



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



August, 2022

From the President's Desk

FCPO - Canada Membership 883



Inspired by [Philippians 1:27-30](#), Jeremy Wade, Vice President of FCPO - USA, recently wrote: *Now is the time, above all else, to live our lives with purpose for the Gospel of Christ. Now is the time to stand firm, side by side and unified, fearlessly contending for the faith. Our unwavering trust in Christ, and willingness to suffer for His sake, is evidence to the watching world. We are in this spiritual battle together. We must answer the call to fight for the faith and reach law enforcement for Christ.*

We are seeing a lot of moral decay in our society. Things we knew as wrong now are seen as okay, and things we knew as right are now seen as wrong. The lines between right and wrong have been blurred as people push political agendas. As Jeremy wrote, now more than ever is the time to **stand firm**.

When cycling, I think about the importance of looking for road hazards. However, if I look down and focus on them, such as a bump, rock, pothole or debris on the trail, I'll most likely steer directly to it and hit it! In cycling it's important to look straight ahead to where you want to go - aim high. At one point on my regular route there is a large hill. To prepare for the hill I build up my speed. As I go up the hill, I focus on the top of the hill, not on what is immediately before me. It is the same on our spiritual journey. We need to prepare for what is to come (the temptations, battles and opportunities) through prayer. We should not focus on disappointing events or people, that come along during our life's journey.



We need to beware of and avoid life's "road hazards" by aiming high. We need to focus on Jesus and **stand firm**. He will see us through our journey.

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

www.fc pocanada.com



Freedom

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



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

This issues devotional talks about finding lasting “Freedom” which is only found in Christ Jesus.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17.

If you have been searching for the meaning of “Freedom” turn your heart to Jesus Christ. You will see that He is the Answer for your soul. He will fill that void. The bible reminds us that the worries of this life don’t add a single moment to our life.

We have all fallen and come short of God’s morality, but thanks be to God who has made a way of escape for us by sending His Son Jesus to be the ultimate sacrificial Lamb to die on the cross and be the atonement for our sins once and forever. We cannot earn salvation it is a Gift from God. This wonderful “Good News” is for all of us - if you feel that you’re being drawn to ask for forgiveness He will forgive you.

Unmerited Grace and Mercy is offered to us not because we deserve it or can earn it - this Freedom is the Evidence of God’s Love towards us that while we were yet sinners He loved us so much to send His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for our sins.

True freedom comes by accepting what God has done for us. We cannot add anything to this wonderful fact. He accepts us as we are. If you’re feeling overwhelmed today with the heavy shackles of worry - stop and think about this freedom from the burden of worry and wrong doing.

Jesus is calling you to repentance and to accept His Free “unmerited Gift” of forgiveness and grace. God’s Freedom will give us peace - “Freedom that is offered gives us enduring peace that is found in a Christ Alone.” These two bible verses remind us of His promises.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Matthew 11:28

May the God of Peace surround you today and lift your burdens off.

God bless,
Dino Doria MSc

The Styrofoam Cup

By: Ron Mostrey, FCPO - Canada President



Ask a colleague (or yourself) “who they are”, and they will most likely reply that they are a police officer, or a correctional officer etc. But the truth is that first and foremost they are a fellow human being on

a life’s journey like everyone else. The job is not who we are.

I think most will agree, the job is a great one, and those of us who see it as a calling, are grateful to be in the job. However, the job and culture also brings with it a tendency to make us a bit “different”.

At times, it’s hard to understand, but most people respect and appreciate the police (those with a functional brain!). In fact, most citizens honour those in law enforcement and hold them at a certain esteem. However, that respect can lead one to think that “they” are important. In reality, the respect is usually for the position, not for the person.

As an individual, one earns respect through their actions. The Bible gives us some great wisdom on how we should conduct ourselves. One of the important pieces of wisdom is to be humble. Given the respect one receives in their position, sometimes that is not always present. I noticed it particularly as a commissioned officer. Everyone calls you Sir and gives you respect (usually) whether you deserve it or not. Again, the respect is for the position and not the person. For some, they only find out about that the day after they retire. It reminds me of Coldplay’s [Viva La Vida](#).

Before I retired I was the Commanding Officer of the RCMP’s National Headquarters Division. The day after I retired, if I went into the headquarters I had to sign in and present

identification just like everyone else - even require an escort. My picture was off the wall, and I again was just Ron.

I am sure we all know people that were “married” to the job and when they retired it was like a divorce - they lost who they were. I was fortunate in that I knew I was always just Ron.

When one dons the uniform, it is important to remember some of what the Bible says about humility:

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. James 4:6

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

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2

Now, where does the styrofoam cup fit into all this? Check out this video and you will understand - sometimes we’re just not as important as we think we are!



Walking with Jesus Humbly and Faithfully

By: D/Cst. Nick Yun (York Regional Police)



D/Cst. Nick Yun

On Monday, March 28th, 2022, my wife and I attended the graduation ceremony of my son who became a police constable of the RCMP.

Sitting inside the Drill Hall of RCMP Depot watching my son, who was the only officer holding the Bible in his troop of eleven officers during the swear-in ceremony, I felt so proud of him. I praised the Lord who blessed my family since we immigrated to Canada in 2001.

