police service to grow in excellence through service; the result is the establishing and nurturing of a culture of honor. When an officer of superior rank comes alongside lower ranking officers and invests in them through a heart to serve their needs, honor is cultivated. When a ranking officer connects through text or email with an officer who is on a difficult course, or is off due to illness, or is facing a difficult family situation, honour and respect and admiration are cultivated. These are only a few examples of meeting the needs of fellow officers. Unfortunately, there are leaders of rank

within police agencies who seldom come by the Unit they oversee to greet and converse with the constables within that Unit - this does not bode well with the constables.

A key point is that the servant leaders give of themselves to meet the needs, but not necessarily the wants, of the other officers. Jesus met the needs of all those who came to him; Jesus healed all those who were sick and oppressed, he cast out demons, raised the dead, fed multitudes, and even in his greatest time of need (the beheading of his close friend and cousin John the Baptist), He put other's needs before his own. However, those who approached him wanting to see a miraculous sign, or to maintain or gain worldly wealth, he dismissed.

Reverting back once again to my opening question; the way you perceive your role upon promotion will make an immense difference of how you evolve as a leader during your service in that role. If you perceive leadership as a means of attaining a level of greatness in your policing career, you will be introspective and look to serve your needs and wants above all others. You will look to others to honor you and praise your works as you operate from a position of power authority. However, if you perceive promotion as an opportunity to model servant leadership, you will find yourself ensuring the needs of the other officers are met in mental wellness, career development, job satisfaction, and other areas. This will in turn generate a culture of honor from which expressed respect comes without solicitation, and excellence becomes the standard that those under you want to achieve just because of the way

you have served them. The greatest example of this again is Jesus. In the years that followed his ascension into Heaven, his disciples sacrificed their lives to continue His teachings; many were martyred for their faith. Over two thousand years later, the faith movement continues as martyrs are slain in certain countries for following the teachings of Jesus and professing His name. His teachings live on in our hearts and bear witness to his very words, "Whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant."

A servant leadership approach has the potential to change dynamics within both the leader and the recipient. Within the leader, a servant leadership focus is an antidote for the pride that comes from operating from a position of a power mindset. The antidote instead promotes humility within the leader as they put others needs first. In return, over time, the Members' perception of leadership will change. A better workplace will be cultivated where honor rises up to quiet the grumblings of the disgruntled and disengaged officers. These officers will continue to reduce in number over time.

Thank you to the two Staff Sergeants who inspired me to write this devotional; I appreciated our conversations. Thank you to the Fredericton PF Inspector, the BPS S/SGT, and Chaplain Verner for giving me permission and inspiration to share on a subject I have little experience in within the policing culture. My deepest gratitude goes to our Lord Jesus for His teachings and the revelation of servant leadership through the Holy Spirit. All glory and honor to the Lord.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear FCPO,

Greetings in our Saviour's great name! Many thanks for the last issue of the Peacemaker. I have enjoyed reading each and every issue, but congratulations and glory and praise be to God – this last issue was superb! I read it from cover to cover in one sitting!

Again, many thanks.

With love in Christ,

Ruth Bell  
Ottawa, ON

## Distribution Experience

By: Cst. John Wright, Atlantic Director



Cst. John Wright

The distribution of the Peacemakers I was sent for St. John Police Force was an amazing experience, both the way my faith was pushed and the way in which I could see the Lord working through this initiative.

I was able to speak with some officers about their personal journeys with God. A number of them immediately placed the bibles in the pockets of their vests.

It was such an encouraging experience to see people I have known for years and having them open up and even discuss their faith with me. I can't wait to see where the Lord takes us through Project Sword and how many people are reached through this much needed project!

*Editor's note: We are blessed that John has stepped up to be our Atlantic Director. Thanks for recently distributing a quantity of the Peacemakers bible to officers in St. John, New Brunswick.*



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# Failing Forward

By: S/Sgt. Steve Rowe (Rtd.)



Steve & Doreen Rowe

promoted to a corporal. For that time period, I was considered somewhat of a “late bloomer”, but by 11 years later when I retired in 1992, I had achieved the rank of staff sergeant! Every police officer will tell you that somewhere along their career path they had adversity, but the successful ones overcame and “*failed forward*”.

