



FCPO - CANADA

The Peacemaker



May, 2022

From the President's Desk

FCPO - Canada Membership 871



Last year with the [spring issue](#), ever the optimist, I wrote that the COVID mess was coming to an end. So much for that! Well, I hope this will be it, and we will soon be back to “normal”, whatever that will be. On that point, I’m not sure that the old “normal” was good enough. I think we were complacent - I think many of us were not on mission - Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Our new normal will not be the same. We now see the devastation of war in Ukraine, and who knows what next.

At the turn of the last century, I was seconded to the National Crime Prevention Centre as a senior advisor from the RCMP. We did lots of interesting research into what causes and how to prevent crime. I remember listening to a person who was telling us about restorative justice. I am sure most are familiar with that. Basically, an offender is held accountable to their victim and a resolution is reached to try to restore the situation to what it was before the crime was committed. I remember a presenter saying it was not good enough to restore things to the way they were, as those conditions were part of the problem of why the crime occurred in the first place. They said what is needed is transformation. I like that - things get transformed, what was old becomes totally new. Such is the change that happens in one’s life when they seriously connect with Jesus - transformation! In this issue MC Williams speaks of the need for such transformation. As he often says its Code 3 urgent, not just for you, but for your colleagues also.

Thank you to all who contribute to this newsletter. It is great to see folks writing articles. This newsletter is only as good as the content we receive. Please consider writing a little something for our next issue. On the top of this page, I have added the number of members we have in this organization. I find it very encouraging to see that number growing. However, our membership during this COVID pandemic has not grown much. There are many who do not know about this unique fellowship, so please remember to tell people about your FCPO. Remember - “Iron sharpens iron”.



God bless,

Ron

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From where does my help come from?

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



Sgt. Dino Doria (Ret'd.)

This issues devotion is taken from Psalm 121.

This psalm reminds me of His unfailing love and promises to me. It is my faith in Christ that points me to His promises and teaches me to trust in Him. How do we sincerely trust Him who we have never seen?

John 20:29, reminds me of what Jesus said to doubting Thomas.

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

It is by faith that the Lord reveals himself to us ". By faith I know that he is more than capable to sharpen and strengthen my faith so that I know that I know that He is with me through life's good times and valleys.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:1-3 (ESV)

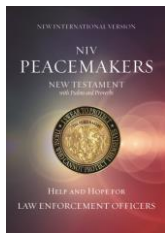
So I lift my eyes to the Lord and I know that "His Peace and Assurance" comforts me because "He lives!"

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?**
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.**
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.**
- 8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.**

God bless,

Dino Doria MSc



Can you Help? - [Project Sword](#)

We are over halfway to [our goal](#) of offering 10,000 copies of this special peace officer's New Testament to serving peace officers across Canada. We will ship you a box (50) if you can commit to offering them in your area. It's free and the content has the ability to change lives forever!

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info@fcpcanada.com

The Centurion

By: [Pastor Marvin Massecar](#), Golden Harvest Baptist Church, Stevensville, Ontario



Sgt. Marvin Massecar (Ret'd)

I have preached many times on the Centurion at the cross, and I am still struck by what is taking place here. The Centurion was an officer of the Roman Army, and commanded 100 men, but there was a portion of his responsibility that was focused on the enforcement of the laws of Rome. So, in my mind, he was an early edition of a LEO. In Luke 23 we read of the crucifixion of Christ, the interaction with the thief on the cross, and the assurance that “today you will be with me in Paradise.”

In verse 46, Jesus cries out with a loud voice, and says, “Father into your hands I commend My spirit”, and then he dies. We know from other Gospel accounts that this is followed by an earthquake, darkness and by the veil in the Temple being torn in two. But I am always struck by verse 47, “So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, ‘Certainly this was a righteous man’”. Mark quotes the centurion just a little different in Mark 15:39, “**Truly this Man was the Son of God.**”

I always tell people that as a retired police officer, I’m a bit jaded, or cynical. I rarely believe anything I hear, and only half of what I see, and I can’t help but feel that this Centurion may have been just a little that way as well. He

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would have been exposed to different postings throughout the Roman Empire. He would have dealt with violence and he would have dealt violence out. He would have been lied to, and he would have dealt with some shady characters. But as this day draws to a close, and this execution is completed, there is something different that he notices.

We don’t know what he may have heard about Christ, or what he himself had seen, but he comes to a profound conclusion here. Truly this man was the Son of God, He was a righteous Man.

The ministry of the FCPO is so very vital, in reaching those that are charged with protecting and serving. Peace Officers are a unique mission field, due to the nature of their work, and they need Jesus, just as much as anyone.

