

January, 2010

Bridges of Love Ministry Society
204 – 6A St. NE
Calgary, AB T2E 4A5



Dear Bridges of Love Partners,

What will it take to reconnect the church and culture? George Gallup Jr. states, "A church rooted in the living Lord is a church that encourages people to move beyond their comfort zones and invest themselves in face-to-face, person-to-person, hands-on kinds of ministries."

The church must rediscover its essential role and craft as bridge builder...we must connect. One bridge for transporting God's love into the community is through Emergency/Pandemic Preparedness. History shows compelling powerful proof Christians offered during the two great plagues that swept the Roman Empire in the year A.D. 165 and 251. Christians were visible and valuable during the frequent natural and social disasters. All historians in the early church link this compelling witness of proof to the explosion of early Christianity.

We have an opportunity like never before to connect with our communities through the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI). It is not only a bridge of love to our neighbours but to the Government, City and Health Authorities a-like. The church has been given the opportunity to spear-head this initiative to fulfill Jesus' dream. Jesus imagined His Church as a bridge of unprecedented spiritual influence.

At our Faith Community/Public Sector Workshop, Jan Donais – Senior Emergency Management Officer with Public Safety Canada gave this comment in his welcoming address, *"If this initiative can succeed in Alberta it may serve as a functional template that can be replicated in other regions of the country. Ultimately this initiative speaks to, what is for me, one of the more profound axioms in the Emergency Management field."*

If you have not yet attended a Pandemic Information Session over the summer, please familiarize with the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative on the Bridges of Love web site, www.bridgesoflove.net. A firm foundation has been laid with a path to follow. We invite you to discover with us, new and exciting opportunities, to reconnect with our communities through the endeavours of this ministry. Marg Pollon, our Founding Executive Director, or any one of the Board Members would be happy to share more about this initiative in the New Year.

There has been much groundwork accomplished over the past six years with financial support coming from individuals who believe in the mission and vision of Bridges of Love. God has provided each step of the way so we have been very thankful for His provisions. As a Board Member responsible for Fund Development, I invite the local church to participate, as we link God's purposes for the church with the real needs of the community..

This letter is an invitation to partner with Bridges of Love Ministry. As Pastor Lewis stated in "The Church of Irresistible Influence"...'a great bridge is always the work of the diversified many, a creation as wonderful as each one of its many individual creators. We can dream alone but seldom can we bring our dreams to fruition by solitary effort.'

For the job of bridging the Mississippi River, an unknown with no credentials and no bridge building experience, was chosen for the task. Why was James Buchanan Eads given the contract when others had more experience in erecting a bridge of this calibre? Eads had a history of prevailing as well he knew the river—like no one else—and what it would take to bridge it. In response to his critics, Eads responded, *"Must we admit that because a thing never has been done, it never can be, when our knowledge and judgment assure us that it is entirely practicable?"* We know with God at the helm...all things are possible.

This ministry is providing the opportunity for churches to apply what it believes in a compelling way. Thank you for partnering with Bridges of Love as together we lay a foundation to inspire a lifetime of spiritual passion.

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Wilson Nelson".

Dr. H. Wilson Nelson, Fund Development Director
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