My mind went back to March 17th, 2001. My wife and I together with my two-year-old son landed in Toronto Pearson Airport as independent immigrants. We started our new life here in Canada with only the seven pieces of luggage that we brought from China. My wife and I were born and raised there. We had heard of Christianity and Jesus before we came to Canada, but we never learned anything about Lord Jesus.

We had just settled down in a small rented basement when 9/11 happened. The whole economy of North America sunk. It was like our family was walking in the fog of a spring morning forest, with no future in sight for us. We were lost in the post 9/11 situation. It was during these difficult times when another immigrant family


invited us to attend a Christian church in downtown Toronto.

From Bible study, Sunday services, and praying together as brothers and sisters, I felt love that I had never experienced before. That was love of Jesus. In 2004, I was baptized and became a Christian. That same year, I joined the York Regional Police.

My career as a police officer was very busy and exciting. My wife found a job in the field of logistics. Our family had finally settled down in Canada and the three of us were happy.

The peaceful life of our family experienced a shock in 2009 when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. Multiple tests, surgery, and follow up appointments. All of a sudden, the whole family fell into a panic. The atmosphere was hopeless. Tears, despair, and uncertainty surrounded all three of us every day. When life is good, it is very easy to distance ourselves from God. When life is full of difficulties, we realize that we did not put God first in our lives. "No one can serve two masters.You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthews 6:24 NIV).

The Bible says, "My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge"



DURING THIS TIME, OUR WHOLE FAMILY WAS TOGETHER, HAND-IN-HAND PRAYING WITH TEARS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WITH FAITH.

(Psalms 62:7, NIV). I knew our Lord Jesus is always there for us!

During this time, our whole family was together, hand-in-hand praying with tears and most importantly with faith. The difficulties and sufferings we endured brought our whole family closer to God. God answered our faith with his blessing, and my wife's surgery was successful.

God's grace always stays with me and each member of my family. After this trial, I started serving as a First Aid Team leader in my church and leading a Bible study group. God's words changed my life and my family. My wife's health was getting better and better. Our whole family became closer and closer. I worked as a street cop, community service officer, CIB investigator and now a detective constable in the Financial Crime Unit. Jesus reformed my family through our worship!

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV). How simple it is! Our Lord Jesus just wants us to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with him. Then His

grace and blessing "will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38, NIV).



**OUR LORD JESUS JUST WANTS US TO
ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM.**

Watching my son in the Red Serge holding a Bible while raising his right hand, I thanked Lord Jesus for bringing my family from China to Canada, just like God brought Abram out from Ur. In this promised land of Canada which we treat as our homeland, we enjoyed the greatest blessing: We met our Lord Jesus.

While watching my son holding the Bible, another verse struck me: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15, NIV). That is the pledge that I made for me and my family. I know God is watching us and God's grace will be with us forever.



Integrity

By: Rev. John C. Kurish



Rev. John C. Kurish

In my few years of pastoring, short time as a member of the RCMP and four years of working inside the Federal Penitentiaries as a member of a Security Team; I have had the privilege of working with some gifted leaders in the Church and in the community. What has always garnered my attention is how people interact with one another in their daily lives. I have come to realize that in this journey of life there is not one person who does not have a bias. I have come to see that we all have a bias and our biases will influence our decisions on how we interact with each other. I believe that one of the most crucial ingredients in our relationships is integrity. As followers of Jesus, I am convinced that we, need to allow Holy Spirit to bring about a greater work on the inside of our lives which will then be reflected and lived out in our outward actions towards one another in our communities.

What is it about the past that attracts us? It seems that the days of old were times of a higher moral climate. Fear did not rule the school campuses or city streets. People were more trusting and could be trusted. Our modern technology has taken days off our journeys and made most of our work less time consuming and arduous. The depression era struggles, feel far removed from our days of easy credit and automated teller machines. Dishonesty, a commodity running in overdrive today, used to be practiced by a minority of people. A handshake and a pledge to fulfill our commitments were more than enough for business deals to be agreed upon. Many more words could be used to describe what I believe is missing from our modern culture, the key one that I see missing is integrity.

In his book, *Quiet Strength*, [Tony Dungy](#) the former head coach of the Indianapolis Colts reflects on how integrity in his life was a guidepost for his journey in making decisions on a day to day basis, even when it resulted in a personal loss or pain.

People of integrity can be trusted to act consistently with their words and their actions.

Integrity contains the idea of consistency and honesty. It is understood as an incorruptible link between the heart and a corresponding action or behaviour. People of integrity can be trusted to act consistently with their words and their actions.

In the book of Exodus, we encounter Moses leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt, a place of poverty and persecution for the majority of people living in the land. It is during this journey, in obedience to God's voice, that Moses encounters situations that require wisdom and integrity on a scale that was overwhelming to him, due to the sheer numbers of people coming to him for direction. Thankfully, his father-in-law gave him advice on how to choose leaders from amongst the people in order to deal with the issues that were affecting them. Choose men from amongst yourselves who fear God and hate dishonest gain.

We all long for a day when personal integrity and morality is evident amongst us. As a follower of Christ the character trait of integrity is not an option, but a required attribute.

As we look for leaders to help us navigate our current situations consider the attribute of integrity and whether it is evident in the one you are looking to for leadership.