Let me challenge you to live out the reality of your faith before the men and women that you work with. Let them see Jesus, and our prayer is that they too will be able to say, “Truly this man was the Son of God.”



Saved

By: Sgt. Jesse Weeks, GTA Director



Sgt. Jesse Weeks

I was saved when I was about 5 years old. I was at church in Cork, Ireland, when I went to Sunday school and a teenage girl shared the good news.

You may ask, what was I saved from? What threat existed to my 5 year old self?

The answer is that I was saved from myself, from my very nature which was against God from the beginning. (Romans 5:12) No matter how much my parents loved me, they did not have the power to forgive sin and deem me to be righteous in the eyes of God.

I don't recall the exact words or Bible verses the teenaged girl used but I certainly recall being convicted of the following:

- I had done wrong in the eyes of God, I was a sinner;
- The punishment for sin was condemnation, death and separation from God in hell;
- God requires perfection to enter Heaven, so being imperfect, I was unable to save myself.

However, the good news is... Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who bore the guilt of my sin and defeated the power of sin through His death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, I could be redeemed (forgiven) in His eyes and become a child of God. Jesus took my punishment! God accepted His sacrifice on my behalf and through faith I could be SAVED.

After church that day, I recall peering out of my family's car window, deep in thought as we drove home. When we arrived, I ran to our couch, threw my face into a pillow and had a heart to heart with the almighty God Himself. I told Him that I knew I was guilty, that I wanted to turn away from my sin and that I trusted Jesus Christ was His son who died for me. I asked that he would accept me into His family so that I could live for Him.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Acts 16:31

Years later as a teenager, now in living in Markham, Ontario, Canada, I found myself again at Sunday school. A man from the congregation was leading the sessions and told us about SCURB. I thought that was a

weird word. What could SCURB possibly mean? He spent some time breaking the acronym down.

S	sin	Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
C	condemned	Romans 6:23 "the wages of sin is death"
U	unable	Ephesians 2:8, 9 "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." and Titus 3:5 "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy"
R	repent	Luke 13:3 "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish"
		Mark 1:15 "repent and believe the gospel."
B	believe	Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

**TODAY AT ALMOST 40
YEARS OLD, I CONTINUE TO
DEVELOP A DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT
JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.**

Today at almost 40 years old, I continue to develop a deeper understanding of what Jesus has done for me. My faith has been tested at times and yet, in spite of various sufferings I've experienced, Jesus Christ offers the same hope as He did when I was 5. No one and nothing else has conquered sin and death. No one and nothing else has the power to save humanity from itself. The following passages summarizes the good news well. Jesus suffered and died in our place, taking the punishment we deserved so that "by His wounds we are healed."

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:2-8 NIV

"Good" Cops, "Good" People?

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



Lt. MC Williams (Ret'd) & Chaplain

"None are good...not even one"

[Romans 3:10-12, Psalm 14:1-3](#)

While this is by no means a "new" subject for me, recent events have once again shoved this subject to the forefront. A HUGE part of my speaking and teaching ministry is devoted to this subject, but so many in our God-ordained [\(Romans 13:1-4\)](#) but largely unsaved profession (most police officers are not born again believers -- ours is indeed a mission field), continue to falsely believe that we can "badge" our way out of hell and into heaven based on our service in law enforcement.

That a "good cop" or a "good person" is entitled or otherwise "deserves" heaven as a "reward" for our so-called "good" service and sacrifice. Friend, God clearly says, "It just ain't so!" (and thus the reason for my "Code 3" sense of urgency).

[Mark 10:17-31](#) records Jesus' interaction with a rich young ruler. The man said to Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ([Mark 10:17](#)). Jesus started His response with, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone" ([Mark 10:18](#)). Was Jesus denying that He is God? Why would He say this if He is God? It is clear from the rest of His conversation with this man that Jesus' response was used to point out the true condition of the man's heart and the reality that Jesus is in fact God in flesh ("God with skin on").

Jesus went on to say that to have eternal life, the man had to obey the commandments. The man told Jesus that he had kept all of these commands since childhood. Jesus had slowed the man down before,

asking him to think through the implications of "good." Yet the man still seemed to believe himself righteous.

The third statement of Jesus surfaced the hard truth. Jesus told him, *"You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me"* ([Mark 10:21](#)). In response, the man left sadly, unable to give up his possessions to follow Christ. Jesus goes on to explain to His disciples the difficulty those with wealth have in accepting Christ. When we believe all our needs are met—materially or that we are "good" people, "good" cops or that we can follow a law or a formula to gain eternal life—we fail to recognize our desperate need for a Savior and that we **MUST** come to Jesus in repentance and saving faith ([Mark 1:15](#) -- Jesus) in Him alone (no "other" way we can be saved -- John 14:6).

