



August, 2020 From the President's Desk



We have been going through some difficult times lately, but I'll repeat what I wrote in the last issue: *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness*. Isaiah 41:10. Sometimes we need to hear that often!

We are saddened by those who chose to use violence and criminality to bring unrest to communities. In this issue we are featuring some articles which focus on this troubling trend, including a touching open letter from a police officer's wife, and a

link to a former US officer's perspective on the unrest in the US.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest, we experienced <u>Canada's worst mass shooting</u>. We can never understand such things, but we can still stand firm in our faith, and realize that no matter what -



Artwork used with the with the generous permission of the artist, Silvia Pecota

our hope is in following Jesus.

Someday we will have an understanding, but until then, we must take time to mourn and pay tribute to the memories of those that were murdered including one of our own.

We dedicate this issue to Constable Heidi Stevenson and the other victims that lost their lives because of evil in the heart of one man.

God bless,

Ron



Click here to view a moving tribute to Constable Stevenson by FCPO member William Wang

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Learning to Trust in Difficult Times

By: Dino Doria, Ontario Director



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd)

In this issue's devotional I would like to share how the Lord teaches us how to "Trust in His Promises". When we understand how to trust in the author of life then we experience His Comfort and Hope. He is our Heavenly Father.

The Lord knew that in this life we would have trials, and difficult times. "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]" John 16:33 Amplified Bible So how do we trust in the Lord?

Defining the word "Trust": "To believe in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of." As we commit ourselves on a daily basis to read the Word of

God, He reveals Himself to us. His Word strengthens our faith and our resolve to trust Him even more. Learning how to trust in the Lord is knowing who He really is. The Lord delights in our praises and enjoys a relationship with us. When we say we trust in the Lord and then place our trust in our actions and intellect, we are really deceiving ourselves and inadvertently calling God a liar negating His promises and sovereign power. The Author of life wants us to ask for His help - His Strength - His Guidance - His Comfort and His Peace regardless of the situation we are in. So how do we trust?

We learn to trust in His Strength and not ours. We learn to rely on His Word, Power and not ours. We are weak but He is strong - His Word declares it. When we rest in His Word, His Promises, and in His Sovereignty, His Peace is manifested in our circumstances and we can boldly state; "It is well with my soul!". *"For with the heart a person believes* (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) *and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he* confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) *and confirms* [his] *salvation*". Romans 10: 10

The Bible is clear, the promises that God has declared will come to pass regardless of the situation - whether they come to pass in this life or in the life to come. One Thing Remains "God cannot lie" - "His Word will never return Void". *"So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it".* Isaiah 55:11 - 12

So be encouraged today! Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to Trust in His Word, Strength & Peace. Trust in His Promises and you will find that His Peace is Real when you surrender all to our Saviour. The Scripture says: "*No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed*". Romans10:11

God bless,

Dino



Hold the Line!

Encouragement and support in the midst of our greatest crisis.

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



Lt. MC Williams (Ret.) & Chaplain

Let's be real: we're **discouraged!** As the antipolice pundits are calling for the dismantling of our God-ordained profession in the wake of George Floyd's death (and wickedly and falsely attacking us for simply carrying our calling), many of us are contemplating retirement or otherwise turning in our shields. Perhaps never before in our history have the attacks on us -mental, physical and spiritual -- been so fierce.

So how are we to respond? More importantly, how would God have us respond? Fellow officer (and those who love us), take heart! God has NOT abandoned us, He is not surprised by any of this and He will lead us to overwhelming victory against the forces of evil arrayed against us as we surrender to Him in faith.

Let's look at 3 short points:

First, understand that our God-given calling and authority under **Romans 13:1-4** has not been vacated (regardless of what the pundits and politicians are telling you). But yes, we are in fact in a battle against Satan and his legions for the very existence of our God-ordained profession (and our nation along with it). He literally HATES all we stand for (our <u>Law</u> <u>Enforcement Code of Ethics</u> and biblical calling is like acid in his throat). Where do we see this in Scripture? For starters, turn to 2 **Thessalonians 2** (the "man of lawlessness") and then see <u>"Signs of the End Times"</u> from Billy and Franklin Graham.

Secondly, know that God Himself is calling us to "hold the line" both physically and spiritually. Frankly, we don't have much control over how we can (or can't) respond physically right now (we've been "handcuffed" to be sure). spiritually speaking, this **battle** is But ultimately the Lord's and He is calling us --His faithful -- to stand firm in Him by taking up the armor and weapons -- the whole Armor of God -- that He has given us. While I've taught on this many times before, let's see again what He is commanding us to do in Ephesians 6:10-18 ESV (added emphasis):

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Put on the whole **armor of God**, that you may be able **to stand** against the schemes of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm.**

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance...

Finally (v. 10 above), God wants Christians (Is that you?) to lean on Him and be **ENCOURAGED** even in the midst of this crisis (and those that will follow). What does that look like?

As believers, our hearts should break for what breaks Jesus' heart, and we mourn with those who mourn.

As believers, our hearts should break for what breaks Jesus' heart, and we mourn with those who mourn. But as we do - keeping our eyes on Jesus by praying, regular fellowship with other believers and staying in God's Word - we can find **hope and encouragement** for the future. Here then are just a few (of many) passages of Scripture for us "train" on in these dark times:

(1) "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" -- Jeremiah 29:11

Now the context is important here: this was a specific promise for God's chosen people in the midst of their captivity. And verse 10 makes it clear that it would be another 70 years before this promise would come to fruition (meaning pretty much all who originally heard it would be dead by the time it was fulfilled). But the meaning for us who have been born again in Christ today is that this is ultimately about the establishment of His perfect, <u>earthly Kingdom</u> for a 1000 years and then with Him in Heaven for eternity.