Rev. John C. Kurish
[Durham Christian Fellowship](#)



CALLIN' ALL POLICE FIRE PARAMEDICS

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION BBQS

September 17, 2022

12:30 pm - 7 pm

Peel Police 11 Division - 3030 Erin Mills Parkway, Mississauga ON

Peel Police 12 Division - 4600 Dixie Road, Mississauga ON

Peel Police 21 Division - 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton ON

Peel Police 22 Division - 7750 Hurontario Street, Brampton ON

Called & Ordained

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



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd) & Chaplain

Law enforcement is a God-ordained profession that comes with a "call for service" from God Himself.

The times we're living in – especially for those of us who served/are serving in law enforcement – are perhaps the toughest ever in our lifetimes. Officers continue to flee our profession and recruitment remains a huge challenge. Accordingly, whether you're a current officer or one who has served in the past (again, for the called, "once a cop, always a cop"), it is important that you understand who we are "in Christ" and that ours is a **calling** from God Himself.

First, let me put a stamp on what we already know (despite what we continue to hear from the pundits, media and others): We (the police) **are NOT** "racists." We already know this is a lie from the very pit of hell (the TRUTH and the evidence to back it up PROVE just the opposite). Regardless, do NOT buy into the lies. On the contrary, perhaps the one profession in America for whom ALL lives truly matter (we fight for all) is us, the American peace officer.

Second, we are NOT alone. God Himself has our "6" while leading us from the front. There are only two professions that are explicitly **ORDAINED** by God in the Bible: the pastorate (traditional "ministry") and us -- **law enforcement** (stay with me).

Thirdly, like pastors, ours is a **God-CALLED** profession. Even as an unsaved "make believer," I knew that I was **CALLED** to "serve and protect" despite not yet personally knowing the One who called me. So what then does it mean to be "**called**" into law enforcement?

Webster defines the word **calling** as "a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence." Then our friends at Got Questions Ministries have put together this wholly biblical explanation (central to this study): [What does it mean to be called by God?](#)

So does that describe you or the reason you're serving? If not, may I respectfully suggest that it should! And if it does not, my encouragement is that you go before the Lord and seek His will and direction for where and how you should be serving (as we know, this profession is NOT for "everyone").

As I've shared so often, law enforcement is specifically identified in Scripture. In fact, our very commission is identified by God Himself as a form of ministry in [Romans 13:1-4](#) (our foundational passage). For a clearer picture, consider the paraphrase of this passage that adorns our ministry shirts and hoodies:

COPS:

God's ministers for good and a terror against evil. We do not bear the sword in vain.

The Greek word for "minister" used here -- *diakonos* -- means SERVANT and "deacon" ([Strong's 1248](#)). Does that not describe our role as a peace officers?

Moreover, God provides specific direction -- "marching orders" if you will -- in His Word (the Bible) for those of us who have been **called** to **serve** in HIS profession of arms, including but by no means limited to:

Psalm 82:3-4

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

Taken in the context of the whole counsel of Scripture, it is also clear that while our profession is specifically ordained by God (although, again, ["blessed are the peacekeepers"](#) is **NOT** about us in law enforcement), serving honorably, effectively and righteously can **ONLY** be fully accomplished by serving under the power and leading of the Holy Spirit (and not by our own strength). Rather, God is imploring us to repent of our sins and come into a right relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, not only for our own salvation but also because He wants to empower us to serve in accordance with our high **calling** (see [Live Worthy of Your Calling](#)).

Of course, the "world" (particularly in the United States) will cry "foul" and state that God has no place in law enforcement. Moreover, the pundits continue to insist that we must transform from the warriors God has called us to be into "guadians" <sigh>. Yet God is emphatic in **Exodus 15:3** -- *The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is His name*. Rest assured, I will always counter the lies of this world with the TRUTH of God's Word.

But what about the "separation of church and state" mess the pundits throw at us? Sadly, most have never taken the time to truly understand or even read what the Constitution says about this issue. But suffice it to say that what the media and courts are "pushing" today is NOT written in the Constitution (see [The Separation of Church and State](#) for a short but highly accurate and enlightening series on this issue).

Let me state again that serving in our God-ordained profession is in fact a special **calling** for those [sheepdogs](#) and **shepherds** (both God's servant-warriors) willing to "*stand in the gap*" ([Ezekiel 22:30](#)) and run TO the sound of gunfire to defend the sheep we serve and protect from the wolves who would otherwise feast on them with impunity? Is that you? If not, may I again humbly suggest you may very well be in the wrong profession and that perhaps you should be seeking God's proper and unique purpose for your life.

Here's a little more of what God has for us on this issue of a **calling**:

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The bottom line? If you are serving in law enforcement for any reason other than it is your true calling, then by all means seek something different. But if you **are** called, then you **MUST** be willing to fulfill that calling under the power, direction and protection of the Holy Spirit. Without that, the targets we have on our backs get even larger and we are very likely to fail. And how do we get that power? **ONLY** by first being born again into a genuine, life-saving/life-changing personal relationship with Jesus Christ (a "Christian" as only God gets to define the word). Is that you? See, [What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?](#)

However, it is also important to know that, as Christians, the attacks against us will come even harder (what we call spiritual warfare). Praise God, He has given us "body armor" and weapons to combat and overcome those attacks (another set of tools that are available **ONLY** to born again believers): see [What is the full armor of God?](#) We would not/should not go on duty without our body armor and side arm would we? Be sure your armed and protected from both physical and spiritual attacks!

