

SPRING 2007



CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

www.cpauk.net

Devon and Cornwall Branch

'Supporting Christians in the work place'

Called to be a Servant

'What ever you do, work at it with all your heart...It is the Lord Christ you are serving' Colossians 3 v23-24

God determines greatness not in terms of status but in terms of service - not by how many people serve us, but by how many people we serve. He actually shaped us for service not self-centeredness! John Wesley's motto was: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, to all people you can, as long as you ever can'.

In service our motive should not be for others to notice what we do, but for an audience of one -Jesus. So in our acts of generosity or kindness, let's seek anonymity rather than exposure. Always be available looking for opportunities to serve everywhere. You may, like me, really struggle to allow God to mess up your day's plans without being resentful. But if we start everyday by reminding ourselves we **are** God's servants, interruptions won't frustrate us so much, and we will begin to see them as divine appointments for ministry and an opportunity to serve others.

(From: A Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren)

Lizzie Williams' Andean Adventure

I am particularly grateful to all the encouragement and support I received from the CPA for my trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia to work with International Orphanage Union (IOU) in Sep 2006. It was a fantastic experience and enabled all the team to gain a better perspective on life. We learnt a lot about God's provision and power and the importance of human relationships And that was even before we took off!!!!



We spent 3 weeks in Bolivia – including a 48 hour journey each side (groan)! In this time we painted, cleaned, visited the rainforest, painted, washed babies, sang songs, painted, visited a mountain village, gave out food, visited a children's hospital,

BRANCH LEADER CONTACT DETAILS:

Sgt 3273 Roger Bartlett

Barnstaple Custody Centre

Mobile: 07894601545

Force e-mail or: devoncornwall@cpauk.net

Branch web-site: www.devonandcornwallcpa.co.uk

P-Drive folder: 'Christian Police Support Group'

painted, washed more babies and heard some miraculous testimonies.

The orphanage which we helped build in its final stages should now be up and running with 2 Bolivian house parents and up to 10 children. This is IOU's 2nd completed orphanage. It was moving to visit the 1st orphanage where all the children, most of whom have come from very tragic circumstances, now enjoy a safe and comfortable place to live and have close family relationship with each other and their Christian house parents.



This was in stark contrast to our visits to the rubbish dump and central town plaza where we washed children who didn't even have access to clean water. The children who lived on the dump – literally, on a dump – would play in the dirt with no shoes on and had a dirty puddle to drink from. The children who we met at the town plaza didn't live anywhere. They begged with their mothers on the street. It was heart-wrenching trying to scrub these children clean but it was also my favourite activity because it was such a practical thing to do and the children were so grateful just to feel hot clean water.



Mission work can be lonely at times, but the IOU team members love their work and the country of Bolivia and always seek to put relationships before tasks. We realised that we weren't there just to wash a few babies or paint a few walls but also to encourage the team and families who are out there permanently and to build trust between us and the Bolivian people. It is all too easy to forget this lesson in our task-orientated 'developed' world - particularly when we're back in the routine of work.

Please continue to pray for:

- IOU – the successful building of their 3rd orphanage in the rainforest region of Bolivia
- The team – that we don't forget all that we have seen and learnt
- The orphans – that they will grow up in a safe a loving environment and know God

P.S. Congratulations to Lizzie, who works in Crownhill Control Room, on her recent engagement.

Giving Thanks:

For a very positive meeting between DCC Melville and leaders of 'Devon Churches Together' leading to an invite for CPA to present to a county-wide event in May. Our letter to church leaders (available to anyone on the P-Drive) has been circulated to many churches across the force area leading to churches in Exmouth coming together to pray, offers of police chaplains in Cornwall, sponsorship for our family boards & general encouragement that churches are praying for us and for their communities. Please continue to distribute the letter as widely as possible. Members of the CPA team have also given a **Radio Devon interview broadcast on 4th March** encouraging churches to engage with the police.