In life, “Failure is not Final”. Embrace adversity and make failure a regular part of your life. If you’re not failing, you’re probably not really moving forward or growing (JM). One of the best keys to learning from failure is being honest. Too often people blame others or blame woulda, coulda or shoulda.

Never forget life is a journey (a marathon) not a 100 yard dash. Never let worry consume your thoughts. Worry is interest paid in advance for something you may never own. Why worry about things you can’t control when you can keep yourself busy controlling the things that depend on you (JM)? Also, always keep in mind that the Lord said: “*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*” Matthew 11: 28-30 and “*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*” Psalm 55:22

A great example of “Failing Forward” is this year’s Stanley Cup champions, the St. Louis Blues. The Blues were dead last in their division at Christmas, but on June 13<sup>th</sup> they won the Stanley Cup!

One of my favorite authors is John Maxwell. He has always been a leading edge leadership coach. John’s writing is practical, simple and always has hilarious stories. In his book ***Failing Forward: Turning Mistakes into Stepping Stones for Success***, I still remember John stating: “*when you get knocked down in life, before you get up, take 3 seconds and ask yourself what can I learn from this*”.

My career was with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). I joined in 1967, and retired in 1992. Although promotion was not always foremost in my mind, like many members, it was something I thought I should strive for. By 1981, I was still a constable, while by then, many of my colleagues with the same service had attained the rank of corporal. Although I enjoyed my job, I felt frustrated by the promotion system and by my failed attempts at promotion. It took me 14 years to get

The Blues turned adversity into opportunity and Failed Forward. And for all the Leaf and Oiler fans, yes there is hope!

In Philippians 3:14, the Bible speaks about “Pressing towards the mark/goal”.

Committed disciples will always attempt to press towards the mark/goal. This is our goal, our mandate and life’s calling. Life is often not fair and people will say “why do bad things happen to good people?” Aren’t you glad that you are not God. God always keeps score and has final authority. When failure comes, always keep a good attitude. “Your attitude, more than your aptitude, will determine your altitude” (JM).

When failure comes don’t be a lone ranger, don’t isolate yourself. Contact your good friend, someone you trust, who can speak into your life and help you through your **“failing forward.”** Failures are momentary pauses of life, and remember: *“There is no achievement without failure (JM)”*. *“Every successful person is someone who failed, yet never regarded themselves as a failure (JM)”*.

July is almost over and August is just around the corner. Perhaps July, or even 2019 has been a time of failure. Remember: “Failure is not Final”. You may feel like Joseph in the Bible who was thrown into a pit by his brothers. If you are in a pit, get ready because you are about to **“fail forward”** and something unexpected is about to happen and happen for your good!

My monthly book recommendation is: John Maxwell’s [“Failing Forward: Turning Mistakes into Stepping Stones for Success”](#).

Steve Rowe



**United Way**

## Reminder

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

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Chapter #232

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**TACTICAL PREPARATION FOR TRIUMPH ...**

**"THE GOOD FIGHTERS OF OLD FIRST PUT THEMSELVES BEYOND THE POSSIBILITY OF DEFEAT..." - SUN TZU**

*featuring*

**KRIS "TANTO" PARONTO**

Kris is a former Army Ranger from 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment and private security contractor who has deployed throughout South America, Central America, the Middle East and North Africa. He also worked with the US Government's Global Response Staff conducting low profile security in high threat environments throughout the world. Mr. Paronto was part of the CIA annex security team that responded on the US Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya, September 11th, 2012, helping to save over 20 lives while fighting off terrorists from the CIA Annex for over 13 hours. Mr. Paronto's story is told in the book "13 Hours" written by Mitchell Zuckoff and his five surviving annex security team members.



**CHAD AND KATHY ROBICHAUX**

Chad Robichaux is a former New Orleans area law enforcement officer who served his country proudly as a Special Operations Force Recon Marine. He served on a JSOC Task Force on 8 deployments to Afghanistan in the War on Terror, and had a successful career as a Pro MMA Champion. Despite those achievements, Chad faced many hardships that eventually left his marriage and family life in shambles. Yet this dark season led to discoveries that have allowed the Robichauchs to bring hope to many. Come hear their story and receive strength to overcome your greatest challenges as a LE Couple.

