

Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care

Partners in Holistic Care

Educational Conference 2010

Jackson's Point, Ontario

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUES ON CRIME PREVENTION

Presenter: Rev. Carl Wake (carl.wake@ontario.ca)

September 27, 2010 3:30 to 4:30 PM

INTRODUCTION

- Privilege to be here => thank you to the committee
- From a Christian viewpoint (my faith background), the theme for this conference (Partners in Holistic Care) is central to the message of the Bible: the God of the Bible has such an incredible love for His creation in general and cares so deeply about all aspects of each person in particular. The God of the universe chooses to use imperfect people as partners in His work.
- I will be talking about the Faith and Law Dialogues on Crime Prevention in Ottawa: a history and a challenge/encouragement to you
- Before I do so, I would like to set this in two contexts.

1. FAITH CONTEXT

- Matthew 9:35-36 Jesus had compassion for the crowds
 - Greek (*splagchnizomai*) **1**) to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity) Used 12 times in NT, only the Synoptic Gospels, only about Jesus or used by Jesus in His teachings. Review the eleven other instances
- Matthew 9:37 to 10:4 Asks for prayer. Faith into action - chooses 12 to be partners with him – many backgrounds => sends them out
 - Mt 14:14-21; 15:32-38 (cf. Mk 6:33,34-44; 8:2-9) Jesus is again moved with compassion for the crowds –feeds 5,000 with 5 loaves 2 fish and then 4,000 with 7 loaves and several fish – teaching his disciples about provision and faith
 - Teaching Peter about forgiveness in Mt 18:21-35
 - Healing of two blind men by Jericho (Mt 20:29-34); Healing leper (Mk 1:40-45); demon possessed boy after Mount of Transfiguration (Mk 9:14-29); widow at Nain raises son (Lk 7:11-17)

- Jesus had opposition and tells two stories that contain the final two instances of compassion
 - Luke 10 – lawyer tries to tempt Jesus vv. 25-28. Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan (vv. 29-37) – God uses hated person to do good
 - Luke 15 – explain setting vv. 1-3; explain Prodigal – the compassion of the Father; cite Timothy Keller The Prodigal God
 - People do not understand this extravagant compassion (e.g, Gates Foundation \$1 billion donation – talk show questioning)
- Jonah could not understand how God could love his enemies. Jonah 4:11, “Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

Habakkuk questioned that God cared Habakkuk 1:2-4. “How long, O LORD, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!”, yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause *me* to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.”

- God answers in Habakkuk 1:5 Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days— you would not believe if you were told.
- Habakkuk 2:1,2a, 4 I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered me and said,“Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

God is sovereign and can use anyone to accomplish His will. Just look at the backgrounds of the men and women of note in the Bible.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

We are not to question God, but to see the world through His eyes of compassion.

2. OCDC CONTEXT

Networks are inevitable for chaplains, for anyone... How can you partner with God in your network to show compassion?

Through the years, you build up a network of contacts: volunteers and professional visitors; community; faith communities and criminal justice contacts. **Longevity has its benefits.**

Review of my network and what is being accomplished

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUES ON CRIME PREVENTION

Background

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUE ON CRIME PREVENTION I Britannia United Church

November 14, 2007

Many gathered well before the official start time of 13:30, helping to set up and visit with one another. We began the workshop at 14:00.

Carl gave some introductory remarks before introducing Louise Logue. Our original guest speaker, Ottawa Police Chief, Vernon White, was delayed in presenting his police budget report before city council and could not attend. Louise Logue stepped in and helped the participants understand why the Ottawa Police need to know the information that was about to be shared. Since Louise had to leave by 15:30, we decided to have as many people as possible speak for five minutes each about their work in crime prevention. The sharing continued even after Louise had left, ending at 16:40. Each person presented using the following guidelines:

1. Briefly describe the faith group or faith-based community organization you represent;
2. Outline your goals in relation to crime prevention;
3. Briefly describe the success you are having in achieving these goals;
4. Outline specific ways the Ottawa Police and other faith groups and faith-based community organizations could help you achieve your goals;
5. Provide contact information and ways to find out further information.

Each person had also prepared an information sheet answering these questions, which will be compiled and sent out to all participants. **(If you have not sent in your, please do so ASAP)**

There was a unanimous agreement that this had been an important time of sharing, and that this needed to be repeated with the Police Chief and other officers present, along with other faith group and faith-based organizational representatives present.

The meeting closed and we finally left the building by 1710.

