

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 [NIV]

Emergency Services On the Coronavirus Frontline in the UK and across the World

A personal message from our friends in the Carabinieri in Italy

The **Carabinieri** is one of Italy's main law enforcement agencies. Here is an update from **Chief Marshall Vice Commandant Filippo Furno**, who is very active in his faith. Filippo is part of a local Christian Police association called MCF Italy. The purpose of this group is to bring the good news of the Gospel through Christ Jesus and to provide spiritual assistance within the Armed Forces, Police Forces and Security Forces in Italy.

MCF Italy has close links with Brian McCarthy (CPA Leader for Cleveland), as well as with our UK CPA Board members of the International Christian Police Fellowship. A number of our CPA members from the UK were due to represent UK CPA at a Christian conference in Italy recently. Whilst the conference was cancelled as a result of the pandemic, we felt you would want to hear from Filippo. He is based in Galliate which is near Milan and he has been on the frontline of the police response to Coronavirus in Italy. In Filippo's own words:

"Peace to you all,

I hope you are all well. It is a particular moment where we are all fighting against Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Citizens are limited in freedom to move. Churches are closed, fraternal communion is lacking, and many people are frightened and need comfort and serenity. I still felt a strong desire in these circumstances, given that we are committed to the front line with checkpoints on the roads for compliance with the laws that regulate the limitation of citizens' freedom of movement, supported by the police and armed forces (Carabinieri, State Police, Finance Guard, Local Police and Army), to spread the Word of God in the workplace.



Since the beginning of the crisis in Italy I have distributed New Testaments from MCF and Gideons International to all police officers. Everyone liked the Word of God and many non-believers said that this Covid-19 giant can only be overcome with the help of God given that the healthcare facilities in Italy were almost collapsing.

The role of all members of the MCF is important at this time. The invitation is to get out of our positions and go to the battlefield and intervene by bringing the Word of God, a powerful weapon against CORONAVIRUS. We also wanted to make a commitment to pray for the various authorities so that they can choose and decide for the good of the people. Authorities also instituted by God.

The Bible invites us to seek the good of the city and the country where we live. In Jeremiah 29:7 it says "Seek

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the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace". We continue to pray for this work so that it may be a blessing to our nation.

Finally, we issued an invitation to all members of the MCF of Italy: "... since we are committed to the front line we all want to see in this DIFFICULTY of COVID-19 as an OPPORTUNITY for Christ and participate dynamically with the distributions to colleagues, without hesitation, of New Testaments and of the Word of God, so that everyone can be saved. We want to be valid MCF workers. God called you, just like Esther, for a time like this. (Esther 4:14)

May God Bless Us.

Filippo FURNO

For further details on the MCF visit www.mcf-italia.org

Also for other international based Christian Police groups across the world see the International Christian Police Fellowship www.internationalcpf.org

Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF)

– at the forefront of helping save lives

Steve Fouch is part of the CMF and here at the CPA we have been specifically praying for all in the NHS. Steve has provided this update to the CPA: *Right now, health professionals are facing increasing demands and pressures which they know will only get worse over the coming weeks. Many are being redeployed to work in new specialities, taking on new roles, covering different wards or patient groups and crash-learning complex, new skills in record time. Some are working in the new Nightingale hospitals. They will all be dealing with high concentrations of COVID-19 patients, increasing their risk of exposure.*

They will work ridiculous hours, care for unprecedented numbers of seriously ill patients, and they will feel the emotional burden of patients dying alone and away from grieving families. During this time, some of them will watch as colleagues, friends and family also become ill. While most will recover quickly, some of them will not. Others will have to self-isolate from their immediate family if they have spouses, children or parents in a vulnerable category. This will lead many to live for extended periods away from the family home in temporary accommodation.

Those who are senior managers, consultants and senior nurses will carry the responsibility for making difficult decisions about who gets treated and who does not, based on imperfect knowledge. They know that their decisions will have life and death consequences for thousands of people.

For further details about the Christian Medical Fellowship please visit www.cmf.org.uk



Update from Pete Littleton CPA Trustee on the frontline with the British Transport Police

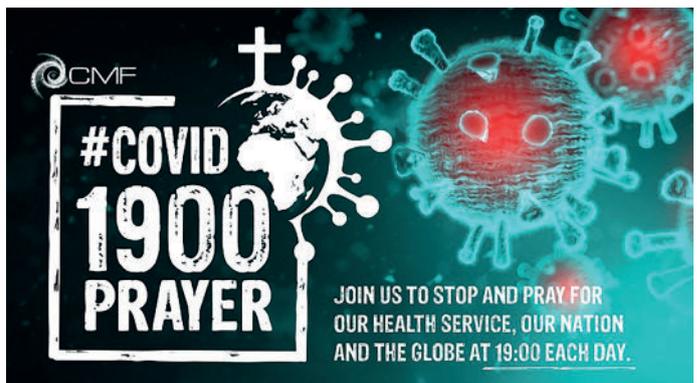
"We are living in totally unprecedented times, where Covid-19 is affecting all of us in a way in which we could never have imagined.