**CHIEF STEWART AND LACI STEELE**

A 35 year veteran of LE, Stewart Steele serves as Chief of the Rio Rancho (NM) PD. He and his wife Laci have experienced numerous critical incidents over the years which eventually took their toll on their family, - at one point, completely dissolving their marriage. Today, Stewart and Laci are strong advocates and mentors for LEOs and their families. Come and hear of the hope they've found and the principles for success they've learned in their 26+ years of marriage. Don't miss it!!



**JESSICA GONEY**

Jessica never dreamt of marrying a cop. Crazy schedules, shift work, numerous positions, two children ... she fully supported her man in a job she didn't really understand. Joining a nationwide wives support group; a sisterhood of those who did "get it" made all the difference ... especially 8+ years into her marriage when her husband walked out of her life. His departure caused her to get brutally honest with herself about LE marriage. Rather than get bitter, she resolved to affect change and help keep others from becoming victims of the profession! She wants your relationship to thrive!

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[jim.bontrager@elkhartpolice.org](mailto:jim.bontrager@elkhartpolice.org)

[Click here](#) for details





## 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.

### *Integrity in Today's Society*

*This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker [archives](#): Winter, 1994 issue*



Deputy Chief Mark Kroeker

Mark Kroeker is a Deputy of the Los Angeles Police Department. He is no stranger to Canada or the FCPO. He has been to many of our functions and has spoken on many subjects that affect individuals, groups, institutions and societies. He is an expert in the field of Law Enforcement and a great person. Mark is intrigued with integrity, he would have us believe that he is no special or anointed speaker and says that "I'm a policeman and I am always a little bit restless if anxiety hits." It has been an "unbelievable 2 ½ years" for him. About a week after the Rodney King incident occurred in the Foothill Division, he was assigned to that area and from that moment to date, his life was 100% immersed in that infamy which brought incredible attention to his department. However, he said "we are Christians, we grow through this, we were never promised a rose garden."

His faith was tested as he stood quietly before God who gave him incredible peace when he faced a room full of television cameras and hostile questions. "God will never fail us and He has never failed me", he said.

As a result of what happened, he noticed a rippling effect as he travelled around the world. What this is doing he said, is "calling upon us as law enforcement officers for a tremendous amount of leadership initiatives and moving to the positives. Beyond that it is more important for those of us in leadership and those who are Christians, to show initiative.

We are either in the stand or we are on the playing field", claiming that there are three kinds of people. "People who watch what happen, people who make things happen and people who don't know what is happening."

It was beginning to look like a classroom, as he took out his marker, he said "there is a big difference between leadership and management and the world is calling on people to be leaders." "A manager does things right and a leader does the right things." The reaction was one of anticipation as all were glued to Mark. It was beginning to sink in; that in the world of Christian heritage, we need people who are willing to do the right things and people who are willing to be the right leaders for every case in life.

Whenever Mark is called to a scene, he is known for asking two questions; "who is in charge and where is the command post." Why? According to him, "someone has to be in charge and it has to be a location from which he (she) takes command."

He said that effective leaders can be analysed as being ambitious, self-confident, independent, energetic, some with a great personality and poise and have a goal orientation. But through the glasses of Christian spiritual life, they would be in direct contradiction to the fruit of the Spirit, which is; meekness, temperance, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, I goodness, faith."

He elaborated on the different styles of leadership and the ones we look for, especially young people who look for role models in athletes, celebrities and those who have a lot of money until they realize that all their heroes just fold because they do not have the character that makes them heroes.

But what is character? To him it is something that people should emulate as they look for a role model. "Integrity is what makes character, and integrity is produced by having the outer limit of the absolute that makes the distinction of who the person is."

We have a habit of elevating our politicians, athletes, entertainers and even church leaders and they fail us, but he said; "the quiet person who is diligent, who is faithful, who is a prayer warrior is the one we pay no attention to, but that person is a hero and we missed it!

We missed it!" He said with disgust; "We're taught the big lie about a hero who has stardom mentality."

"I have been to several conferences, they've all been great but there is something good about the way this one has been put together, the organizers, they are heroes. When all is said and done there is only one hero."

Then he showed the differences between organizational charts with emphasis on the standard "Pyramidal Chart." All surrounding the person at the top. In his studies, he discovered one thing that was common to all, they were ego based; based on the leader's importance.