(2) "He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." -1 Peter 1:3-4

(3) For the born again believer, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." — Philippians 3:20

(4) "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing." — Zephaniah 3:17

(5) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." — Romans 15:13

(6) "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." — Isaiah 40:31

(7) "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you." — Psalm 39:7

(8) *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* -- Romans 12:12

(9) "The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." — **Romans 8:18**

(10) "Behold, I am coming soon...Come quickly, Lord Jesus" — Revelation 22:12, 20

(11) "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." — Romans 15:4

(12) "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." — Revelation 21:4

AMEN!!

And who are these promises for? To whom is our Lord addressing encouragement and hope? **ONLY** those who have in fact been **born again** in Christ alone (**John 3:1-21**, **14:6**). Likewise, for those who insist on rejecting Christ as Lord and Savior, there is no hope whatsoever (hell -- by their own choosing).

Let's **HOLD** the LINE behind Christ our Captain who will lead us to <u>ultimate victory</u>!

MC The Centurion Law Enforcement Ministry



<u>The Centurion Law Enforcement Ministry</u> is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian outreach by, for and about law enforcement (police, deputies, investigators, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and military personnel. TCLEM is affiliated with the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) and 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.

The COVID-19 Response

By: Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn, Brandon Police Service Chaplain



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

The responses of individuals to the Covid-19 pandemic have been diverse, and why should this be a surprise considering the degrees of diversity and uniqueness that exist in our Creator God? While some human responses appear girded in wisdom with a focus on reduced social interaction and dedicated hand sanitation, other responses appear birthed from fear and self-centeredness such as the hoarding of toilet paper, canned goods, and Lysol wipes. Do all of these responses reflect a god given diversity and uniqueness? It would be comforting to our soul if we chose to believe this; however, what is the truth? Furthermore, why fret over what is truth if deception brings comfort to our soul?

My first response is that God is truth; "Jesus said to him, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life*" John 14:6 (ESV). In the midst of stock market crashes, job layoffs, isolation from family and friends, fear of sickness and death, an enlightened knowledge of God and steadfast

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of god! Romans 11:33 ESV

faith in the character of God is more relevant now than ever before within our lifetime. The diversity of responses to the coronavirus paints a portrait contrasting a fragile reliance on self, versus acts of rebellion towards governmental imposed restrictions. Somewhere in the middle is truth, balance, and strength. Aware of my faith in Jesus, a couple of my co-workers brought to my attention one American preacher who had recently been arrested for defying the government by continuing to host large church assemblies. One officer shared with me that he had watched a video of a woman who spoke in defense of the gatherings of a large assembly of Christians. Her defense was that the blood of Jesus covered and protected them from every sickness and virus. My response to my fellow officers was that the crucifixion of Jesus and the blood He shed on the cross has covered all who believe; however, Jesus' death and resurrection does not give a Christian the authorization to rebel against a government who are actively attempting to protect its citizens from the spread of a virus. The Holy Bible clearly states that, "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" 1 KJV. Furthermore, Jesus Samuel 15:23 questioned addressed those who the governmental authorities in His time by instructing them to, "give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" Mark 12:17 NIV. I got teased in a light-hearted manner by my co-workers in regards to my use of the term witchcraft; I truly enjoy these conversations.

If we make the choice that truth is important and relevant to our decision-making process that governs our responses, then the question that arises is this: is it possible to know all the facets of God so that we may discern what are godly attributes/responses as opposed to ungodly traits/behaviors? Romans 11:33 reads, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"(ESV). God is diverse so it follows that what He creates will have degrees of diversity. Diversity is part of being human. God delights in the plethora of differences His human creations possess. Psalm 139:13-15 speaks to how He created us: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (ESV). While it is healthy to celebrate our differences, our diversity should not become our focus lest it become its own god. When diversity becomes our focus, diversity transforms into a deity revered above the One who created the diversity.

When we focus on our "individual diversity, we begin to make our own truths in accordance with what feels best and what best satisfies our individual needs. Extreme responses fueled by fear and self-preservation lead to complete isolation; or by contrast, a response that defies governmental restrictions regarding the size of assemblies. After all, surely a diverse creation can justify a gambit of responses including those centered on self-preservation and survival of the fittest.

This mindset may enable us to flourish while we perceive to have control over our circumstances, but what happens when a pandemic without a vaccine strikes, and our self-made truths can no longer sustain any degree of comfort to our soul? The powerlessness of our god of diversity is exposed, and a new god emerges in the shadow of our self-centeredness – the god of fear! Deception antipodal to truth opens a door in our soul for fear to enter. Conversely, truth sets us free from the fear that endeavors to ensnare and imprison us. Thus, the deception that may have brought comfort to our soul quickly changes to fear as our circumstances evolve beyond our control.

Fear establishes control and drives people to make irrational choices ranging from hoarding toilet paper and hand sanitizer to burning cell towers in Europe. Fear feeds the beast of selfcenteredness resulting in ugly displays of selfishness and hostility. If ever there was a litmus test in the Bible concerning godly diversity versus self-centeredness it is found in the words the Apostle Paul shared with his spiritual son Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7; *"For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control"* (WEB).