This passage as a whole was not about Jesus making some false distinction between Himself and God, but rather about pointing out some of the barriers that keep people from becoming genuine, born again followers of Christ ("Christians" as only God gets to define it).

The quote *"No one is good except God"* alone refers back to [Psalm 14:3](#) where it is written, **"there is none who does good, not even one."** This shows that Jesus used Scripture to answer the man's first question from Psalms as well as from the Ten Commandments ([Exodus 20](#)). The man sought to receive eternal life from the Law and his so-called "good" works; Jesus called the man to repentance and to surrender in faith in Himself for salvation.

The apostles would emphasize this contrast between the law and salvation by faith repeatedly in the New Testament. [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) states, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* [John 1:17](#) teaches, *"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."*

In closing, and with this study in mind, let me again ask the most important question that can be asked. Do YOU truly **know** Christ as Lord and Savior? Are you in fact born again (saved in Him alone (no "other" way). If you died today, would you go to heaven or to hell (God's standard -- not your own)? If [the rapture](#) occurs today (and it could), will you be taken up (home) or left behind? Why? And are you sure of your answer? If not (you had BETTER be right...), then I plead with you -- **backup/cover** of the eternal kind -- to scroll down to the **Know God?** section below.

KNOW GOD?

(1) Do you continue to hold to an utterly false hope that you can "earn" or otherwise "badge" your way into heaven and escape hell because you consider yourself to be a **"good"** cop or a **"good person"**? That you can be "good" or "righteous" enough for heaven (God's house) without knowing Christ as Lord and Savior? That mere "belief" is enough to "save" you (as our Lord, through James, tells us, *"...even the demons believe, and tremble"* -- [James 2:19](#))? Or that you (as I shared in the study above) "deserve" heaven because of your so-called "good" and honorable service in law enforcement? Take the [Good Person Test](#) and see how you do!

(2) Jesus' first recorded words in His earthly adult ministry included, *"Repent and believe in the Good News..."* ([Mark 1:15](#)). To [repent](#) is a "180" -- a complete, **radical** change of mind and heart as it relates

to our sin (as God defines it). To "believe" (*pisteuo* in the original Greek -- a different word than James used in **James 2:19**) as Jesus intends it here is to [wholeheartedly trust and surrender your life to Him in faith](#) in the same way we have "faith" that our body armor will do its job against the rounds it is intended to stop; that a well-maintained weapon will function properly when used in against criminals intent on destroying us or others; or that our parachute will open when it is supposed to on a combat jump (we stake our very lives on it)! For more, see [What does it mean to believe in Jesus?](#)

(3) This same concept of "**believe**" (the saving kind) is further revealed in [John 3:1-21](#) where Jesus says, "... *you must be born again.*" Again, note our Lord's emphasis on the word "**must**" (not "may" or "should" or even "someday"). Friends, this is ultimately the life-saving AND life-changing personal relationship (and NOT "religion") with Jesus Christ that I stress here every week (see [What does it mean to be a born again Christian?](#)). HINT: there is no other kind.

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

(5) Need more? Then check out this powerful, short video message from Maj. **Travis Yates**: [Cops and Salvation](#).

(6) Have you now said "yes" to Jesus as Lord and Savior but are wondering what to do next? The "now what" is also vital in dealing with the issues that contribute to police suicide, PTSi (Post Traumatic Stress **injury** -- I refuse to call it a "disorder") and more. Click on, [Now what?](#)

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

MC



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

NOTICE

2022 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at the [Golden Harvest Baptist Church](#), 3130 Point Abino Rd. Stevensville, Ontario on June 11th, 2022 at 1:00 pm (EDT). Given the uncertainty of 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.

How Your Christian Faith Can Help You Embrace a Post Law Enforcement Life

By: Officer Paul Milone

This article was originally published in [The Thin Blue Life](#). It was submitted by Officer Paul Milone. Paul serves at a large USA police agency and is approaching retirement. He has some wise and practical advice for others who are nearing the end of their law enforcement careers.

It is a Saturday night at 11:30 pm. I find myself in a precarious, yet very comfortable position in life. I



am at a SWAT briefing for a No Knock Search Warrant on a Homicide suspect who just killed another man over nothing really. And at the briefing, I get the assignment of “Ram One”. I’ll be the guy standing in front of a door, with a 60 pound ram, because my job is breaking down the door to a suspected killer’s house. This is nothing new, as I have been part of this SWAT team for well over 16 years at this point. And I am the “ram guy” about 9.5 times out of 10. I have breached over 1000 doors by now.

