

# On & Off Duty



CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

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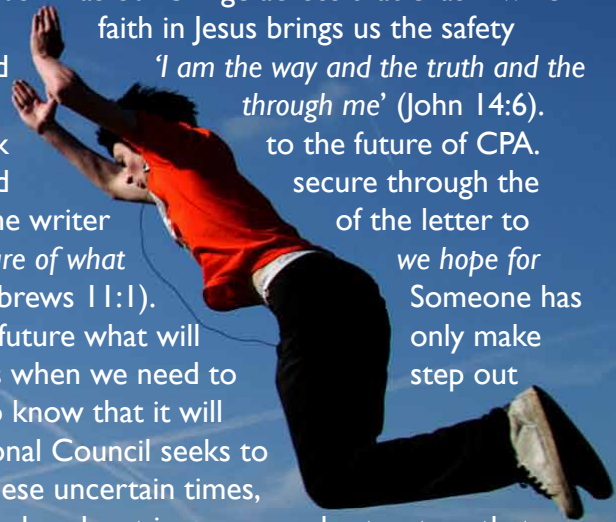


## LEAP OF FAITH

*Jumping into the unknown will, for most people, require a certain amount of courage. Others, whom some might label 'foolhardy', will jump without a second thought. Both approaches have their pros and cons according to the objective trying to be achieved.*

Many who look for purpose and meaning to life will stand on the brink of a chasm and see only darkness in front and below. For them, there is no 'other side'. Others will see the other side of the chasm and wonder if they can get across to life and hope, by building a bridge or jumping. Sadly, this too will lead to failure. But there are the few who will take the time to look around them, examine the evidence and see that a bridge across that chasm already exists and to get over does not require a leap, but a series of steps.

We live in a lost world that is looking for hope. Our message of hope is that God, our Heavenly Father, has provided Jesus as our bridge across that chasm which leads to new life in him. One step of faith in Jesus brings us the safety and security of eternal life. Jesus said 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6). The same principle applies as we look to the future of CPA. Our Lord has not brought us safe and secure through the last 128 years to abandon us now. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews defined faith as 'being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' (Hebrews 11:1). Someone has only made step out and paraphrased this as 'believing for the future what will sense in reverse'. There will be times when we need to onto the bridge with only the faith to know that it will not collapse beneath us. As our national Council seeks to discern God's will for the future in these uncertain times, they can be certain that their trust is placed, not in a man-made structure that may collapse, but in a foundation that is as firm as a rock, placed there by the one who has said 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Joshua 1:5) and 'surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:20).



**Don Axcell**

## C E R T A I N T Y

### In Uncertain Times

The magnificent grounds of **Tulliallan Castle** provided a stunning backdrop for the **2011 CPA National Conference**, hosted by our Strathclyde Branch at the Scottish Police College. Over 100 delegates from all four corners of the United Kingdom enjoyed a full programme over the weekend of 8–10 April, including a range of challenging and inspirational speakers, and some first-class worship.



The event was opened on the Friday evening by Strathclyde Branch Leader Harry Pearson, who welcomed the assembled delegates with a traditional Gaelic greeting – **'Ceud Mile Failte'** – literally, 'A hundred thousand welcomes', and that set the tone for a weekend that was notable for a strong sense of warmth, friendship and fellowship. Chief Superintendent David Thomson, gave a warm welcome on behalf of the Scottish Police College, and spoke enthusiastically about the partnership initiative with the College that had seen the CPA established there over the past year, with mutually beneficial results.

CPA Executive Director Don Axcell then addressed the delegates, bringing a thoughtful and insightful interpretation on the conference theme of **'Certainty in Uncertain Times'**.



This topic was developed further by the two main speakers on Saturday. Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, challenged us to use our Christian faith to make a difference in the communities we engage with, and Fiona McDonald, Director of National Missions for the Scottish Bible Society, who developed the theme with passion and eloquence.

Retiring CPA Administrator Pat Rose was presented with a token of appreciation for her loyal and conscientious service to the Association over the past six years, and her successor Jackie Gillen was introduced with good wishes for her future role.

On the Saturday evening the neighbouring Tulliallan & Kincardine Parish Church was the venue for our public church service where delegates were joined by a healthy turnout of local visitors, and enjoyed a very interesting evening of uplifting testimony and lively worship led by Jonny Healy and the band consisting of CPA members. Rev C Brian Ross, Chaplain, Strathclyde Police, shared the word of God, and an excellent evening was rounded off with tea and some delicious home baking. Our thanks go to the Rev Ken Donald and all Tulliallan Kirk for their warm hospitality (particularly the ladies who did the baking!)