"For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control" 2 Timothy 1:7 (WEB)

The scripture in 2 Timothy 1:7 establishes the truth that the spirit of fear does not come from God. A reverential fear of God is not the spirit of fear the Apostle Paul is speaking of in this scripture. The Greek translation of the word "fear" in this context is "cowardice". Paul's spiritual son had a timid personality so Paul was

providing counsel that this trait was not from the Lord. The Lord gives us love in the power of the Holy Spirit with sound instruction. The sound instruction, which is what is meant by "selfcontrol", is counterintuitive to the self-centered responses some individuals have displayed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Fear and selfbased responses are not godly reflections of diversity or the uniqueness characterized in God's creations. Fear is cowardice, which shifts our focus inwardly. By contrast, our understanding of how He created us to be, "all things were created by Him, and for Him", shifts our focus outwardly and towards the needs of others. This is not a burdensome weight that makes us a slave to a taskmaster, but a glorious truth that brings freedom to our life as we live for God. A comprehension of this truth is exceedingly relevant and beneficial to those of us serving our communities as police officers. In Colossians 1:16, the Apostle Paul wrote, "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." Notice Paul's reference to "authorities". As police officers, our community leaders have appointed us to exercise authority in enforcing laws, preserving life, solving crimes, and protecting property. March 19, 2020, is a day that is etched in the minds of Canadians, especially Nova Scotians, as a reminder of an authority figure who sacrificed her life protecting her community from a mass murderer. RCMP Constable Heidi Stevenson. wife, daughter, and mother of a high-school aged son and middle-school aged daughter, was murdered along with 22 others in what media

Our ultimate authority to serve as police officers comes from God and we are at our most effective when our focus is outward rather than inward.

effective when our focus is outward rather than inward. An inward focus puts a premium on self-preservation at the expense of those we have sworn to serve and protect. Every officer has a desire to return unscathed to their home and family at the end of their tour of duty. A faith to believe authority comes from God to preserve life and property, administer solutions to community problems, and engage in the resolution of crimes, nurtures in each officer the constancy to overcome feelings of timidity or cowardice. We all experience times when we feel physically weak and emotionally drained. Faith in God's Word creates in us a balance between our desires to end each shift safely, while not shrinking back from any dangerous or challenging call for service. Police officers refer to having a "sharp edge" which we never want to lose. In pondering the concept of maintaining a sharp edge in policing, I had an epiphany of how this term relates back to the very Word of God. God's Word is a sharp edge – it divides truth from deception, and provides victory over defeat. Hebrews 4:12 speaks to that sharp edge: "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires" (NLT). I do not know if Heidi had a personal relationship with Jesus and understood the inner strength that comes from knowing the Bible, but we do know she answered the outward call to serve and protect her community. God will honor her valor for standing against the manifestation of evil in another human being.

I've been asked by people outside of policing circles, how we as police are responding during the Covid-19 crisis. While some of us such as myself have the luxury of wearing a mask and shield when dealing with offenders, our frontline officers responding to dynamic situations are not afforded the luxury to shield in PPE. They are well educated of the risks of unprotected interaction yet despite this knowledge, their focus is outward acting selflessly to protect and serve the community of Brandon. I know not of any co-worker who hoarded toilet paper, canned goods, or hand

has dubbed as the worst mass murder in Canadian history.

Our ultimate authority to serve as police officers comes from God and we are at our most

sanitizer despite the diversity that exists within the officers that make up the Brandon Police Service.

Our Management Team is comprised of diverse personalities who have made unified decisions that emphasize the importance of the safety and wellbeing of staff while balancing the emerging needs to serve and protect our community. The demands of police during Covid-19 are diverse and situations are dynamic requiring daily assessments and wise decisions. When I witness co-workers or management speak of how "lucky" we have been in Brandon, my response is that many have been praying for the safety of our community and we are reaping the benefits from dedicated prayer.

In my opinion, the most effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic is dedicated prayer from Christians who have faith to believe that God is a loving Father and hears the prayers of His sons and daughters. The Bible speaks to the effectiveness of prayer in many scriptures and provides many accounts of men and women whose earnest prayers yielded lifesaving responses from God. Prayers full of faith pull on the heart of God; it is not enough just to pray, but when we pray, we must believe that God is who He says He is.

How important is the faith component to effective prayer? The answer is found in Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (NIV). The EXB or Expanded Bible provides a modern-day translation of the scripture found in James 5:16 that I believe hits the mark regarding prayer: "When a believing person prays, great things happen". I believe this pandemic will recede as quickly as it appeared.

The response of our government may be one of caution enacting graduated stages to move us towards regaining normality. A cautious response is wise but let it not blind us to any signs, wonders, and miracles that God will be providing in response to faith filled prayer. We may also consider the possibility that God is preparing us for even greater diversity in years to come. What we learn from our responses today will assist us in preparation for tomorrow. Covid-19 is teaching us how to respond when we are unable "fix" a problem; it is forcing us to consider alternatives to physical responses.

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Until now, we have lived in a country where prayer has been considered by most as the last alternative – a desperate cry when all our self-actions and abilities have failed.

alternative – a desperate cry when all our selfactions and abilities have failed. Yet I am reminded of one of the greatest kings in the Bible – King David a worshipper of God, who prior to each battle would pray and inquire of the Lord asking for wisdom and counsel. His battles were not won on the actual battlefield; victory was attained through his time of preparation seeking God for strategy and the victory. In Canada, may we not forget that the key to victory in our diverse battles is faith-filled prayer to God in the name of His son Jesus Christ.

In Canada, may we not forget that the key to victory in our diverse battles is faith-filled prayer to God in the name of His son Jesus Christ.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace" Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV).

Through the Storm

By: Ken Smith, President, Koinonia Chapter (serving Southeast New Brunswick)



Hello everyone. What I am about to share with you are some highlights of my journey of faith since I accepted Christ in my life in 1978. I pray that it will encourage you in your faith as we journey through this

Sgt. Ken Smith (Ret'd)

storm together that we are facing at the moment.

Once again, it was laid on my heart in the wee hours of the morning last night to share what I am about to share. I asked the Lord what He wanted me to do and to reassure me that whatever it was that it was His will that I share, and not my will. And so He did today with something that someone sent me.

I am always concerned about how I present myself in my story as I only want God to be glorified and so I wrestle with my flesh over telling my story. I came across these scriptures and will let these words be my guide. Galatians 6:14: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Plus Jeremiah 9:24: "But let the one who boasts boast in the Lord: that they have the understanding to know Him, that He is the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these He delights," declares the LORD.