Brother or sister officers (current, former, future), I would not and do not blame you for calling it a day (retirement, seeking another job) in law enforcement. And yes, some of us have physically reached the end of our time in uniform (while I continue to serve in a different armed capacity, I recently retired my police commission after nearly 35 years -- which has given me more time to minister [serve] and focus on you guys).

But if you know the Lord and are still serving, pray and ask God to give you the strength to stay the course and finish strong in HIS timing. Lord knows, we are needed now more than ever as we get further and further into [the last days](#) before our Lord comes to take us home (the [Rapture](#) -- just be sure you're right with Him so as to not be left behind).

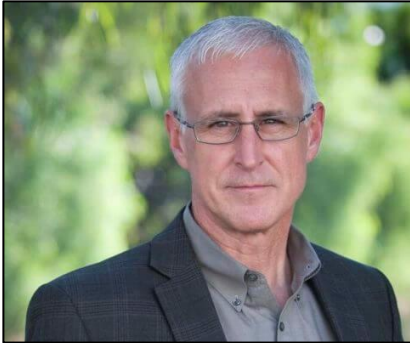
Finally, if God has led you to "pull the pin," then by all means do so. But my prayer is that you will continue to serve in one form or another (again, I truly believe that, for many of us, "**once a cop, always a cop**" rings true): police training/teaching, church security, mentoring young officers, writing, ministry to our own (starting a FCPO chapter, for example) and more). Bottom line is that you're needed -- now more than ever. And please understand that [EVERY Christian is called by God to share the hope we have in Him with the lost](#) (thus covering the "thin blue line" of law enforcement with cross of Christ).



[The Centurion Law Enforcement Ministry](#) is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian outreach by, for and about law enforcement (police, deputies, investigators, probation/parole, corrections, etc.) and military personnel. TCLEM 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.

Lessons from Law Enforcement: How I Learned the Difference between Belief THAT and Belief IN

By: J. Warner Wallace <http://www.thethinbluelife.com/>



J. Warner Wallace

I got the call at about 1:00 a.m. Detectives who are assigned to the homicide unit also investigate officer-involved shootings (OISs), and all of us on the OIS team were called out for this one. When I arrived at the scene, Officer Mark Walker was standing by his patrol car talking with a sergeant and waiting for our arrival. I shook his hand, made sure he was ready to talk about the shooting, and began to walk through the events that precipitated our “callout.”

Mark told me that he was working patrol when he saw a man driving down the street, swerving from lane to lane as though he was drunk. He pulled the driver over and approached his car. When he leaned in to talk to the man, he could smell the alcohol on his breath. Mark asked the man to step out from the car, and the driver reluctantly complied. As the man stood outside his car, Mark could see that he was angry and defiant. Mark decided to conduct a quick “pat-down” search to make sure the irritated driver wasn’t carrying any weapons. Mark had no idea that the driver was Jacob Stevens, a parolee with a long arrest record in an adjacent city. Jacob had just been released from state prison. He was on parole for an assault charge, and tonight he was carrying a loaded Colt .45-caliber pistol hidden in his waistband. Jacob knew that he would go back to jail if the gun was discovered, and he was determined to stay out of jail.

When Mark asked Jacob Stevens to turn around so he could conduct the pat-down search, Jacob turned away for a moment, pulled his gun, and then turned back toward Mark, pointing the gun at Mark’s chest.

“I knew that he had the drop on me,” Mark told me as he recalled the events. “His gun was already drawn and pointed at me before I could even get my hand on mine.”

Jacob had no intention of discussing the situation with Mark. He’d already decided that he wasn’t going back to jail, even if it meant killing this police officer. Jacob pointed his gun at Mark and started to squeeze the trigger. Mark was about to enter the fight of his life, and he was starting off with a distinct disadvantage; he was already seconds behind his opponent. All of us who work in law enforcement understand the importance of wearing our bulletproof vests. When we first became officers we were trained with these vests, and at some point most of us were shown how the vests performed in live-fire tests. We knew that they could stop a bullet, including a .45 round. On this night, Mark was going to put his vest to the test. “I just tensed my stomach muscles and prepared to take the shot as I pulled my gun out of the holster. I knew he was going to get the first round off.” While Mark knew that his vest could sustain the impact of a .45-caliber round, tonight he trusted in the vest for the very first time. In that singular moment, Mark went from “belief that” to “belief in.” It’s one thing to believe that the vest can save a life; it’s another thing to trust it to save your own life. Mark obviously survived the shooting and lived to describe it for us.

It's one thing to believe that the Gospels are true and that Jesus rose from the dead. It's another to trust Jesus as your Savior. If you're a police officer and you haven't yet accepted Jesus as your Savior, don't risk another day without Him. The Gospel is "good news," but [it's even better news for police officers](#).

It's one thing to believe that the Gospels are true and that Jesus rose from the dead. It's another to trust Jesus as your Savior.



