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# MINISTERS FOR OUR GOOD

*October 8, 2013*

## “MINISTERS FOR OUR GOOD” - *Romans 13:4*

Recently, we received an email from a police officer that raised an important issue for Christians, especially those among us who have a not-so-favorable view of the military and law enforcement. Here is the email we received:

“As a police officer I see too many people taken captive by the things of this world and they have no concept of what Kingdom Living is really about... Too many people are dying without any hope of heaven and that's just not okay in any shape or form!

I am controversial in the fact that I preach Christ crucified on and off of the job and I am not scared to tell people the truth especially when the Holy Spirit guides me to a soul that is hurting on the street. I have the greatest job in the world (POLICE WORK) and I will proclaim truth to all who will listen until there is no breath left within me.

I am friends with and have studied with a [Jehovah's Witness] minister I met on patrol. Please pray that Nando will open his heart to the truth that is found only in Christ Jesus! Thanks again for your fabulous website that is setting people free!!!!”

To the author, we thank you for your email. We are very glad you found our site and that you look at your job as a service to mankind and an opportunity to spread the glad tidings of the Christ. We thank you for your service.

We know that many Christians, including some Jehovah's Witnesses, have a very poor view of law enforcement. They are under the misconception that the Father and Christ Jesus do not look favorably on those whose job involves the use of weapons such as police officers and military personnel. We hope, by way of this article, to counter such erroneous ideas and reasons for judging and stumbling, or, at the very least, to cause our brothers to consider the human element in law enforcement.

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Jesus is indeed the Prince of Peace who counseled against the use of violence against one another. But he never condemned those whose job it was to protect and serve the ends of justice by the superior authorities “who stand placed in their relative positions by God.” (*Romans 13:1*) Notice how he dealt with a military officer he encountered:

“When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a **centurion came to him**, asking for help. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” **When Jesus heard this, he was amazed** and said to those following him, “**Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.** I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done**

**just as you believed it would.”** And his servant was healed at that moment.” – *Matthew 8:5-13*

In the parallel account in *Luke*, we noticed that neither did the ‘elders of the Jews’ condemn the officer:

“When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, **“This man deserves to have you do this,** because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.”– *Luke 7:1-5*

And in the *Acts of the Apostles*, we see the honored position held by another army officer in the sight of God:

“At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, **a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing;** he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw **an angel of God, who came to him** and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, **“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”**– *Acts 10:1-4*

We acknowledge that there are historical reports that the early Christians did not serve in the Roman military, but that does not mean that Christians in other lands refused to serve. Recall that the Romans were complicit in the execution of Jesus, and were very aggressive in crucifying and impaling his followers, even throwing many, including women, to the lions. So it is no surprise that the followers of Christ would refuse to join the Roman army. However, about the same time in Christian history, many brothers were scattered abroad ‘to the most distant parts of the earth’ and we have no historical records of their conduct in connection with law enforcement, as to whether they refused to participate in military service because of their faith.

But more importantly, a careful review of the Biblical record reveals that there are no instructions or commands from Jesus, not even from the apostles, that a Christian was forbidden to join the military or organized law enforcement. The actions of others may be informative, but they are not tantamount to spiritual or religious directives.

Jesus had no problem with the employment choices of his followers as is evident from his open acceptance of Matthew, who held the unpopular job of tax collector. (*Matthew 9:9*) The only restriction Jesus ever laid in the matter of employment was to his twelve apostles as they went out on their missionary tours. (*Matthew 10:1-42*) The apostles, unlike the disciples, were set apart as full-time ministers. Today, full-time ministers who can make room for it must likewise refrain from accepting employment, of whatever type, that would prevent them from devoting the necessary time to their ministry.

In truth, our Father recognizes the need for an organized society to have governmental authorities who can enforce their laws, and He clearly authorizes it, as Paul wrote:

“For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. **For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. **They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.**”- *Romans 13:3-4*

Police and military forces serve as protectors of justice. They serve to help and rescue those in need, and punish those who violate laws and civil peace. It is by means of their service that the rest of us can go about our business and sleep at night in relative peace, and exercise freedom of religion, freedom of speech and conduct our ministry without undue fear of harassment.