This story is all about what God did in our lives as my testimony coincides with something that happened to Bonnie as well. It will speak about what God has taught us as we walked through storms in life and the lessons learned that we can apply to today's circumstances.

On June 29th, 1983 while Bonnie was pregnant with our youngest son, David, she started to develop some complications, so was admitted to the hospital. Her blood pressure sky rocketed

and she was full of fluid. David was due to be born on or about August 25th and was not developing, so she was admitted until she either gave birth or had signs of improvement. Well it turned out that she hemorrhaged around 5:00 AM on June 30th and had an emergency C section in order to have David. You can't help but think that God had His hand on Bonnie for her to be in the hospital when she hemorrhaged as otherwise, she would have been home. David was immediately placed in the neonatal intensive care unit. Bonnie's blood pressure went through the roof. Her organs began to shut down and she lost a lot of blood. Frankly speaking, she was fighting for her life. I got the call at home and a prayer request was sent out for both Bonnie and our baby boy. At one point, Bonnie was given 11 units of blood. God answered prayer and Bonnie recovered. David although he was slow starting out, grew up to be 6'4" and followed in my footsteps in policing. Praise God for His faithfulness!

A number of years later, while in for routine blood work, it was discovered that Bonnie had Hepatitis C. It turns out that one of those 11 units of blood that she received was tainted which was known to happen back in the day. Of course thoughts come into your mind when you receive a diagnosis such as this. What happens now? What will life be like now? How will we deal with this? Will she or we be ostracized? That's a pretty harsh thought! Fear set in for our family, for our future. This was a storm and in many ways is no different than today.

So in the storm, we put all our trust in God. Romans 14:8 says: "For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." What a promise to cling to! But we clung to another promise. Jeremiah 29:11 -"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." For anyone who has a relationship with Jesus, they draw their hope from Him and what He did on the cross for us and for you. So no matter what we face today - coronavirus, economic strife, hardship of any sort; we have someone that we can turn to for help.

Now my timelines may not be exact but it may have been a year or so down the road and into the 90's when we were sitting at the back of the church we attend now. It was during a Sunday evening service and there was a "call to the altar". Bonnie had been going through periodic testing to see if the Hep C was having any effect on her body and was due for another test in the week ahead. Up to this point, we were in silence not divulging what Bonnie had other than unspoken prayer request. And so it was that night when Pastor Sterling Penney made his way around the outside seating at the back of the church where we sat. As he was passing, Bonnie and I turned to him and Bonnie merely shared that she was going for a medical test in the week ahead because of a diagnosis and that she needed prayer. If I remember correctly, he laid his hand on her shoulder and praved over her.

NOTICE 2020 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at The Potter's Wheel Christian Fellowship, 67 rue du Couvent, Gatineau, Quebec, on July 18th, 2018 at 1:00 pm (EDT). Due to the ongoing COVID-19 gathering restrictions, personal attendance for most will not be possible. If you wish to connect from a distance, please let us know and we will make such arrangements. James 5:16 - The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

And so be it, this man of God sent up a prayer that was answered. Bonnie went in for her test that week. The results came back the following week. NEGATIVE FOR HEP C. It was completely gone. The doctor who knows we live by faith periodically sends her for blood work and includes a check for Hep C. NOTHING!

This is what God has done for us and He will do the same for others. What is happening around the world is for a reason. I believe it is to prepare us for what is to come. Remember that no matter where you are in your faith or lack thereof, He loves you so very much.

God Bless you,

Ken Smith

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is a sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is life, fight for it.

Mother Teresa

Signs of the Time

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine... Proverbs 17:22.













I'm Done! - Written by a Police Officer's Wife

This article was recently posted on the <u>All Lives Matter Facebook</u>.



I've prayed about this for the past few days and decided it was finally time...

I'm done. I'm done. I. Am. Done... For the last week our family has been through hell (other police families know exactly what I'm

talking about). I've never been one to stir anything up on social media. I'd rather talk oneon-one, but this is absolutely crazy right now! I'm not posting to argue or change your opinion (I know I can't do that on fb). I'm breaking my silence to say that the portrayal of Police on TV is not right! It's not what is actually happening on the streets! And the overall disrespect and hate being thrown at them is unbelievable!

The Police are just as saddened by George Floyd's death as anyone.

STOP IT!!!! The Police are just as saddened by George Floyd's death as anyone.

My husband is going in to work for the 12th day today. 12 straight days... and the last week almost all the days have been from before my girls wake up in the morning to after they go to bed. Why is he doing this? Because he took an oath to defend YOU (the community)!!! He's missed more than I could ever begin to tell you... our kids bdays, holidays, anniversaries, swim meets, dance shows, campouts, dates, overall LIFE... serving and protecting the community! He has been a police officer for 13 years and has received a great deal of hate over that time, but this last week... I can't even put in to words the disbelief I see in his eyes... the way he has been broken down in one week from constant hate. In conversation with him he described it like this... "I'm used to being



cussed at and velled at, but never for 12 hours straight – day after day". STOP IT!!! For 13 years he has sacrificed SO much for this community!!! And might Ι remind everyone that my husband is one of the absolute best Police

Unless you are wearing a badge during this or have immediate family that is, you really have no idea what it's been like... because no one is telling this side.

Officers! He has had criminals thank him for treating them like humans! What he has done in 13 years is incredible, yet he is having rocks and bottles thrown at him, and having unbelievable things yelled at him – all of which are inappropriate for fb. He's being told that they hope he goes home to a dead wife! Really! But that's not on TV. Unless you are wearing a badge during this or have immediate family that is, you really have no idea what it's been like... because no one is telling this side.

My girls have cried so much and have seen friends say/post awful things... my son has never been more angry and has had to defend his dad to people saying "save a life – kill a cop" and "if you are currently a cop, you deserve to die"!!! That's for real people... that's really what is being said! Imagine what is going through my kids' heads. They are proud of their dad and have seen what he has had to sacrifice for YOU (the community), but they also see how the Police are now being hated, truly hated.