WRITTEN BY [J. Warner Wallace](#)

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

Social Media Help Wanted

At our recent AGM we discussed the need to improve our social media presence and engagement. However, looking around the table, it was evident that we (the board members) did not have the expertise/capacity to do this. So... we are wondering if someone in our membership would like to help us with this part of our ministry.

If you (or someone you know), would like to help us, please let us know at fcpo.aapc@gmail.com.

Interested in a policing career?

**Attend Information Session
for the
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Saturday, Oct 15th 2022 - 9am
Toronto Police College
70 Birmingham St.

Register by emailing 8482@tps.ca



ONE CAREER, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER 30-31, 2022



KANANASKIS, AB



CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION RETREAT

Get away and be refreshed at the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team's Law Enforcement Appreciation Retreat. If you're married, bring your spouse and be encouraged! You will hear from speakers who will discuss the unique challenges officers and their families face, and they will share from their own law enforcement experiences and God's Word.

LOCATION

Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge · 1 Centennial Dr., Kananaskis Village, AB

DETAILS

Check-in begins Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 p.m. | Sessions begin with supper at 5:45 p.m.
Retreat ends Monday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m.

\$200/individual · \$225/couple
(cost includes lodging, food, sessions, and materials)

For more information
and to register, visit
BillyGraham.ca/CLER



**"BLESSED ARE
THE PEACEMAKERS"**

MATTHEW 5:9, NKJV

Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness

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



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

Several months ago, I began a series of covering the elements of the spiritual armor of God tailoring my illustrations specifically for police officers. This month I will highlight the piece of armor that protects the very core of the soldier; namely, the breastplate of righteousness.

When I began policing in 1990, I was issued soft body armor in the form of a carrier that held one panel of Kevlar covering my front upper torso and one panel protecting my back. This piece of equipment was relatively new to our police service and most of our seasoned officers did not have issued body armor. Two options were available to the newer officers; a carrier to be worn under the shirt, or an external carrier. I recall being encouraged to wear the inner carrier so as not to appear intimidating to the general public I was serving. During summer months, the internal carrier was stifling, so at times I'd wear the external body armor. I can recall numerous times as a patrol officer being subjected to negative comments from the public who expressed opinions that I was trying to intimidate them by wearing the

external body armor. I am thankful that 30 years later, the general public is better educated and accepting of the purpose and need for the use of external body armor by law enforcement officers. Today, the use of body armor is mandatory for every officer within the Brandon Police Service. Our modern body armor consists of two Kevlar panels on either side plus an armored trauma plate that covers our breast area, in particular our heart and vital organs. This armored plate is optional since the bulletproof vest can be worn without it; however, I and the majority of our officers keep this ceramic plate inserted in order to increase the protection of the "second chance" body armor vest. As much as this product has evolved to this day, the protection it provides still has limitations which is one reason our faith needs to be rooted in more than just the equipment we wear and the training we receive. It would be foolish for us to not embrace training opportunities and incorporate the use of tactical equipment; additionally, our Creator has provided us with instruction and elements of protection that although are spiritual, they offer practical daily protection when applied through faith in God's Word. Our hope for

"Therefore put on the full armor of God"
Ephesians 6:13

survival and faith to continue strong in our calling can and should transcend beyond our practical training and equipment.

We understand that the piercing of the heart through an act of physical trauma will result in death to our mortal body. Hence, we justify our decision to put on our soft body armor when we appear in uniform to our community. Additional protection comes

from inserting the armored trauma plate that covers our breast area. What happens when we insert God's Word into our heart by putting on the spiritual armor of God? Ephesians 6 verse 13 through 14 directs us to, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, ... with the breastplate of righteousness in place ..." When we pray on the full armor of God, our strength becomes rooted not in hope and faith in our equipment but in the strength of God and in his mighty power to protect us, "against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" Ephesians 6:12 (NIV).

While police issued body armor provides a measure of protection for the officer's vital organs, the breastplate of righteousness available through God protects our vital organs spiritually. While an offender may intend to cause grievous bodily harm or even death to a law enforcement officer, Satan will attempt to pierce our most vulnerable areas. God arms us with the breastplate of righteousness to prevent Satan from inflicting a fatal strike.

Before we can have faith in the effectiveness of the breastplate of righteousness, we need to understand the context of the word "righteousness" and its origin. We can never achieve righteousness through our good deeds, or faithful service to our community, or even through feats of heroism. The righteousness that comes with this breastplate comes to us through Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross. This righteousness, just like the breastplate and the other parts of the armor of God, are made available to us through God's holiness and perfection, not our own deeds. When our Heavenly Father sent His son Jesus to this world, he lived the sinless life we should have lived and died the death we deserved to die. Through his acts he

offers us a covering of righteousness to block out the devil's attacks on our hearts and souls. This righteousness is available to all who put their trust in Christ and requires the Believer to make a choice to regularly engage with the scripture in the Holy Bible and spend time with God.

We can never achieve righteousness through our good deeds, or faithful service to our community, or even through feats of heroism.

