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Devon and Cornwall Branch

'Supporting Christians in the workplace'

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A CHRISTIAN POLICE STAFF FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION:

MUTLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2005 FROM 1600hrs TO 1930HRS

Come with your family and join Christian colleagues from around the force to celebrate the Hope we have because of Jesus' resurrection! Bring a savoury or sweet dish to share before a time of praise, worship and encouragement together. Please e-mail PC 5977 Dave Thubron with numbers coming and what food you are able to bring. Drinks will be provided free!

A PC's account of a powerful evening of testimony with an ex-Chief Constable.

Within six months of moving from Cornwall to Exeter I received an invitation to attend a CPA function. It was the first CPA event I had ever attended. The date was Sunday 21st November 2004 and it was held at Pinhoe Rd Baptist church, Exeter. On my arrival I received a warm welcome, enjoyed a nice cup of tea and some food, as well as meeting lots of new faces, with more than 40 people there from an ACC to some officers still in their probation. I met with and listened to a reformed drug addict who explained how God had changed his life so dramatically, to the point that he was at the evening with his fiancée. I then sat down to listen to the main speaker, Robin Oake. I heard him talk about how he had lost his son Stephen some 18 months previous. Stephen was a DC with the GMP and whilst executing a terrorist search warrant one morning he was stabbed to death. I heard Robin, who was previously the Chief Constable of the Isle of Man, explain that when he heard the news he had two close friends come to his house and how, along with his wife Chris they got onto their knees in the lounge and prayed. Whilst praying, I believe it was, the ACC of GMP and a female Inspector attended to break the news, not realising that they already knew. The two visitors came into the house and joined the group in prayer on the lounge floor. Robin went on to explain how, right from the start he forgave the person who had taken his son's life. He talked of how it became apparent, after his death just how much Stephen's life and Christian witness had impacted on others. We also had the pleasure of listening to Robin's wife Chris and how she felt and how she had coped. I sat there just thinking "Wow! How can they say that or how could they do that?? What would I do? What would I say? How would I cope??" What a spirit filled, humble couple who truly trust and love God. I found it a very emotional evening and one which I felt both humbled and privileged to be present at. MPC 3645 Gary Curran, Exeter ARV



Stephen Oake

If you would like to meet with Christian staff local to you, e-mail your local CPA contact:

Cornwall – **D.I Simon Selley**, Plymouth & West Devon – **PC Dave Thubron**, Torbay – **Vacant**, Exeter & East Devon – **PC Phil Skedgell**, HQ – **Dave MacKenzie-Clarke**, North Devon – **PC Simon Ogden**.

Visit the branch web-site at: www.devonandcornwallcpa.co.uk



FAMILY RESOURCE BOARDS GO LIVE!

Christian Police Staff have linked with the Christian charity **Care for the Family** to help strengthen the family lives of colleagues in D&C. Resources on issues such as parenting, marriage, work and home life balance, dealing with stress and debt management are being made available to colleagues free at three stations around the force. The **Family Resource Boards** are being piloted in Heavitree Road Exeter, Honiton and Charlescross Plymouth and are being funded by personal donations from Christian staff and through sponsorship from local churches.

Within 2 weeks, many of the resources had disappeared from the Plymouth board. In Honiton one member of staff stated she had not only read some of the books but had purchased a number of copies herself to give to friends. Officers in Exeter described the boards as a breath of fresh air and the BCU command team donated £150! A further 10 boards have been ordered and will be available for placement in early March. If you are interested in having a board at your station e-mail Norman Amey. To qualify, two conditions really need to be met: Initial sponsorship of £150 to fully resource a new board needs to be secured & there needs to be a local Christian Officer willing to maintain the board once in place. We have produced some guidance about exactly what would be expected.



If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to the Christian Police Association together with a signed Gift Aid form to Sgt Roger Bartlett at Barnstaple Custody.

Date for your diary:

**Dartmoor weekend retreat Heatree House,
Hound Tor 23-25 September 2005**

A family weekend of fellowship and focus on getting that **work, family & church life balance** right with Guest speaker: **Jon Mason from care.**

More details via e-mail very soon

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 3 v 11
'God has put eternity in the hearts of man'

The bible talks about the brevity of life by referring to it as: a mist, a breath, a wisp of smoke, grass, a shadow and a flower. It also refers to Christians as aliens, foreigners, pilgrims, travellers, strangers and visitors. As a result, you will never feel completely satisfied with life here, because you were never meant to. You were made for more, much more! There will always be a spiritual thirst inside of everyone that temporary things will not satisfy. So don't focus on what is temporary such as wealth, security, pleasure or reputation. An abundant life has nothing to do with material abundance.

You won't be here long, so don't get too attached. Invest in the future: Commit your life each day to God so that he may fulfil the plans that he has for you.

Ecc 3 v14: 'For everything God does will endure for ever'

Prayer Corner:

- ◆ Give thanks for the initial impact of the family resource boards. Pray for marriages and families to be strengthened as a result of this initiative and for sufficient funding to cover the extending work. Pray that the boards would stimulate interest in the Christian faith and lead to opportunities to witness
- ◆ Pray for God to reveal himself in the lives of colleagues by his spirit and give opportunities for us to share the hope that we have with them in love.
- ◆ Pray for god's continued strength on the oake family and in particular stephen's widow lesley and their three children.
- ◆ Pray for colleagues and friends who may be struggling with recent grief and loss, including Simon Taylor (now acc norfolk but previously CPA secretary in D&C who lost his dad before christmas. Also for Paul and Ann Gray (Paul ex met officer now in cornwall) who lost their son in a car crash in the autumn.
- ◆ Pray for every Christian member of staff in D&C that God would encourage and inspire them by his spirit to grasp hold of the plans he has for them