We're scared because he will continue to get up every day and go back out there in this hate.

They know that things have been thrown at their dad like rocks, bottles, even explosives and they are scared. I am scared. We're scared because he will continue to get up every day and go back out there in this hate. Their dad, my husband (and many Police officers) have kept the community safe for so long. Can you even imagine a community without them?

My husband has taken hundreds of intoxicated drivers off the streets, taken unreal amounts of illegal guns and drugs off the streets and community, been fought by criminals so many times it's scary, comforted crash victims as they wait for the ambulance, taken food to the homeless, taken clothes/toys (our own children's) to fire victims, saved lives including a young man shot in the neck at a bar on Christmas Eve, where my husband shoved gauze in the bullet hole.

He's had conversations over and over about turning their lives around and being better people, he's shared about Jesus and plays Christian radio in his police car for them to hear. He's conducted interview after interview where he gets a confession that has surprised even his coworkers, he's been flipped off by a 6 year old, and had threats made to his life and his family's. He has stopped burglars off duty. He had a gun pulled from under a driver's leg and brought up to shoot him that my husband deflected. He has worked in the scorching heat and in blizzards. He has worked double, triple, and quadruple shifts to take down criminals, he's been scared and he's been exhausted, but never like right now. STOP IT!!!

I'm crying and shaking, just like every day this last week. Prayers to all Police officers and their families, it is a very sad and scary time. In our home we have always taught to love and be kind to everyone (both genders and all colors and cultures). My kids are nice, and I always have told them that being told that from a teacher means more to me than their grades.... ALWAYS! Be a kind human, make someone's day better... those are things we say in our home... always have, always will.

Love God, Love People and lift up the Police in prayer right now please!

What is happening right now is crazy and scary. It needs to stop! Love God, Love People and lift up the Police in prayer right now please!

I'm not willing to argue with anyone... I just felt the need to get one Police family's experience out there.

Make America (Canada) Godly Again



<u>Brandon Tatum</u>, a former Tucson police officer, recently went viral on social media for delivering a video response to the senseless murder of <u>Captain David Dorn</u> and the nationwide protests and riots that have taken place in the USA. He started with questioning "What has been accomplished?" and went on to reflect on his views on racism, and the root cause of the rebellion.

"I grew up, and I got saved. God changed my heart and I can see things clearly. Ladies and gentlemen we're not wrestling against flesh and blood. We're wrestling against good and evil". Brandon Tatum

Notwithstanding racism concerns, what we are seeing now in violent protests, and anti-police rhetoric, is a manifestation of the battle between good and evil - every law enforcement officer knows this. Let us pray that good will overcome evil. Stay safe.

Check out his thought-provoking video here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVIhRvkT8kg&t=10s</u>







It's Not Normal

The Officer Next Door



It's not normal, to see the things police officers see, hear, smell, touch and experience.

It's not normal, to carry the burdens police officers do, emotionally, physically, and mentally.

It's not normal, to see dead bodies, mangled bodies, decomposed bodies, dead kids, abused kids, homeless people suffering, and people victimized, taken advantage of, raped or killed.

It's not normal, to respond to scenes of horrific

suicides, fatal car accidents, gang violence, domestic violence, random violence, dead animals, and abused animals.

It's not normal, to tell a family member their loved one has died and won't be coming home during a death notification call for service.

It's not normal, to respond to shooting calls where you watch someone take their last breath, or stabbing calls that make you cringe when you see their flesh cut wide open and blood everywhere.

It's not normal, to stand next to a dead body for hours securing a crime scene, waiting for the coroner to arrive, so you can go eat dinner, as if nothing happened, as if "it's just another call".

It's not normal, that seeing such horrific things becomes your "normal" and you tell yourself it doesn't bother you. It's not normal, to be numb to things that would likely devastate the rest of society.



with your children.

It's not normal, to experience extreme highs and lows in one day, one minute you're typing a report and the next you're responding to the local business being held up at gunpoint with shots fired. It happens that fast, it is fun in some ways, but it's not normal.

It's not normal, to work rotating shifts, rotating days off, work on holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and maintain a semblance of a "normal" life. It's not normal, to miss these moments in life and expect it not to take a toll on a marriage or the relationship

It's not normal, to slowly lose friends that aren't police officers too. It's not normal to say, "they just don't understand me anymore" or "they don't know what it is like to be a police officer". It's not normal, for lifelong friends to wonder why you've changed, become more cynical or even angry and distance themselves from you.

It's not normal, to go to work and not know what time you will get to go home, or if you'll even make it home at all.

It's not normal, to wake up at night in a cold sweat because you dreamed you got shot multiple times by a "bad guy" and you were powerless to stop it. It's not normal, to lie in bed unable to sleep, because all the things you saw that day play in your head like a bad movie you can't turn off.

It's not normal, that nearly every call you answer, someone is counting on YOU to help them. They may be at their lowest point, maybe they are experiencing a crisis, a loss, and you have to be there for them, no matter what is going on in your personal life.

It's not normal, that you as a human being could be personally dealing with a crisis, a divorce, a dying family member, alcohol addiction, or thoughts of suicide, and you're expected to show up and solve other people's problems with no regard for your own.

It's not normal, to go to work every day in hopes of making a positive change or influence in someone's life only to be spit at, kicked, punched, stabbed, or shot. It's not normal, to feel you can't "win", no matter what you do, or how many lives you save or stickers you give to kids.

It's not normal, that simply sitting in your work vehicle being present, can get you shot and killed because the decal on that work vehicle said, "POLICE" on it, like NYPD Officers <u>Liu</u>, <u>Ramos</u>, and <u>Familia</u>. Gone, but not forgotten.

