

January, 2015

622 Dundas St., Suite # 195



Ph: (604) 200-FCPO (3276)  
Email: fcpo.aapc@gmail.com

Woodstock Ontario, N4S 1E2

The Peacemaker



Merv Tippe

### From the Editor's Desk - **IMPORTANT – You need to register online**

It has been some years since we last updated our membership list. So, notwithstanding the fact that you may have taken out a membership with FCPO-Canada many years ago, or even just recently, we are asking that you go online and register again. There is no membership fee. There are two important reasons we need you to do this. First, we want to ensure that we have an updated list of members with their most current information.

Second, one of the FCPO – Canada's best communication tools has always been the PeaceMaker and since our inception, we have regularly mailed hard copies of the PeaceMaker to our subscribers. We are now in an era where many folks prefer receiving newsletters electronically.

Thanks to an upgrade to our website, we are moving to "real time" delivery of the PeaceMaker to one's email or mobile device. This electronic format will include enhanced features such as actionable links to other references and the ability to contact us through a variety of means with just one click. The electronic format will allow you to easily forward the PeaceMaker to friends and others who may be interested in a particular issue. In addition, the electronic PeaceMaker is environmentally friendly and a cost effective distribution method for us.

We realize that perhaps not all of our members use email and perhaps there are some who haven't moved to the use of computers. In that case, we want you to know that we are still committed to keeping you abreast of FCPO-Canada activities, and we will send you a hard copy. Just let us know your wishes.

**Please register today by clicking the "Join Us" button on our website at [www.fc pocanada.com](http://www.fc pocanada.com) to ensure you receive the next issue of the PeaceMaker.**



Ronald Mostrey

### From the President's Desk - "CHANGING WITH THE TIMES"

In this issue, I want to reflect a bit on the history and current status of our organization. On April 8<sup>th</sup> 1983, this unique ministry was officially incorporated as "The Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers Inc. / Fraternité canadienne des agents de la paix chrétiens Inc." The first directors were: Richard (Dick) Hayward, Robert (Al) Hooper, George (Charlie) Weir, Richard (Rick) Turnbull, Aniceto (Dino) Doria, Kenneth (Norm) Brown, and, Anastasi (Tom) Karanfilis.

On July 19<sup>th</sup> 2014, the FCPO - Canada membership unanimously supported a special resolution for the organization to make application to Industry Canada to continue its corporate status. I am pleased to report that on July 21<sup>st</sup> we were granted our continued corporate status and are thus in compliance with the new *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. At the same time, we changed our official name to: Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada / Association des agents de la paix chrétiens du Canada. We had been using this name informally for some time, as it is clear that we are the Canadian component of a larger movement of a world-wide fellowship of Christian peace officers.

It's hard to believe we have been in existence for some 31 years! I am thrilled that we are still a vibrant engaged organization! In this issue you'll read about some of the exciting undertakings we are moving forward with. I encourage all readers, no matter what your affiliation with us is, to pray for and contribute to the furtherance of this important ministry.

Page 1 From the Editor's Desk	Page 4 Ever Amazed	Page 7 National Convention Notice
Page 1 From the President's Desk	Page 4 Board of Directors	Page 8 FCPO Initiatives
Page 2 From the Treasurer's Desk	Page 5 Honoring Our Fellow Responders	Page 8 Ratanak International
Page 2 FCPO – Canada Crisis Line	Page 5 Former Member Passes Away	
Page 2 Speaker Initiative	Page 5 - 6 Chaplain's Corner	
Page 3 Cst Dave Verret	Page 6 - Executive Director's Report	

**FCPO-Canada National Conference June 25 – 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, Burlington, ON**

Dans cette édition, je souhaite élaborer davantage sur l'histoire et l'état actuel de notre organisation. Lors du 8 avril 1983, cet unique ministère a été officiellement incorporé comme «The Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers Inc. / Fraternité canadienne des agents de la paix chrétiens Inc.» Les premiers directeurs étaient: Richard (Dick) Hayward, Robert (Al) Hooper, George (Charlie) Weir, Richard (Rick) Turnbull, Aniceto (Dino) Doria, Kenneth (Norm) Brown, et, Anastasi (Tom) Karanfilis.