The **Family Resource Boards** (FRBs) now up in the Force Control Room at HQ and at Seale Hayne bring the number displayed to 17 with plans for another 5. Since Oct '05 **£6500** worth of resources have been provided to support police families through FRBs. We had an incredibly generous gift from a local businessman who manufactured 40 boards for us. When we went to pay him the £1400, he ripped up the cheque and said 'Use the money for more books'. Thank the Lord for so allowing us the opportunity to support more staff, not only here but in four other forces across UK. If you would like a board at your station or want to **give tax free**, email Roger Bartlett

Carol service 06

In December over 100 people including the then Chief and Deputy Chief constable attended the CPA run carol service at HQ, doubling the number from 2005. Local church leader Russ Fenn shared about '**The greatest rescue plan the world has ever seen**'. Bibles together with copies of the book: 'The Case for Christ' by Lee Strobl which were made available free to those wanting to know more were all taken. Debbie Collins from X-department has kindly given her account of the evening:

'The carol service was, without a doubt, fabulous! From the moment I walked in, I felt welcome and was greeted and introduced to other Christian colleagues. My children, Samuel, 7 and Lily-Katie, 4 also received a warm reception and were shown where there were toys to keep them entertained prior the service.'

Lily-Katie, normally a shy and clingy child oozed with energy and most people present will remember her! She was incredibly forward with Acting Chief Constable Nigel Arnold – reaching out to cuddle him, sit on his knee and engage in silly conversation despite having no idea who he was. She was equally friendly towards John Ewington, (The Chaplain from Torridge) who did resemble Father Christmas with his cheery face and frosty white beard. Her star performance was when she walked across the stage area and enjoyed watching her shadow projected on the screen - behind the speaker giving his sermon, who was oblivious to her presence.

The service was friendly and informal yet very professionally organised. It was great to see so many adults and children present and taking part, like Cairistine Mackenzie-Clarke, aged 11 who gave a spectacular reading and received well deserved

applause. I felt really privileged to be there and totally at peace. Apart from worrying about Lily-Katie's need to be noticed, I was still able to enjoy and celebrate the wonderful service; and meet many Christians from the CPA.

I feel able to freely talk about being a Christian at work & how great it makes me feel, knowing that God is my confidant, my loyal best friend & always there to guide me through life. It was great to hear the same message of hope being shared with colleagues through the carol service too.'

For your diaries, the HQ Carol Service for **2007** is provisionally booked for **Sunday 9th December**.

A Bank Holiday Weekend to Remember 5-7th May 2007

It is the **CPA National Conference @ Huddersfield**. The West Yorkshire branch members are an inspiration to be around & we are hoping to fill a car or two. If you are interested, e-mail Roger.

Alternatively on **Saturday 5th May** from 1700hrs at **Truro Baptist Church** come to our **Force Spring Family Celebration** With free food & fellowship, why not make a family day of it? Email Steve Bradford for more details.

News:

On the first day in post, **Chief Constable Steve Otter** met with Norman Amey from CPA leadership team & other staff support groups to discuss supporting minority groups. It was a very positive meeting at which Norman expressed a hope that Christians would be treated equally & that the force would not resist CPA ideas just because we are a faith group.

40 days of prayer is a venture encouraging all Christian staff to pray together from 1st February that God would really move in our lives, amongst our colleagues and in the communities we serve.

In October CPA submitted a report seeking authorisation for the use of '**Cops and Robbers**' Christian testimony magazine in all custody centres after a successful pilot in the summer at Plymouth Custody, where even solicitors were handing them out to detainees. Pray that permission will be granted **soon** and that God would use the magazines to change lives.

In 2006 CPA achieved **staff support status**. Amongst other things, this means the force are providing money and resources for our work and it allows members to attend up to six meetings a year in work time in work transport when two conditions apply:

1. That the meeting is about tackling discrimination and supporting Christian staff. This includes meetings for prayer, but not social events.
2. If exigencies of duty allow. We would ask members to always consider non-Christian colleagues left to cover. (Policy D92 provides more detail)

Membership of CPA costs nothing. If you would like to identify with the vision of CPA, just e-mail Roger who will gladly send you an application form.