

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
John 14:13-14 [NIV]



Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer Update - by Greg Smith

It seems that each month brings with it unsettling news. It can be easy to get lost in a mindset of fear, but God gives us tools to combat despair. At Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, we believe answered prayer is one of our most powerful weapons. Each one carries the power to restore faith that if Jesus has done it once, He can do it again. That is why we are calling the UK to join together to make hope visible.

Earlier this year, we began building the access road leading to the Eternal Wall site. 18 years since the vision was born, Eternal Wall is taking shape physically. This is a huge milestone, and the journey has been steeped in answered prayers.

The book of Nehemiah has been a huge inspiration on the journey. As the Israelites came together to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, we're told that each person built the section of wall in front of their homes and completed the job in only 52 days!

We've adopted this strategy for Eternal Wall by sorting the UK into 70 regions. This means every city, town, village has a number of answered prayers that we want to receive before opening day. That way

every part of the UK is represented, with stories of hope from across the broad church, ensuring no voice goes unheard. To help us in this mission, we are building an army of Regional Champions; volunteers leading the charge in gathering answered prayers from their local area.

So what comes next? We expect the road to be completed by February 2023, and shortly after we will begin cutting the ground, marking the beginning of construction on the land itself. In 2025 we will open a new Christian landmark, standing proudly in the heart of our nation declaring that Jesus is alive, hears and answers prayer today.

We all carry the hope of Jesus. Deuteronomy 4:9 encourages us to *"watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."*

To share your story, or find out more about becoming a Regional Champion, see www.eternalwall.org.uk Together we can build a legacy that will last for centuries. Let's **make hope visible**.

On & Off Duty

Just a thought... by Tony Thomas (City of London Chaplain)

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12

I suspect that many of you will be like me, having learned the Lord's Prayer by heart as a child we sometimes simply repeat it by rote. However, when we explore it closely we realise what a big request this is; asking God who gives us all good things and who we have rejected and sinned against, to forgive us.

A problem for many people is that we don't really appreciate just how serious sin is. Sin is so serious that it cost Jesus His life to enable God to grant this request. It is sin that separates us from God because sin is not just a rejection of God, sin is wanting to be our own god. We see this in the first sin, *when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God*, (Gen 3:4) and it has been repeated in all sins since then. All of the individual acts that we call sins are subsets of this desire to be god.

Our greatest and most desperate need is to have peace with God, and our problem is that although we have been washed clean by the blood of Christ, we continue to sin and need to repeatedly come to God in humble repentance, seeking once more to be forgiven. The good news is that He will and does repeatedly forgive us. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9) Jesus illustrated this in the interaction He had with Peter as He washed his feet, when He told Him he was already clean and didn't need another shower, but did need to have his feet washed.

But we must do to others as has been done to us. Jesus not only follows our request for forgiveness with a need for us to forgive others, He then repeats it a few verses later, which we don't include when we recite this passage as a prayer. Jesus stresses the importance of us also forgiving by repeating it in slightly different way, *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* (14-15).

I suggest that this is not a condition, but an expectation and a statement of logical understanding. Later on in Matthews gospel (Chapter 18) Jesus illustrates this lesson with the parable of the servant whose debt of ten thousand denarii was forgiven, but who then went out and demanded that someone who owed him one hundred denarii should pay up or face prison.

He was then brought back to the master who told him, *You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'* (18:32-33) Jesus ends the parable, *So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."* (18:35).

The forgiveness of the first servant's debt was not conditional in him showing his gratitude by doing likewise. But his failure to do so was the reason he was called to account. Jesus told us, *Whoever believes in me ... 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* (John 7:38). God's love and grace is not given for us to greedily possess, but to pass on to others, likewise His forgiveness.

Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who were nailing Him to the cross, and whilst we weren't hammering the nails into His hands and feet, it was for our sins He was crucified. We have been forgiven much and at a great cost.

To have our sins forgiven and to have peace with God is a gift far greater than anything we could wish for. The sin that God forgives us of is of a magnitude far greater than anything done to us. Isn't it therefore reasonable for us to forgive anyone of the lesser thing that they have done to us?