As the briefing continues, I am surrounded by 12 of my best friends. Soon, pictures of the homicide suspect and his house are being passed around. The team is being briefed by the Homicide Lieutenant and our SWAT Team Leader. We are given the details of the homicide, expectations of weapons, dogs, security cameras, barricaded doors, family members..... We take the information in like we are planning to go out to lunch. No real fear. We listen, but being as this is a “normal day”, we also have sidebar conversations about our own little tasks in the bigger picture of the operation. It is simply what we do.

With the briefing complete, we gather our gear, then huddle up for a quick team prayer before we set off into the dark of the night. Yeah, a team prayer. We ask God to watch over us while we “do his

work”, while going after the bad guys. The prayer is something I instituted several years back as a way to alleviate any nerves about what we are going to face. It made a difference in the demeanor of the guys that was evident by all who witnessed what we did.

We ride in the van to the residence, disembark, I ram the door and we locate the suspect on the couch of the front room, gun on the couch with him. Successful mission. Nobody got hurt.

This is a true story, and one of many almost exactly like it. In fact, between Gang, Narcotics & SWAT warrants, I have served about 2300 search warrants in my career. I have rammed over 1000 doors, and never really had any fear.

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.

J. Warner Wallace

Lessons From Law Enforcement:
How I Learned The Difference Between
Belief THAT And Belief IN

THE THIN BLUE
LIFE

In fact, the reason for this reflection is this: I quite often relate this story or a similar one to people when they seem apprehensive to open a new chapter in their life. When it's time for them to make a change and "go thru that next door" a lot of people can be hesitant. They simply don't know what is on the other side. I would quite often tell them to trust that God has a plan, and to simply move forward. And I believed it, or so I thought.

Prior to being a police officer, I was a counselor of sorts. And given the positions I attained on the police department, I have found myself being the counselor to other cops when life deals those curve balls, dangers, pain, suffering, unknowns... And my go to discussion was to tell them that going through the next door of life was easier than they thought. Just Knock, and He shall open the door for you.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)

I was confident in telling them that all of us go through dozens of doors every day. Bathroom doors, bedroom doors, main doors, garage doors, doors at work, quick shop, grocery store... Doors are everywhere. And we almost never fear what is on the other side. So why is this next door of life so hard to open? Just knock and go through it, have no fear.

Well it all sounded good in my head and really cool when it came out of my mouth over the years. But at the time, the doors I was going through were like the one described in the first part of this reflection. And to me, those are the easy doors.

But when it came time for me to retire from the swat team last year, that next door I had to open was the hardest door I had come into contact with. I felt like when I went through it, it slammed behind me and it was instantaneously & permanently locked. No going back. I also felt like it was a door to nowhere. Like walking into a massive, dark, empty room. No signs of where to go from here, no receptionist, no lights leading the way. Just me in a dark silent room... So much for being confident in the words of Matthew 7:7

I found myself wondering if my faith was fraudulent. If I was a big talker but not a believer. Heck, I teach faith formation at my church. I attend weekly mass. I pray daily. I give witnesses to my faith in front of large groups. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my savior...

When we fear about going through our next door, trust in the Lord our God that He has already seen where we are going because to Him, the future is already a memory.

But this door I went through kicked my butt so to speak. And to top it off, I am about to go through one more door that causes me some concern. I am retiring from the department here in a few days. The final door for my career. In my mind, I think I'm ready, but I thought the same thing when I left the swat team. So I wonder if my reaction will be the same. So I am praying about this door. Not praying that God has chosen a good path for me, but rather praying that I can lift up my will to that of Gods will. Praying that He can help me follow the path laid out before me.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

I do know that God has always been with me. He has led me to where I am now. Just 13 years ago, He grew tired of waiting on me to come to Him, so God came to me. He took this broken down, self-absorbed, callous, impatient control freak and made me new.

I waited patiently for the Lord; And He reached down to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud; And He set my feet on a rock, making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the Lord. (Psalm 40)

I can't say that I waited patiently for Him though. He came to me when I was not even looking. Now I follow Him, even though I sometimes try to go back to the old Paul and be in control of everything. It is yet another learning point, that when we give our lives to Christ, it is not the end of our journey, rather it is simply the beginning. We will stumble along the way. We will revert to our old selves once in a while. We will forget to put on the armor of God and try to go it alone....

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)

So as I reach for that door handle to turn it one last time (before I retire) I must remind myself of the words of David and pray:

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. (Psalm 118)

So for everybody else, remember that when we fear about going through our next door, it is generally just fear of the unknown. And therefore we can overcome that fear by simply trusting in the Lord our God that He has already seen where we are going because to Him, the future is already a memory.



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).

