

On and Off Duty



Our Journey

We're all on a journey.

The problem is that for many of us, the journey seems to be a series of unplanned detours. Sometimes it doesn't even look like we're headed in the right direction at all. Our journeys are side-tracked because we often lack a clear vision of the goal. But Jesus knew where He was going and He never let anything get in the way. His journey was the journey to the cross. *'Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.'* (Luke 13:33 NKJV). It's all in this verse. We just don't see it because our translation leaves out the implication of a Greek word.

In the Greek text, the word translated 'must' in this verse is *dei*. This word carries the sense of divine necessity. It is the same word that twelve-year-old Jesus uses when He talks to His parents in the temple. His life is completely framed by divine necessity. There is never any doubt about where He is going. So, when Jesus says He **must** journey to Jerusalem, He is really talking about His coming death. He will have three days journey on this trip of perfection. Three days in the tomb. We have a hint about the true meaning of 'journey' when



we see that the Greek word chosen is a word that is associated with journeys into the afterlife. Did you know that your life is also under divine necessity? God is in control. The difference between Jesus and the rest of us is that Jesus always followed God's path. We have a habit of trying to *lead* our own lives. But God is gracious. He keeps bringing us back to the path marked 'Follow'.

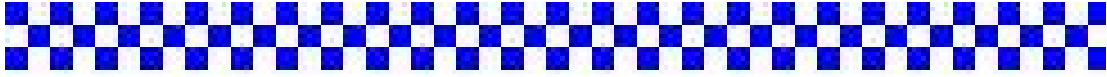
Take a moment to review your own journey. Can you see God's hand directing events in your life? Were there times when your path was altered unexpectedly but now you see that God was pushing you to *follow*? Now look ahead. Do you know where you're going? Do you have a 'Jerusalem' goal ahead of you? Are you following God's footsteps on your journey? Do you have a sense of what you *must* do?

Have you asked Him to help you make necessity a clear part of your journey too?

Skip Moen, PhD

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New Appointments

At the CPA Leaders' Conference last Autumn, four new appointments were made. Matt Baggott, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, was appointed as CPA President with Adrian Whiting, Assistant Chief Constable Dorset as his Deputy.

With the retirement of Paul Bright as Chair of Council, Tony Gale (Leicestershire) was appointed to replace him, with Dudley Martin (West Yorkshire) as Vice-Chair. Words of greeting by Matt and Adrian are now on the CPA website and are reproduced here.



President



Deputy President

With every year the 'world of policing' becomes ever more daunting and complicated, with high expectations and accountabilities weighing heavily upon individual shoulders. It is easy to forget that, ultimately, we rely upon vulnerable human beings to lead, resolve traumatic incidents and act courageously; then to go home to loved ones as if nothing had happened. Policing can be a lonely and demanding profession.

From my earliest days in the police service, my Christian faith has been much more than simply a comforting feeling or a set of helpful principles. I believe in a God who cares deeply for communities, people and police officers and whose love is shown through the life, death on a cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In over 30 years of policing, I have found God to be both personal and practical, helping me through both the good and difficult times with a love that is both constant and true.

The Christian Police Association not only brings together colleagues who share this belief in an active and personal God, but also seeks tangible ways of showing the care and compassion of Jesus. It is a privilege to be able to support the CPA as President, at a time when the truth and practicalities of the Gospel have never been more relevant to our profession.

Matt Baggott

It is a humbling experience to be able to serve as the Deputy President to the CPA. Answering God's call to be a police officer is never going to be easy – as policing itself is seldom easy – but I am certain that Faith equips us with all we will need.

From time to time I have needed to rely on my training and protective kit to help in the face of adversity, but if I am honest it has been Faith that really prevails.

By providing support to all in the service who may need it, and by offering hope of salvation to any who care to seek it, the CPA continues to serve His purpose. CPA members, their branch leaders and the CPA central staff regularly demonstrate their commitment, usually in times of challenge, when true character shines through.

I never cease to be deeply impressed at what those in the police service undertake and achieve on behalf of those they serve, and to be able to take a role that allows me to serve in a leadership position in the CPA is a challenge I relish!

Adrian Whiting





Finding the Answer

I have always felt quite spiritual but grew up interested in 'alternative' beliefs. When I was 31, I became particularly interested in Wicca and Paganism. I had always been a nature-lover and the beliefs seemed to fit with my own ideas of spirituality.