Suggested prayer:

Heavenly Father, creator and sustainer of all things, Triune God, the one and only living God, I can come to you in prayer only because my sins have been forgiven, and because of the cross of Jesus you see me as righteous. Nevertheless, despite your great love and grace, in my weakness I do still sin. Please forgive me for those times and please help me to learn from my mistakes and grow in my love and obedience. May the forgiveness I have received be passed on by me so that I can and will forgive anyone of anything that they may do to me, and by my forgiveness they may see Christ in me, and He will be glorified. Amen



CPA Online Alpha - by Tony Gale and Mike Quinnell

CPA Leaders Mike Quinnell and Tony Gale have successfully run CPA Online Alpha Courses during 2021 and 2022, specifically for police colleagues. The next course will start on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and continue for 13x weeks on Tuesday evenings at 7pm until 4th April 2023 inclusive. Each interactive session usually lasts 60-90 minutes.

The video and notes for each week are sent out in advance. This allows colleagues to watch and read in their own time, helping to fit around shift work etc. The sessions are conducted on Zoom and we also use a private WhatsApp group to share questions and thoughts outside of the Zoom sessions.



It's a great course with police colleagues, where you can explore the Christian faith and God - and ask any of the 'big' questions in life! It is equally perfect for those of any faith or none.

Police colleagues who have taken part have said:

*"The course has really **strengthened my faith** and given me the opportunity to think, discuss and be critical of every aspect of it. As we all mentioned several times (during the course), the ability to **share that with police colleagues** who have seen similar things and also sometimes struggle with their faith in the face of such evil, just added a **new dimension** into the mix. The entirety of our time spent together, albeit miles apart, was a **beautiful moment of sharing in God's love for one another.**"*

*"An **amazing experience**" "opportunity to **Renew myself**"*

*"opportunity to **Reset myself**" "really good" "invigorated me"*

*"made me **different, calmer and peaceful, praying more**"*

Please contact tony.gale@cpauk.net if you wish to join in - or if you know a police colleague who might be interested.

Police Arboretum Memorial Consultation

A MAJOR engagement and consultation programme will be launched on Monday, 17th October 2022 by the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust, creators of the UK Police Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The consultation will help shape the future development of a complementary new Digital Memorial that will pay tribute to individual police officers and staff who have lost their lives while carrying out their lawful duties.

In a month-long programme of activity, representatives from across the police service, policing charities, families of the fallen and the wider public, will be asked for their views and opinions about what should be on the Digital Memorial and how people wish

to engage with it.

People can participate and contribute to the consultation process by completing an online survey at <https://lnkd.in/e3ENEuNZ>

Chair of Trustees, Martin Hewitt, said: *"It has always been the Trust's ambition to develop a Digital Memorial that was accessible to those who cannot visit the UK Police Memorial at the Arboretum. This online tribute will extend policing dedication and commemoration to a wider national and international audience. Working with our partner, the Police Roll of Honour Trust, the Digital Memorial will give visitors access to the records of almost 5,000 police officers who have dedicated their lives to policing, from as far back as the Bow Street Runners in 1749."*

And finally...

On 19th October, it was great to see Lancashire Chief Constable Rowley meet with Ken Woodburn and Fred Kershaw from the Good News for Everyone Charity (formerly Gideons UK), who presented the Chief with Lancashire Constabulary crested presentation Bibles. The Bibles were gifted to the Chief Officer Team, with further copies being provided for prayer rooms around the county.

Since 2018 1,300 Lancashire Constabulary crested New Testaments and Psalms have been donated to Police Officers and Police Staff in Lancashire.

PC Paul Pountain, Chair of the Lancashire Christian Police Association said *"The partnership with Good News for Everyone is a perfect fit, sharing the message and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our thanks go to Ken Woodburn and Fred Kershaw for*



consistently supporting Lancashire Constabulary over the years." CPA have a long, valued history with Good News for Everyone. So much so, that we expressed our thanks to GNfE Executive Director Iain Mair at last year's CPA Leader's Conference with a glass trophy.

Iain promised, if your force does not have its own branded testaments, or you would like more than just make contact. Email office@cpauk.net for more details.

Please consider donating to CPA online

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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 Chief Constable Pam Kelly

Editorial Team Brian McCarthy (Executive Director) and Tony Gale (Executive Support Manager)

Administrator Lindsey



Chair of Council Inspector Marie Reavey

ON & OFF DUTY is a magazine produced by CPA since it was founded in 1883. We also produce a monthly Prayer Diary intended to inform those who wish to support us in prayer. Please forward any potential articles 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.

Christian Police Association
46-50 Rutherford Drive, Park Farm
Wellingborough NN8 6AX

Tel: 01933 409485
Email: info@CPAUk.net
Web: www.cpauk.net

 @uk_cpa
 /christianpoliceassociation

Registered Charity: 220482 (E&W) SCO43784 (Scotland)

