

On & Off Duty CPA

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CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest...
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT



CPA 140th Anniversary - Deborah Akinlawon QPM

"The police service need to hear your voice. The Church needs to hear the voice of the Christian Police Association!" These words rang out from the guest speaker at the 140th anniversary of the Christian Police Association. The 7th September event, turned out to not just be a celebration but a recommissioning.

The evening started off with gospel songs from the choir GOSPEL RISING. They set the atmosphere beautifully, lifting up the name of Jesus as people ate and networked. Hillsong worship band took over and led us in worship.

The Deputy Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police, Dame Lynne Owens QPM stepped up to be interviewed about how she came to faith in Jesus Christ and her testimony inspired us all. The last question to Dame Lynne was, *"What is your advice to Christians in the Police Service?"* Her response was *"Bring your whole self to work!"*

Don Axcell, former Executive Director of CPA and current chaplain for Flint House, gave us the history of the CPA, recalling our foundations and how far we have come as a charity. It was humbling finding out the passion of Catherine Gurney that has led us to where we are now. What a legacy!

Next, Rev. Nims Obunge MBE DL, Pastor of Freedoms Ark and CEO of The Peace Alliance, was deeply moved by Dame Owens personal testimony and the previous worship song, the Goodness of God. Rev Nims had just attended the funeral of an 18 year old boy from his congregation who had been shot dead. He felt it no coincidence, that this was the song the boy's father had sung in the street as his son lay only feet away in a police tent.

Rev. Nims taught us a word in Hebrew, *"Avoda"* which means to work, worship and serve. We were reminded that God has a purpose for the CPA, and that we need to visit every church on our patch, introduce them to CPA, and challenge the congregation to pray for their police. It is time to wake up and be who God has called us to be; Psalm 138 v 8

For me, this was a rallying cry and a challenge to continue the work started by Catherine Gurney. Rev Nims' challenge to us was to make sure that every church has someone praying for the police.

The evening ended with all the leaders in policing being called forward and Rev. Nims, Pastor Dave Foster and Don Axcell, praying for us and for the CPA as a whole. Thank you to everyone who took part and thank God for bringing the CPA this far.

On & Off Duty

Time for The Lord - CPA's Jo-Jo Immanuel Lawson

Time



I think it is fair to say that Jo-Jo is using his time effectively! Which is a nice segue to his book, 'Time'. Jo-Jo is obviously pouring all he has into every single talent God has given him. He passionately talks about this in this **promotional video** for his book. Jo-Jo points out that Jesus did not count who He was as important (referring to Phillipians 2:6). Instead Jesus focussed on fulfilling His assignment within the time that He had. Jo-Jo's book challenges each of us to do the same, in terms of the parable of the talents. What is the best thing I can do with my time? The articles in the next two pages will hopefully give you some ideas.

A strange thing happened while I was reading Jo-Jo's book. I would leave it on my coffee table at home, and I noticed it felt as though his eyes were following me round the room! Challenging me to pick it up again and to use every second wisely.

Possibly the most impressive appointment Jo-Jo has had in the past few months, was being the main guest artist in front of thousands of people, at the Tussaud Stadium in Switzerland in support of Jesse Duplantis, Daniel Kolenda and Nathan Morris who were preaching at the Push Revival Crusade there.

If you wish to follow Jo-Jo's ministry, or get a copy of his book, visit his website **www.jojoimmanuel-lawson.com** You can listen to him each Sunday evening from 10pm to midnight in London on 92.4 FM, 87.5 FM in Ghana, and DAB Radio Rainbow.



Since leaving City of London Police, Jo-Jo has not wasted any time in throwing himself fully into serving the Lord. He is hosting an international radio show, he has written a book, he has travelled to many countries of the world, including Ghana, South Africa, Phillipines and Brazil, preaching and singing. Since Jo-Jo produced an album of songs called 'Speak Lord' he has recorded a number of videos to go with his songwriting and recording!

Strategic Prayer

Given Rev Nims Obunge MBE DL challenge to CPA during Met CPA 140th Anniversary Celebration service, we think it is only fair to equip you. Whether you are a Friend, Member or Leader of CPA. Please speak about CPA to the congregation you attend. After 140 years people are still surprised to know that CPA exists. It's not a criticism, it is common feedback. It is an uncomfortable truth. But we can change this.

If your congregation would be so good as to agree to pray for you and your colleagues, this would be a powerful advance in Kingdom terms. There are plenty of strategic prayer points amongst our Mission, Vision and Values - which you can find here: **<https://cpauk.net/about-us/>**

Please share this On and Off Duty on your intranet and via your internal news if possible, as well as circulating to your church congregation. Please ask for a wave of prayer for Leadership teams to be raised in every branch. Thank you for all you do.

Believers or Disciples? - Sgt. Ron Jewett (Retired)

Prior to joining the Met in 1978, I was a believer in God, that's to say - I believe He existed and He was good. However, I was by no means a disciple. But looking back, long before I gave him the commitment He calls for, He had His hand on my life.

