



# ICPF NEWS



May 2021

## ON POINT

Have you ever experienced a moment in your life, when you feel like you are alone, completely lost, on foot in the middle of a dense jungle, when your machete is so blunt and useless that you can't clear a path out of the undergrowth? Does that sense of frustration, fear and hopelessness sound familiar— maybe that's how you feel right now? If so, to encourage you, the verse that has most touched my spiritual life along my own path with God, over the 44 years that I have been walking with Him, has been in the Gospel of John, 11 v.40: Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God"?

In those desperate moments of life, when we are under intense pressure, we somehow manage to keep ourselves together and under control in front of others. What I believe is really going on, is that either inside or in moments of solitude, we actually suffer with "unspeakable groans" We do not want those who are close to us to see our weaknesses, although that is one of the most beautiful things about human beings - that we are all weak. Without our beloved Father we cannot breathe, we lack air, our heart shrinks, our stomach closes. We can go up the mountain to scream, or run along the beach sprinting until we faint. Or perhaps we get up in the middle of the night, go to the kitchen and in a dim light, slowly fill a glass of water. Then leaning on the sink, with head bowed, take short sips, when among thousands of thoughts, you seek to find the one that helps you rest. And then within that quietness, His voice appears: "Have I not told you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Remember how Martha had lost hope? She even tells Jesus that it is already too late, that the dead body of her beloved brother already smells and nothing can be done. *'If only you had been here.'* I have to admit, that I have given that cry many times – 'Where are you'?

This scene is heart-breaking, so much so that Jesus suffers with them at the pain of losing Lazarus. This is despite him knowing what will happen in a few moments. Jesus is going to rescue them, He is going to console them, He is going to fill them with new life, "whoever believes in me will live even though he is dead." Do you believe this? And listening to the answer, "Yes, Lord, I believe." Still, Jesus wept at the grave of his friend.

So, what can we learn from this? Basically, we can be comforted and assured that we are never alone. Loneliness can be a feeling that invades us hundreds of times and within us, we give that feeling an overly heavy sense of its presence and power. For a time, we might believe that we have lost the company of God, the nearness of his caresses, his embrace. However, He is crying with us, even knowing what is going to happen in just a few moments. That He is able to remove all those burdens giving us comfort and helping us leave the jungle behind and into a green, clear and open meadow. Have you ever thought why God allows you not to see the end of the situation you are going through? Surely you have already answered? Yes...so that you can trust Him. Yes, and so that you realize that you depend totally on Him, that we are weak and our own strength depends entirely on God. Have you seen any adventure movies in which the protagonists knew what they were going to face? No, they face problems as they keep walking through, but they do not know what will happen to them. Our life with God is the same, we will never know what we are going to face, and neither do we need to know, the only thing we need to know is that if we **BELIEVE, WE WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD.**

Let me finish this reflection with a story of a friend of mine, who was an experienced cyclist. As he was climbing up the very steep L'Angliru Mount in Asturias, Spain, there were several times when he thought that he just couldn't make it to the top, as he didn't have the strength. At that moment the clouds made an unexpected appearance, covering the entire mountain with a thick fog. My friend no longer knew what to do, since he could not go down the mountain as he would have been putting his life at risk on a blind descent. He was faced with having to continue to climb the mountain on his bike, totally exhausted and unable to see more than two meters in front of him. When he finally reached the summit, he was amazed and overcome. At the top, he was able to recognize that his unforgettable experience was actually a lesson for his personal spiritual life. Sometimes the Lord does not allow us to see the route ahead, so that we do not despair about everything that we are going to go through, or that we do not see how far or near the top is. But he calls us to trust that whatever happens on our journey, we will see His glory.



## CURRENT EVENTS - INTERNATIONAL CPA GROUPS

### AMERICA

#### USA

Pray for a Christian officer here in Colorado, who has been placed on unpaid leave while his agency investigates a complaint (he is essentially being persecuted for his faith). Pray for retired Chicago PD Lt. Chuck Uργο (and his medical team) who will be undergoing a surgical procedure on his eyes next week.

Pray for continued healing for Aurora (Colorado) PD Officer Matt Springer (recent surgery).

Prayers for the Police across the USA as they face unprecedented levels of hatred and violence towards them in retaliation for recent events.

esteem, marital separations, domestic violence and other concerns. These common issues often make colleagues feel incapable of performing daily duty or service and therefore we request prayers to support the work of the ARMOR Association. You can contact them on Facebook.

*By Patricia Zacarias*

#### URUGUAY

The situation for organizing face-to-face meetings in Uruguay is complicated through Covid, so meetings are held online they are held for evangelistic purposes. We also hold prayer meetings for the police, especially for those who have suffered injuries in the service.

