



Canadian Police Chaplain Association

March 2016

THE CHAPLAINS CHAIN NEWSLETTER LE LIEN DES AUMÔNIERS LA NOUVELLE



From the President's Desk



Greetings to all of you. I hope that you are all finding opportunities to serve police and law enforcement officers, families, and employees in your location of service. I am often amazed at the number of people served by all of you chaplains serving with the Canadian Police Chaplain Association.

Last October, at the CPCA Annual Meeting, the Executive was authorized to begin work on a number of initiatives to ensure quality training, enhance support and networking among chaplains, and improve communications – especially through the CPCA website.

The Executive met on February 23 & 24 in Calgary, Alberta for a two day strategic planning meeting. I want to thank all of the Executive members; Richard Vander Vaart, Katherine Bourbonniere, Gordon Demchuk, Brian Krushel, and Les Schrader for their commitment to tackle our tasks as outlined below. We trust that our endeavours will help us re-affirm our identity and purpose as a national police chaplain organization and become more effective in the services we provide to police chaplains across Canada to serve effectively.

All initiatives underway will be presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting for approval. Documents will be made available to all CPCA members one month prior to the Annual Meeting. I welcome responses or input from all CPCA members as we seek to make changes and shifts as we seek to train and support chaplains across Canada.

With warm regards,
Chaplain Rod Willems
CPCA President

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Special points of interest

- CPCA Dues are due! Don't forget to renew now.
- Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the CPCA 2016 ATS will be held in St. John's,

CPCA Executive Focuses on Training Quality

The CPCA Executive has identified training quality as a priority item to be addressed this year. An Annual Training Session is held at a different location each year to allow chaplains from across Canada to attend with greater ease.

Discussions which took place at the Executive Meeting in October focused on ways to ensure that the training provided at the ATS gatherings be high quality and practical. Currently, the CPCA Certification courses are being reviewed with required core outlines and course descriptions standardized. A new membership and training database is under construction. All membership history and course completions will be recorded. The Executive is also con-

sidering advanced certification levels.

President Rod Willems writes in his March President's letter: "The Executive is also considering advanced certification levels. We are continuing to build a list of experience and/or certification in chaplain or police service training within the membership of CPCA. I invite you to forward your list of course training options to our Registrar, Brian Krushel at b.krushel@gmail.com."

More information regarding the CPCA's Certification Program for Police Chaplains is available on our website at http://www.cndpolicechaplains.org/member_cert_e.html.

We Are Looking For Your Stories and Input

CPCA chaplains serve in many different contexts and places across Canada. We would like to highlight some of the work you do.

If you have a story to tell about your experiences with police chaplaincy, consider writing a short article to share with other chaplains.

Have you read a good book or do you know of an upcoming training event in your area? Deadlines for our quarterly publications are the 15th of March, June, September and December. We would like to hear from you. Submissions may be sent to:

marion.jamer@gmail.com

Join us for the 2016 ATS and CPCA AGM in St. John's Newfoundland. Mark the dates now: Nov. 14-18, 2016. Scholarships available for first-time attendees. Check our website for more details to follow! An application form for the scholarship is available on our website by clicking on "Conferences" and then on "Peterborough" - the sponsorship application will pop out of Peterborough.

Editorial: Watching God Answer Prayers for Healing by Chaplain Marion Jamer

Often as police chaplains, we are part of the crisis response but we do not always get to see the positive things that grow out of the trauma. Almost two years ago Codiac RCMP came face to face with an active shooter, and Moncton, NB became a focus point for the policing world. Over the following days, RCMP chaplains from across Canada descended on the scene to give solace, pray, and listen to the stories from people affected by the tragedy of having three Mounties killed and two injured. RCMP Chaplain Gary Cowper would later refer to the time that followed as "when the world prayed for Moncton."

I played a small role at Crandall University where the RCMP Health Services team and other professionals spent long days in debriefings. During that time, I greeted people with a smile and cleared off tables after refreshments. But I felt compelled most of all to pray for the first responders involved as well as for the healing of the city and all those touched by the events. Last year I heard Ken Smith speak of his experiences as a police officer and crisis chaplain. He filled in some of the details of how God answered the many prayers that were offered in that place and around the world. This edition of the CPCA Newsletter has a short story in which he tells how God used him to bring a measure of healing to Moncton, its police officers, and citizens. (See p. 3). I hope you are blessed by hearing part of the rest of the story.