It's not normal, to be shot while eating dinner, minding your own business, only because the patch on your shoulder said, "POLICE", like



Florida Sheriff's Deputies Sergeant <u>Noel Ramirez</u> and Deputy <u>Taylor Lindsey</u>. Gone, but not forgotten.

It's not normal, to never be "off duty". To always be alert, aware, cautious, even concerned, that you may be a target at any given time due to your chosen profession.

It's not normal, you do the job and maintain a professional demeanor or smile while holding back tears, because in the end you know, someone has to do it and you're proud that you aren't normal.

It's not normal, to attend a funeral for a coworker who died doing the same job as you, almost annually.

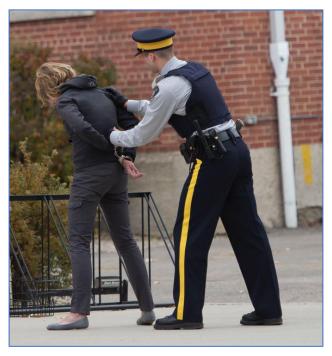


It's not normal, that no matter how much all these things bother you, you couldn't see yourself doing any other job, because carrying this burden is what you were meant to do. This is your calling.

You are not normal, you're a police officer.

Luckily their normal is not your normal. If you're reading this and you aren't a police officer, some of the things you just read may have bothered you. Odds are good, the images that popped into your head made you uncomfortable, or were hard to think about or even picture. I hope this was the case, because that is a police officer's daily reality. At the very least, I hope it changes your perspective of police officers and what it is they actually do and experience every single day.

This topic isn't widely talked about among police officers, for a multitude of reasons. To start, it isn't a fun topic to talk about. Yes, there are times that officers gather and share "war stories" about



all the crazy things they have seen and dealt with. But don't think for a minute, that the ugliness of it all isn't still lurking beneath the surface, waiting to rear its ugly head when they least expect it.

Most officers simply choose not to talk about these things and change the subject when asked about what "crazy things they've seen". Some may even lie and say "nothing crazy has happened lately" just to avoid the topic altogether. Most officers don't rush home to tell their significant other what they saw or experienced during their shift. For most, it's easier to say, "Today was fine" or "I don't want to talk about it" to avoid the conversation and having to relive the bad things they may have seen or experienced that day.

This sort of behavior is common, a defense mechanism if you will. Over time, police become "numb" to seeing the worst side of society. But in the end, it's still there, lurking and waiting to show up in their subconscious again. It's like a pressure cooker that constantly gets tested to see how much more can be fit inside. Almost inevitably, it eventually gives way and explodes. Sadly, it can explode in many different forms.

For some, it explodes in the form of an unexplainable outburst, angry rage, or reaction to something that normally wouldn't bother that person. For others, they may just break down and cry inexplicably until they feel better, not really knowing what triggered it to happen. Some turn to alcohol or other substances to mask the pain or feelings, which lead them down a path of destruction. No two people are the same, therefore, no two police officers are the same. They all experience different things in their careers and each thing affects them differently than the next officer.

Maybe now when you see them, you don't just see a man or woman in a uniform that took an oath to protect you, but also a person who runs toward the things most run away from each and every day. They see things so you don't have to see them. They carry a heavy burden and do it because they were chosen to carry it, so you don't have to.

Being a police officer is much more than writing traffic tickets, breaking up a fun little house party with underage high school kids, or responding to the fender bender to facilitate the exchange of personal information. A police officer is much more than what meets the eye or what you see on television.



People in society simply create their image of what something or someone is, based on their personal experiences and that makes total sense. For example, if your only experience with police officers is being pulled over for speeding, I imagine it is possible you haven't thought about what a police officer experiences on a daily basis.

I hope this article changes that. The next time you read about a fatality car accident or horrible tragedy, feel sympathy and empathy for the victims, but don't forget the people responding to the scene, what they experienced and how they are affected too.

I fully recognize that police officers chose their profession and I also recognize that, "if they don't like it, they can quit." Some people try being a police officer, only to find out, "it isn't for them" and kudos to them for having the courage to admit that.

I firmly believe it isn't a job, it's a calling. If you become a police officer solely to pay the bills, you are likely not the kind of police officer most people want on their department or patrolling their community.

Being a police officer is recognizing that you will see the worst side of humanity that society has to offer and you accept that as your normal. Chances are good that when a police officer starts their career, they have thought about these things but didn't quite know what it actually meant until they experienced it firsthand.

It takes a special kind of person to do this job, one that isn't..."normal".

To the hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters in blue around the world, who put their lives and their "normal" on the line every day, thank you.

Don't be afraid to admit if you're struggling, need help, or just want to talk to someone. As weird as it may seem to you, asking for help is "normal". Thank an officer today.

- The Officer Next Door

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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 <u>any Christian</u> who agrees with our <u>Statement of Faith.</u>



Understanding us and our Communities

By: Nicola Coulstring, Prairie Region Director



Correctional Officer Nicola Coulstring

For the past few years I have tried to make it my practice to focus my devotional and prayer time, once a week, on and for local law enforcement. I find myself prompted to pray for my fellow officers outside of that time as well, but this time is different. I set a specific time aside in my calendar and, prior to the pandemic, I had a particular coffee shop that I would go to as well. I receive a daily devotional in my email that was designed specifically for law enforcement officers and every week, during that specific devotional time, I refer to those emails to help guide my prayer time. I haven't always kept my commitment to the schedule, but as the years have gone on and this time has become more and more ingrained into my routine, I even find that I feel the need to schedule time to have this focused meeting with God when I am out of town. I truly believe in the power of prayer and this time is my commitment to that belief.

