BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2018

"ALWAYS BE PREPARED..."   1 Peter 3:15
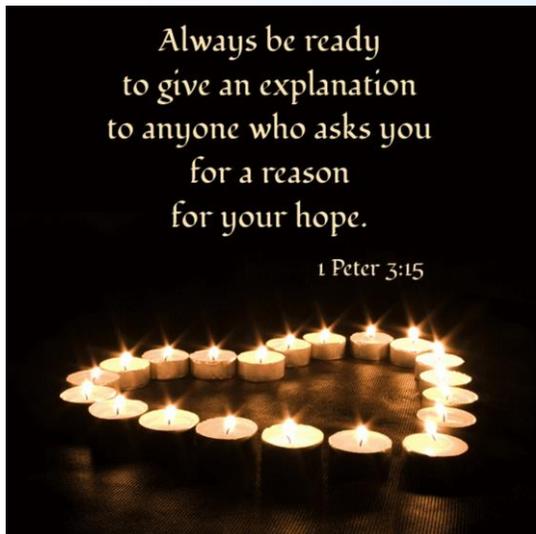
"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15

Many first century followers of Christ were suffering, being abused and persecuted for believing in and obeying Christ. Peter knew persecution firsthand. Beaten and jailed, Peter had been threatened often, but he knew Christ and nothing could shake his confidence, in his risen Lord.

The scriptural mandate to 'be prepared to give an answer' is not just to help us effectively communicate the gospel, but to arm us with the tools to resist certain nagging doubts. We need to fortify our faith when we encounter moments of weakness and bombarded by negative external influences.

Truth is a casualty of our popular culture. When truth goes, the authority of the gospel is undermined.   Our postmodern culture teaches that truth and morality are relative, that there is no such thing as absolute truth.

When we suffer for doing what is right, remember that following Christ is a costly commitment. He suffered for us; as His followers, we should expect nothing less.

Norman L. Geisler, Frank Turek; "I Don't have Enough Faith to be an Atheist", Crossway Books, 2004.

ALBERTA HAZARDS
Earthquakes

You cannot prepare for everything, so it is important to know the hazards which are most prevalent in one's area. Preparation for those threats will give added protection for family and community. One such threat is earthquake.

An earthquake is a sudden slipping or movement of a portion of the Earth's crust or plates, caused by a sudden release of stresses.   Earthquake epicenters are usually less than 25 miles below the Earth's surface and are accompanied and followed by a series of vibrations. Earthquakes occur without any obvious warning.

The reason earthquakes are such a risk is because shaking ground can:

- Cause buildings to move off of their foundations or collapse.

- Damage utilities, structures, and roads.

- Cause fires and explosions.

- Cause structural instability, such as dam failures that can trigger flash floods.

Historically, Alberta has been a seismically quiet part of North America. The federal government began serious monitoring of Alberta seismic activity in the mid-1960s.

An over-night earthquake on July 6, 2017 left some Calgarians shaken and stirred. Even though earthquake disaster is minimal in our locality, travel makes us more vulnerable, while visiting other parts of the world.

Alberta Seismicity 1965 to Present
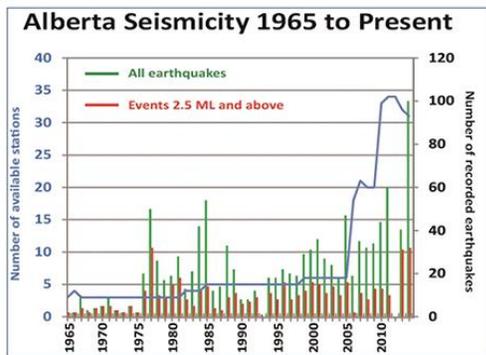
I SURVIVED THE MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE…THIS IS MY STORY

By Devon VanHouten-Maldonado

I was at home in Roma neighborhood when the 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico City on September 19, 2017, exactly 32 years after the 1985 tragedy that killed thousands. There was no warning that the quake was coming, despite the fact that the capital boasts one of the most advanced earthquake alarms in the world.

The first tremble from beneath the earth was minor, and I thought it was a truck passing or the metro slithering underneath—normal things that make the streets rumble in this megalopolis. But the second shock hit with a force that launched me to my feet. The house swayed and twisted as if it were made of paper, and the city erupted into a cacophony of sirens and sounds of destruction as I stumbled out the front door. Suddenly, I was shirtless and shoeless in the street with my neighbors, being thrown back and forth by the ground that seemed to turn to liquid.

As we reeled in the street, the smell of gas seeped out of the front gate of our *vecindad,* a condo-style building with small houses sharing a courtyard and a gated entrance. "Shut the gas and turn off the electricity, there's a leak!" shouted one neighbor.

The chaos and noise only growing until the city descended into total gridlock.