God Works Through Moncton Police Officer After Shootings

By Ken Smith



Ken and Bonnie Smith with Son David

June 4th, 2014, a very dark time for Moncton - for our country. As I sat at my computer that early evening, events unfolded through social media, taking me back to Friday, Dec. 13th, 1974 - another dark time for the City of Moncton.

As I started my midnight shift, my friend and neighbour, Cst. Mike O'Leary and my Corporal Aurele Bourgeois exited the police station to get into an unmarked vehicle to attend to a report of a kidnapping.

I had my last words with Mike as they both drove away. It was the last time I saw them alive. Their bodies were found in shallow graves a short distance from Moncton a few days later.

With the news of one or more police officers being shot and possibly killed, I asked myself: "What can I do?"

My wife and I have been Chaplains for the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team who work with Samaritan's Purse. Our role is the same as any other chaplain - to offer mental, emotional, and spiritual support following a disaster or a crisis. So the answer was: "We will do what we do, what we have been trained to do." Even if it was just "ministry of presence" or an opportunity to pray for someone.

We acquired a safe place at Crandall University in Moncton for anyone to come. We felt that by listening to the stories of those who witnessed or were affected by this horrendous act the process of healing would begin. Little did we know that the Codiac RCMP would have their own safe space just down the hall from us. We met some I had worked with in my career as a police officer. We listened, embraced and wept together.

Then the Lord placed the idea of a "Prayer Hug" on my heart. At 5:30AM on July 4th, close to 500 believers assembled at Champlain Mall Parking Lot. Marching two by two to the Codiac RCMP facility, we split and wrapped around the building, standing in silent prayer for the RCMP officers, their families, civilian staff and their families. The "Prayer Hug" was followed by 40 days of prayer.

I reached out to the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers – Canada and an active chapter in the mid 1990's was reborn. Now we are planning for our national conference on June 3rd and 4th in Moncton, with the theme "Who's Got Your Six?" One conference event is the "Church Parade - a memorial service for those officers who lost their lives not only in 2014 but also in Dec., 1974.

I extend this invitation for you, as Police Chaplains to join police officers and other first responders for this event in their appropriate identifying order of dress. We will assemble at the Salvation Army Citadel on Sunday, June 5th. 10:00AM. From here we hope to be paraded by the Codiac Pipes & Drums Band to the Wesleyan Centre. There is also a one-day workshop put on by Billy Graham Rapid Response on "Psychological First Aid" scheduled for Thurs., June 2nd which might be of interest to chaplains.

RSVP with number attending by May 20, 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Further details on our conference are on our website at www.fcpocanada.com.

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Looking Back, or, Thanks for the Privilege

By Rev. Leslie Shrader, RCMP Chaplain



The years have passed quickly since I was invited by the RCMP Inspector to be the chaplain for our local detachment. Looking back, I recall one of the first experiences I had while on patrol with the officers on a rainy Wednesday night. To me, that experience was significant...

With lights flashing and sirens wailing, four cops race from various parts of the city to the same destination - a downtown hotel. The call from dispatch and the computer readout verify that a woman with slashed wrists is outside a hotel bar and is bleeding to death.

Upon arrival, four cops and a chaplain penetrate the crowd and came face to face with the woman. With blood spurting from both wrists, she slinks to the ground, cursing the cops. The crowd is vulgar, seething and slurring drunken profanities. The cops and chaplain manage to move the crowd back, as the ambulance arrives and paramedics rush to the woman. She fights as the paramedics endeavor to put her on the stretcher. Some in the crowd jeer, "You pigs, what are you doing here?"

Finally, with wrists bandaged to staunch the blood loss, the woman on the stretcher is wheeled to the ambulance, and is taken to the hospital. The chaplain, still standing at the scene, glances at the pavement. The midnight downpour, like heaven's tears, is slowly washing away the pool of blood near his feet.

The assurance of God Almighty bursts into his heart and mind. "This is where the Lord wants me to be. I am here for them (the officers). They have invited me into their lives. God, help me to help them."

Fifteen years have now passed, and with them have come many traumatic experiences, too numerous to tell. However, the confidence of being where God wants me to be has remained as clear as it was that first Wednesday night.

I always look forward to spending time with the officers on patrol. They have become dear friends. As we patrol the city and area they confide in me about some of the traumatic incidents they have experienced.

A young officer was first on the scene after a teenager fell from a bridge to the rocks below. He had intended to walk on the plank handrail to where he could jump off into the deep pool of water below as his buddies were doing. But he slipped and crashed to the rocks below. Upon arrival at the scene, the female officer called for backup and an ambulance. The reply came back, "It will be 15 minutes or more before the ambulance arrives." She rushed down the riverbank and out onto the rocks. The boy's friends huddled in fear. Seeing their friend on the rocks with blood oozing from his mouth and head they watched the cop anxiously. "Do something, do something!" they screamed.

