

Christian Peace Officer

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2002 Conference Season Begins March 15 at *Word of Life*

The annual Word of Life Law Enforcement Conference March 15-17 kicks off the 2002 conference season.

- Registration is the afternoon of March 15 at the Word of Life Inn, Schroon Lake, NY with the evening meal served at 5:00 p.m.
- There are four sessions: Friday night, Saturday morning and night (afternoon free) and Sunday morning.
- The speaker is Commander Bill Powers, Chicago P.D.
- The registration fee includes Friday and Saturday night lodging at Word of Life and all meals from Friday night through Sunday noon. The conference concludes with the noon meal.

Registrants can choose from one of three levels of room accommodations:

- Deluxe: Couple-\$280, Single-\$168
Two sharing-\$140 per person
- Superior: Couple-\$260, Single-\$156
Two sharing - \$130 per person
- Standard: Couple-\$252, Single-\$150
Two sharing - \$126
- Children accompanying adults:
Ages: (0-2...\$16) (3-6...\$42) (7-12...\$54)
(13 and over...\$106)

You can register at Word of Life by using their toll-free number: 1-800-965-7177.

October 1-3 Ridgecrest Conference is New This Year

The LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, near Asheville, NC in the Blue Ridge Mountains, will be the site October 1-3 of a new conference, The Law Enforcement Summit. Under the leadership of a multi-discipline law enforcement planning team, the Summit is designed for all men, women and spouses in the criminal justice system, including the Military.

NOW AVAILABLE! FCPO AUDIO AND VIDEO "COP TO COP" TAPES!

Are you looking for an effective way to reach a fellow officer or family member for Christ? We recommend the "Sgt. John Baker Outreach" audio or video tapes.

After John discovered he had terminal pancreatic cancer in August 2001, we scheduled an outreach meeting attended by more than 200 - mostly officers. John's message of his trust in the Lord is one of the most powerful you may ever hear. He spoke to cops as a fellow cop, and many present prayed to receive Jesus when he finished. In the short time he fought the disease, which took his life December 12, John's courage and unwavering faith affected many hundreds more.

John's presentation is available in both audio and video tape, professionally mastered in high quality. You can give or play these tapes for someone who is lost, knowing they have the power to convict with a clear Gospel message. Price for the tapes are: video, \$20; audio, \$10; both for \$25 (price includes S&H).

BRUCE MILLS 2001 CONFERENCE TAPES AVAILABLE

Four outstanding messages given by Bruce Mills, a Dallas Seminary graduate with nearly 30 years experience in Florida as both a city (Dunedin) and county (Pinellas) sworn officer, are available on audio cassette. Titles are:

- **9-1-1 – God, Where Were You?**
- **Trusting God, Parts I & II**
- **Why Do You Follow Christ?**

Price for the set is \$20.

> 2002 CONFERENCES (continued from page 1) > **BE THERE!!**

October 1-3 Ridgecrest Conference is New This Year...

A two-night, three-day event, the Summit will offer a variety of workshops including:

- **Integrity on the job**
- **Stress management**
- **Mentoring/Discipleship**
- **Family Relations**
- **Race/Prejudice issues**
- **Financial Management**
- **Dealing with temptations**
- **Issues of spouses**

General session speaker is Dr Wayne Barber, well known by *FCPO* members in the Southeast. The Emcee is Johnny Mack Brown, former Sheriff of Greenville Co., SC. "Squire" Parsons, popular country gospel broadcast entertainer, will be in concert live. Instructors certified in their fields of expertise will teach all workshops.

Registration on Tuesday afternoon, October 1 will be followed by dinner and the opening sessions. The Wednesday program features "free time" in the afternoon between morning and evening sessions. The conference ends Thursday with the noon meal.

Conference costs, which include six meals, two nights lodging and registration fee, are:

- **Standard: Couple - \$379, Single - \$258.50**
Two sharing - \$189.50
- **Economy: Couple - \$359, Single - \$238.50**
Two sharing - \$179.50

Reservations can be made with a \$25 deposit, per person, using a check or credit card by calling toll-free 1-800-588-7222 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

URGO ELECTED TO NATIONAL FCPO BOARD

Lt. Charles "Chuck" Urgo, Chicago Police Department, has been elected to his first three-year term on the *FCPO* National Board. Elected with Chuck for second terms were Capt. John Stuermer, Chattanooga Police Department and Lt. Sean Wallace, Arkansas City (KS) Police Department. The election was conducted in late summer by mail ballot open to all Full Members. Results were confirmed at the Annual Membership Meeting held in conjunction with the 2001 *FCPO* Conference in October.

