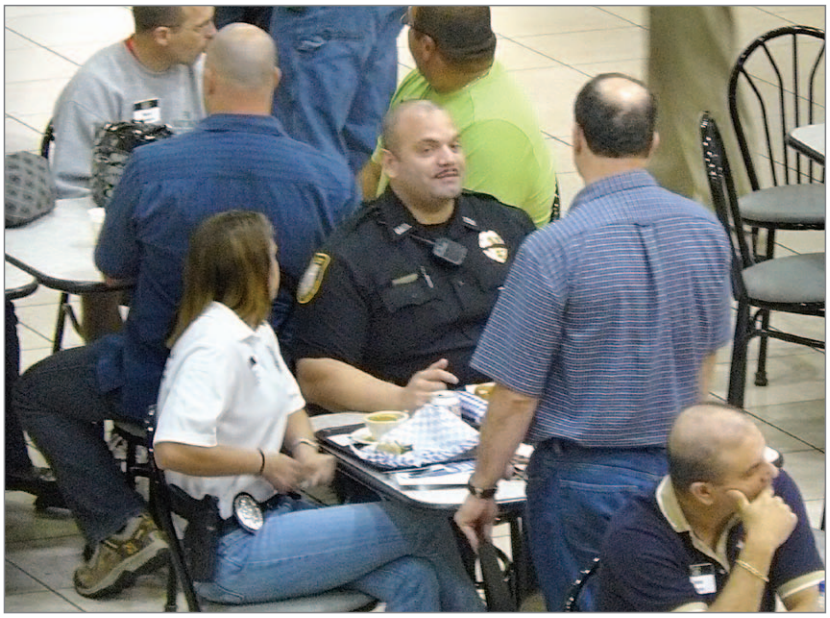
# Law Officers Share the Love of God

*Story by Carol Savage*
*Photos by Detective Luis Figueroa*



**Law enforcement officials gather at the Full Armor of God conference at CC Melbourne, FL, to be encouraged by God's Word and fellowship.**

**Officers toss bean bags in friendly competition.**

"Police officers can easily feel isolated and overwhelmed by the heartbreak and violence they experience on the job," said Detective Rob Vitaliano at CC Melbourne, FL's "Full Armor of God" conference in February 2011. "Even Christian officers can be swallowed up by these dark realities," Rob continued. "This can make them cynical and spiritually closed off." Twenty people put their trust in Christ during the event, and many believing law enforcement officials were encouraged in their faith. This strengthening is vital, Rob explained, because he believes that, in general, law enforcement officials can be most effectively reached with the Gospel by other officers who are walking with the Lord.

The gathering was held at CC Melbourne's main campus in central Florida, not far from Cape Canaveral. It was attended by 150 people, including police officers and their spouses, probation officers, dispatchers, and others. The purpose was to encourage Christian officers to serve Christ in every aspect of their lives, as well as to reach the lost with the Gospel.

The conference included times of worship, fellowship, and teachings given by law enforcement professionals. One detective expounded on the full armor of God—both the conference's theme and the signature Scripture of CC Melbourne's law enforcement ministry. The passage reads,

> ***Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***
> Ephesians 6:11

The local sheriff shared his personal testimony, and another detective spoke on walking the centurion's road. Rob said, "Officers are more likely to listen and open up if the teacher is another cop—someone who has walked the same road they have, and who understands the unique challenges of police work. Enforcement officers' profession is physically, emotionally, and spiritually draining," Rob continued. "That's why these conferences are vital." An event coordinator reported that an attendee who had been struggling with pornography and who regularly made fun of God was one of the 20 who accepted Christ at the conference.

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*Next issue deadline—June 1, 2011*
*Following deadline—Sept 1, 2011*

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