He made reference to Acts 17:6 *"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also"* to emphasize and show that an upside down chart is the only successful one where the people who are doing the job are right at the top and of primary importance to the organization. He said, "instead of putting the organization on the shoulders of those trying to do the work, now it's on their shoulders." What a difference, looking up and saying -what can I do for you instead of what can I do to you? He went again to the Bible to give the principle functions of leadership.



1). "The leader is to **SUPPORT** the people doing the job." His own experience taught him that he did not always listen to the people "trying to do things right" and no one supporting them, citing 1 Peter 5: 2 for the duty of a leader.

2). "**SERVE THEM**, leadership with a servant's heart." Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if every leader, Political, Government and Business had a heart of a servant; if they knew what it was to minister to the people doing the work; if they ask the people what can I bring you, waiting on their table instead of expecting someone to pour their water? That's the heart of a leader, he said. How do I know? "I know because that's the heart of Jesus" referring to Mark 10:35-40.

3). How do you lead? "**BY EXAMPLE**" The definition of a Christian leader is one who is "humble by attitude" "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col: 3 :23). "Leadership is serving Christ through people. When it's done in that way, you can add in law enforcement, it doesn't matter where you are", he said.

Mark studied all the godly leaders in the Bible and their characteristics and discovered one which stands out is **INTEGRITY**.



Organizational disasters take place, things go wrong, things come apart as he has had it thrown back in his face. "You have a policy that is the official one, that's the ripped one; then you have the spoken policy, the

interpreted one; the Implemented one, and that's the one done.

When you have policies that are different from those interpreted and those that are done you have dissidence in the organization and that's the problem."

Are Christians any different? Mark believes that we have something that is written, something that we interpret and then do something entirely different. Our procedural guideline is the Bible. When you don't do what is written, what is interpreted then there is dissidence and then we earn the right to be called the worse word in the English language **HYPOCRITE**.

So what does Mark tell us is the one word we're looking for in leadership? "**INTEGRITY**."

"Integrity is having one policy, it is having harmony rather than dissidence. If we have hypocrisy in leadership then everything is rendered useless. The world is looking for a leader with integrity. Leaders fall because they have lost integrity."

Jesus Christ had the ultimate integrity, He did everything he said he would do. He came, did what he said he would accomplish and never broke the rules. He lived a human life to show us how to do it. He was the man of integrity.

Mark, in his closing remarks reminded us to "not to look at Kroeker, I hope I never let you down; I pray that all the leaders in the FCPO won't let you down and I hope you won't let your children down. If you do it will be the problem of integrity and so here is the summary: **LEADERSHIP SERVING CHRIST.**"