Chuck has been a member of the CPD for over 31 years, and has faithfully served *FCPO* Chapter No. 26 for much of that time. In fact, the Chicago chapter will celebrate 25 years of service this coming spring. As Chuck says, "Working in local chapter 26 has been a good learning experience. Now that I am nearing retirement I will have greater latitude in serving on the National Board. I will do my best to add something positive to the ministry."

Chuck and his wife, Carol, have been married 38 years and have two grown children. We welcome their addition to the Board family.

FCPO is fortunate to benefit from the guidance and counsel of seasoned officers like Chuck, John and Sean on the National Board. Please pray for them and the other Board members that God will give them wisdom as they guide the ministry.

NATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2001-2002 TERM

In accordance with Article VI, Section 4 (a) of the *FCPO* National Bylaws, Board members elect officers for the coming year following the annual membership meeting.

Officers elected October 7 for the 2001-2002 year are as follows:

- President - Jim Hammond**
- Vice President - Sean Wallace**
- Secretary - Diane Goracke**
- Treasurer - John Stuermer**

These four, together with Executive Director Grant Wolf, comprise the Executive Board of the national ministry.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Grant Wolf
Executive Director



WORDS

The Bible says, *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver. (Proverbs 25:11)*. Therein lies the problem.

What is a "fitly spoken" word? **When** do I speak it (sometimes listening is preferable)? **To whom** do I speak it? **Why** do I speak it (instead of someone else)? **Where** do I speak it?

Words come tumbling out of our mouths all day long. From our first "waking up grunt" to our last "good night," spoken words are what we live by. Most of these words are automatic, programmed into our brains from early childhood. Many reflect our gender, race, creed or region where we were raised. By our words others quickly form opinions of who we are and whether or not they want to build a relationship with us.

Most Christians want to "walk the walk and talk the talk." However, even for the most dedicated, words slip out which can hurt others, tear down or destroy our testimony, paint us as a bigot/snob, ignoramus/tyrannical/"know it all"/etc. You get the picture: it's hard to maintain words which are "fitly spoken." None of us are immune to the problem.

Like you I want to be known for my "fitly spoken" words, words which maintain my testimony before others, which comfort those who are hurting, which encourage those who are down and which demonstrate my love for God and for man. That doesn't always happen. Sometimes I know by the "feedback" I get that I missed the mark. Other times I am left to wonder how "fit" my words were.

The Bible does give some help in this area, though we are warned in *James 3:2-12* that *no man can tame the tongue, for it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*.

The real issue isn't our words, but our heart. *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man... (Matthew 15:19-20a)*.

Going back to *James (2:14-16)* we learn that when bitterness, envy or self-seeking are in our hearts there is boasting, lying, confusion and every kind of evil. The Apostle goes on to say *(18) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace*.

Perhaps that is where I find my answer about "words." Do I speak as a "peacemaker?" Do I come as a "peacemaker?" Is

making peace that which is foremost in my heart and mind, or do I have another agenda?

I know I make many mistakes with my words (every tongue-owner does), and will to the day of my death. Some I can't help, but many I can avoid. Each day I must go back to the Word, confess my sins to the Father, examine my heart to weed out wrong motives and ask God to be my Shield and Guide throughout the day. I still will make mistakes, but there's a greater probability my words will be taken as "fitly spoken."

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

Hammond Represents FCPO at Third International Conference

FCPO President Jim Hammond, accompanied by his wife, Jeanie, represented the ministry at the 3rd International Conference of the Federation of Christian Police Fellowships in Villingen, Germany this past November. Delegates came from 16 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Romania, Switzerland, Uganda, UK, USA and South Africa) and four continents.

Special thanks go to Matthias Lehmann of Germany, who coordinated the Conference and was greatly responsible for excellent accommodations, food and sightseeing. Not only was he a gracious host, but he went out of his way to make all the delegates feel right at home.

All the sessions featured prayer, singing and spiritual insight from the Word of God. Perhaps the best part of the Conference was the time when members of the delegations were able to meet and share personally with their counterparts from other countries.

A special tribute was paid to the police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty during the tragic events in New York City on September 11. Two members of the New York City Police Department were invited as honored guests.

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to represent FCPO and have an opportunity to meet with fellow Christian officers as we shared ideas on how to make Christ known among law enforcement of the world. I gained many new Christian brothers and sisters and, through the modern technology of E-mail, will correspond with them as we work together globally in spreading the Gospel to those in the Criminal Justice System.

- Jim Hammond

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

Jim Hammond
President



RESPONSE TIME

Pastor Makumbi of Uganda, Africa dropped by the *FCPO* office recently. Through many trials and miraculous intervention by the Lord he was able to visit the United States. He became aware of our ministry and wanted to learn more about our work.