Le 19 juillet 2014, les membres du AAPC ont tous grandement supporté une résolution spéciale pour l'organisation de présenter une demande à Industrie Canada en mesure de poursuivre son statut officiel d'entreprise. Je suis fier d'annoncer que le 21 juillet, nous avons obtenu notre statut d'entreprise et nous collaborons donc avec la nouvelle *Loi canadienne sur les organisations à but non lucratif*. De ce fait, nous avons donc changé notre nom officiel à Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada / Association des agents de la paix chrétiens du Canada. Nous avons utilisé ce nom de manière informelle pendant un certain temps, car il est évident que nous sommes notamment le volet canadien d'un mouvement plus large de la fraternité mondiale des agents de la paix chrétiens.

Il est difficile de croire que nous existons depuis déjà 31 ans! Je suis heureux que nous soyons encore une organisation dynamique et dévouée! Dans cette édition, vous pourrez lire quelques-unes des tâches dont nous souhaitons entamer dans le futur. J'encourage tous les lecteurs, quel que soit votre affiliation avec nous, de prier, et contribuer à l'avancement de ce ministère grandement important.



### From the Treasure's Desk

The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada is a ministry with the sole aim of supporting peace officers and peace officer families as need arises. In our world today it is very obvious there continues to be a great need to do that very thing as it becomes more and more challenging for officers to do their jobs. Every single day peace officers stand in the gap, almost silently and without notice for the most part. We need them, and to be very truthful with you, they need us probably more than we realize.

How can you help? Well one way, is to support the FCPO-Canada financially so that we can step in on your behalf when peace officers are in need. In this issue again you will read of another instance where your support helped us do that very thing.

Any donation is appreciated and put to good use. Over the years, we have attempted to find ways to facilitate giving in order to make it as simple as possible. Currently, there are four ways in which you can submit your financial support and they are as follows:

There is the normal mail process by which you can submit your support to 622 Dundas St. Suite#195, Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 1E2 and FCPO – Canada. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20.00 or greater.



You can also submit your support through the use of *PayPal*. You simply log into the site, and through their normal payment process, make your donation.



On our website, you can also donate using a credit card via the “Canada Helps” website. Simply hit the “[Donate Now](#)” button and follow the remainder of the instructions.



The newest method of donation is through your local United Way Campaign. Each year, you are presented with a contributions form, and when completing it, you simply state the monthly amount or one time donation you wish to designate to FCPO – Canada. Our CRA registration number is: 2306 5804 R0001.

Significant work needs to be done in supporting peace officers and their families. We are indebted to our membership and others for providing us with the funding to carry on and grow this important and unique ministry.

**PTSD ADDICTIONS ANXIETY DEPRESSION SUICIDE FAMILY BREAKDOWN**

# When 911 - Needs 911

## 1-877-528-2202

### National Crisis Line

**Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers - Canada**

### We all need backup at some point!

FCPO-Canada's National Crisis Line is available to all peace officers in Canada. We provide a place where you can, in the strictest of confidence, share your story with people who have walked in your shoes more than a mile or two. Our crisis line is operated 24/7 by a retired peace officer, who is a trained Chaplain, and his wife. They also work with a network of retired peace officers and Chaplains across Canada who in some cases have been on the very same journey as you may be now.

Our aim is to work with you through the wants, needs, and desires, as well as the pain and stress that can sometimes overwhelm you. There is no issue too small or too great when a part of our peace officer family is hurting. Please give us a call.



Many of our members are dynamic and accomplished public speakers with strong testimonies of what the Lord has done in their personal and professional lives. The credibility of having a law enforcement officer active or retired share their personal faith in Jesus Christ can be very uplifting and inspiring.

The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada has men and women across Canada who would be pleased to assist your Church, or organization. You can make a request for a speaker via our website: [www.fc pocanada.com](http://www.fc pocanada.com). Upon requests from Churches or other Christian organizations, we will do our best to have one of our members attend your service or meeting with the view of sharing their faith and experience as a Christian officer.



Cst. Dave Verret

### **Some Healing for Those who Protect & Serve in Moncton**

In August of 2013, I was posted to the Codiac RCMP Detachment in Moncton, New Brunswick. This was my second posting since graduating from the RCMP Academy at Depot in 2009.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, my shift began like any other day, but it took a turn that shocked my reality and left me, my family, the detachment and our community scarred forever.

