

On & Off Duty

Special Interest Articles:

- Greeting from **Matt Baggott**, President of the CPAUK
- Message from **Bert Sharp**, International Association of Christian Police Fellowships.
- Message from **Gary Raymond**



Christian Police Fellowship

Welcome

This is a long awaited time in the life of Christian Police in NSW.

You may not know, but there has been a Christian Fellowship in operation in NSW in one form or another since the 1890's but not necessarily well known.

Thanks to the encourage-ment of a number of serving police and many who have been giving faithfully for many years we are in a position to become better known and more effective in His service.

We are having regular fellowship meetings and will soon be sending out brochures to be placed on notice boards in police sites. We have already been given approval to put up an information stand at the NSW Police Academy.

What we have seen when we floated a basic web site a little while ago is an amazing number of police and their families that have contacted us for various reasons including fellowship, prayer and advice.

Sometimes it's because



they feel they must be the only Christian in the Force.

There is a great network of serving and retired police that are assisting us.

Currently we have an email list and those on it have been getting regular updates on where we are at and what fellowship opportunities there are.

We are now moving to register members of the CPF fellowship and the facilities to do this are on our website.

The current email list will soon be discontinued and emails will only go to registered members of the CPF.

It has taken a lot of work to get this far and there is more to do.

There is not enough room here to thank

everybody that has contributed over the years in so many ways, but thank you for everything and I thank God for your faithfulness.

Geoffrey Allen

"We are now moving to register members of the CPF fellowship and the facilities to do this are on our website. "



Matt Baggott, President CPAUK
Chief Constable PSNI

“a time when the truth and practicalities of the Gospel have never been more relevant to our profession.”



Turkish Soldier carrying a wounded Australian

Message from Matt Baggott President CPA UK

To our colleagues and co-workers in Christ in Australia

I have learned that one of our Council Members, Bert Sharp will be making a visit to Australia in March and hopes to link up with Christian officers in Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney.

As long ago as 1892, it was reported in the Christian Police Association Annual Report that, as a result of an earlier visit from our Foundress, Catherine Gurney, many branches had been formed in New South Wales. Informal contact was then maintained until a formal visit in 1982 by George

Roberts, who was then our General Secretary. He visited Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

I believe that in some states, once active Christian Police Fellowships have become dormant and elsewhere, no formal Christian Police Fellowships exist.

It is my privilege to be CPA President, at a time when the truth and practicalities of the Gospel have never been more relevant to our profession. The CPA brings together colleagues believing in an active and personal God, and also seeks tangible ways of showing the care and

compassion of Jesus.

I would encourage Christian Officers and staff to stand firm for their faith in the workplace, to meet for fellowship and mutual support and to pray for their colleagues and communities.

I pray that in the days ahead, I will hear about Christian Police Fellowships being active in every state in Australia and about the positive effect that this is having within the police service and the communities that they serve. May the miles that separate us be the spur that moves us to strengthen the ties forged so long ago.

“The Blind Eye”

“You shall not see your brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide yourself from them: you shall surely help him to lift them up again.”

Deuteronomy 22:2

The ‘Blind Eye Doctrine’ as it appears in law, talks about people who ignore an injustice or need when they see it. They turn away, walk away or hide themselves from getting involved. They then add to their omission by not reporting it to authorities. It also means crimes may go unreported or vital witness evidence is

not forthcoming to aid a prosecution.

This doctrine may be extended to seeing someone in need and not helping.

For someone to exercise their ‘blind eye’ is to allow needs that should be met, not to be met. It could be disobeying God, fear, self centeredness, lack of confidence, laziness, peer pressure or somehow justifying not helping that causes one to exercise the ‘blind eye’. Those we ignore may suffer great loss as a result of their dilemma and our lack of intervention.

The consequence for ignoring or covering up what we should expose is not only sinful but unethical, lacking integrity and immoral.

Deuteronomy 22:2 in God's Word reminds us that if we see an occurrence which needs intervention, we should not hide ourselves from it, but help to resolve the situation by whatever means are safe, appropriate and then report it if necessary.

Gary Raymond



Bert Sharp addressing members of the CPF NSW in 2008

In 2008 I visited Australia for the first time. It was to be a once in a life time experience. My reason for going was twofold, to have a holiday and to try and meet fellow Christian Police Officers. During my visit I met with those involved with the Christian Police Fellowship in New South Wales and Queensland. I was unable to make contact with any Christian officers in South Australia when I visited Adelaide.

In 2010 it was laid on my heart to look at coming over again and to see if I go and visit some of the forces that do not have any Christian Police Fellowships. After talking this over with friends in Australia, I decided to visit the Northern Territory which has no Christian Police Fellowship and Victoria, which has a Christian Police Fellowship but which seemed to be inactive.

On the day after my arrival, I met with members of the NSW Christian Police for a BBQ and was able to

Australian Report By Bert Sharp

speak to them about how the Christian Police Association in the UK was started and to update them on what was happening worldwide within Christian Police Groups. I closed by giving a short message based on Esther: 8. In particular verse 14 where we read this ***“The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command” NKJV***

Read the chapter and you will see that if the Jews had to be saved a second decree had to go out within a certain time. Those taking the message were “hastened and pressed on by the King's command”, there was urgency to the task of getting the message out, it was not a request from the King but a command.