Greetings out of the way, we turned our attention to the *FCPO* ministry. I compared some of the differences between U.S. officers and those from other countries and heard some of the problems he had encountered from his nation's law enforcement personnel.

He then told me one of his first observations of American police in action.

"Brother Jim, I was riding with a friend when we came upon an accident in the road. We learned it had occurred only minutes before our arrival. Three officers already were there to assist in the accident. One officer was talking on his police radio, one was writing report information and a third was assisting the distraught motorist who had struck a dog in the road. A DOG, SIR. A DOG.

When an accident happens in my country the police do not arrive for many hours - maybe ten or twelve. You must not remove evidence or disturb the scene until police arrive or you are in violation of the laws of my country. If someone is badly injured they often die before police arrive for the report. To strike a dog or any animal would never bring police to the scene. You have such a great nation. Your police care for the people and the animals."

I explained to my new friend that in America we take very seriously an officer's "Response time" to the scene of an accident or any call. Generally, police are on the scene within ten minutes and often sooner, depending on the critical nature of the call.

My visit with this Ugandan brother and his comments on the professionalism of law enforcement in the U.S. set me to thinking about "Response Time." As Christian Peace officers what is our "Response Time" in sharing the Gospel with our fellow officers? Do we do it eagerly, are we slow to respond or do we even bother at all with the spiritual needs we see all around us?

In I Peter 3:15-16 we are told that if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way. We are also to go into all the world with the Gospel (Mark 16:15) and to be instant in season and out (II Timothy 4:2).

All mankind experiences spiritual emergencies - the most critical being the need by the lost for the healing only Jesus Christ can bring to the soul. Christians, too, have spiritual emergencies. You and I both know too

many Christian officers who have succumbed to immorality, unfaithfulness, alcohol and other needs. As believers we all are commanded by our Savior to respond to the spiritual needs of our fellow man.

I wish I could say my "Spiritual Response Time" was always at its best. Unfortunately, like you my life is filled with so many responsibilities many times I don't even see the need until it's too late.

Not long ago I heard a man say when he dropped coins on a hard floor he always could tell if it was a penny, nickel, dime or quarter. Why? Because he had learned "the sound of money." Perhaps our challenge is to "learn the sound of a spiritual response call." Then, dressed in the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20), we may not be able to rescue all....but perhaps we will rescue more than we did before

2001 *FCPO* Annual Meeting held at Simpsonwood Conference Center near Atlanta

October 5 through 7 was a time of reflection, refreshment and relaxation for members of *FCPO* who gathered near Atlanta for the 2001 annual conference and business meeting.

Located on Simpsonwood's spacious grounds are some of the most abundant hardwood trees in North Georgia. Dressed in colors of yellow, gold, red, orange and the other rich hues of fall, they added a festive air to what attendees declare was a most memorable weekend.

In addition to *FCPO-USA* members, the National President of *FCPO-Canada*, Mr. Ron Seney, was a special guest. A number of chapters, jurisdictions and ranks were represented. Attendees came from local law enforcement agencies, sheriff's offices, Juvenile Court, District Attorneys Office, U.S. Marshal Service and the U.S. Secret Service.

Friday night opening ceremonies were marked by a candle-light tribute honoring those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, and in support of the men and women of all countries who fight evil in the world. Many U.S. law enforcement officers have been called back into active duty in this time of conflict, including the policeman husband of our national office secretary, Ivette Diaz.

A unique feature of *FCPO* conferences are testimonies by officers and their spouses of what it means to have Jesus as their Savior and Lord. We also are pleased that many *FCPO* members have the ability to speak and teach at conferences such as ours. Bruce Mills, Pinellas County (FL) Sheriff's Department and Dallas Seminary graduate, brought several messages of encouragement. Two related to the September terrorist attacks: "Trusting God" and "9-1-1: God where were you?" (Tapes of Bruce's four messages are available.)

The Saturday morning presentation featured members from large, medium and small-sized chapters. Lt. Chuck Urgo, Chicago, Lt. Paul Lee, Chattanooga, and Lt. Sean Wallace, Arkansas City (KS) each outlined how a chapter can hold an effective "Outreach" meeting, regardless of size or locale.

Some used the free time Saturday afternoon to relax on the grounds while others took advantage of the sights and sounds of Atlanta. Many took the subway from a stop nearby Simpsonwood to downtown. Highlights included Underground Atlanta and the National Coca-Cola Museum.

Special music and group singing for all sessions was under the direction of Mark Hall, a talented guitarist and songwriter. Sunday morning a time of communion drew those present into worshipful praise to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Most agree Simpsonwood 2001 was our best Conference yet!

WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT: OFFICER GWEN CRIBBS

Officer Gwen Cribbs is one determined lady. Claiming Romans 8:28 as her life verse, she has answered what she believes to be God's call to minister in law enforcement.



Gwen Cribbs best can be described as passionately dedicated to law enforcement, especially to the protection of abused and neglected children. Considering she holds a Master's Degree in Community Counseling, that should come as no surprise.

Unlike many who begin their police career at an early age, Gwen worked several years with Child Protective Services before becoming an officer. There she developed her passion for assisting abused and neglected children. According to Gwen nearly 97% of all abused children are the victims of family members or personally know the perpetrator.

Over the last few years, Gwen gradually began thinking about becoming a police officer with the goal of one day being a detective assigned to work with abused and neglected children. After receiving counsel from her officer husband and support from her children, Gwen applied to and received an appointment to serve with the East Ridge, TN Police Department.

Training academy was no picnic, but Gwen passed with flying colors (she had most feared the agility test and physical training). On graduation in June, 1999 she was duly commissioned as a certified police officer in the state of Tennessee.

Although born in London, England where her father was serving in the U.S. Air Force, Gwen was raised in Oklahoma City, OK. Two of the most significant events in her life are when she received Christ as her Savior at age sixteen, and when she met Michael Cribbs, her husband-to-be, while they were co-workers in a restaurant.

Gwen was a young bride when she had her first encounter

with law enforcement. Neighbors told her that strange men in black suits had been asking questions about Mike and her. When questioned Michael confessed he had applied to become an officer with the Oklahoma City Police Department. He wasn't sure what his young wife would think about his being a peace officer, so he didn't want to tell her until he found out if he would be accepted. He was, and she did accept his choice.

Three children later (all girls) Gwen and Mike felt the need to move to Chattanooga where Mike enrolled at Tennessee Temple University seeking God's will for his life. Not long after he joined the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Now a 19-year veteran, Mike recently was promoted to Lieutenant.

What does this wife, mother and (now) police officer think of the profession? According to Gwen, there is not much difference in her present clientele than those she worked with while investigating cases with the Child Protective Services. As a patrol officer she certainly has to handle the great variety of routine cases any officer covers. However, many domestic calls and criminal cases involve the same people as her previous job. Her experience with the State and schooling, including advanced training in interviewing techniques from the prestigious Reid Institute, definitely gives her an edge over many other officers in interviewing situations.

Gwen acknowledges there always will be those who do not want women in law enforcement. As she says, "Female officers never will be able to compete with their male counterparts for physical strength. However, they certainly excel in working rape cases, domestic cases and those involving children."

Officer Gwen Cribbs is one determined lady. Claiming Romans 8:28 as her life verse, she has answered what she believes to be God's call to minister in law enforcement. "My goal is to reach families with hope," states Gwen. "As an officer of the law I wish to serve my God in a way that can help people feel safety and protection in life. As a Christian I want people to see Christ in me. I would love one day to become a detective working especially with children who need society's protection from abuse."

For now, Gwen is content gaining the experience needed to "pay her dues" in becoming an officer. Her worst problem at this point is that her Lt. Husband calls her "Rookie" and thinks she should salute him! (Just kidding.) Actually, Mike is very proud of Gwen's accomplishments and feels it is he who should salute Gwen. We all salute her, not only for her career accomplishments, but also for her willingness to make the Lord the center of her life.



*Sharing Christ
with those in the
Criminal Justice
System*

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“Others May -- You Cannot”

If God has called you really to be like Jesus He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility. He will put upon you such demands of obedience that you will not be able to follow other people or measure yourself by other Christians. In many ways He will seem to let other people do things and get by with them which He will not let you do.

Other Christians (including ministers) who seem very religious and useful may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do the same. If you attempt to, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, their work, their successes or their writings which the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do. If you try to He will lead you into some deep mortification which will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward but keep you hidden in obscurity because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for his coming glory which can be produced only in the shade. He may let others be great but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get credit for it, but let you work and toil on in relative obscurity. Then, to make your work still more precious He may let others get credit for the work you have done, thus making your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you with a jealous love. He may rebuke you for thoughtless words, negative feelings or for wasting your time, while other Christians may never feel such distress. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign. As such He has a right to do as He pleases in His dealings with you. If you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in His inner circle.

So settle it forever that the Holy Spirit is dealing directly with you. He has the privilege of tying your tongue, chaining your hand or closing your eyes in ways He does not seem to use with others. Then, when you are so possessed with the living God that in your secret heart you are pleased and delighted that the Holy Spirit holds this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management over your life, you will have found the vestibule of Heaven. Amen.

- (Author Unknown)

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

(John 14: 15-17