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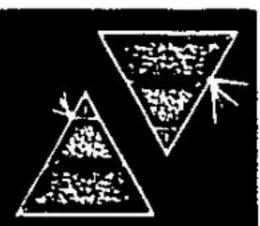


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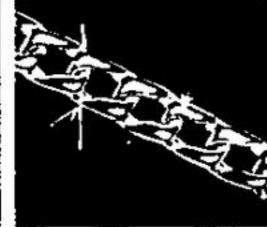
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## Christian officers aren't 'bible pounding'

By GORD KOLLE

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law .- Romans 13, v.

Faith has been described as a belief in the honesty and truth of another. For 14 officers of the Halton Regional Police Force, faith means following a lifestyle which gleans its value from the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Formed in 1981, the Halton Chapter of the Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers provides fellowship, worship and spiritual shelter for its members.

Fully endorsed by Police Chief James Harding, the chapter includes three senior stall officers, sergeants, constables and members of the auxiliary and civilian support staff.

But members like to make it clear that the

Charles Swindoll

emphasis is not on "bible pounding" or "soap-box preaching."

More often than not, it is being able to offer a fellow Christian and non-Christian officer, or even a confused criminal, a bit of friendly help during a tough situation.

"Christians don't have the right to put their values on others," says Constable Bill Cota, 36. "But our silence at things we dislike usually singles us out and gets non-Christians questioning us."

Each Friday morning, just before the eight o'clock shift, members meet for a brief time of prayer and devotions.

"It's a privileged time together," says 49year-old Inspector Jim Currie, chapter president and commander of the force's Criminal Investigations Division. "It's a

At the Same Time

for kids 4-11 yrs.

time to pray for me another and the force in general.

Mr. Currie's job is to head up all investigations into drug and morality crimes in Halton, possibly the worst crime

front the police face.

"I don't like crine," says Mr. Currie, a soft-spoken Scotsman, who has been a Christian since the age of eight. "Sometimes I get so sick and disgusted with it I don't know what to to. But then I remember I'm a Christian and the Lord has me here in this position for a purpose; to help some-

The sense of service for Cirist is fundamental to the Christian police officer's approach to the job, says Cota, who became a Christian while on the job.

"We're not perfect," he says. "We slip and fall and go back to the old ways but we try all that much harder to be better next time. And we can look to one another for help, where, before when I was a nonbeliever, there didn't seem anywhere to

And stress, that hidden destroyer policemen must always be on guard against, is no longer a problem to a Christian, according to 43-year-old Inspector Kent Laidlaw.

"You've got Christ there to handle the problems that you can't face alone," he says. "And you are clothed with a sense of dignity as you come to terms with the fact you can't shoulder everything by yourself. Since I became a Christian, I've learned to handle personal conflicts with other officers and that's been a blessing in my particular

But though members are loathe to discuss it, prejudice against organized Christian groups within Canada's police forces is a continuing problem.

Many police chiefs and police commissions are reluctant to approve religious chapters within their forces, says Mr. Cur-"They are afraid of influence peddling;

that Christians will use their positions to preach to other officers," he says. Sgt. Rod Galbralth, 36, a Georgetown patrol officer adds that there is some pre-

ranks but not in Halton. "I've got friends in other forces who tell me they're teased and baited by fellow officers, but in Halton, ve've got senior staff officers in our chapter and that helps im-

judice against Christians in the lower police

measurably," he said. In February, 1981, eight Christian officers approached Chief Hardng with the idea of forming a Christian clapter of peace officers and he heartily approved of the

scheme, says Mr. Currie.

"They brought me their idea, but there was never any problem accepting it because they profess the same teachings we all got in the days of our youth," says Harding. "And these officers are not going about preaching on a soapbox. They are nd disrupting our personnel or our operations."

Harding sometimes attends the chapter's weekly service though admits he 'has not seen the light.

"I don't have the grace these people have. I wish I did," he says. "You could describe me as a sometimes Christian. I'm still searching for it."

And Chief Harding adds that he would approve of other religious chapters in the Halton force.