I was inspired to make this habit after a chaplain from a local police department told me a story that I never forgot. Prior to becoming a corrections officer I did civilian work with a city police department. The

chaplain there became involved with the FCPO ministry and during one of our bible studies shared the following story with me. He told me that every morning he arrived for work at the office he would have a message from an unknown citizen on his voicemail waiting for him. The message wasn't specifically left for him but was just a recording of the citizen praying safety and protection over the police agency and the officers on duty. I have heard many powerful stories over the years from officers I worked alongside who shared their own experiences of how prayer offered powerful protection for them and their coworkers. Stories like an officer coming home to their spouse sharing that they were prompted to prayer at a very specific time of the day, only to have the officer tell their spouse that at that particular moment they were praying, the officer was entering a location where they were uncertain of the dangers they were about to encounter. Even to the point of being concerned for their own safety. They always walk away from those instances knowing that the prayer of their spouse helped provide protection for them. Other stories I've heard from officers, who prayed over districts or divisions they were responsible for during their shift, in between calls, often resulted in an extremely quiet shift right up to the point that they would take their break and hand the responsibility over to someone else briefly.

After hearing stories like these, and seeing the power of prayer work within my own work environment, I didn't hesitate to make it a habit to take time to pray over law enforcement agencies and officers when I felt prompted by God to do so.

Many of us know the familiar verses that speak of how All Scripture is God-breathed

and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Timothy 3:16-17). This past week, during my weekly devotional, I felt the pull towards the teaching part of those verses. More specifically on how His word can help those of us who work in law enforcement to possibly understand more clearly, even a small piece, the challenging times we are enduring in today's world.

I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT MY EXPLANATION OF WHAT I LEARNED THIS WEEK WILL RING TRUE FOR OTHER CHRISTIAN OFFICERS AS WELL.

As emotions run high on the topic of police brutality I questioned how sharing my perspective on what came from that devotional time might create further divide rather than build a bridge. But, after every devotion it kept bringing me back to the same truth - I felt the pull for me to share the message I was getting from His word. I can only pray that my explanation of what I learned this week will ring true for other Christian officers as well. God willing.

Prior to entering corrections, as a civilian working in the police department, I was very fortunate to feel a sense of inclusion. I understood the hierarchy that is in place within a law enforcement environment, and how the officer's role was primarily focused on safety, in support of me being able to fulfill my role. If I walked into a home and the officer in charge directed me to "not sit ANYWHERE" I accepted that direction, and did my best to follow it. If, after the call was over, the officer then decided to tell me that they suspected there were needles in the house and that he didn't want me to get poked by a needle hidden in a couch or cushion, it only served to reinforce my trust in their ability to keep me safe. I also understood though, that they had no obligation to tell me why they gave me such a specific direction, and that not having an understanding of why they directed me not to sit anywhere didn't change the fact that I knew they were responsible for the safety and security of everyone responding to the scene.

When I moved over to the role of officer within a corrections environment I had a bit of a culture shock. I knew my role as an officer was to provide safety and security for everyone in the centre, and when my directions were sometimes challenged by civilian staff it baffled me. Didn't they understand that I was there to protect them and that my role was to make security risk assessments? Didn't they understand that I was trying to help them perform their duties in a safe manner? I knew to expect challenges from inmates, but I was surprised by the lack of cohesion between officer and civilian staff that I was seeing. After I ran into this a few times I questioned a couple police officers I used to work with as to why there was such a huge difference between the two agencies. Their answers surprised me.

Although, as a civilian, I had only seen cooperation and inclusion when working with officers, that was not always the experience the officers I spoke with held, when working with civilians. Was I really that blind to the challenges they faced? When I worked as a civilian in a law enforcement agency I thought I had a fairly good understanding of the job the officers did and the challenges they faced. It was only after I crossed over to the role of officer that I realized how little I actually did know. Even as a corrections officer, I know that my understanding of the role of a police officer will only be a little more closer to the reality of their jobs than that of a civilian's.

So now I bring it back to the word of God that prompted me to write this submission. During my devotional time, where I focused on praying for local law enforcement officers and agencies, I found myself in Acts 11:1-18. In this section of the bible Peter received a vision from God during his prayer time (Acts 11:5), and soon after felt led by the spirit to accept an invitation to attend the home of a Gentile (Acts 11:12). After hearing how it came about that he received this invitation, he then shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. As Peter began sharing the gospel, the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles, just as it had on the Jewish people who had believed and received the truth of Jesus Christ in the beginning. Following God's leading, he then went on to baptize the Gentiles who had received the Holy Spirit, as he would any Jewish community member who had experienced the same. God had commanded Peter to not call anything impure that God has made clean (Acts 11:9) in his vision.

> I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK OF THE DIVISION THAT HAS COME TO A HEAD BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE GREATER COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

At no point did God discount the importance of the Jewish people to Him, nor did He dismiss the promises He had made to them. What God did do though, was show Peter that His grace was not just restricted to the Jewish people. He also let Peter understand that he was expected to follow His lead. While using these verses to direct my prayer over the officers and their agencies in my city I couldn't help but think of the division that has come to a head between law enforcement agencies and the greater communities they serve. As law enforcement officers do we see ourselves as separate from the communities

we serve or as a part of it? I know many officers that understand and embrace that they are part of the communities they serve, but I also know of those who isolate themselves from any community outside of law enforcement. In addition, how many officers feel separated from members of their community if they dare reveal their career choice? How many of us refer to ourselves as sanitation workers, adult babysitters, or simply government employees to avoid the judgmental looks that come from someone finding out we are officers? We have been taught that when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22: 37-39) Jesus could have stopped at the greatest commandment and not moved onto the second, but He didn't. The emphasis of its importance is clear, and my prayer for all law enforcement officers and agencies is that we remember to focus on both of these commandments when we reflect on God's expectation of us as officers. I pray also that we do not forget that we are part of the communities we serve, even when it feels like communities have excluded. our and sometimes even abandoned, us.