I was part of the initial response to a complaint which ultimately led to the murder of 3 of my colleagues, and the injury of 2 others. We had set up a small perimeter in the area where the suspect was last seen. At my position, I heard a series of pops, but it took me a few seconds to realize they were actually gun shots - the sound was so surreal. It was hard to believe that this nightmarish situation was actually unfolding. Then I heard someone call for an

ambulance. I thought it was over and that the threat had been neutralized. However, in reality, it had only just begun. I next found myself involved in the protracted manhunt for the suspect. Our families, the detachment staff, as well as the whole community breathed a sigh of relief when the suspect was taken into custody.

The night of the incident weighed heavily on my family as I was unable to contact my wife for about 4 hours. She, like most of the community, knew 3 officers had been killed and she could not reach me. I was unable to contact her and can only imagine what she was going through. Our children didn't seem to be too affected at the time, yet once in a while they still make reference to the incident.

After the shooting, we had members (retired & serving) who were involved in group sessions aimed at helping to assist with our healing from the incident. At one of these sessions, a member from Ottawa mentioned the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's [National Law Enforcement Retreat](#) (*Knowing a God who Protects and Serves*), which would be focusing on officers who had undergone trauma. After this meeting, I met with Ken Smith, a retired member who was helping out. Ken provided further details about the retreat, and the offer by FCPO-Canada to cover the registration costs for any Codiac member to attend this retreat. I was familiar with FCPO - Canada, as I had attended an FCPO Bible study while in basic training at Depot (led by Sgt. Dave Paddock); however I had not had any involvement with the organization since that time.

From the first mention of the retreat, I felt a great need for my wife and me to attend. Being a believer, I knew such a retreat was God ordained. However, as a young family of 6, the cost of travel to Ashville, North Carolina, was a major impediment for us. It was a blessing when FCPO - Canada offered to also cover the expense for myself and my wife to travel to the retreat. I was also grateful to learn some Moncton area Churches and individuals had also assisted by providing donations to this effort. I started to share the information about the retreat with other members of the detachment and others began to make contact with FCPO in relation to the offer. In the end, a number of us were sponsored to go to the retreat.

The retreat was just a tremendous outpouring of blessings. First, we were greeted in Charlotte by Jeff Naber and Kelly Burke (two of the BGEA staff and retreat speakers). After a night's sleep in Charlotte, Jeff & Kelly drove us to the retreat, which was a pleasant 2 hour drive from Charlotte. We were so blessed to have Jeff & Kelly give us their personal attention throughout our trip.

The retreat itself was just an abundance of blessings for my wife and me. The venue, "[The Cove](#)," nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is such an amazing place - just stepping on the grounds was so refreshing. The staff was outstanding - we immediately felt their love for us. We later learned that all the guests were prayed for daily, and the cleaning staff prays in every single room for the guests. The speakers were amazing! All had law enforcement backgrounds - there is something about hearing a message from someone who "has been there."

The timing of this retreat for me was perfect. It was a good time to start concentrating on my healing and focusing on the future. We met a lot of peace officers and their spouses from all over the US and the United Kingdom. We had the opportunity to share our experience and learn from theirs.

Since graduating from Depot in 2009, I've been idling in my faith, wondering which way to go. The Retreat not only restored in me a desire for ministry, but also showed me that being a peace officer is a ministry in itself. Upon my return to Moncton, I promptly took out membership with FCPO - Canada. I and some of the other officers have been meeting with Ken for fellowship, and have recently rejuvenated our local FCPO chapter, with Ken leading as our interim president. I am looking forward to whatever God has in store for me in the future.

The dates for [next year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Law Enforcement Retreat](#) are already set. I would strongly recommend this retreat to any peace officer and their spouse. I sincerely thank the FCPO - Canada and the other donors for making this retreat possible for us - it certainly has helped us to better know and serve our God, who Protects and Serves.

