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Devon and Cornwall Branch  
'Supporting Christians in the work place'

## NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2006

**'Redeeming Our Communities'**  
**NEC, Birmingham: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

ACC Tony Melville will be representing the Chief Constable at this event which is a national roll out of a Christian initiative called 'Soul in the City' held in Manchester in 2000. Then, when churches came together to pray and work with police and other agencies, crime rates fell drastically and six months later the BBC reported a 45% reduction in crime in the notorious Swinton Valley area where one of the larger projects took place. The lives of many criminals and communities were transformed.

Police officers, politicians, church leaders and thousands of Christians from around the UK will join together to celebrate progress in transforming communities, share ideas and inspiration, and pray for our nation. Chief Constable Matthew Baggott from Leicestershire has given this initiative his full backing and will be amongst the VIP guests.

Amazingly, the very day after receiving this invite, our Chief received another from churches across Devon asking her to meet with them in September 2006 to discuss how the church can better engage with the local police. Tony Melville is intending to attend this meeting too saying 'I really feel God may be opening up a real opportunity for us here'.

The organisers of the NEC event are encouraging Christian Police officers and staff from across the UK to attend in uniform as an act of witness and encouragement. If you are interested in going or would like to be involved in developing police/church working, e-mail Roger Bartlett.

For more information visit: [www.citylinks.org.uk](http://www.citylinks.org.uk)

PRAYING FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AND CRIME REDUCTION

**Trumpet Call IV**

**NATIONAL LAUNCH**

**REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES**

Saturday May 13th 2006, 11am-6pm NEC Arena, Birmingham  
Doors open from 10am

### FORCE EASTER CELEBRATION

Truro Baptist Church, Cornwall

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006

From 1500hrs

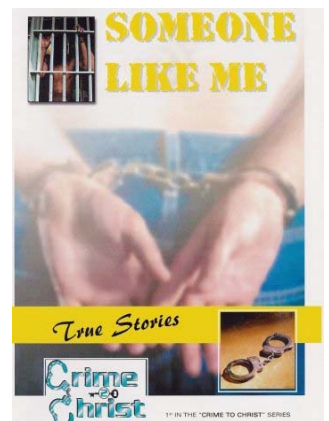
Service 1800hrs

CPA is finally coming to Cornwall! Easter is a time of hope and encouragement and we would like to celebrate together the very basis of the faith and hope we have: Jesus is Risen!

Our prayer is that Christian Officers and staff from all around the force, not just from Cornwall will take this opportunity to stand with Christian Colleagues as an act of witness, celebration and mutual encouragement. It will be a family event with food provided from 1600hrs.

Why not make a weekend of it? For more information, details of local accommodation or just to confirm you are coming, please e-mail:

**Sgt 4061 Steve Bradford**



### Christian Comics To Be Placed in Cells



The DCC has authorised the use of the Christian testimony comics: **Cops and Robbers** ([www.copsandrobbers.org.uk](http://www.copsandrobbers.org.uk)) and **Crime 2 Christ** (featured above) in a pilot at Plymouth Custody where they will be made available to detainees. Please pray for this pilot that God will speak into the hearts of those who read the magazines and that the

pilot will be rolled out force-wide. Please encourage your churches to engage in caring for offenders who are seeking or have come to faith whilst in police or prison custody and need support. Church members can obtain training through:

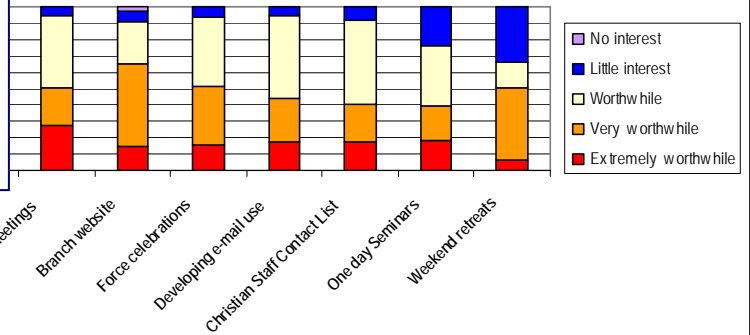


**BRANCH LEADER CONTACT DETAILS:**

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Force e-mail or: [devoncornwall.cpa@cpauk.net](mailto:devoncornwall.cpa@cpauk.net)  
Branch web-site: [www.devonandcornwallcpa.co.uk](http://www.devonandcornwallcpa.co.uk)  
You can now access our new folder on the P-Drive headed: 'Christian Police Support Group'