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUE ON CRIME PREVENTION II
Peace Tower Church
1550 Chatelain Ave., Ottawa, ON

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

13:30 to 14:00 **Networking Time**

14:00 to 14:15 **Opening Remarks – Carl Wake, Coordinating Chaplain OCDC**

- Welcome
- Brief background for today's gathering
 - Louise Logue (Ottawa Police G&G Unit => RCMP) spoke to local youth pastors on May 29, 2007
 - At the end, she said that what the Ottawa Police would really like to hear would be about what our faith groups are doing to address crime in Ottawa.
 - That worked for me because of my network of contacts through OCDC, so I organized our first FALDOCP for November 14, 2007. Twenty-five people showed: ☺
 - Louise and I strategized some more on how to follow-up on this success. Is it important for us to go ahead? What would it look like? We decided to do another FALDOCP and ask the participants. I cannot do this alone.
 - We tried March 5, 2008, but were snowed out. No risk of that today, so here we are!
- Same Goal, Different Language: Describe diagram from Chaplaincy Program Evaluation work
- Review our agenda for today

14:15 to 14:45 **What Are Criminogenic Factors? – Omar Simonyi, Social Worker OCDC**

A presentation of the factors presently thought to lead to crime, and how to learn more about them.

14:45 to 15:15 **Crime Prevention in the Ottawa Area –**

Mike Justinich, Business Analyst, Crime Prevention Ottawa

How can faith groups and faith-based organizations educate themselves about what is presently being done at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels in the Ottawa area, in order to determine where there are gaps in service that might be filled from a faith perspective?

15:15 to 15:30 **Break time and Networking**

15:30 to 16:15 Small Group Discussion:

1. How can we systematically identify and document what faith groups and faith-based organizations are presently doing in the Ottawa area to reduce / prevent crime?
2. How can faith groups and faith-based organizations have a voice in order to let “the system” know what they are offering?

16:00 to 16:30 Large Group - Debriefing the small group activity

16:30 to 17:00 Wrap-Up and Feedback Time

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUE ON CRIME PREVENTION III

**Peace Tower Church
1550 Chatelain Ave., Ottawa, ON**

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

AGENDA

13:30 to 14:00 Networking Time

14:00 to 14:10 Opening Remarks – *Carl Wake, Coordinating Chaplain OCDC*

14:10 to 15:10 “Faith and Law Dialogue From My Perspective”

- *Julia Beazley, Research & Project Coordinator, Poverty & Homelessness, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada*
- *Louise Logue, Director, National Youth Intervention / Diversion, RCMP
- Trends in the Youth Culture*

15:10 to 15:30 Break time and Networking

15:30 to 16:00 Small Group Discussion

16:00 to 16:30 Large Group - Debriefing the small group discussion

16:30 to 17:00 Wrap-Up and Feedback Time

FAITH AND LAW DIALOGUE ON CRIME PREVENTION IV
Peace Tower Church
1550 Chatelain Ave., Ottawa, ON

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

AGENDA

- 13:30 to 14:00** **Networking Time**
- 14:00 to 14:10** **Opening Remarks – *Carl Wake, Coordinating Chaplain OCDC***
- 14:10 to 15:30** **“How Faith Communities Can Become Involved in Restorative Practices”**
- *Rev. Bruce Schenk, Correctional Chaplain & Canadian Director of the International Institute on Restorative Practices*
 - *Vern White, Police Chief, Ottawa Police Services*
- 15:30 to 15:45** **Break Time and Networking**
- 15:45 to 16:30** **Live Re-Enactment of a Community Justice Circle**
- 16:30 to 17:00** **Wrap-Up and Feedback Time**

FAITH AND GANGS ROUNDTABLES

Mike Justinich Crime Prevention Ottawa contacted me for help

FAGR I – November 10, 2009 Thirty-two gathered plus media

Faith and Gangs Roundtable II
Tuesday February 9, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Rhema Ministries Ottawa
1550 Chatelain Avenue, Ottawa

Proposed agenda

- 6:00 - 6:30 Networking and refreshments (coffee, tea, juice, cookies etc.)
6:30 Welcome / Opening Remarks / Opening Blessing

- 6:35 More detailed overview of the OYGPI Project (maps etc.) and the current situation in Ottawa then Q & A
- 7:00 2 local guest presenters with Q & A 1. Bethel Pentecostal – Adopt-a-Block 2. Muslim-based program/initiative)
- 7:40 Open discussion / Next steps (An opportunity to mention other successes/initiatives whether local or not.)
- 8:15 Closing remarks / Closing Blessing and opportunity for additional networking