On Sunday morning we were privileged to be able to hold an Act of Remembrance at the Scottish Police Memorial situated within the grounds of Tulliallan Castle. Delegates gathered in brilliant sunshine to the accompaniment of a lone piper playing a plaintive rendition of 'Amazing Grace'. The Rev Ross read the names of recently deceased officers and led a prayer of thanksgiving. Richard Wiggins then gave a very poignant reading of Binyon's 'For the fallen', before a CPA wreath was laid at the memorial by Bert Sharp, resplendent in full Highland dress for the occasion. All those present were deeply touched by what was a very special and moving occasion, and the proceedings were brought to a close to the strains of the traditional Scottish lament, 'The Flowers of the Forest'. Our gratitude goes to David Kirk, son of Strathclyde member Brian Kirk, for his beautiful playing of the bagpipes.

After an uplifting closing session of worship, prayer and partaking of the Lord's Supper, the delegates dispersed to make their way home again, each one, it is to be hoped, with a renewed sense of 'Certainty in Uncertain Times'. **Harry Pearson**



Pat Rose and Jackie Gillen

## CZECH out what the LORD is doing



Major Jiří Laňka

Nothing could really have prepared me for the amazing time I experienced accompanying Don Axcell on his visit to Prague over the weekend 12–15 May in support of the establishment of CPA (KPA) there. Coming hot on the heels of two days at the Christian Resources Exhibition and in the thick of final preparations for my sponsored motorcycle ride to Moscow, I admit to feeling a little jaded. However, we were met at the airport by a Christian senior officer serving with Czech Anti Terrorist Unit. Major Jiří Laňka took us to a wonderful monastery restaurant before treating us to a personal tour of the city which served to aptly reveal the significance of what we were about to be party to.

We were also blessed by the company of Bob Vernon and Skip Garmo from the USA who were to deliver a 'Pointman' presentation on ethical leadership with Don. On Friday afternoon we were introduced to the prospective leadership of CPA(Cz) and the proposed structure was explored.

Saturday commenced with the inauguration of CPA in the Czech Republic which was celebrated by all present as being complete at precisely 10.09 am. Praise the Lord! Support and words of encouragement were given by the City's Catholic Archbishop and later by the police Deputy President. A presentation was given by Don on the history and development of CPA in the UK and internationally. Biblical principles of ethical leadership were presented by the Pointman team to a group of about 30 delegates. The content was well received as its relevance to the future development of the association there was realised. There were many comments such as 'We've never had training like this before...' and at the conclusion, the most senior Christian officer present, Col. Jiří Komourous emotionally expressed the sentiment of his weekend '...I have now experienced two significant moments in my spiritual life. The first my baptism, the second today, with my Christian brothers in the police. I have never heard such principles taught. All our police leaders should hear it.' We also appreciated the principles being delivered to a politically influential group of people.

Excellent concurrent interpretation facilities was one of the many indicators of the high level of support for the establishment of the association. That is not to say they are without opposition, particularly in the political arena. At least two of the senior officers present had experienced persecution which had led to their being forced from office. Throughout the weekend, I was constantly reminded of the historical background and political regime out of which CPA there is being birthed. It has taken 17 years from conception of the vision in former Police President Stanislav Novotny to birth, actually a very short gestation period considering the Communist intolerance towards the gospel. It was because of this climate and the realisation of the historical significance of the process that I felt so honoured and blessed to be a part of it and yet also humbled. I saw 'Jezise' being glorified in that place and many barriers being torn down. There is still much work to be done and prayer support is needed but I look forward to further supporting and encouraging my Christian brothers and sisters in the Czech Republic. **Dudley Martin**

# I COULD TELL SOMETHING <sup>WAS</sup> DIFFERENT

I was born in Scotland and lived with my parents and three younger brothers. I moved to England at the age of 12 and had a very happy childhood. I had no knowledge of or interest in God and had even less interest in or knowledge of the Bible and I wouldn't have described my family as a Christian family. I didn't go to Sunday School and had very little teaching about the Christian faith in school. I joined the Army aged 17 and set off to travel the world. During those years, I spent most of my single life drinking around the local bars, getting into a number of embarrassing situations that are too many to count.