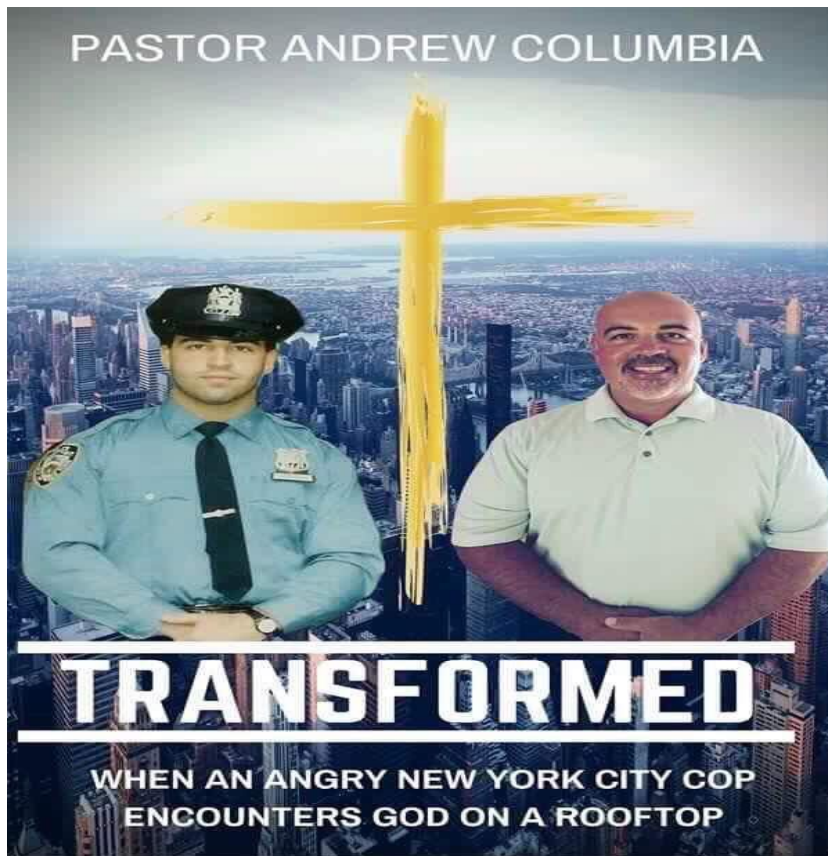


# Special Services - Burlington, ON

FCPO - Canada would like to invite you and your family, to join us on any of the following dates:

**July 25, 26, or 27, 2019, 7:00 PM**

Location: 4691 Palladium Way in Burlington, just off the 407 at Appleby Line.



We will hear from a wonderful speaker Pastor Andrew Columbia. A native New Yorker who was in Brooklyn and grew up in Staten Island. He became a New York City Police Officer, where he served ten years in the 9th precinct in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, affectionately known as “The Fighting Ninth!” The fights on the street couldn’t prepare him for the fight for his salvation and coming to know our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Andrew was the former pastor of New Beginnings Church in Jamison, PA, for 15 years. He is a chaplain with the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team. Andrew continues to speak to Law Enforcement and

their spouses across the country. Andrew has a heart for evangelizing and pastoring. In November 2017, Andrew joined MCB Church in Carmel, NY, where he is serving as senior pastor.

**Click to here view → [Video Andrew’s Testimony](#)**



25TH ANNUAL

# LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER APPRECIATION DAY

ALL ACTIVE DUTY LAW ENFORCEMENT, JAIL, AND SAFETY OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO A FREE DAY IN THEIR HONOR WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY SACRIFICES THEY MAKE ON OUR BEHALF.

**SATURDAY 10.19.2019, 10:30AM - 8:00PM**

Rifle/Pistol/Skeet/Cannon/Machine Gun Shoot Hummer Off Road Rides  
Drive By Shooting Competition (airsoft) Gourmet Food Knife/Tomahawk/Battle Axe/Spear Throwing  
Children's Bounce Houses, Crafts, and Activities Helicopter Rides Door Prizes Archery  
Obstacle Course Fishing Competition Canoeing Fun For The Whole Family

## INDIVIDUAL SHOOTING COMPETITION

5 Stages: Rifle, pistol, cannon, machine gun, skeet

1st Place: \$200 CASH

Reigning Champ: Kevin Bernard, Philadelphia (PA) PD

## ULTIMATE WARRIOR COMPETITION

Shooting stages plus knife throwing, tomahawk throwing, battle axe throwing, spear throwing, archery and military obstacle course time trial.

Winner: Floating broad sword trophy

Reigning Champ: Gery Mullins, South Bend (IN) Police Dept.

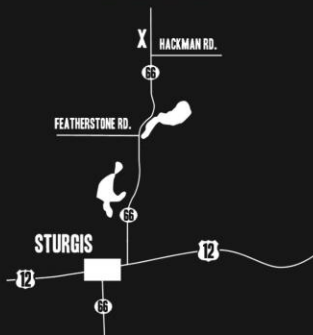
## 3 MAN SHOOTING COMPETITION

Same stages as individual competition

Winner: 6' floating trophy. Reigning Champs: Ken Cerny - MI DNR,  
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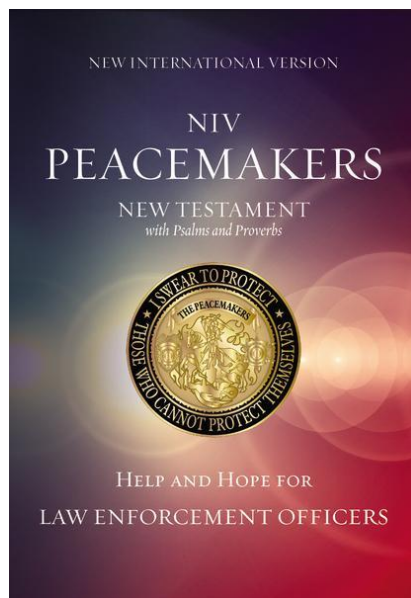


For More Information contact:

Jim Bontrager (email) [jim.bontrager@elkhartpolice.org](mailto:jim.bontrager@elkhartpolice.org)  
or Joe Reed (email) [joe@thankyouofficers.com](mailto:joe@thankyouofficers.com)

[Click here](#) to watch a video of this amazing event – You need to go!





