



On Saturday 13th May 2006 a small group of us from the D&C CPA Leadership team accompanied ACC Tony Melville to the National Launch of the 'Redeeming Our Communities' at Birmingham NEC. 7,000 Christians, church leaders, police officers, politicians and civic leaders join together to celebrate positive partnerships and launch the project nationwide.

The conference had a fantastic time of prayer and praise, before some key speakers looked at some of the causes of crime and community initiatives around the country that are reducing crime. There were testimonies from a number of people, including an ex-criminal and a Police Officer from GMP who came to faith having been asked if he could use hundreds of Christians on his local rough estate for 10 days!, The magazine "Cops and Robbers" being trialled in Plymouth, was also publicised.

To hear the Vice President of ACPO, Matt Baggott say that he believed the Holy Spirit's anointing was on the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing was very encouraging. Towards the end of the conference, all Police Officers present were asked to go to the front of the NEC for prayer. As Tony Melville remarked afterwards, "It felt very unusual to stand in front of so many people, on duty and close my eyes ... and then receive a standing ovation for just doing my job."

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Mr Melville, together with branch leaders believe God is opening up opportunities for CPA to link with churches across



the force area in a way that could have a significant impact upon our communities and local policing. We have created a generic letter to church leaders prompting them to consider how they may link with the police locally. You can print off a copy from the P-Drive 'Christian Police Support Group' folder. You can also find out more about good practice around the country by visiting www.citylinks.org.uk. In addition, your local CPA contact has access to the "Redeeming our Communities" resource pack and DVD which will provide more ideas. Please encourage your churches to get involved.



Mr Melville is due to meet with the leaders of Devon Churches Together on 25th September to discuss how churches can better support the work of the police. The Christian charity 'Caring For Ex-offenders' have also approached us about running a local training event in June 2007 to equip Christians in supporting ex-offenders leaving prison or who come to church. Pray for this work and if you are willing to act as a link to local churches or want to know more about any aspect of the work, contact Roger B



D&C CPA CONTACTS:

Cornwall Simon Selley & Steve Bradford
Plymouth & West Devon Dave Thubron
HQ Dave Mackenzie-Clarke
Exeter & East Devon Norman Amey & Phil Skedgell
North & South Devon Roger Bartlett

If you know of any colleague who may be interested in the work of CPA, and who may not be known to us, just let us have their name and we will make contact.

Prayer Updates

Giving Thanks:

Just 10 Devon was a huge success with well over 4,000 visitors every night for the 10 weeks! The festival brought together over 200 churches and had a significant impact on thousands of lives.



CPA has just gained official recognition as a **Force Staff Support Group**. This means the force provides financial and other support to the branch who are now represented on the Force Equality and Diversity Board involved in force policy making.

The **Family Resource Boards** continue to grow across the force as featured in the latest edition of **Billboard**. Churches continue to offer sponsorship for local boards, and a local businessman has donated £2500 meaning we can purchase another ten boards. Staff members are also helping to purchase books by donating tax free each month from their pay. If you would also like to **'give as you earn'**, or have a board at your station, e-mail Roger Bartlett.

Two North Devon young offenders- Gary and Kurt recently made commitments in Ashfield YOI. Pray for their growth and protection.

Pray for:

- Maria Wallis in light of her recent resignation and bereavement and for the appointment of her replacement.
- Other colleagues and friends who continue to struggle with recent bereavements. (If you would like to link with others to support such colleagues e-mail Roger Bartlett)
- The CPA President Simon Taylor (ex – D&C) who has been suffering with clinical depression.
- Wisdom for National CPA Officials in their discussions with GPA.
- Mr Melville's meeting with Devon churches together on 25th September 2006

If you wish a prayer request to be circulated to colleagues, please e-mail Roger Bartlett.

**WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS OF
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES AT
HQ AND IN CORNWALL!**

A Question of Homophobia

Some of you may have read recent articles in *Police Review* about the issue of 'Faith based homophobia' and a GPA advert linking faith to an increase in workplace homophobic incidents. You may have been left feeling offended, angry, upset, struggling to know how to respond or even left wondering whether your Christian faith means you are homophobic.

At a recent branch meeting Norman Amey shared with us the simple message from the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) that we do not choose our neighbours, be they colleagues, offenders, victims of crime. Whoever they may be, the way we treat them should always be motivated by love for them and for our Lord, who loves and died for each one. I am always challenged by the fact that I will never set eyes on anyone that God does not love completely.

If we look at Jesus and how he dealt with the woman accused of adultery (John 8) or the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), his response was one of love, not condemnation. Jesus himself said John 3 v 17 *'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him'*. This too should be our response to all our colleagues, no matter how they live their lives. It is important to remember every one of us has sinned and is unworthy to throw the first stone!!

However, there are times when we are instructed to speak **the truth in love** and CPA have raised concerns with the force diversity unit over the GPA advert and the frequent misinterpretation of the term 'homophobia'. We believe the honestly held belief that a certain lifestyle is wrong is **a very long way** from any 'irrational fear', hatred of, or discrimination towards gay people. The former is every person's right enshrined in Article 9 of the Human Rights Act. The latter will always be repudiated by CPA and indeed any Christian who is truly seeking to follow the example of Jesus. There is no biblical justification for discriminating against gay colleagues.

Discussions between CPA and GPA nationally are ongoing. In force we have a good relationship with GPA who have expressed regret that the national coverage does not reflect local relationships but is believed to be a challenge to some extremist views. Indeed members from both associations recently attended training together on addressing potential conflict. It is not an easy area but we encourage you to pray through these issues. At New Wine this year there was an excellent seminar on the issue that can be ordered through their web-site:

www.new-wine.org

BRANCH LEADER CONTACT DETAILS:

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**You can now access our new folder on the P-Drive
headed: 'Christian Police Support Group'**

If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!