As I walked away from my dedicated prayer time this week I kept pondering over just what God wants for law enforcement officers in regards to their relationships with the communities they serve. I went searching for references to our roles as law enforcement officers. I went to Romans 13, which many Christian officers reference to reinforce their authority within the communities they govern, and was reminded of what God commands of me in the second half of the chapter when Paul refers to love fulfilling the law (Romans 13:8-10) and God's expectations from me in preparation of His return (Romans 13:11-14).

"THERE ARE THOSE WHO TURN JUSTICE INTO BITTERNESS AND CAST RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE GROUND." Amos 5:7 (NIV)

Come Sunday, my pastor preached on Amos 5, which references those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground (Amos 5:7), and those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth (Amos 5:10) which we, as law enforcement officers, see coming from the communities we serve at what seems to be an increasing rate. The chapter also references those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts (Amos 5:12) though. The prophet was calling all members of the community, no matter what side of justice they were on, to repentance. Amos clearly states: hate evil; love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy... (Amos 5:15). This call to repentance was to all of Israel. All God's people - the entire community.

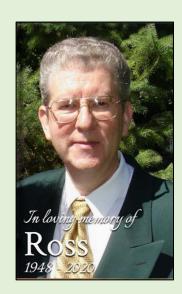
Finally, through all my reflection and the research I did in an effort to discover what it was that God wanted from me as a law enforcement officer, I was reminded of a Remembrance Day service I attend a few years back. A young man by the name of Joshua Prutchick, who attended the same church, was asked to speak to the congregation. Joshua is an officer with the Canadian Armed Forces and made reference to John 15:13, a familiar verse among Christian law enforcement officers as well. What stood out about what Josh had to say was his direction to the congregation that the verse applied to them as well. He reminded everyone that we all are called to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), officer or otherwise, and that in John 15:13 where Jesus says Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends, He is not only giving a solo truth to be lived out in a life or death situation, but instead is speaking of a constant call to live out the directions of Romans 12:1.

As I reflect on this past week and all the truth that God has drawn me to, I feel the need to take a step back and see what I can do to better the relationships between law enforcement and the community I serve. I feel the need to reflect on how I can be better at following God's commands for me as I act as one in authority, and God's servant for the good of the community I serve, at the same time (Romans 13:4). My continued prayer for law enforcement officers and the agencies they serve will be for them to also see God's will for them in these days of discord. I continue to pray for safety and security. I continue to pray for wisdom and understanding.

I CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT WE ANSWER TO THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF THEM ALL, OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

I continue to pray for discernment and acknowledgment that we answer to the

highest authority of them all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I also pray these things for the communities we serve because we are members of those communities, even though there are those trying to create a divide that isolates and excludes law enforcement officers from the communities they serve. Many in the community, like I did years ago, feel they understand the challenges law enforcement officers face. Many, like I did years ago, are blind to the reality of the extent law enforcement officers go to in order to keep their communities safe. As long as we see ourselves as separate entities on distinctly different paths, both working to achieve "justice", the collaboration and inclusion that could exist is lost in the divide. God created us all in His image (Genesis 1:27). Is it really that difficult to see the unity that He created from the beginning? Imagine what could be achieved if we would just turn to Him for guidance? What is He guiding you to do?



In Memoriam

Ross William Thomas Howlett, born August 28th, 1948 passed from this earth into his heavenly Father's presence on Sunday, June 14th, 2020, the 'Lord's Day', peacefully and joyfully.

Ross was an active member of the FCPO and we will miss him. He served as a Police Officer with the Metro Toronto Police Force from 1969 to 1984.

Ross was strong in his faith, which became evident and often challenged. God used that and him to bring some of his fellow officers to the Cross of Christ, and God's great offer of salvation.

Ross was indeed a disciple of Christ. As a result of a continual call by God on his life, he left the Police Force. He and his wife Jan began a ministry of music and God's Word; "Feeding His Lambs' Ministry."

During these many years Ross had a passion for music and became an accomplished trumpet player. Their ministry reached far and wide. Ross's messages were eventually heard on International radio around the world. He was also an itinerant preacher with the Brethren Assembly, with their home church being Hillside Bible Chapel in Orillia.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7 - 8

https://simcoefuneralhome.ca/tribute/details/1676/Ross-Howlett/obituary.html#tributestart



From our Vault

Articles from <u>past Peacemakers</u> 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.

A Changed Life – Cst. Brian Arcand

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: Spring, 1988 issue

I am very happy and blessed to be in this organization [FCPO]. I've been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force for the past 12 years. I met a Christian girl in 1977 in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, where I was stationed at the time. I was not a Christian, but since I am a Cree Indian, I had my own Indian religion. I married this Christian girl in 1978 and from then on I battled with her in regards to her faith and my faith.

In 1979, I got transferred to LaRonge, Saskatchewan, and my wife went to a little Pentecostal church. As for me, I drank and did a lot of bad things. One thing I feared was death, and I saw a lot of that in LaRonge. I deal mostly with native people, and there is a lot of violence on these Indian reserves. I had a lot of fear in me, but in 1981, I finally quit running and gave myself up. I gave my heart to the Lord on February 26, 1981 in LaRonge. My wife and many other Christians were praying for me. The Lord took all the fear away and many other personal problems. Praise the Lord! My wife and I minister on two Indian reserves (Bible studies and singing Cree gospel hymns).

Brian Arcand Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan

Editor's note – Brian's full testimony was featured in our <u>May, 2019 issue</u> (page 20). Well worth seeing again!



For those who will be participating in your local workplace United Way campaign, please remember your charitable donation can be <u>specifically designated</u> to FCPO – Canada by using our registered charity number on the form (120365804

RR0001) in part B or C (depending on if you are a Federal,

Provincial, or Municipal employee).

Other ways to donate can be found on our <u>website</u>.

Thank you for your financial support for this unique ministry.