When I was 37, I was diagnosed with depression and was signed off work. Just before I went off, I had started to become interested in the 'story' of the Bible due to a work colleague who was a Christian. She had something about her that I wanted, but I didn't realise at the time that she was witnessing to me simply by being herself.

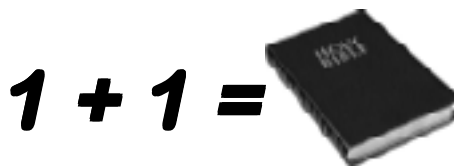
Whilst I was off I started reading a book called *The Bible for Dummies* which gave a good summary of the contents of the Bible and would refer to some chapters and verses. I decided at this point I needed a nice Bible to refer to and so bought a cheap copy of the King James Version. As I read, I would refer to the Bible and I would start questioning the ideas and concepts that were being presented. It was as though I wanted God in

my life but it was so far from anything I had ever believed in the past, I was fighting against it all the way.

But what happened next I think, was the major turning point in my life. Every time I had a question, I would be given an answer – not because I looked for it but because it was placed directly in my hand, either through a TV programme, something said in a movie, a song, a dream, something in a book. God's words were so clear to me and gave me such direct answers, that I couldn't help but believe. From that point onwards I did whatever I was being led to do. I repented my sins, I asked Jesus into my life, I started regular prayer, I found a good Bible-based church and I have never been happier.

I recovered from my depression very quickly after that, being back at work within a few weeks with more confidence, joy and determination than I had ever experienced before.

Linda Rollins (North Yorks)



CPA National Conference

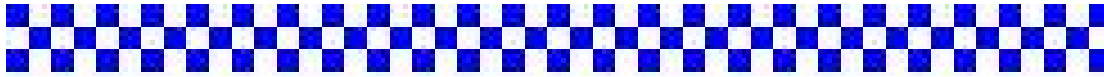
28 - 30 March 2008

Glenada Conference Centre

Newcastle, Co Down

Details: contact Marty Reid

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ROC in Dunstable



I joined Bedfordshire Police in April 1999 and like so many police officers I joined believing that the role would really allow me to make a difference.

I have performed several roles within the police including, front line patrol, working with those in Custody and Tutor Constable to new recruits. In August 2007 I was given the wonderful opportunity of becoming a Neighbourhood Police Officer in Dunstable.

The role has been very challenging in so many ways and has given me the opportunity to perform more 'old fashioned' police work. Neighbourhood Policing is not a new idea; it's about each individual being valued by their local Police Service.

There are now over 15 churches in the town, which are an integral part of their community and neighbourhoods. That is why it has made perfect sense for me to contact the local churches with a hope of working together.

The local police and the local churches are all striving for 'a safer and more pleasant community', but often do this in isolation of each other, for the simple reason that our methods and terminology is different.

I believe that it is now time in Dunstable, to work out how our differences can complement each other, rather than force us into isolation. I hope that the future of police and churches working alongside each other will be the start of shaping a safer and happier community.

In both in the Bible and in the floor tiles of Central Lobby at the Houses of Parliament are the words '*Unless the Lord build the house, those who labour, labour in vain*' (Psalm 127:1).

Pugin believed that God and the State could work together in perfect harmony, the question is, 'Can we make it happen?'
Mandy Corrigan, Bedfordshire

New Year's Honours

It is with great joy that we report that two of our members have been recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

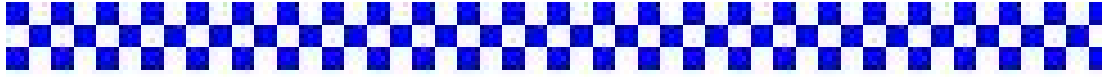
President of CPA, Matt Baggott, has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and Nichola Krikham, a Special Constable from South Yorkshire, has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Nichola received the award for the excellent work she has done in the community and for the police. Over the past year Nichola has worked on starting a Youth ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) Café in



Dinnington which provides facilities and activities for more than 35 young people.

Nichola has supported numerous Safer Neighbourhood Team and other community-based events. She led a community clear-up day to transform some of the worst streets and gardens in Dinnington. More than 22 tonnes of rubbish were removed over the five clean-ups in total, the vast majority of which was collected on the three days that involved Nichola and her volunteers.