#### ARGENTINA

In Argentina, the ARMOR Christian Association is made up of women serving in the Military and the Police. It is a team offering the prayers and spiritual armour that every uniformed woman needs to help fulfil her duties and get them through those difficult or bad days. Because of their good work and testimonies, they were requested by the Department of Attention to the Family of the Naval Hospital, in Puerto Belgrano, to carry out a collaboration with this Hospital. ARMOR focuses on giving attention to police and military women who come to them with problems of low self-



#### COLUMBIA

It is sad to report, that once again, many of our colleagues in the Police, this time in Columbia, have been faced with mass protests by citizens across many cities. They have been demonstrating against new Government measures to tackle the financial impact of Covid 19. In Bogota, the capital city, street violence continued after more than a week of angry anti-government demonstrations. Many protestors and police officers were hurt in clashes on the poor southern fringes of Bogotá. Crowds wrecked 25 police kiosks, setting one on fire and injuring five officers, according to city officials. As many as 45 Bus stations across the city were also vandalized and were out of service due to damage. At least one Police officer has been killed and 26 protestors are among the dead following this uprising. We must pray for peace and calm to return to that troubled country and His protection for all those serving their country to preserve law and order in these dangerous times.





## AMERICA

### INDIA

The world has recently witnessed on television and through the media, the devastating impact that the Indian strain of Covid 19 has had for the people across that huge country. Our brothers and sisters who are First responders and police colleagues are themselves struggling to cope with the scale of the people needing treatment. We can and must turn to God for His help and comfort, especially for the work of The Holy Cops Ministry. Understandably they have also been affected by these events and only recently have they been able to hold a couple of CPA meetings on the west Coast.

### HONG-KONG

Message of Intercession for the Enoch Fellowship.

- Thank God for his providence in 2019 and 2020. Hong Kong has calmed down from the riots and epidemics. Police work and working hours have returned to normal.
- In November last year, the Board of Directors promoted worship and added Saturday afternoon worship. In January this year, AGM approves a plan to expand the base site of the Fellowship by purchasing a place twice as large as the current one and to strengthen its shepherd work for young couples and children. Please pray for our fundraising to reach the goal successfully, and pray that the Lord for giving us a heart of unity!
- The fellowship started adult worship on January 23 this year, and children worship also began on May 1st. The response was enthusiastic and thankful to have a good beginning.



- Please pray for the Enoch Fellowship for holding four evangelistic events this year, including May, July, September, and December. May the Lord use each evangelistic event so that more colleagues can hear the Gospel and accept Jesus as their Saviour.

## AUSTRALIA

### NEW ZEALAND

In contrast to many of the ICPF Newsletters that request our prayers for peace and healing, we also want to show that God does hear and does answer our prayers. This month we want to share an article relating to the recent Police Christian Support Network (pcsn.org.nz) Conference in New Zealand which left all those brothers and sisters who had attended literally "Buzzing!"

As an encouragement to those who are seeking something similar, the following are genuine feedback comments from some of those who were able to attend.

- Thanks Jon, Frank and Team. Thank you Jesus for you two and the team for putting on the best conference I have attended so far. Our Pacific boys from Auckland have come away pumped and will continue to advocate for the Lord and our new Police bible. God bless, Sonny Iosefo
- I really enjoyed our conference from 1st day till the closing. All 3 speakers were very, very good. Thank you very much for the hospitality very much appreciated.
- As being the first Conference that I had ever attended, I really enjoyed it. So full on program. I would like to salute you and your team for the job well done. Can't wait for the next conference. Regards, Fabianni Napara
- Wow, what a blessed weekend. Thanks for being in the forefront and doing all that you did to organise this event. Everyone that I was privileged to hang out with, (me inclusive), were super charged and ready to carry the 'flag', and stepping out in faith. Thank you so, so much. Kind regards, Roshni Kumar
- Thank you so much for the wonderful work you guys did over the weekend. It was certainly a blessing to us, and I thought a wonderful outworking on what it means to support and empower PCSN members. I've already found myself sharing some of the testimonies with people who don't know Jesus yet here at work, and trying to recall all of Norm's steps for ministering to God. It was nice to see everyone again and encourage a few as well - and hear from people only six months into the job, standing firm for the kingdom as they set their course in Police. Beautiful. God's peace, and thank you again, Chris Worsley
- What an amazing experience!! Loved every minute of it, have nothing but praise for everyone involved, great



speakers, pumping band, yummy food, great time meeting other staff and creating new connections, special thanks to the wonderful staff who helped put it all together.

