

Biography for Marg Pollon

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength", the verse from Philippians 4:13 has given Marg confidence to accomplish God's design for her life. Ten years ago, she stepped out on a journey to connect the church with the community, through building Bridges of Love.

Leading up to this time, the soil was being prepared to seed a yet unknown crop. Trained as a Medical Laboratory Technologist after high school and working in the field mainly after raising our three children, gave Marg the credibility and confidence to pursue Pandemic Preparedness many years later.

After retiring from the medical profession in 1994, Marg and her husband Tom moved to the Okanagan where they owned and operated a Bed and Breakfast for 8 years. During this time, Marg also worked part-time at their church as the Pastor's Administrative Assistant. Here she learned a great deal for office administration and gained essential computer skills. Acceptance of this unsolicited position was a step of faith but it was a great learning environment and a piece of the puzzle for coming days.

Returning to Calgary in 2002, Marg again took on an administrative position in a local church for a year before moving on to the compassionate ministry, NeighbourLink. Serving those less fortunate became her focus and passion giving preparation for the next phase, birthing Bridges of Love Ministry.

Society Incorporation was secured in June, 2004 and the adventure began... Doors opened with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada as Marg was taken on as Compassion Track Coordinator with the National Evangelism Partnerships where many valuable relationships at a National Level were made during her two years of involvement. She served as Mobilization Chair with Micah Challenge Canada, a Global Initiative mobilizing churches against poverty, aligned with the Millennium Development Goals.

Little did Marg know, God would bring the next stage of ministry through a Burnaby doctor, Tim Foggin. Because of Tim's prayers for several months before inviting Bridges of Love to mobilize Canadian churches to be ready to stand in the gap, in the event of an Influenza Pandemic, Marg knew this was God's agenda. After Tim's experiences in Shanghai during SARS and on the advice of his twin brother, a biologist in China watching the progression of the Avian Flu, he felt it was time to prepare the church in the event of a global out-break. For more than eight years, Bridges of Love has dedicated its mission connecting the church with the community through Emergency Preparedness. Charitable Status was realized August 2008, giving credibility and accountability to this fledging ministry, now embarking on a new but parallel path.

The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative has been the focus as Bridges of Love builds relationships of trust in the Public, Private the Christian sectors. The critical piece for success was accomplished May, 2011 with a Service Agreement with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency. This opened the door for collaboration with increased access to training, exercises, education and continued opportunities to be 'salt' and 'light' in Alberta communities.

After the 2013 Alberta Floods the next phase became evident. Training through Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) became a reality due to a vote of confidence from The Calgary Foundation. CERT CANada Summits began in April 2014 continuing to this time.

Marg serves in her community sitting on the Board of Directors for Devinder Shory, Calgary NE Electoral District; volunteers at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association TV/TM Ministry each month. She is married to her husband, Tom (43 years) and they have three grown children and four very special grandchildren. 😊