Bending over the boy, she felt for a pulse, but there was none. The urgency of saving a life overwhelmed her and she began to administer CPR. Later, at the hospital the doctor in Emergency pronounced him dead on arrival. Back at the detachment, the young officer burst into

"This is where the Lord wants me to be. I am here for them (the officers). They have invited me into their lives. God, help me to help them."

tears. "I had to do something... he wasn't breathing. I didn't have the resuscitation kit, so I gave him mouth to mouth without protection. This could be the death of me."

Though shaken, tears released her emotions. Her colleagues consoled her. And a chaplain prayed with her.

Each day I pray that God will help me to help them through their difficult times.

Dear Friends, Thank you for the privilege.

*(Reprinted from **The Blue Line Magazine**)*
Rev. Schrader and his wife live on Vancouver Island. Recently retired from pastoral ministry, they remain active in serving their community. As well, Rev. Schrader volunteers as a chaplain on cruise ships, providing worship opportunities and spiritual conversation for cruise patrons and crewmembers.

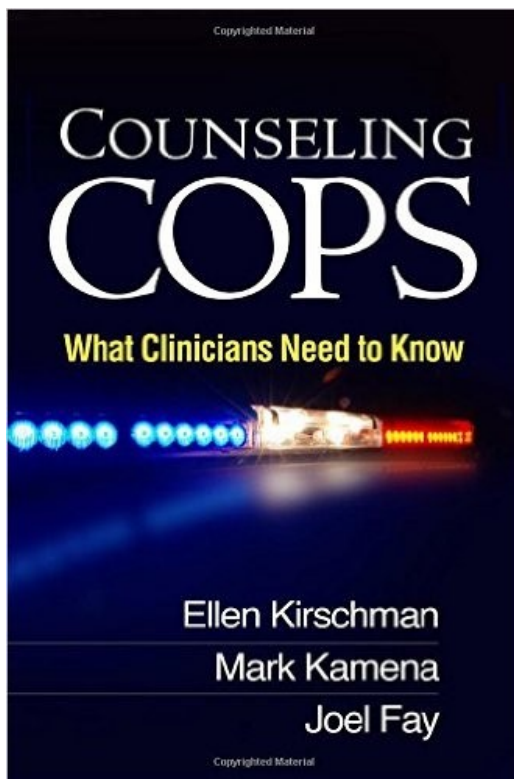
The Lighter Side



An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (..turn from your sin...). The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All she did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's." (<http://javacasa.com/humor/miscell.htm>)



Counseling Cops: What Clinicians Need to Know (New York, NY: Guilford Press, 2014) Reviewed by Chaplain Marion Jamer



Ellen Kirschman, PhD, Mark Kamena, PhD and Joel Fay, PhD have combined to create a very helpful book entitled: *Counseling Cops: What Clinicians Need to Know* (2014). Critical research, which is up-to-date on topics such as the effects of trauma,

treatment strategies, and building resilience, is combined with concrete examples from the authors' experience to paint a realistic picture of the pressures and stresses that policing places on officers and their families. The book is divided into six parts that tackle the essentials when counseling cops. Moving from becoming culturally competent to line-of-duty issues, through treatment tactics and presenting problems, and finally working with police families and other first responders, the authors convey a wealth of practical and insightful information and strategies designed for community therapists, chaplains, peer supporters and others who work with Law Enforcement Officers. This book aims to correct common stereotypes and misinformation by presenting up-to-date

Although not every chaplain will be qualified to use all the information in this book as a clinician, it is a good read if you want to understand some of the ways police officers and their families differ from the general population.

Counseling Cops: What Clinicians Need to Know is available from various booksellers, including amazon.ca which offers several formats, including a Kindle version for \$16.50.

Don't Forget to Pay Your CPCA Dues!!

Here's a quick reminder that CPCA dues prior to March 31 are \$60, thereafter \$75.

Thanks to all who've renewed already.

If you wish to remit using electronic transfer of funds (e-TF), please be in touch with our Treasurer Gord Demchuk directly by email: gord.demchuk@gmail.com

Any payments mailed up to and including March 31 can be at the lower rate. Please make cheque payable to Canadian Police Chaplains Association
c/o Brian Krushel, Registrar
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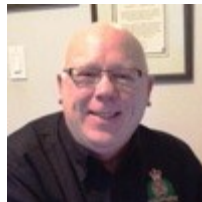


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