# PROJECT SWORD

The Bible tells us to put on the whole armour of God, which includes the “sword of the Spirit” (which is the word of God). Our vision is to proactively offer a free “sword” in the form of this pocket-sized PEACEMAKERS book to every peace officer in Canada.

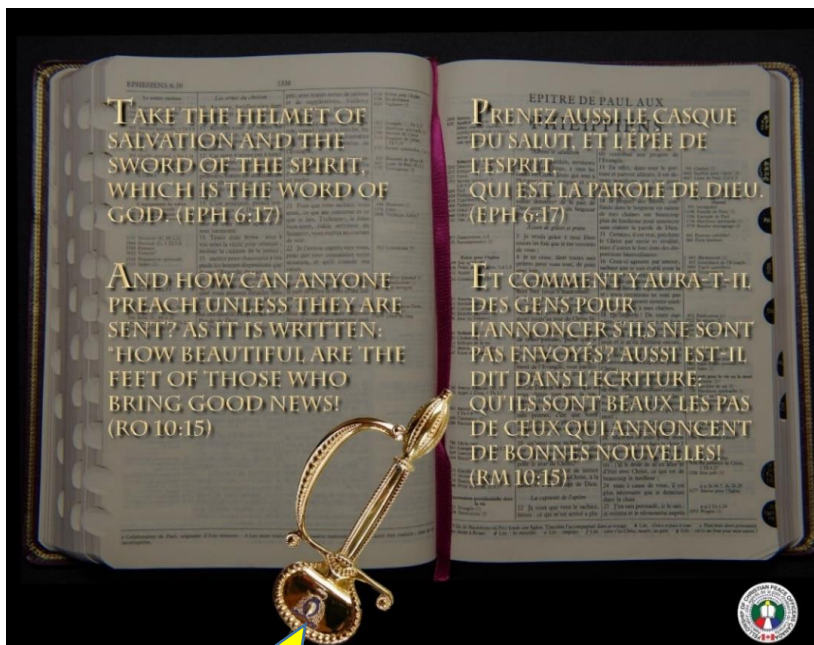
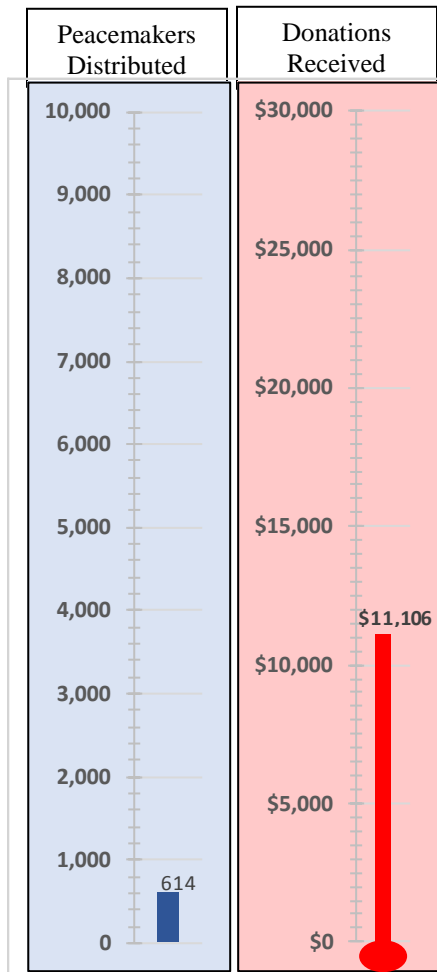
*Critical incidents, car chases, domestic violence, drug gangs, highway fatalities-all police men and women face daily. This is not to mention changing sleep patterns and odd family schedules. Let this NIV Peacemakers New Testament give police officers hope, courage, and wisdom as they face dangers everyday. Includes the New Testament and Psalms with Proverbs from the New International Version, helpful articles by cops and chaplains, and a clear gospel message.*

Please pray for this important project.

As of: July 16, 2019

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