**Figure A: 2005 Survey - Ranked Results**



Influencing force policy  
Local prayer meetings  
Family Resource Boards  
Christian magazines in cells  
Church/Police prayer initiatives  
Police Alpha courses  
Force Newsletter  
Local social meetings

The branch leadership are very grateful to those who responded to the survey conducted last year to find out which CPA activities had the support of Christian staff. 14 activities were listed and people were asked to award each a score from 5 (extremely worthwhile) to 1 (of no interest). The above graph provides the results from the survey with the most popular activities listed from the left. All activities had an average score above 3 (worthwhile) but 'influencing force policy' drew the greatest support with nearly 50% of respondees giving it the top score of 5. A full report will be available soon on the P-Drive and branch website.

**Live God's Life for you – Get out of the boat!**

In Matt 14v22-32, we read the story of Peter stepping out of the boat to walk to Jesus in the storm. I believe this story, is a life-long challenge for every individual, especially control freaks like me and for the established church in the 'comfortable' UK. Jesus calls us daily to leave our comfort zone and find our security in him if we truly want to live!

I read recently a commentary that said: The fear of stepping out never goes away, but every time we choose to respond to Jesus when he says come, the easier it is to overcome the fear. It suggested that the decision to grow in our Christian lives is to decide between comfort and risk.

Peter did not fail because he sank, because he, like no other 'man' knew what it is to walk on water and be saved from the waves by Jesus. Failure is not sinking but never getting out of the boat. Eventually, if we continue to choose to stay in the boat, the voice of Jesus grows dimmer and dimmer, so our love and passion for him grows weaker and our lives and witness less dynamic, effective and purposeful. Jesus says 'Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!' v27.  
He will never let you sink.

**Prayer Corner**

- ◆ Congratulations to A/DI John and Sgt Cara Trott from Cornwall on the arrival of Casper Lance in the early hours of Christmas day. Their bible text is, of course the new parent's verse: 1 Cor. 15 v 51: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed'
- ◆ There have been a number of articles published recently in Police Review, the Police Federation magazine 'Police' as well as the national press attacking or ridiculing the

Christian Faith and The Christian Police Association through misrepresenting facts. CPA HQ and Christian Officers have had responses published. Please pray for wisdom for those seeking to address these issues. (More in the next edition)

- ◆ Give thanks for a successful force carol service at HQ attended by more than 60 people including the Chief Constable. The feedback was extremely positive.

**What's in a name?**

There is no name in heaven or on earth that means more to Christians than that of 'Jesus'. It is a name above all others that brings sight to the blind, releases the captives and brings hope and love where there is despair and loneliness. It therefore hurts to hear that same name used in every day life at work and elsewhere as nothing more than a profanity. Recently CPA nationally and locally have been considering their response to the issue of blasphemy in the workplace. Indeed, locally a report was drafted for submission to the Chief Constable seeking her support in dealing with this glaring breach of the force diversity policy.

However, the branch leadership has decided not to submit the report for a number of reasons. We believe that God is interested in changing the hearts of people rather than merely their behaviour. In effect we would be asking management to protect Christians from being offended by imposing rules and sanctions. But we believe keeping rules never brought anyone closer to God. Indeed we feel that such a move is more likely to turn people away from Christianity. Many people who do not mean to offend anybody, already feel bombarded by rules about what to say



and what not to say. We feel that when someone blasphemes, this actually presents an opportunity for us as Christians to make a **personal** stand in humility and love in whatever way we feel is right – be it through humour or a quiet word or simply sharing how we feel. We believe that this approach is much more likely to have a personal impact and we would encourage you to think about how to respond and don't let such an opportunity pass you by.

**Devon & Cornwall Christian Police Family Retreat**  
**Heatree House, Manaton, Dartmoor**  
**Autumn 2005**

**Find a full report on the P-Drive in the NEW:**  
**'Christian Police Support Group' Folder.**