FCPO – Canada maintains at the heart of our ministry, supporting peace officers and their families. The extremely tragic events that took place in Moncton, New Brunswick on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 shook the community of Moncton and our entire nation. As quickly as we could, we mobilized an effort to reach out to the Codiac Detachment and let them know they and the community of Moncton were in our prayers. There are many of you who support us financially every year and that support was put to very good use. We were aware that our good friend Jeff Naber from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, had been planning their first Annual Law Enforcement Officers Retreat. We knew the retreat would be exactly what Moncton officers could benefit from. Thus, we offered to cover the registration fee for any officer and their spouse who wished to attend the retreat. We ended up covering the registration and full travel costs for 7 officers and 4 wives to attend - **praise the Lord!** <http://billygraham.org/landingpages/nler/>

We would like to thank retired RCMP member Ken Smith and Rev. Dean MacDonald for their passionate support of this initiative and for being our voice in the community. We also extend our thanks to some of the Moncton and area churches as well as individuals that donated to this initiative. We are truly humbled by how God provides. We are most grateful for those who partner with us as we attempt to support and minister to peace officers and their families.



Russ Ideson

I bring you greetings from the western side of this great country we know as Canada.

It never fails to amaze me how God sets things in motion, that change our lives. A few months ago I retired from active Church ministry, and had time on my hands that I was not used to. In my devotions I prayed that God would direct me into service in some way to serve Him in a meaningful way. It was my wife who reminded me that when we lived in Delta B.C. I had been active with the FCPO chapter there, and very much enjoyed the fellowship it provided.

Through that Chapter we actually had the great experience of going to Gulfport, Mississippi and helping out after we got an, "officer needs assistance" call from the local FCPO chapter in that city. It was an awesome experience helping the Gulfport P.D. officers get their homes rebuilt and bring some normalcy back to their lives. Many Canadian hands helped out during that time.

As you can see, I tend to ramble on periodically, so back to my point.

I decided to get involved again with the FCPO. As it turns out there is no Chapter in the Fraser Valley, which takes in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, and several other towns that have either city police, or RCMP detachments.

I was introduced to Stephen Kolstad, the area representative for the FCPO in this part of the world. We met for coffee, and got to know each other. It was absolutely amazing how many things we have in common, the two most important being the Lord, and of course motorcycles, but that's another story.

I mentioned to Stephen that I would like to try and start a Chapter of the FCPO-Canada here. We both felt that was a great idea so I had conversations with Ron Mostrey, the current president and received his blessing to move ahead with it. We were able to secure the Pacific Regional Training Centre dining room for our venue, and our first meeting was held in June of 2014. We continue to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 8.00 am for breakfast and fellowship.

It has been a slow start, as ventures like this normally are, but we are averaging 3 to 4 people each meeting. We believe this to be the direction of the Lord and we are confident that His hand is in this and more will come forward.

We are promoting the Chapter with posters in detachments, and our new brochure is helping also. As part of the Chilliwack Ministerial Association, I am able to approach local churches and talk to the Pastors to help us invite officers to come out.

Let me take this opportunity to say to those who may be members of the FCPO-Canada already and aren't aware of the Chapter, to come out and participate with us. In fact, I would also encourage any officers in the area who may read this to also come out and join us for great food and a time of fellowship and friendship.

From the thought of getting involved, to my wife's encouraging nudge to get involved, to actually beginning a Chapter, I didn't realize God had another surprise in store for me as well.

As you can see in this issue of the Peacemaker, I was invited to be a Director for the B.C. region. Wow, when you step out with Him and it is the right thing, He really knows how to fast-track things.

Actually, what an honour it is for me, an old flatfoot cop turned Pastor to be able to serve, and help young officers who have a tough job to do.

*P.S. I wrote this several months ago, and want to tell you our little Chapter in Chilliwack is growing at a great rate. Praise the Lord*

**Executive:**

President	Ronald Mostrey
V. President	Cyril Sweetville
Exec. Director	Marvin Masseur
Secretary/PM	Merv Tippe
Treasurer	Andrew Cowan

**Board:**

Don DesRoches	Director, PEI
Ron Seney	Director, Atlantic
Donald Desbiens	Director, Quebec
Hank Harley	Director at Large
Marvin Masseur	Director, Ontario
Jesse Weeks	Director, GTA
Nicola Coulstring	Director, Alberta
Merv Tippe	Director, SK/MN
Russ Ideson	Director, BC

**Provincial Reps:**

John D. Allen	NS
Todd Snooks	ON
Matthew Simpson	SK
Richard Begin	AB
Stephen Kolstad	BC
Andy Bigras	PQ

## Honouring Our Fellow Responders



Ron Seney

This year myself and our president Ron Mostrey had the honor of participating in the ceremonies for the Canadian Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation which was hosted in Ottawa by the [Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association](#).