**THE THIN BLUE
LIFE**

Don't Shoot the Wounded

By: Ron Mostrey, FCPO - Canada President



C/Supt. Ron Mostrey (Ret'd)

In my youth I used to have an aquarium. One of the things I noticed about aquarium fish was that if a fish got sick, the other fish would pick on it and eventually it would die. I always thought it was like that because the other fish did not want to get sick, so they would kill the host of the sickness. Now with that little bit of speculation, I would like to apply that to our world in law enforcement.

From time to time we find colleagues who are in trouble. Sometimes it's big trouble - internal or even criminal allegations. Like the fish in the aquarium, even though we were happily "swimming" with them in good times, when trouble befalls them - we drop them like a hot potato! We ignore them and ostracize them. Some know exactly what I am talking about and they have experienced it - perhaps at both ends of the equation.

Most are familiar with the phrase "Hate the sin - love the sinner". That needs to be applied when a colleague is in trouble. As Christians we stand for the utmost integrity and deplore any actions that tarnish the badge. However, we have got to remember to stand with compassion beside those who have erred. Not in any way to condone their action, but to be there as a friend during their storm. Although rare, most of us

have known of officers who have committed suicide after allegations came to light. It breaks my heart to think that there is anything so bad that it would cause a colleague to take their life.

Whenever anyone's actions are put under the "Internals" microscope, whether the allegations be founded or unfounded - it is an additional stress. I think anyone who works in this profession is bound to get complaints against them - it sort of comes with the job. I have even heard it said "if you're not getting any complaints against you it is because you're not doing your job"! I'm not too sure about that one! Like many of you I did get the odd complaint against me. The problem is that accusations, even if unfounded, hang over one's head for months and sometimes years. It's during that period that one finds out who their real friends are. The Bible tells us: *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.* Proverbs 17:17. The adversity can be a founded complaint.

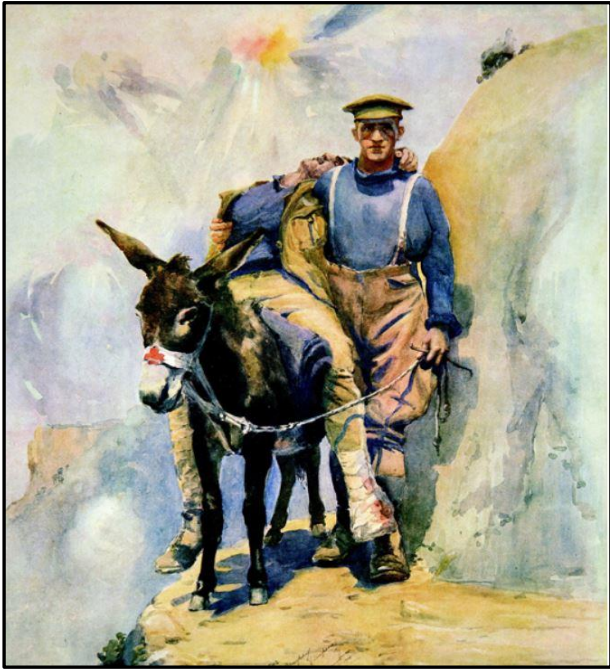
Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Galatians 6:1-3 NIV

If you are in this profession you will have either been "under the gun" or know a colleague who was or is. I encourage you to take Chuck Girard's song "Don't Shoot the Wounded" to heart. Reach out to someone who is wounded today and let them know you care and are praying for them.



🎵 Don't shoot the wounded

Chuck Girard



"Man with the Donkey" by Horace Moore-Jones



Don't shoot the wounded,
they need us more than ever
They need our love no matter
what it is they've done

Sometimes we just condemn them,
And don't take time to hear their story
Don't shoot the wounded, someday you might be
one

It's easy to love the people who are standing hard
and fast
Pressing on to meet that higher calling
But the ones who might be struggling, we tend
to judge too harshly
And refuse to try and catch them when they're
falling
We put people into boxes and we draw our hard
conclusions
And when they do the things we know they
should not do
We sometimes write them off as hopeless
And we throw them to the dogs

Our compassion and forgiveness sometimes
seem in short supply. So I say...

CHORUS

We can love them and forgive them
When their sin does not exceed our own
For we too have been down bumpy roads before
But when they commit offenses outside the
boundaries we have set
We judge them in a word and we turn them out,
And we close the door
Myself I've been forgiven for so many awful
things
I've been cleansed and washed and bathed so
many times
That when I see a brother who has fallen from
the way
I just can't find the license to convict him of his
crimes. So I say...