"God is not an isolationist, "he says. "I would approve of any religious group of of-

ficers, Mohammedans, Buddhist, Hindu,

any religious belief which speaks of love, peace and goodwill to men." Aside from each member's personal witnessing to others, the chapter is involved in public ministry. This involves group

attendance at annual Christian Peace Officer functions and invitations to conduct church services. "We go to the service in full police dress

and conduct prayers, read bible lessons and preach the message," says Mr. Laidlaw. 'Afterward, we answer questions and we get a lot of those. People are not used to seeing police officers involved in Christian The chapter holds monthly meetings for

fellowship, which is crucial to a Christian's lifestyle of combatting sin and attempting to follow a path of faith, and discussion of future events, such as the annual police Christmas banquet and Easter services.

Since the members live across Halton and in outlying areas, group church attendance is impossible, so pool and barbeque parties are thrown for the officers' familles.

Someone always brings a non-Christian officer or friend who is interested in finding out more about us," says Mr. Laldlaw. "We've gotten a good response from a lot of the younger officers on the force."

But don't go looking for a Christian police officer out on the street and expect to see somehody wearing angel's wings.

"We are police officers," says Mr. Currie. "Our appearance is no different from the rest. It's all inside. That's where it counts."

Hanging on the wall in the lobby of Oakville's Halton Regional Police Headquarters, above the Canadian Constitution

and the Charter of Rights, is the official scroll inaugurating the Halton/Chapter of Christian Peace Officers. "Placed above these words of men is the

document which speaks of God," says Chief Harding. "And we, the police, a part of this community, are acknowledging the word of God above those of man.' To contact the Halton Chapter of the

Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers, call Sgt. Rod Galbraith at 878-5511 and ask for him at No. 1 District.

### Post offices closed Nov. 12

All post offices will be closed and there will be no letter carrier delivery service on Monday, November 12.

Customers who normally pick up their mall at post office lobby "lock-boxes" will be able to do so where the boxes are accessible on a 24-hour basis.

Regular postal service will resume on Tuesday, November 13, 1984.

#### GRIP" Film Series Sundays Oct. 28-Dec. 2

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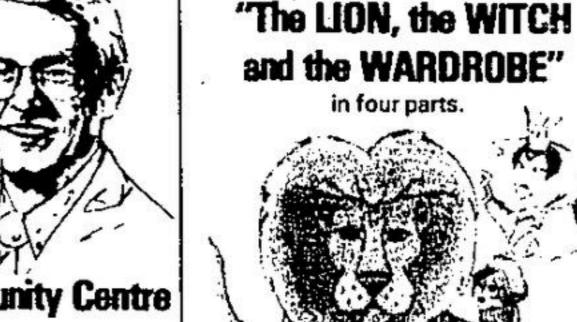
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177 Maple Avenue **Pastors** Edwin H. Mitchell 877-0320/6665 Gordon E. Mann 853-3383

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Sunday, Nov. 11

Rev. Jim Boyles

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> **Pastor Murray Griffin** 11:00 a.m. Family Worship

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9:00 a.m. -- Holy Com-10:30 s.m. - Holy Communion, Church School

WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m. - Holy Communion

> CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rov. E.M. Jenkins Minister Graeme Dondale

Pastoral Assistant Sunday, Nov. 11 11:00 a.m. - Morning

853-1140, 853-1435

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Wednesdays

Worship

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Morning Worship -- Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Thursdays - Home League (Ladies Groupi 7:30 p.m. Captain & Mrs. 853 3923 Wilson Perrin

> **ACTON BAPTIST** CHURCH # 80 Mill St. E. 853-0690 **Œ**

Rev. M. Jean Stairs Church School

9:30 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Nursery & Crib Care

Corps Officers

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Choir Director Mr. E.A. Hanson, B.A. Sunday, Nov. 11

Rev. Craig Cribar

Organist &

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Rev. Don Matheson M.A., B.D. M.Ed. Director of Music Dr. George Elliott M.A. Ph.D.

Sunday, Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Sunday 11:00 a.m. - Commun ity Worship Service Luncheon following in

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SERVICES TUESDAY: 10 a.m. Hour of POWER

Youth Service FRIDAY: 7.30 p.m. College ft Careers

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(Interdemoninational prayer time! WEDNESDAY: 7 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study THURSDAY: 7.30 p.m.