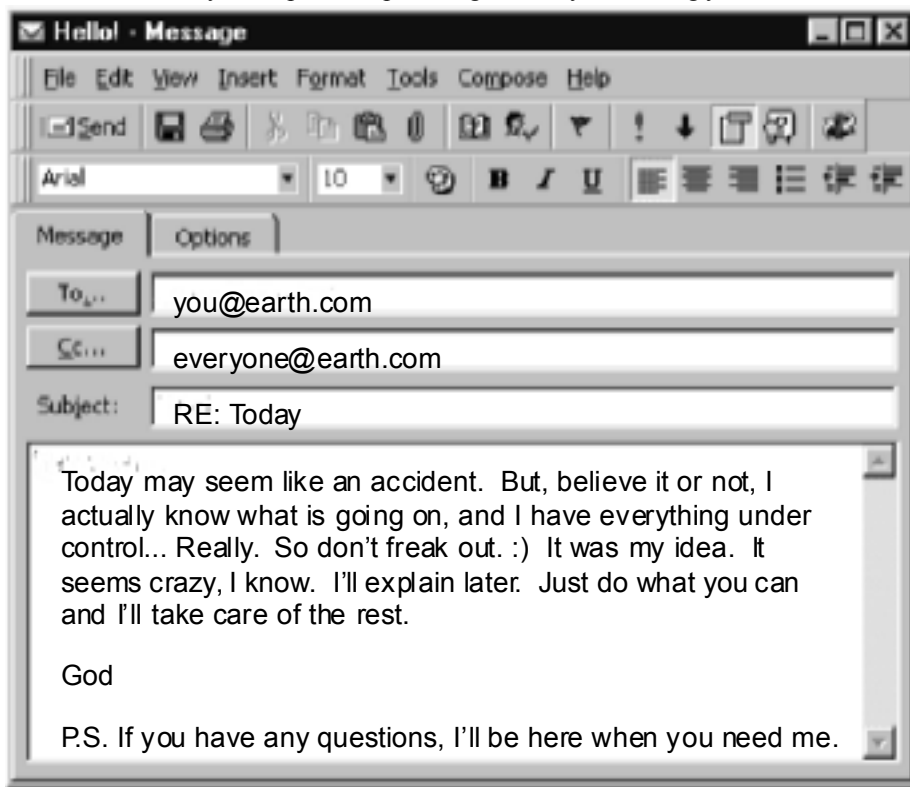
Ordinary or Ordained?

**‘All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.’
(Psalm 139:16 NIV)**

The mundane details of our day - the to-do lists, the appointments, the projects, and the problems - make life seem ordinary. We think, ‘It’s just another day at work.’ Today, however, is far from ordinary. And we are far from alone. Today is, in fact, ordained. Today is an event that was planned from before the beginning of time. It did not just ‘happen’, it was intentional. It was supposed to happen. It was destined to happen. God ordained it.

‘Ordained’ means it was already foreseen. It was specially appointed. It was specifically planned. And it is being carefully overseen. Your today was on God’s calendar long before it was on your calendar. It was on God’s to-do list before it was on yours.

In Psalm 139, God, your supreme supervising authority, is sending you an email:



Email is a great way to stay in touch and to call for help and support when you need it. CPA Headquarters staff will always try to get an answer to you as quickly as possible.

office@CPAuk.net



Hungry for God

My testimony does not involve any major event that marks my becoming a Christian. It is more the case of realising a truth that I had been seeking on and off during most of my life.

I was raised as a Catholic and in my early years was very much involved in the church (choir boy, altar boy etc.). However, in my teens I drifted away from practising the faith, notwithstanding that I always considered myself a Christian and was 'hungry' for a greater relationship with God. Over the years I frequently attended services at a variety of different denominational churches. I also attended a few CPA meetings but never really found what I was looking for.

In 2006, a number of things happened in my life, including leaving the force and working in a commercial environment, together with some difficulties in my relationship. For reasons that are not clear to me now, this culminated in me taking a path that led me away from any vestige of Christianity that I had held, chasing short-term hedonism and rejecting God.

Earlier in 2007 I 'came to my senses' and my long-time partner forgave me for my actions. I began attending church with her, to get myself back to my previous level of Christianity as I then knew it.