Righteousness means to be in right standing with God. Prior to beginning my faith walk in 2007, I had no contextual understanding of righteousness, and in fact I saw it through a negative filter. When I thought of righteousness, I thought of persons who acted self-righteous while judging the acts and words of other people. My context of righteousness was found in persons who would portray themselves as perfect but whose behavior was fraudulent. The truth is no one other than Christ was perfect or ever can be perfect. This is why the world needed a savior so that he would restore us to a right standing with God through his life, and his death on a cross. Our only requirement is to embrace a relationship with God and in pursuing Him, we begin to seek his attributes and desire to live a life of deeper spiritual substance. When I feel close to God, my heart is full and satisfied and my soul is at rest. To dwell in that place of rest requires drawing near to God daily because the devil is continually working on attacking the heart and soul (mind, will, and emotions). Living a life with God means experiencing life to the full with abundant blessings which includes equipping us with God's protection through the full armor of God. Jesus' words in John 10:10 assure us that "The thief's [Satan's] purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My [Jesus'] purpose is to give them a rich and

satisfying life. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep” (NLT). Jesus shared these words with the people while he was alive before they knew he would literally sacrifice his life on a cross.

The night before I wrote this message, I watched the Colorado Avalanche defend their one goal lead for over 27 minutes resulting in victory of the ultimate prize of the NHL – the Governor General of Canada Lord Stanley’s cup. Once they gained the lead in the second period, the Avalanche executed a disciplined defensive strategy with very few flaws. Half way through the third period, their strategy began to frustrate their opponent who began to make mistakes. The shift was clear and the advantage rested with the team who stuck to their playbook resulting in the acquisition of the ultimate reward in “Therefore put on the full armor of God” Ephesians 6:13 professional hockey. God has provided us with a playbook of sorts, a manual for life through the Holy Bible, which provides us with strategies to frustrate the enemy that will eventually lead us to our greatest prize – a race finished well with the reward of eternal life in Heaven with our Creator.

“Run in such a way as to get the prize”

1 Corinthians 9:24

In sports, we tend to remember the team who won the cup and forget the runner-up despite all they had sacrificed; in the end their sacrifice and dedication fell short of the prize and they are forgotten. We too are running a race, the human race; however, we already have a champion whose winning team we can be part of simply by making a decision to follow his playbook and learn to live a disciplined life. Ask any title winning athlete and they will tell you it was sacrifice and discipline that got them

the ultimate prize; why should the race we run as humans be any different? The Apostle Paul provided these instructions to the church in Corinth regarding our race in life: “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever” 1 Corinthians 9:24&25 NIV. The athlete who has disciplined their body to perform at the top of their game will also tell you that during their training although there was pain and sacrifice, they felt more alive and capable than any other period in their life.

This world has a savior who already took our pain and made the sacrifice so that the race could be won by all who follow his manual for life. When we embrace that manual, we discover the strength and power of God through various ways He offers to equip us to defend against the enemy such as spiritually putting on the breastplate of righteousness – one element of the armor of God. You may be of the belief that a life void of God and His equipping is optional and you would be correct. However, as police officers we know that when we leave the confines of our police station, our uniform is a target because of the authority that we have been given to walk in. We know that attending calls puts us at risk and we understand the value of choosing to strap on our body armor, holster our side arm, and attach our less than lethal tools before attending a call for service. In the same way, I suggest that we have a spiritual enemy who is continually plotting to take us down emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually; why wouldn’t I choose to equip myself with the protective measures that are plainly listed for me to use through God’s Word? The discipline we apply is minimal, while the results bestowed upon us from God are palpable, and His rewards for us are eternal.

The Whole Armour of God Ephesians 6:10-18



The Helmet of Salvation
Verse-17

The Breastplate of Righteousness
Verse-14
1 Corinthians 1:30

The Shield of Faith
Verse-16
Hebrews 11

The Belt of Truth
Verse-14
John 8:31-32 John 14:6

The Sword of The Spirit
Verse-17
Hebrews 4:12-13

Feet Shod with The Gospel
Verse-15
Romans 10:15

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
Ephesians 6:10-18

Annual
10-7 RETREAT
2022

- September 16-18
- Sessions and Worship
- Accomodations & Meals
- Fun Social Activities
- Fellow Police Couples

CHARLES SWARTWOOD

REGISTER NOW

CCPMINISTRY.COM

CCP

[Canadian Christian Police Ministry](#)

[Muskoka Bible Centre](#), (located just outside of Huntsville, Ontario).

For further info: www.ccpministry.com/

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

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

The Power of Prayer

By: Louise Roussel



Louise Roussel

More things are wrought by prayer than this world can imagine!

Being a police officer is like being a teacher or a social worker. All three jobs require wherewithal in dealing with some pretty dangerous and impromptu situations.

Did you know that teachers also have to deal with kids pulling out knives and other threatening behavior. Likewise caregivers to challenged adults finding themselves fending off a very powerful fist coming right at your face when you are ½ their size. Well, how do we do it?

I say you need to have faith! Some jobs are just impossible or next to it, if you don't have faith! So what is faith you say? Faith is your heart and your mind coming together knowing that life, your life, is not a coincidence. You have a purpose and you will be challenged every day of your life until you discover your purpose, your true calling.



SOME JOBS ARE JUST IMPOSSIBLE OR NEXT TO IT, IF YOU DON'T HAVE FAITH!