Faith and Gangs III - A Final Roundtable

Tuesday June 8, 2010

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Rhema Ministries Ottawa

1550 Chatelain Avenue, Ottawa

- 6:00 - 6:30 Register, fill out a name tag, meet, greet, network and grab a snack (drinks, cookies, veggies & dip etc.)
- 6:30 Welcome and Opening Blessing
- 6:35 - 7:15 Presentations – Music, Arts & Prevention/Intervention
- 7:20 - 8:00 Presentations – Trauma, Mental Health / Faith, Families & Communication
- 8:00 - 8:30 Speed Networking (Bring business cards if you've got them!)
- 8:30+ Closing Blessing – informal networking and fellowship

Future Faith and Law Dialogues on Crime Prevention

November 17 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Literacy; Foster Care

My Challenge / Encouragement

You all have networks. Be ready to step out

CONCLUSION

Review about Jesus in Matt 9

- Jesus is such an example to me. Luke 9:36 “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”
- Pray and be willing to partner with Him and to work willingly alongside the others who have been called into his service.

The letter I read at the end is from the website of Eliane Guité and Tori Apedaile, two women who volunteer at OCDC. Eliane is a singer / songwriter and Tori sings backup vocals. Both have amazing testimonies and incredible talent. They will come and sing at any prison for free. I cannot recommend them highly enough. Their website: <http://www.takemebeyond.com>

The woman who wrote this letter is a repeat offender who lives on the streets of Ottawa. She is now in drug treatment and we are praying for her success.

From: <http://www.takemebeyond.com/letter.htm>

Letter from an inmate to the church

I am an addict

...searching basically for something , sometimes I think it's a sense of belonging or maybe someone or thing to love me, maybe listen or just say 'everything will be ok!'. Not really sure what tomorrow will bring and don't want to venture beyond today. I'm so scared; of what, not sure! Maybe rejection, not being good enough, maybe I'm just bad and there is no real hope. But then the past comes and I remember someone back then speaking of a Love and I keep going on! Where do we find it? (*those of us on the streets, in shelters, lonely and afflicted...*)

I know I was told God is Love

... But if that's true and he works through people on the streets looking for my kind...Why are we seeking answers and only the devil is there to encourage us? Stop , **please stop being afraid of us** people (*drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, etc...*). Instead pray for us and then let God lead you to us and come sit or stand and tell us we are loved, we are special, there is a way out! Don't worry I am not, nor is any other hurting person contagious. Many times sitting outside a church, I've often been told to get away and made to feel dirty. (*When in fact I should've been told 'come in if you'd like' or even 'you are loved' and go in and pray for me*).

These are scary days for me

...I know about the Bible, but I can't grasp the totality of it. I want it so bad, it's the 'how do I get there' that's the hardest part to get. Especially when you have 3 churches around and in the middle you've got these people suffering from addiction, mental issues, alcoholism, etc... And the only thing there is the Sight Van (*gives needles, crack pipes, etc...*). In fact, there should be

someone telling all of us we are definitely loved from God (*please, if only for someone else's benefit, go from your comfort zone and find one or more of these kinds of people and if only say some words of encouragement to them*). Make someone smile. Who knows maybe with your smile today you've saved a life or even better brought one to Christ.

I remember

...one of those times on Murray Street smoking crack outside of the church beside the shelter and hearing the singing coming out of there. **I wanted to go in (*the church*), but not alone**, so I gave a couple of my using acquaintances some crack just to accompany me inside. It was great. We sang and I had fun. Hopefully I thought maybe God can help one of these using buddies. I'm so afraid. Can you pray not for me but for the ones still out there.

Will you walk among the sick, hurting, etc

...'Be more like Jesus'? Stop keeping his love in the church! Bring His love; share it. Stand or sit with someone, if they don't want your presence they will let you know! But think about what would Jesus do? Pray and read it in His Word, ask Him for the words and the protection as you go amongst us suffering, sick, lonely, hurting, etc... Maybe as simple as making little baskets to bring with you or a small box of Timbits.

Even just you with Jesus' love would be enough

... You don't have to preach a sermon. You just have to have God's direction. Say 'Hi I'm ...it's so nice to meet you, I'm from...' As people of God you have a duty not only to your church family. Anyways who am I to preach. Thanks for listening. Maybe one day we'll meet, God knows I'd love to say I'm gonna go to heaven but the way I'm now I'm not sure if I'll get there and it scares me. I'm begging for guidance and direction but I search and can't find it. Where do I go? Who do I go to? All answers I'm told are in the Big Book. **Please pray...and then act!!!!!!**

Questions / Comments