She had also attended the first session of a Christianity Explored course and I accompanied her on the subsequent sessions. During this course I reaffirmed my belief in Jesus as the Messiah but, significantly, I learnt about God's grace. Although brought up as a Catholic and being aware of the sacrifice of the cross I had never really had the full meaning of God's grace explained to me. The scale of God's love overwhelmed me and I realised that this was

the thing I had been looking for, for so long.

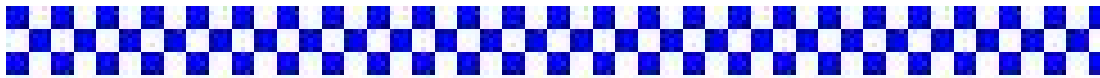
This was the catalyst for me fully coming to God. In many respects it was a small step, as I already had a good foundation on which to build. I began attending church regularly and reading the Bible. Again, I was aware of some of the Gospels and some of the epistles but much of the New Testament and the majority of the Old Testament were unknown to me.

One Sunday, a couple of weeks after I learnt of God's grace I was in church and during the talk I could not concentrate as I realised that I could not be at peace with God whilst I was living with my partner as a married couple, but without being married. This had a major impact on me and I needed to resolve it immediately. My partner and I agreed to suspend full marital relations until we were married and complying with God's will, and we arranged to get married as soon as we could. This took place in May 2007.

I can not underestimate how much I have changed in such a small period of time. I am a totally different person. Some of the manifestations include looking at the world through totally different eyes, I read the Bible daily, go to regular Bible study sessions and try and use any opportunities open to me to reach out to people and talk to them about God.

Tony Thomas (City of London ret.)





Breaking Bad Habits

Entering a new year many people try to keep resolutions to break bad habits. Here is an article based on the daily meditation by Os Hillman in *Today God Is First*.

Jesus said, *'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin'*. (John 8:34 NIV)

Are you a slave to a bad habit? Do you chronically repeat the same behaviour. Has it ever put a strain on a relationship, cost you your job, made you miss an appointment, or been detrimental to your health?

Here's a true encounter - with a positive outcome for breaking a bad habit:

I hate being late, my friend Dana lamented. It has been a problem all my life.

Do you really want to change that? I asked.

Yes, I do.

All right. Every time you are late to work or anywhere else where you have committed to be at a particular time you must give me £25.

No way. Dana responded. I would go broke. But I will do £10.

All right, £10 it is. It has to be a large enough amount of money for it to hurt your wallet.

Believe me, that will hurt, Dana said.

About a month later Dana found great motivation to be on time to every place she had to be. In the first week, I got only £10 from her. The next week, £20. The third week, nothing. By the fifth week, my friend had changed a lifelong habit that had hindered her all her life. In order for my friend not to be resentful of me for the money she had to give, we put it in a jar to be given to some charity.

- You may think this is legalism. For this woman it was freedom. For the first time she had some means of changing a behaviour that had caused her problems in relationships and her work habits.
- Psychologists tell us it takes 21 days to form a habit. So if you need to change a habit, you need to be actively engaged in that new behaviour at least 21 days.
- Sometimes, even the best of intentions, the most profound prayers, and the most heartfelt desire are not enough to cause a change. A radical, physical approach may make the greatest impact.
- Dana needed help to change a habit she didn't like. It took another individual to hold her accountable, and it took a potential loss of something to provide the added incentive.
- What are the habits that keep you from becoming all that God may want you to become? Do you desire change enough to be accountable in a way that it costs you something when you fail? Ask a friend to hold you accountable in an area that needs change. You will find new freedom as you conquer old tormenting habits.





The Aim of the Christian Police Association is:

- To promote and foster the fellowship of Christians in the Police Service in that unity which is enjoyed by those who are born again by the Spirit of God;
- To demonstrate this relationship to God in a concern for righteousness both on and off duty; and
- To obey Christ in proclaiming His gospel, especially to members of the Police Service that they might be brought to know Him personally.

CPA Lanyards



CPA lanyards are now available from the Headquarters office. They have white lettering on a black background and are fitted with a quick-release safety joint.
Cost - £1.50 each plus postage.

**Celebrate
125 years of CPA
31 October -
2 November 2008**

**Conference at
High Leigh Christian
Conference Centre**

**Public Celebration at
All Souls, Langham Place**

**Speakers include:
Rev Rico Tice
Rev Dr Derek Tidball**

Space at the conference will be limited so register your interest with CPA Headquarters now

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