How do we go about discovering this true purpose you say. Well, start with a prayer, *"Dear God, if you are really there, please give me a sign"*. If you are sincere about this prayer, you will see opportunities in your day to day life, to make an albeit simple decision of doing

the right thing. For example, and these are actual examples, a beggar comes to you in a public place. Does it hurt to give them a smile and to listen just a minute. I did this, in an airport, cuz I knew it was the right thing to do, at the time. Wouldn't you know it, this beggar, after I began listening to him, told me my knapsack was undone - in fact, when I took it off, the zipper was almost completely opened and my make-up case was no longer there. Next would have been my passport and wallet. I was in Belgium at the time. I was blessed at this moment because I gave time to someone in need. And a little tip in return for his intervention!

Anyway, on to more dangerous situations.... Once when I was walking by on maybe Kent Street in Ottawa I came across a glue sniffer -a pretty far gone glue sniffer. Something happened, I might have given him a look, I don't remember exactly, but he came charging at me to attack. I was still at a distance and I said a prayer, like Jesus please help. And then somehow, almost immediately, this man stopped, yet his threatening behavior continued... and I continued to pray underneath my breath..... Jesus have mercy... help this man.... And I then saw light in his eyes...all of a sudden, just seconds before his eyes were like dark holes, menacing.... And then there was light... this man let me go... and I continued on.... I knew that prayer had had an effect on him and also probably saved me from getting punched out or worse!

Well, even in court, try a prayer, the next time you are called in to testify. Say a prayer, a silent prayer to God, and ask Him to give you the right words and only those words necessary. I was

once before a panel of judges, and it was a pretty dangerous situation for me... and I started to pray in my heart in the courtroom until my time came. I saw in the eyes of the judge interviewing me, that he had compassion. He, believe it or not, exhibited such kindness, it was really comforting. The results were miraculous, I won against a public prosecutor which rarely happens in France. Public prosecutors are judges themselves, and there is one to a city, so you can imagine their importance. God is good! So whether you find yourself in a big city, a medium-sized city or out in [Timbuktu](#), remember, say your silent prayer, and God your warrior will come to the rescue. I guarantee it!

“Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of: Wherefore, let thy voice, Rise like a fountain for me night and day.” — [Alfred Tennyson](#), [Idylls of the King](#)



Meekly of Tracker's Dreams -AKA “Mia”

Editor’s note:

Louise comes from a policing family, and has served in the public service in various government departments in Canada and abroad, including the RCMP. She holds a Master's Degree in Law and Economics from the Sorbonne Université in Paris, and a Bachelor in Multidisciplinary studies from Université Laval. Louise taught high school in France and also taught Human Resources at Université Paris.

Louise is a trained search and rescue dog handler. She is the proud owner of [Mia](#) a beautiful Belgian Shepherd. Mia was trained as a police dog for the Police Nationale in France and was the top of her class. She is the great-granddaughter of Judex who is a world champion police dog from France.

28TH 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 10.01.2022, 11:00AM - 8:00PM

Rifle/Pistol/Skeet/Cannon/Machine Gun Shoot Gourmet Food Helicopter Rides
Children's Bounce Houses, Crafts, and Activities Knife/Tomahawk/Battle Axe/Spear Throwing
Airsoft Mobile Shooting Door Prizes Obstacle Course Fishing Competition
Much more ... Fun For The Whole Family

ROUGH WORLD
RV PARK • CAMPING • EVENT CENTER • TENT RENTAL
63412 Michigan 66,
Sturgis, MI 49091
www.thankyouofficers.com
jim.bontrager@elkhartpolice.org

For more info: <https://thankyouofficers.wixsite.com/breachingbarricade/officer-appreciation-day>
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryMtAyRBb7s&ab_channel=warrioronthewall



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.

Every now and then when I go to enter our vault, I sneak into a neighboring vault. In this case, there I came across an article from a 1985 issue of The Cristian Peace Officer (FCPO - USA).

A Changed Life

By: Officer Jim Hinner

I was raised in a home that firmly believed in attending church on a regular basis. As a child I received instruction both in Sunday School and in the Lutheran Church. We had confirmation classes which began at the age of 11 years and continued for two years. At the completion of the two years we were confirmed and accepted as members into the church. My wife, Karen, and I were married in the same church we were confirmed in.

The early church life for me provided a tremendous amount of head knowledge about the Bible and Jesus Christ. The area in which I feel the church really failed was that they never taught me to depend on Christ. They never taught me to look to Him in time of trouble and need. They never taught me that He could be my personal Saviour. I was never taught that a person could have a personal relationship with Christ.

I remember as a child I would sit in church and I would look for the highest place in the church in the area of the Altar. I always thought that Jesus would be up there if He was going to stop by and visit the church. Somewhere along the line during my youth, whether it was my fault or the teaching of the church, or a combination

of both I don't know, I was totally unprepared to look toward Christ when difficult times confronted me.

Karen and I were married on July 11, 1964. I was in the service at the time and stationed at Camp Pendelton, California. After our marriage, Karen came to California to be with me. During this time, both of us fell far from any relationship with the church. During this period of our life I was sent to Viet Nam as a Navy Corpsman attached to Fleet Marine Force. After a short period of time in Viet Nam I was wounded by mortar fragments that penetrated the body of a man I was working on. The fragments entered my eye and damaged the optic nerve. I returned home from Viet Nam totally blind. I had mortar fragments in the right eye and flash blindness in the left eye. In rather short order my sight returned in the left eye, but surgery was required on my right eye. The doctor told my wife that the odds of me ever regaining my vision in the right eye were very slim. The surgery was successful and today I can see.