After getting married to my first wife, who is with the Lord now, I tried a number of different jobs but was never satisfied. Then my wife, who had been against me joining the police, said one day 'If it's still what you want to do, go ahead'. I applied, and soon got an interview date. It was on a Monday, and the Saturday before I prayed, that if it was right for me join, God would give me sign. Next morning the newspaper dropped through the door with a supplement, and the feature article was all about police training at Hendon. I knew from that moment I was in. What I learnt from that was that I was called by God to be a police officer, it wasn't just another job. Contrary to all my schooling results, I excelled in my police exams, including my sergeant's exam.

Difficult to say where my faith was for the first 10 years of service. Admittedly there was a lot of compromise, yet I always felt a gentle pull towards Jesus, like he was trying to get me to know him better. Then in 1990 my wife was diagnosed with leukaemia. In one sense tragic, but, it was the catalyst of both of us giving total commitment to Christ, and we never looked back. She died 5 years later. It was rough ride

for a while as a single parent, but in less than a year later, I had met and married my present wife, who's been an amazing support to me.

By far, my favourite time was as Custody Officer at Holborn, Camden. In this current climate, I'm not sure I would get away with as much witnessing of God's love and power to my prisoners that I did then.

One of my prisoners was a young man called Liam. He was a heroin addict wanted on warrant in North Yorkshire. He'd come to his wit's end with his addiction and gave himself up. Oddly enough I had my shift changed at short notice that day! He asked to come out of his cell for a cigarette, it was quiet so I obliged. He asked for a book and I offered him a selection. He says, "It was choice of Mills & Boon or the Bible, so he chose the Bible." I asked him if he had any faith, he said he did at one time but since getting hooked it had been a downhill journey ever since.

I got some coffees and we sat together in his cell and talked. It wasn't long before he let me pray for him. I just saw this big muscle man dissolve in tears as the power of God came on him. I gave him a Bible, put my name and a contact address in it and told him to stay in touch. We did. He got sentenced to 9 months in prison and we wrote to each other every week. He went on to lead 12 other inmates to Christ before coming out. We're still friends to this day. Is what we are doing just a job? Are we believers or disciples? James 2:19

Get Wisdom! - Northern Co-ordinator - Mike Quinnell

Proverbs 4:5-6 KJV says, "Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!"

Solomon was given wisdom by God, and he chose to use that wisdom to advise everyone to seek it! So where can you find true wisdom? When Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha. Mary sat at Jesus' feet, which annoyed Martha, as she was running around preparing food. Forgetting she was in the presence of the one who can feed thousands with 5 loaves and 2 fishes.

Jesus told Martha in Luke 10:42 ESV, "*but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*" If we will sit and wait with Jesus, focus on His wisdom, and commit the work of our hands to Him; we will enter

into a 'Koinonia' - a Holy communion - that will achieve more than we could ever ask or imagine. How else can you grow to know The Way, The Truth and The Life?

Verse - Proverbs 16:3 - commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.

Thought - As you read this passage, what an encouragement it is to know that whatever the situation, good or bad, that by committing it to the Lord He will be there at our side to give us strength and wisdom to get through, and He will be holding our right hand. Isaiah 41 :13.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, help us to grow in strength and confidence knowing you are always by our side. As we face each day, and its problems. So, help me to seek your guidance, to listen closely and to commit the day to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And finally ...

God is amazing. He made the plans of our lives a long time ago, and yet we still have free will and the ability to negotiate with him. Look at King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:5. When Isaiah was sent to tell him that his race was run and it was time to go home to heaven. The king cried out and Isaiah was asked by God to return to him and say, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears and I will heal you."

How amazing is that? The God of the universe says it is time to die, and He can still be encouraged to reconsider! Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life! A prophecy, a genuine prophecy was overturned. You see this in Nineveh. God sent an unwilling Jonah to tell the King of Nineveh. Unless you turn from your wicked ways, I will destroy your city! They turned and so did God. I conclude that God is prepared to listen to you and consider changes. So, what does it mean?

I don't know why some prayers seem answered and some seem to go unbidden. We will find out when we go home. I simply trust the promise in Romans 8:28, that God uses all things for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His good purposes. We know many are called but few are chosen. Do you think the ones who are chosen are the ones who actually love God by using free will to choose Koinonia - relationship with Him?

How much time do you spend watching TV or flicking through social media? Are you a wise virgin or a foolish virgin? Are you a believer or a disciple? Only you know the answer. Is there a tiny bit of time you could use to commit your day and plans to the Lord? Try it and see what happens.

Why not start with Psalm 34. Read it and meditate on the living Word. Verse 8 encourages you "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!"

Pray for CPA

You can do so here: <https://cpauk.net/events/>



Donate to CPA

You can do so here: <https://square.link/u/Mg8dwO1h>



OUR MISSION is to

- Be a National Voice for Christians in Policing.
- Encourage and support Christians in the Police Service.
- Communicate in words and action, the truth, message and hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to colleagues and the community we serve.
- Build bridges between the Christian community and the Police.

OUR VISION is to see

- The CPA as a national charity which actively leads on issues relevant to Christians in Policing.
- An active and growing branch of CPA in every Police Service in the UK and every Christian in the Police Service to fulfil their potential in Jesus Christ.
- Colleagues and those we serve to know Jesus Christ personally.
- Police and Churches working together in every community to reduce crime and improve quality of life.

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