These ceremonies recognize fire fighters who have lost their lives in the performance of their duties in a similar fashion as the police service holds a national ceremony to recognize peace officers who have lost their lives in the performance of their duties. Those who attended the AGM and Educational Presentation would have noticed a table that remained empty. This table is set and reserved to honor our fallen firefighters and thus

remains empty throughout the complete day. As you can see by the photo at the right our esteemed president was given the honour of lighting the candle at the table for fallen fire fighters and myself, attending as the Incident Safety Officer for the New Germany, Nova Scotia, Volunteer Fire Department, was given the honor of providing the prayer.

The table itself has significant symbolism and the following information for this article was provided by Martin Bell, CAO of the Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association. To the left of the table is the flag of our nation and to the right is the flag of the Association. In the center of the table is a single candle to be lit in honor of their sacrifice. The tools of the trade are set on the floor in front of the table as a symbol of our continued determination to remember our fallen comrades. A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those who will never return. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all. Two untouched bagels, they cannot eat with us at this time. The chairs are empty because they are no longer with us.



Martin Bell was a special guest at the FCPO National Convention in Bridgewater, NS in 2000 while serving as president of the CVFSA. I would like to thank Martin for providing the explanation of the table for this article. Fire fighters, like peace officers, have at the heart of their calling, the desire to serve the public well in the performance of their duties and very often we cross paths in the performance of those duties. Although the uniform is different, the goal remains the same - to protect and serve.

Truly it was an honour for the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada to be allowed to participate in this year's ceremonies and thereby acknowledge the importance of their role in emergency services.



### Former Member Passes Away

[Richard Vernon Burgess](#) of Coldbrook, Nova Scotia passed away July 19, 2014. Richard was born in Glenvale, New Brunswick and during his school years, joined the Canadian Militia Reserves and eventually joined the regular forces in 1953. His career in the Canadian Forces found him stationed in a number of locations. He retired in 1977 after 24 years of faithful service to our country. After his retirement, Richard and his wife owned the Barrie Lodge and Major Service Center in White Shell Provincial Park, Manitoba. Eventually retiring back to Nova Scotia he served with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires and became a valued member of the Annapolis Valley Chapter of FCPO – Canada.

Submitted by: Ron Seney – Atlantic Director FCPO



Merv Tippe

### **From The Chaplain's Desk – Something is Missing!**

Something seems to be lost. You can't quite put your finger on it, but things just don't seem to be like they were yesterday, or last year, or twenty years ago when you first began your career as a peace officer. As a Christian, you felt the call to become a peace officer and you were ecstatic when you were advised to attend the academy. You planned on being the best officer to ever don the uniform. In your first years on the job, you worked hard at trying to be understanding, yet purposeful. Compassionate, yet strong. Empathetic, but not overwhelmed. Fair, yet an enforcer of the law when it was required. Prior to becoming a peace officer you couldn't see why all those things weren't possible all the time.

Every person wants to do their very best and dreams about the day they might make it up the ranks, to be the best and achieve positions on specialty squads, but somewhere along the way we lose that passion. Some find themselves just barely getting by, just doing the minimum, or just doing the best they can while doing the least they can. Long hours, excess workloads, unreasonable expectations within and outside of the agency, public disdain when you have to do your job while being kicked at, spit at, yelled at, sworn at and when you finally get to court after hours and hours of preparation - the case gets dismissed.

Well, let me say, "been there and done that" and I can tell you from personal experience none of it feels very good at all! I remember driving around in the squad car thinking there must be something better than this. The grass has to be greener on the other side of some fence, if I could only find it. But somewhere deep inside there was a small voice saying; no matter how tough it gets you are doing the right thing, you are exactly where the Lord wants you at this moment. Where who wants you? Oh, oh yeah the Lord, that is why you got into this in the first place. Spent hours praying without ceasing, promising that if He could move the

necessary mountains and get you in this line of work you would serve Him, the people you protect to the best of your ability. Looking back as far as you can determine you did just that.

I think this is where we begin to miss the mark, at the point of thinking it is our "ability." See, I think we all have certain "talents" to do certain jobs, but the ability to use those talents well, comes from the Lord. In Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (NLT) we read; "*He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful...*"

I believe the Lord constantly guides, nurtures, supports and encourages each of us in life. However when we begin to feel it is our ability, we ever so slowly become less and less able to hear His voice. Why does that happen? Well if we look in Deuteronomy 6: 10-12, we are instructed that when we have become successful at what we do, not to forget that it was the Lord who was responsible.