With a round trip of 138 miles each day to work at King's Cross/St. Pancras, I regularly find myself travelling on 5 or 7 carriage trains, which have as few as 2 passengers, making it very easy to adhere to "Social Distancing".

Even at Rush-Hour, the stations and platforms are deserted except for key and critical workers. Most shops are closed and with the shops having so much food that they couldn't sell it was so good to see them donating it to food banks and to the homeless.

Much of our work now is meeting with people to discuss why they are not at home. On the plus side, the crime rate on trains and in stations has dropped to very low levels.

The photo shows me at Newbury Park Underground Station, at what would usually be a very busy time of the day."



From our Partners in the Christian Ambulance Association (CAA)



The CAA is a valued partner and we are in regular contact with Simon King and the team. We have been very keen to support the CAA as it grows within the Ambulance Service across the UK. We contacted Simon and he has passed this message to all in the Christian Police Association:

Please pray for our staff on the frontline. In the last 31 years I've never seen them as anxious as now. As a culture, ambulance people are unflappable, they manage all situations thrown at them and always do it with great humour. They are still all those things of course but there is an anxiety across the service. Specifically an anxiety that they're constantly walking into the unknown and may be taking the virus back to their families without knowing it.

Please pray for our members that they'll exude love

and confidence in Christ and for safety for everyone. We pray for more conversations about faith and for faith to help those looking for answers outside of themselves. As Christians we have those answers and I pray we'll be ready to give them.

We are still growing at CAA. We have just under 200 members spread across all the UK regions. Please pray for us, that ambulance chief executives and equality and diversity leads will recognise and support us and the value we bring to the workplace. We need more believers to know we're here so we can support more and encourage one another.

For more details about the Christian Ambulance Association, please visit

www.facebook.com/christianambassn

A message from Firefighters for Christ

CPA work with Firefighters for Christ, across the UK and also across the world. Simon Hewitt is one of our key contacts in the UK and passes this message to all at the CPA:

Thank you for the opportunity to include prayer points for the Fire & Rescue Service (F&RS) in On and Off Duty.

The F&RS are still fulfilling their role in extinguishing fires in their area, protecting life and property in the event of fires in their area, rescuing and protecting people in the event of a road traffic collision, and rescuing and protecting people in the event of other emergencies. As would be expected, responding to incidents are fewer than they would normally be experiencing. However, there are many areas where the F&RS are supporting our colleagues across all emergency services and also with communities in providing much needed skills, support and assistance. Please pray for the protection and safety of all those in the Fire and Rescue Service:

- *The Officers as they seek to protect their staff and the Community they serve, whilst supporting colleagues in the Health Sector.*

- *Firefighters who are providing assistance e.g. in the Community (food distribution), and the Ambulance Service (emergency driving) etc.*
- *Firefighters as they attend incidents which may expose them to COVID-19.*
- *Firefighters as they provide Pastoral care to those who are suffering trauma as a result of an incident.*
- *Families of firefighters who are concerned about the exposure to COVID-19 of their family members.*
- *Those who have had to self-isolate due to risk, therefore putting a strain on the F&RS, as personal numbers on the station are reduced.*
- *Firefighters in other parts of the world who are EMT's and are experiencing continuous exposure to trauma incidents, where patients have died and they provide Pastoral care to the family.*



... and finally from the Director

We continue to pray for those who are sick or suffering and those who have lost colleagues or loved ones, may they find comfort and healing. We feel and mourn the loss of them all.

We also pray for those who have given their lives working within our amazing health service.

We pray for the serving officers and staff who have died, and also of the loss of members across our CPA family.

We wanted to bring you a range of frontline articles this month. All those in our emergency services across the world are at the forefront of supporting our communities and they are very much in our prayers. All are carrying out their roles selflessly and are working long hours. They are risk assessing the wearing of protective equipment that can be uncomfortable to wear over prolonged periods. Please hold all First Responders across the UK and the world in your prayers.

Lee Russell MA – Executive Director



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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.

President Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton **Chair of Council A/Inspector** Marie Reavey

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ON & OFF DUTY is the CPA monthly digest of news and articles. We also update a monthly Prayer Diary intended to inform and encourage those associated with the CPA. Please forward any items to office@CPAuk.net by the 20th of each month.

NB. All articles published will also be available for unrestricted viewing via the Internet. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the CPA Council.

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