CHORUS

That doesn't mean we turn our heads when we
see a brother sin
And pretend that what he's doing is all right
But we must help him see his error, we must lead
him to repent
Cry with those who cry, but bring their deeds
into the light
For it's the sick that need the doctor,
and it's the lame that need the crutch
It's the prodigal who needs the loving hand
For a man who's in despair, there should be
Kindness from his friends
'Lest he should forsake the fear of almighty God
And turn away from God and man. So I say...

CHORUS

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Who Am I to Judge When I Walk Imperfectly?

By: [Jennifer Parr](#), One Way Ministries



Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Ephesians 4:31 NIV

This picture will look familiar to many of you. I used it in my blog exactly one year ago today as I wrote about how COVID fatigue was manifesting itself in me by being judgmental towards others who held different perspectives than I did on vaccines, stay-at-home orders, CERB etc. I shared that in my most humble moments with the Lord, I had to admit that these were only the tip of the iceberg of the judgements I make of people, both consciously and unconsciously, on a regular basis. I recognized that these judgements reveal more about myself and my heart than about others and they encouraged me to look inwards.

I received feedback from a number of you last year that the post hit a chord with you and that you recognized yourself in it.

In the past two weeks, since the Freedom Convoy rolled into Ottawa, judgement has been running rampant in our city, in conversations within families, amongst friends and in workplaces. Judgement of protesters, judgement of those that support the protesters, judgement of those that don't, judgement of the police, judgement of the Prime Minister, judgement of the Opposition just to name a few.

After much prayer, for the first time, we have chosen to repost a blog. Please know it is not about the protest, but it is about our heart as workplace leaders and how judgement can negatively impact the Christ-like character we bring to our workplace.

At the end of this blog, we have posted some prayer points from Love Ottawa. We pray that these will shift us from the judgments we may be making around what is occurring in our city, to a posture of prayer.

Who am I to judge when I walk imperfectly?

As leaders, we make judgements about people that we work with all of the time. Here are just a few ways that we judge others:

- **Morality Judgements:** We judge the honesty, trustworthiness, sincerity, and integrity of people.
- **Competence Judgements:** We judge the capability, intelligence, skillfulness and confidence of others.
- **Relational Judgements:** We judge how friendly, likeable and kind other people are.

Very often, we are judging whether or not someone is “just like us” or like we wish they would be, forgetting that God has created us uniquely and differently. Just because others think or behave or perform differently than we do does not make them wrong – it just makes them different. As the body of Christ, we are all different.

Our choice to judge and criticize others can cause suffering to both ourselves and others. Our critical spirit can pollute our heart, it can rob us of joy and peace, it can diminish our belief that God is the ultimate judge and authority, and it can lead to a sense of superiority and pride. God wants us to have humble hearts, not to think of ourselves as better than others or to act superior to others.

“Here is one way to know I’ve forgotten the gospel of grace; when your sin bothers me more than my own” Tullian Tchividjian

Scripture warns judgmental people that they will be judged by the same measure with which they judge others. While we are taught to confront sinful behaviour in a loving way, we are also taught to have love and compassion for those who are not just like us.

Last year at this time I apologized to two of the people that I was “judging”. I knew in my heart that my judgement of them was not of God. I recognized that those judgements were saying more about myself than those I was judging.

Some reflection questions for this week:

- How are you coping with COVID fatigue? Is it manifesting itself in ways that you need to repent about and turn from?
- How are those you lead and work with coping with COVID fatigue? Are you judging them or are you offering support to them?
- Are you judging others you work with in ways that are holding you back from a deeper relationship with them?
- Are there judgments of others you need to let go of because they are robbing you of internal peace and joy?

Is there anyone you need to apologize to?



*This blog was written by Jennifer Parr
One Way Ministries Workplace Network*



WORKPLACE NETWORK

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

Boots on the Ground

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



Cst. Bruce Ewanyshyn

Two months ago, I began a series on the Armor of God tailoring it specifically to our walk as police officers. I wrote about the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation, and how the application of both these weapons of warfare are mighty for protecting police officers in both the practical sense and in the supernatural. In the Holy Bible, specifically within the Book of Ephesians, we receive instructions to “be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil” Ephesians 6:10-11 [HCSB].

Over the past 16 months since we took on the task of lodging arrestees in cells at BPS, I’ve lost track of the number of times I’ve heard my peers refer to the behavior of their arrestee as “possessed” or “demonic”. In attending to the cells to process arrestees, I’ve witnessed bizarre behavior from women and men under the influence of meth, cocaine, fentanyl, and chemical combinations. Whether we describe them as “out of their mind” or “demon possessed”, we can agree that their actions are unpredictable and dangerous. Therefore, as police officers, we need to be vigilant in our preparations for the readiness of battle physically, mentally, and spiritually, which includes prayer.