Likewise, our colleagues are under the sentence of eternal death unless we get the message to them that Christ loved them and died for them and there is urgency in getting this message out to them. We are doing the King's business, which requires that we give it our best in regards to time and resources.

I made contact with Peter Wright the Chaplain to the NT Police and he kindly agreed to host me

during my visit there. Peter put out an e-mail inviting anyone interested to come to a BBQ held at the Police College and about 12 people turned up including a recruit at the College. I was able to tell them about the CPA and to encourage them to maintain Christian witness in the police and to try and meet for fellowship and mutual encouragement.

John Broughton, the Senior Police Chaplain in Victoria kindly hosted me during my visit. Whilst there, I had the opportunity of visiting Ross Fairweather who is coordinating the CPF in Victoria. They have about 60 names on their e-mail list, but do not appear to meet in a formal way. I hope that I was able to give Ross some encouragement on how to progress the fellowship in Victoria.



On return to NSW, I met with some members to discuss how to progress the CPF within NSW.

I was pleased to see that as a result of that meeting, a number of things were being done to raise the ►



“The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command” Esther 8:14 NKJV

“Only the Christian Officer has access to the police station, your church member cannot come in and witness to your colleagues.”

Australian Report continued...

profile of the CPF within the NSW Police. I have found that the main reason that Christian Officers give for not being involved with a Christian Police Fellowship, is that they are heavily involved with their church.

However, if you were to examine this in detail, you will find that the activities that they are involved in are those which any Church member could do.

Only the Christian Officer has access to the police station, your church member cannot come in and witness to your colleagues. Did God not make you a police officer for a purpose? Yes to help the community, but also to share the good news of the Gospel with your colleagues.

Also, I would say that only fellow Christian officers can really understand some of the difficulties that you experience in the police. That's why it is important, to meet for support and encouragement.

I hope my visit has encouraged some to renew their commitment to reaching colleagues with the Gospel and to meet for fellowship and mutual support.

Since my return, I have heard that a meeting is planned to see about starting a CPF in WA. I hope that very soon, every police force in Australia and Oceania will have an active Christian Police Fellowship.

In closing, I would like to thank the many people

who kindly hosted me during my visit and made me feel at home.

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one
Our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.*

Bert Sharp
International Christian
Police Fellowship
Communications Director

“Only fellow Christian officers can really understand some of the difficulties that you experience in the police.”



Where to from here?

We are in the process of:

- Establishing a formal member base
- Advertising in the Police News. (See *insert below*.)
- Producing brochures and other literature
- Establishing fellowship meetings for members and their families

Whilst primarily our focus is on NSW, we understand that there are Christians in the various police forces around Australia and indeed within the Oceania Region that do not have the strength of our resources and are in desperate need of encouragement, prayer and fellowship.

We have a much larger vision in assisting Christian Police in every State and Territory to have an active fellowship operating and then in the wider Oceania Region.



Are you a Christian within the NSW Police Force? Would you like contact and support with other Christians both sworn and unsworn staff within the Force?

- Revealing a real and relevant God
- Promoting God's principles of justice, truth, peace, love, hope and compassion
- Encouraging Christians in the Police Force
- Displaying God's love and support for colleagues
- Linking Police and Christian communities

Meet for fellowship, encouragement, prayer and bible study...

Mobile: 0426 829 755

Email: contact@christianpolice.org

www.christianpolice.org



"Would you like contact and support with other Christians both sworn and unsworn staff within the Force."



The Christian Police
Fellowship of NSW

PO Box CP263
Condell Park.
NSW. 2200

PHONE:
0426 829755

E-MAIL:
contact@christianpolice.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.christianpolice.org

The work needs to be done!

Only a few at the moment are working very hard to bring about the reality of this fellowship.

With the words of Bert Sharp:

“Only the Christian Officer has access to the police station, your church member cannot come in and witness to your colleagues.”

We need to construct a formal data base, and are currently talking with IT specialists in relation to our own server and all that that entails.

Have you any of the skills that we may need. Get involved and be a part of what God is doing in Australia within the Police.

Do you have any stories of encouragement or would like to be involved but at the moment don't know how you can help?

Contact us at: contact@christianpolice.org

PLEASE PRAY

For the Police Force

Officers on Patrol

- That they might build confidence with the public
- That they might have wisdom in all situations

Officers making “On the Spot” decisions

- Especially when making a wrong decision that might lead to an escalation of a difficult situation.
- For those engaged in public order or other potentially violent situations.

Officers suffering stress

- After dealing with sudden death, accidents or the victims of violent crime
- When dealing with major disaster or the death of a child or young person

Integrity to resist corruption

- Through contact with those of a criminal disposition
- Through temptation when in a position of trust

Ability to relax whilst off duty.

- Officers are human beings and need to rest.
- For others to recognize that officers have a life to lead outside of the Police Force.