I know there were times I was very successful as a police officer and I will admit that I looked for the praise of men before I looked for the praise of God and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

Now don't get me wrong, it is very uplifting to get a pat on the back from your fellow officers, the Staff Sgt., or Chief of Police, we all like to know we are doing a good job in their eyes also. However, when that becomes the only gauge we look to in order to measure our success we run into trouble.

Let me use an analogy here. As a young officer policing in a small rural town, I did not make much money. I prayed and prayed for the Lord to show those who hired me how valuable I really was so I could get a raise - just a tad vain as I look at it now. However, what happened was very different than I had prayed for. One day I went to the Post Office and retrieved my mail and there was an envelope with my address on it but no return address. Inside was a significant sum of money with no note as to who it had come from or why. "Wow, I wonder who this came from!" was my only thought at the time.

What I think the Lord was trying to tell me was that I needed to look to Him to provide and not my employer and to prove that if I would just thank Him for what He was providing He could provide more. He put it on someone's heart who I didn't even know, and to this day I don't know who put the money in my mail. The strange part was that I didn't learn the lesson at first. Actually, the next time things became tough, there I was at the mailbox looking for envelopes of money. I am thankful, however, that I eventually learned the lesson and things became better because I learned to trust Him more.

So how do you gain back that zeal you had going into this career as a Christian? How do you regain that peace you had of knowing you were where the Lord wanted you to be?

Well, the first thing I think is to return to the clear understanding the Apostle Paul had about who was in charge of his life as he states in Acts 17:28: "*For in Him we live and move and have our being...*" Apart from this, we can survive for a while but all

too soon things are bound to get off the rails on us.

This does not describe the Lord as the forceful ruler of our lives, rather it describes an intimate relationship wherein we have surrendered to His voice and leading in our lives. It is also an indication of His desired closeness to us and that we do not have to go far to find Him.

Just as Paul was attempting to inform the Athenians that the true God was not one of stone, gold or any other material, I we too must step back and realize that the One who called us to this profession is the One who is able to support us in our daily walk in this profession.

In Deuteronomy 6 we see another statement that I feel has relationship to where we find ourselves. In verses 20-25, we see an explanation of what they were to tell their children should they ask questions about what the testimonies and the judgments and statutes mean. One of the things they were to tell them was the Lord had "brought us out from there in order to bring us in..."

Over the years in my policing career and in my Christian life, I have found this to be true many times: that the Lord was bringing me out of one thing, to bring me into another; and that what He usually was calling me up to was something greater than I currently knew.

I would encourage you not to lose your faith or trust in Him, but settle once and for all, it is in Him you live and move and have your being. See where He will take you - you won't be disappointed.



Marvin Masecar

## **Big Things Ahead**

Things have simply been super busy these past few months as I have been preparing us for the upcoming 2015 [National Conference](#).

With the usual every day activities of the job and the Church and the family, and the FCPO, it seems my email inbox has gotten down off of the table like Frankenstein's monster and taken on a life of its own. I think sometimes that is what happens when you are doing something that you know will have an impact for the Kingdom of God in this world. Yet amidst it all, I know the work I do is not forgotten by Him as I go forth and serve others in His name and as I continue to serve others.

For every one of us there have been incidents in our careers that have just seemed to overwhelm our ability to cope. Was it the death notification where we informed a family their young child had been killed, a fatality in which we had to tell a wife her husband had been killed knowing that we were leaving them with a void in their lives when we walked away? Perhaps it was an investigation that we have invested so much of our time and so much of ourselves in it that it consumed us. Perhaps it is a line of duty death of one of our fellow officers. It may be different for all of us, but it is not unique to any of us involved in the service of others.

This is why the focus of our National Conference this year is going to deal with not just coping, but being victorious - not just surviving but thriving.

The conference will be held Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the beautiful Crossroads Center in Burlington, ON. just down the road from Toronto and a short drive from Niagara Falls.