I married my first wife in 1988 in church (but still had very little interest in God). She contracted cancer six months prior to the wedding,

but lived for a further 7 years. I helped her through two bone marrow transplants, but never sought the comfort or guidance from any religious help that I may have come across. At that time I would have been very anti-religion, not due to my wife's illness, but just the state of mind I was in. If anyone had invited me to go to church or anything similar, I would have flatly refused. Even when my wife was seriously ill, I never thought about praying, as who would I pray to?

I joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1994 and my wife died the following year, but I was still in the same 'no interest' period in my life. I met my second wife, Judith, in 1996 and we married in 1998. Life seemed to be OK, just carrying on with the day-to-day situations, still without any interest in the Lord. Judith had grown up going to Sunday School, Girls Brigade, etc, but had rebelled in her late teenage years. Through her own interest, she started to enquire again about God and attended a 'Finding Faith' course. She committed her life to Christ in November 2004. I still had very little interest in God, but could see a change in her. She seemed a lot happier within herself and had a better outlook on life. I came along to the odd church service, mainly Christmas and Easter.

My outlook on church started to change slightly, with me thinking that what the pastor was talking about did make a bit of sense. The surroundings weren't too bad and not as horrible as I had imagined. In 2005 my interest was still quite limited, but my wife managed to drag me along to one of the talks by a well known speaker called J. John. The way he put the Christian life across during the talks that I attended made things seem a lot clearer, especially how the Bible relates to today's life. At the end of each evening, people could come out to the front and have a prayer said for them or 'become a Christian'. At the end of the third last night, I wanted to go to the front, but did not have the courage. The following week, I could tell something was different in my life. As I pulled into the car park, the sunlight was shining through the clouds in a typical 'heavenly' picture, with shafts of light shining down. I just knew that something special was happening. Once inside the church, I knew from the first minute that I needed to go to the front at the end of the event and needed to have Jesus in my life. I still didn't have much knowledge of the Christian faith, but I wanted to have Jesus in my life.

On 30 May 2005, I committed my life to Christ, and have never looked back. We practically ran home, bursting with excitement. Only later I realised that a lot of people had been praying for me over the last year or so. Since then, I have become a Sunday School teacher, been to Uganda twice and both of us have become very active members in our church serving the Lord the best we can. My family once said that I was the least likely of our family to become a Christian, but thank the Lord for what he has done and continues to do in my life. I have been blessed with two beautiful daughters who both have a far better understanding of who God is and why we need this relationship in our lives, and how better our lives are with Christ in them, than without.

**Chris Rose** (Northern Ireland)

*'As I pulled into the car park, the sunlight was shining through the clouds in a typical 'heavenly' picture, with shafts of light shining down. I just knew that **something special** was happening...'*



## Archie MacLeod

CPA Member Archie MacLeod, who has died aged 89, joined the City of Glasgow Police in 1947; this was later

incorporated into the Strathclyde force. In 1957 he specialised in communications and promotions came with an almost inevitable regularity. In 1973 he became a Chief Inspector and before he retired in 1977, he achieved the rank of Superintendent.

Throughout his police service he was an active and popular member of the Christian Police Association. On his retirement to Harris he became an elder in the church there and was always willing to help out in the pulpit and in the mission stations.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughters Catherine Ann and Mairi, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



# Things you can count on NOW!

There is a **grace** that is sufficient;  
a **mercy** that endures;  
an **atoning blood** that cleanses;  
a **hope** that doesn't disappoint;  
a **love** that never fails;  
a **purpose** that works all things together for the good;  
a **peace** that passes understanding;  
a **joy** unspeakable;  
a **kingdom** unshakable;  
a **foundation** indestructible;  
a **High Priest** who prays;  
a **Saviour** who lives;  
a **Spirit** who comforts;  
a **Father** who cares.

*'Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls' (Hebrews 6:18-19, NLT).*

## OUR PURPOSE is to

glorify Jesus Christ in the Police Service.

## OUR MISSION is to

- encourage and support Christians in the Police Service
- communicate in words and action, the truth, message and hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to colleagues and the community we serve
- build bridges between the Christian community and the police.

## OUR VISION is to see

- an active and growing Branch of CPA in every Police Service in the UK and every Christian in the Police Service to fulfill their potential in Jesus Christ
- colleagues and those we serve come to know Jesus Christ personally
- police and churches working together in every community to reduce crime and improve quality of life.

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