BE STRENGTHENED BY THE LORD

AND BY HIS VAST STRENGTH.

EPHESIANS 6:10 [HCSB]

We have the shield of faith to protect our vital organs and the helmet of salvation to cover our mind and thought processes, but what enables us to arrive and move safely on the battlefield?

As police officers, we have sworn an oath to preserve and protect life and property, so there is no shrinking back from chasing an offender across broken glass within a break and enter, or kicking in a locked door to stop a domestic assault in progress.

I have written before that I believe God has called each of my peers to a career in policing, and in doing so He offers to protect them so that they can accomplish the call. A responding officer wouldn’t get very far attempting to cross a glass fragmented floor of a business in bare feet or chase after an offender through a field of stones, let alone trying to establish proper footing to fight a battle on any similar terrain. Therefore, in preparation for a tour of duty, our feet must be protected so that we can carry our weapons to the battle and be in a position to gain victory and successfully subdue and apprehend the assailant.

The Norwegian translation of Ephesians 6:15 instructs us, “and having shod your feet with the preparation for battle that the gospel of peace provides.” To shod your feet means to have them fitted and protected.

In the physical sense, much detail is given to the boots of a police officer in preparation for drill. Prior to entering onto the parade square, an officer’s boots are inspected with an expectation that requires the leather be buffed to a mirror-like shine. During police recruit training, many hours are committed to boot shining and maintaining the impeccable appearance of the boots throughout many months of training. The process of boot care promotes discipline and generates pride in decorum. Once the officer takes to the streets, he sees how quickly his polished boots become muddied, scuffed, and worn. The priority shifts from maintaining a flawless image to embracing the necessity of boots that are lightweight, agile and can endure much abuse.

I recall switching my parade boots for comfortable tactical police boots within a year of working the streets. My priority shifted from boot appearance to proper fit, comfort, and protection. Over 30 years later, I still have my original parade boots and my first pair of comfortably fitted tactical boots. The tactical boots are worn, torn and their soles are cracked and they haven’t been worn for police work in years. Today, they neither serve the practical purpose of providing comfort through fit, nor the necessity of protection through structural integrity. For a couple hundred dollars, boots are readily replaced, thus ensuring our feet are protected for each tour of duty.



**IN THE SPIRITUAL SENSE, OUR FEET
MUST BE FITTED TO CARRY US INTO
EVERY SITUATION IN OUR ROLE AS
PEACEMAKERS AND/OR
PEACEKEEPERS.**

In the spiritual sense, our feet must be fitted to carry us into every situation in our role as peacemakers and/or peacekeepers. While police boots enable us to physically chase offenders over adverse terrain, once we apprehend and subdue an arrestee, will we stand at peace? Will we focus on justice being served through our criminal justice system? Or, will we entertain retaliation against the person who committed the crime? We have watched numerous videos of

officers deploying excessive force after they had subdued and restrained an offender. The temptation to use excessive force after apprehending an offender after a high-speed chase, a foot pursuit, or after being assaulted during the course of a lawful arrest, is ever present.

Police officers are not robots and must work through a wide range of emotions while being subjected to, at the very least, verbal abuse shift after shift. In other words, much like Jesus and His disciples were prepared to suffer hardship for the sake of the gospel, as police officers we too must be prepared to suffer the hardship of verbal abuse and physical resistance in the course of our duties.

How were the disciples of Jesus able to overcome constant ridicule, rejection, beatings, unjust imprisonment, and even face execution? They endured and persevered through trials by spiritually putting on the armor of God each day. The gospel of peace protected their feet from becoming overly touchy and sensitive or battle fatigued just as bare feet would become while traversing glass or sharp stones.

As police officers, if our feet are fitted with the gospel of peace, we receive an inherent ability that prepares us for battle. We enter into battle with the peace knowing who we are in God and we bring that element of peace to the battle. It is that peace that helps us overcome the temptation to throttle an aggressive assailant. This peace is readily available for us to walk in, but as with anything, we need to be conscious of its existence and then apply it to our daily life before we walk onto the battlefield. To have our boots paired with the gospel of peace means that we will have an efficient and effective approach no matter what the situation, knowing we carry “good news” which is the gospel paired with the peace that comes from knowing God. The devil will throw tactics at us in an attempt to snare us through insults and abuse from disturbed drug addicts; however, being “strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength” by daily putting on the armor of God through prayer prepares us for the battles.



**PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF
GOD ... STAND FIRM.** EPHESIANS 6:11 & 14

We cease to wear boots that are cracked and worn because they no longer provide us with adequate protection or comfort. We take inventory of the status of our physical equipment; thus, in the same way we ought to take inventory of our inner self.