*The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association* will be providing a training session for anyone who would like to consider becoming a part of their [Rapid Response Team](#). There are many peace officers across North America that have taken this training. We have a Police Chaplain who will be presenting to us on Compassion Fatigue, a huge factor that can impact our jobs, our families and our marriages. In the next issue of the *PeaceMaker* we will have more information available. Plan to join us for a time of refreshing and renewing.

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada  
2015 National Conference

From Surviving to Thriving  
Managing Stress & Trauma

June 25 – 28, 2015

Crossroads Centre, Burlington, Ontario



**Moving Forward in Service**

In 2010 the Executive of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers-Canada held our annual meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba and I recall a number of discussions taking place around how we form our ministry to better address the needs that arise from time to time in the lives of peace officers and their families. At that time, Andrew Cowan was the outgoing president and Sgt. Marvin Masseur was the incoming president. There were a number of decisions made at those meetings and over the next few years under Marvin's leadership we began to formulate plans and move in the direction of completing some of those decisions. Last year, Ron Mostrey became the president of FCPO-Canada and we continued our quest to make our organization one that has a meaningful impact in the lives of peace officers.

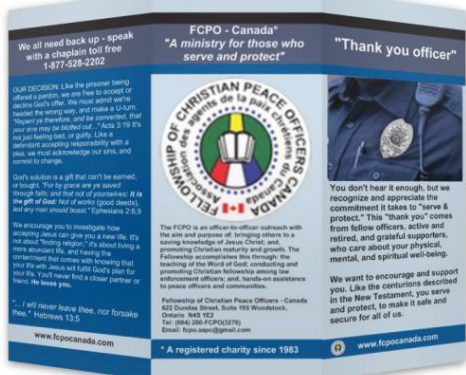
Shortly after those meetings, we established a national crisis line for peace officers and their families to call when they needed some assistance to try and normalize things again, or simply needed someone to talk to, someone with a listening ear and a gentle heart. We say it is when 911 needs 911 that we recognize everyone needs backup at some point. I would encourage each of you reading this article to make use of the line if you need to. All calls are held in the strictest of confidence and the line is operated by a retired peace officer, now chaplain and his wife. They are also connected to a wider group of retired peace officers and chaplains across Canada ready and willing to step in and support you if that is what you desire. The line is available 24/7, 365 days of the year and you can see the advertisement in this issue.

We have initiated a "Thank You Officer Initiative" and have produced a brochure that we can make available to our membership which can be given to any officer as a way of saying thank you for the sometimes thankless job you do protecting our communities day after day.

We have also began an "[Injured Officer Initiative](#)," as we know there are often officers injured in the performance of their duties and we want to recognize them. We want them to know they are important and that FCPO-Canada members and others are praying for them. If we have a member, or chaplain in their area we will even pop in for a short visit if they like, just to let them know there is a wider body of officers both active and retired that are concerned about them.

We developed postcard sized cards that inform about our national crisis line and can be used to post on bulletin boards in your detachments or stations so other officers can be made aware of how to access it if they need to do so. Below you will find graphics of the various items mentioned in this article and you can make a request for them through our office in Woodstock, ON or by requesting them through our website. If you would wish us to, we would be pleased to send the card on your behalf if you let us know where the individual is or their home address.

There is great turmoil in our world today and we all need to do our part in encouraging officers in their duties and homes.





Brian McConaghy

## **Serving From a Position of Weakness<sup>1</sup>**

I'm a weapons specialist by trade, with 22 years' experience in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I'm a forensic expert who is skilled in working with the dead. My skill set is not ideal for evangelism! You might say I am useless to God in expressing his love for those suffering. But often God uses our weaknesses and inabilities to do more than we could imagine.

I had been posted to Vancouver and was working many homicide files and dealing with our human brokenness on a daily basis. I was alone and in need of friends. After meeting Asian international students attending UBC, I decided to go to Asia to better understand them and experience Asia for myself. That started a journey that would completely change my life.

On that first trip in 1989 I ended up on the Thai-Cambodian border in the middle of a war zone. The history of genocide and war in Cambodia confronted me for the first time. I was appalled and determined to do something more substantial to help. Returning home I happened to see a documentary on TV that featured a little Cambodian girl named Ratanak. She was to die for want of basic medication that was prevented from entering the country by an internationally sanctioned embargo. That was it. I would smuggle medications into Cambodia! My plan was to bring two suitcases of carefully chosen medication into the country. God's plan was to provide me with nine tons of medication!