I remember talking with the doctor just prior to my discharge from the hospital. I thanked him for restoring my vision. He told me that he deserved no credit but I should thank God because He was the only reason that I had my sight. I thought, there is a humble man, he doesn't want to take all the credit. I never did take seriously what he said about God healing my eyes. It took me thirteen years to really hear what that doctor told me.

When I returned home from Viet Nam I was a different person than the one who left.

When I returned home from Viet Nam I was a different person than the one who left. I returned with a temper that would flare at the drop of a hat. I returned extremely bitter and filled with hate. I still remember a Navy Chaplain talking with me and asking me to pray the Lord's Prayer with him. I told him that I couldn't do that because it says to forgive my enemies and all I could pray was for God to send death and destruction on those who had killed my friends. The chaplain told me that with that attitude I was going to hell. I responded that if his God couldn't understand my feelings he could go to hell and take his God with him. I didn't want any part of Him.

The next thirteen years I totally turned away from God. I didn't even go to church on Christmas or Easter - when holiday Christians attend.

The next thirteen years I totally turned away from God. I didn't even go to church on Christmas or Easter - when holiday Christians attend.

I became a police officer partially because I would have an opportunity to get back at some of the "long hairs" that were protesting the war and I felt had helped kill and wound my friends. In some ways I was like Saul when he pursued and persecuted the Christians with a vengeance. I pursued the hippies with a vengeance and I did a good job of it.

I became a police officer partially because I would have an opportunity to get back at some of the "long hairs"

By this time my son was born. Our family life went well for a while. As you know, working the street frequently puts us in contact with some rather obstinate people. I remember telling kids in the street to do something and if they didn't respond I really had little recourse. When my son would tell me "no", I would teach him a hard lesson. In short order I found myself knocking my son around every time he got a little mouthy with me. I became a child abuser. It got so bad that one day when David was about seven years old, he told me that he hated me! My daughter was quieter and went to her room for refuge and did not receive the same physical abusive treatment as David, but I am sure Denise lived in fear also.

Karen had somehow or another met two "Jesus freaks" that lived in the neighborhood and was beginning to actively read the Bible. After a period of time she gave her life to Christ. Unbeknownst to me she started talking about Jesus with David and Denise and they began praying for me. Suddenly Karen stopped arguing with me and the children stopped mouthing off. I didn't understand what was happening. Periodically Karen would ask me to go to church with her but I continually refused always using that Navy Chaplain as my reason and telling her I didn't need it.

Almost two years after Karen and the children gave their lives to Christ I relented and attended church with them. I felt safe going to church because it was a Lutheran Church similar to the one I was raised in. Little did I know that it was a Spirit-filled church.

The first time I attended the Pastor spoke on finances (which I hated to hear), they sang praise songs and raised their hands, and some guy came up to me and gave me a hug and told me that Jesus loved me. I couldn't wait to get out of there! I told Karen that if that was her idea of church that was okay, but it wasn't for me. Something happened that day though when that fellow told me that Jesus loved me. I couldn't get those words out of my mind. How could Jesus love me? I had rejected Him thirteen years ago. I told Him I didn't want anything to do with Him. I beat my children. I swore like a trooper. I was an angry and bitter person. Jesus loved me? Maybe someone else but not me. I came home from work the following Sunday at 3:30 A.M. and woke Karen up and asked her to get me up for church on Sunday morning. I have never left! There was

something there. They accepted me where I was at and they loved me and cared for me.

In February of 1979, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I accepted Him as my personal Lord and Saviour. The Lord instantly took cursing out of my life. He healed me of my anger and bitterness and, most importantly, He healed me from child abuse. We are a new creation in Christ and praise God He created new relationships in our family. It was in 1979 that I really heard what the doctor had told me thirteen years earlier. Our loving Heavenly Father had loved me enough to give me back my sight. He loved me when I would have nothing to do with Him. Talk about a lesson in Agape love!

Today my daily prayer is to be used as God's instrument! My favorite song is "Amazing Grace" because truly I once was blind, but now I SEE! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is truly KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS!

It is because of all the wondrous things that Christ has done for me that I desire to be His servant.

For more info: <https://thankyouofficers.wixsite.com/breachingbarricade>

A Missions Conference Like No Other!

Unifying believers from every tribe and nation.
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world

You Are Invited!

November

4th & 5th

2022

MORE THAN 25 MISSION
ORGANIZATIONS, COMPANIES AND
COLLEGES



245 Renfrew Dr, Markham, ON L3R 6G3
Peoples Christian Academy - Private School

or visit [transformativetimes.ca](https://www.transformativetimes.ca/)

Featured Speakers



**Kevin & Julia
Garratt**

Two Tears on
the Window



**Scott
Kennedy**

Charis Bible
College



**Greg
Musselman**

The Voice of the
Martyrs Canada



**Floyd
Brobbel**

The Voice of the
Martyrs Canada

Special Guest Performances



Martine Kelsey

Friday, November 4
Doors open at 7PM



Rachel Teo

Saturday, November 5
Doors open at 6PM

Come visit our booth! For more info: <https://www.transformativetimes.ca/>