## QUEENSLAND

I spoke to Superintendent Peter Brewer recently and he sends greetings from the Queensland Christian Police Fellowship (CPF).

The Queensland Christian Police Fellowship continues to meet in small groups and through electronic covid safe platforms.

Please pray for the Queensland Police Service as it undergoes some restructuring. Please give wisdom to the leaders of Queensland Police CPF and its executive. Please pray for continued favour upon the CPF Fellowship and especially to keep legitimacy with our executive as the Queensland Police Service recognises all communities and faiths. Please pray for the CPF members as they model love and care to all colleagues.

## EUROPA

### GERMANY

#### I had to use my gun – am I guilty?

Markus Scherer, a young shift leader and officer from the southern state of Baden-Württemberg reported to us about the fact that whilst on duty recently, he had to draw his



weapon and shoot a suspect. That person was injured but not killed. This incident badly affected the young officer, who then experienced symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress from the shooting. Markus also had an awareness that this incident and experience was a day from God. The work and support of a Police Chaplain, named Gerhard Werner from

Nürnberg, Bavaria helped and assisted in the recovery of this officer as he guided Markus to return to a stronger and healthy state of mind. The initiative came from a colleague and CPV member, Christian Frank (Branch Ostwestfalen), with the arrangements being made by Mimi Werner (Branch Nürnberg). The support work and services provided by Police Chaplaincy should be encouraged and promoted across the ICPF community.

## ITALY

### Association Military Christian Fellowship Italy

The complex procedure for obtaining the approval from the Minister of Defence to form the Fellowship, is currently underway. The file is being processed by the Navy General Staff. We ask you to pray that everything proceeds quickly and that we obtain the permission to be able to finally register the Association. The MCF Italia, when it is established, does not want to be a church or a new name, but a non-profit association of a socio-cultural and religious nature, formed by believers who have a passion for perishing souls. The purpose of this association is to promote the Christian faith, among its members, within the Armed Forces, Police Forces and Security Forces.

The purpose of the MCF Italy is to bring the good news of the Gospel for the salvation of people through Christ Jesus and to provide spiritual assistance within the Armed Forces, Police Forces and Security Forces in general.

The MCF Italy is made up of a wide group of believers: - military and civilian, belonging to the Armed Forces, Police Forces, Security Forces, Fire Brigade, Forest Guard, Guardia di Finanza and other Paramilitary Forces. They are in good fellowship with their own churches, devoted to Jesus Christ, who recognise and have accepted Him as their personal saviour.

## MOLDOVA

Around Easter time the third wave of Covid-19 brought a couple of CPF-Officers into the hospitals and some of them had to stay for the whole Easter week in intensive care. Their treatment required them to receive Oxygen and finally they were required to pay for their medication out of their health insurance. A prayer request was sent out from the ICPF to ask nations to support our brothers financially. Some nations immediately offered help. The CPA groups in Stuttgart and the police academy bible study group in



the same state quickly raised the money and transferred it within one week to Moldova. We are grateful that no other financial needs or costs were necessary. All officers recovered in the meantime and are now back on duty. Can we have an Amen?

## SPAIN

In the collaboration agreement that the CPA of Spain (Mission 365) has with the Association of Christian Psychologists of Hispanoamerica, we are engaged in delivering courses by ZOOM, aimed at reducing some of the negative and tragic consequences of serving in the Military or Police. These courses include, Suicide prevention training and How



to survive the Burnout and other programs will soon be developed. We have some very good news to report! For years we have been collaborating with the Biblical Society of Spain. This year we have been pleased to receive an audio version of the New Testament that has been interpreted by actors. The material is very good and can be used to help organize

small meetings. The idea is that Police officers are invited to the sessions, enjoy a snack together and then listen to the Word, as if it were a movie on the radio. The officers are then invited then to discuss the topics or subject in the readings.

*Juan Nombela*

## SWITZERLAND

The effects of the Corona pandemic continue to influence the activities of the Swiss CPA. Currently our government regulations allow for group meetings – however this year's general meeting had to be held again by written route. Probably the most important on the agenda this year: the election of the new president of CPA Switzerland. So, we are very pleased that our long-time board-member Cello Riedener has made himself available for the office – and that he was elected with a brilliant result!

We are just as pleased that with the re-entry of Tabea Schmid in the board of directors, the average age on the Board has shifted sharply, while at the same time increasing the proportion of women. CPA Switzerland is moving with the times, as we also see with the admissions of young police officers into our CPA in the last couple of months.



*Cello Riedener*