Of course, law enforcement is subject to abuse and corruption, just like any other agency run by men, including religious agencies and authorities. But throughout history and down to the present day, more harm is done to mankind by means of illegitimate, abusive and arrogant theocracies than from law enforcement. Corrupt police officers may kill the body, but corrupt religious authorities can kill our spiritual future, as Jesus said:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, **you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.**”- *Matthew 23:15*

We appreciate those who have the courage to join law enforcement. And we, likewise, respect those who choose for personal reasons not to do so. But we cannot respect those who *hypocritically* judge the spiritual standing of law enforcement personnel while at the same time calling on them for help when their security is threatened, and enjoying the peace and security their service provides.

Some might be surprised to know that many high ranking and/or highly visible religious leaders, *of practically every denomination*, have body guards who carry weapons that they will use for the personal protection of such leaders. It seems hypocritical to approve of these guards, but disapprove of civil guards. Really, wouldn’t we want those in law enforcement to be of the best character? Wouldn’t it be a good idea if police officers accepted their sonship with God and therefore viewed the public whom they ‘protect and serve’ as their spiritual brothers first? There surely would be far fewer incidents of police brutality!

Last year, we had the privilege of working with police officers when our ministry was more focused on aiding homeless and recovery shelters. When the officers heard the message of sonship, they, like everyone else who is moved by the spirit, said it brought improvement to their lives and made them better at their job. Here are some of their comments:

*July 13, 2012* - To the Authors of this Website and to [your Brother], we thank you for your truly motivating words. I am not really a religious person but I must say I enjoyed the conviction and love that you show for people. You have spirit my friend.

We've been discussing the article on **Worshipping with Spirit and Truth** in the [police] station this morning and this afternoon and its quite interesting. It's making me think of people in a different way, a more reflective way and I think it will be of great value in the days and years ahead in helping these men and women in the station and in gangs to place more importance on love and God so maybe, just maybe, we can all live on this planet in peace. God bless you and I look forward to working with you if possible in the future. I believe we made some head way, so to the Authors of this spirit material, keep blessing us. With deep respect, [Peace officer].

**September 7, 2012** - Great job today, thank you for continued service to our community. I appreciate personally this site for it has been a priceless aid in my life and in my husband's life. It helps us cope with the pressures of the job and has created a balance for us. May God be in you as he has with continued success with the mission work and with the AnointedJW site. [Peace officer].

**October 18, 2012** - [From a law enforcement officer] To [AnointedJW.org](http://AnointedJW.org) I have been looking forward to this day for many years, but never felt the true connection of being a son of the Father of everything. You often hear the expression that you're a child of God, but it still had no meaning until some friends and their families and my family starting reading some of your articles on the site. I had been hearing others talk about the man from heaven and the powerful change that was taking place based on the message of Brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. And let me tell you, we all knew right then and there this is the real deal, no doubt about. Let me tell you along with Bible in hand, we looked up the scriptures and the spirit bore witness with us all. The only thing missing was an upper room. lol But seriously we all cried as we read the entire **Brotherhood** section and soon thereafter, we started making changes in our homes, then the kids at school. Then got together and said What Prevents Us? . . . I wanted to answer the question, absolutely NOTHING.

We understand that these officers and their families were baptized into the Christ shortly thereafter. This reminds us of the account in the book of *Acts* of the prison guard who was baptized along with his entire household after the Apostle Paul 'spoke the word of the Lord' to them. (*Acts 16:25-34*) (*Today's New International Version*)

The officers we encountered have a keen appreciation and respect for human life. One officer told us that while he was apprehending a suspect, he said, in so many words, "I know you are my brother, but I got a job to do here. Let's make this as easy as possible and I promise you I will show you proper respect." This officer was surprised at the words coming out of his own mouth, and we are told the incident was resolved peacefully.

We feel more safe knowing that there are men and women in law enforcement who love the Father and Christ Jesus and who view their job as a service to their brothers. And we thank all who make the personal choice to pursue this honorable career.

Finally, to the author, we thank you again for your service, and yes, we will say a prayer for Nando.

***“Elaia Luchnia”***