Are we spiritually clothed with inner peace, or are we walking into battle with destructive traits such as turmoil and chaos? From experience, I can attest

to the fact that it is counter intuitive to seek de-escalation of a situation when you lack inner peace and are embroiled in chaos. Alternatively, if we seek peace while preparing for battle, we recognize and embrace the value of the godly instructions found in Ephesians 6:11, 14 & 15: “put on the full armor of God ... stand firm ... having shod your feet with the preparation for battle that the gospel of peace provides.” Just as a pair of police boots become worn and cracked over time, our inner self can become fragmented and worn out. We know it is hazardous to neglect our equipment; how much more dangerous is it to neglect oneself?

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**

BLUE | LINE





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.

An Opportunity through Prayer

By: John T. Voisey, Deputy, Pinellas County Sheriff's Dept., Clearwater, Florida

This article is reproduced from our Peacemaker archives: [July - August 1986](#)

My wife, Andrea, and I had prayed before my shift (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) that the power of the Holy Spirit would go out before me this night and prepare a person, a place and a time that I may share the free gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. As God would have it, He provided all of the above!

By the very nature of our professions as peace officers, we are trained to be ever mindful of our safety and that of those citizens we have been sworn to protect and serve. With that thought, I conducted a traffic stop of a car I had followed. Suspecting that the driver may be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, I requested that the gentleman perform the field sobriety tests. As I had suspected, the gentleman did not pass the sobriety tests and I placed him under arrest for driving while under the influence of alcoholic beverages. As is customary, I advised our dispatcher of the arrest I had just effected and that I would require a certified Intoxilyzer operator. The dispatcher's reply both caught me off guard and upset me: "There are no x32's tonight"(Intoxilyzer operator). I grumbled to myself, "How can this be? We always have an operator on duty. I can't believe this."

I transported my prisoner to the county jail and was advised there that an operator had been

located but his arrival to the county jail to administer the breath tests "would be awhile".

While awaiting the operator's arrival, I began the task of required paperwork and the interviewing of the young man I had just arrested. While conducting the interview, I noticed on his right inner arm a bulge next to his vein. There it was - red, black, blue and swollen - the sign of a narcotics user. As I reached out to grab his arm so that I may inspect his self-inflicted needle marks, he looked away, and with tears in his eyes said, "I'm ashamed." When I asked why he was ashamed, he answered, "I'm hooked and I need help." With that statement, I was moved to share the Gospel with this gentleman. In a private interview room provided for us at my request, I began praying to the Lord under my breath: "Lord, give me words and wisdom to share with this person the plan of salvation. It. I also prayed that this man be of a sober mind to fully understand what I was about to share with him. With that unspoken prayer completed, the young man looked at me again with tears in his eyes and said, "I'm so lonely." I then began to share the mighty and great things that the Lord Jesus Christ has and is doing in my life. I also shared with him that I know someone he should meet who would be a "friend and a comforter" to him. As we continued to discuss his emptiness, the wall

that could have divided us as deputy and prisoner was not there. This young man was crying out to God for help. As I outlined the plan of salvation and how he can receive the free gift of eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9), I asked him if what I said made sense to him and he said "Yes". And when I asked him if he would like to receive Jesus Christ into his life and make Christ Lord of his life, again he replied "Yes".

I should stop here for two very important points: (1) This young man was not falling down sloppy drunk, nor, in my opinion, unable to receive the plan of salvation and make a rational decision. (2) It was made very clear to this person that, prior to our praying. His praying to receive Christ into his life as Lord and Savior had nothing whatsoever to do with the charge of D.U.I. (driving under the influence) that I had arrested him for. He assured me that he understood, and we


prayed the "sinner's prayer" together early that morning. After praying with him, I asked him to read from my pocket New Testament a Scripture for his assurance: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47).

So it was done as we had prayed. The Holy Spirit had gone out before me so that I might be used to tell others of God's eternal love.

As I walked away from the jail bars that were closing behind me, I turned to look at my new "brother in Christ", and with a smile on his face he said "Thank you".

In Christ's Holy Name,

John T. Voisey, Deputy, Pinellas County
Sheriff's Dept., Clearwater, Florida



**YOU WILL HEAR OF WARS AND
RUMORS OF WARS, BUT SEE TO IT
THAT YOU ARE NOT ALARMED...**
(MATTHEW 24:6)

**VOUS ENTENDREZ PARLER DE
GUERRES ET DE BRUITS DE
GUERRES: GARDEZ-VOUS D'ÊTRE
TROUBLÉS...**
(MATTHIEU 24:6)