To make a very long story short, the medications made it to Cambodia and were appropriately distributed. From there, my love for Cambodia and her people only grew. Ratanak International, a registered charity, was born, and for the next nineteen years I devoted myself to this calling, while working full time in the RCMP. We built clinics to address the pressing need for medical care. Clinics grew into hospitals, ambulance programs, agricultural development, schools, orphanages and emergency food distribution. Over the years, Ratanak continued to grow with healthcare development, orphanage and emergency relief programs. I was aware that huge problems had developed in the area of child sex slavery and human trafficking. I did not get involved and I felt totally ill-equipped to deal with such overwhelming evil. That all changed on the 23rd of January, 2004. I was alerted to an investigation that was going on in Vancouver. A man had been arrested torturing a local prostitute and upon his arrest, videotapes had been seized depicting him abusing numerous victims. Among the victims were little Asian children. The Vancouver Police were seeking my assistance to identify in which country the child victims were located. I agreed to watch the tapes.

Nothing in all my years of forensic work prepared me for those tapes. They were heart breaking. In those videos I was introduced to seven Cambodian children – seven little girls between the ages of seven and nine – seven little girls that would change my life. Watching them being assaulted as they helplessly stared at me from a computer monitor obliterated any reluctance to engage in this issue. I immediately felt driven to seek, find and help these little ones. But the chances of finding them were zero. They could be in any number of millions of locations. However in the viewing of those tapes God had accomplished several things. He had made the issue personal. It was no longer about 30,000 anonymous kids. I was now seeing this issue as He saw it in all its personal intensity and torment. He also obliterated any reservation I had regarding my own abilities to cope with such an overwhelming tragedy. I clearly had no skills or ability to find these kids let alone impact the child sex slave industry, but I didn't care. I had to act. In crossing that line God finally had me where he wanted me – motivated, passionate and utterly dependent on him. I was now engaged but had nothing to bring to the table. Would God show up?

That very night I went home and was watching NBC Dateline. The show, as God would plan it, happened to be about child sex slavery in Cambodia. I watched hidden camera footage of undercover investigators finding and rescuing little children sold into brothels. The furniture, numbers on the doors, the pictures on the walls, even the kids were familiar to me – I had seen them only hours before in the evidence tapes! In a frenzy I got in touch with the Vancouver investigation team. In a matter of hours God had given me both the GPS locations of the crime scenes and, in a few days, the probable identity of the children. God had also accomplished one more thing. He had demonstrated that to engage in this work was not about my abilities or skills. It was about me following Him in His work. Whether I had the skills required or not was simply irrelevant.

That file ultimately ended my RCMP career. It was clear that to service such children was what I needed to devote my life to. All those years in the RCMP appeared now to be the training and preparation I had needed to cope with the emotional trauma I would be confronting in this new area of ministry. I did not feel ready, but God was. That first investigation led to the development and funding of a high security rehabilitation center for children rescued from the brothels, as well as the funding of foster care homes for sexually abused boys and girls. Later would come post-brothel job skills training, social reintegration programs, and several stores and restaurants where rehabilitated youth could start new jobs and lives. Today, Ratanak is still involved with some of the original medical care programs, but our projects have expanded to address the complex issues of Cambodia in the most holistic manner to prevent and address all forms of exploitation and abuse. This includes working with vulnerable rural communities, school children, elderly grannies, prisoners, and of course the precious young women rebuilding their lives in Ratanak's transitional reintegration program for trafficking survivors.

I am convinced that Christ is not so interested in our skills, talents and qualifications. He requires only that we be willing to offer him our fears and our inabilities. With these he moves, with these he works, with these he reaches deep into the profound darkness and claims lives, even the lives sold into destruction. Six years after walking away from the security of an RCMP career into an area of work for which I felt I had no skills, I can assure you that while there have been many challenges, they have been totally eclipsed by the bliss of serving Cambodians that have so stolen my heart.

Brian McConaghy is the Founder and Executive Director of Ratanak International. To learn more about the ministry of Ratanak International or to support their work, please visit [www.ratanak.org](http://www.ratanak.org).

<sup>1</sup> This is an abbreviated article. The original article "Acquainted with Grief," was published in Earthen Vessels magazine [earthenvessels@platinum.ca](mailto:earthenvessels@platinum.ca)