



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2019

“AND AT MIDNIGHT A CRY RANG OUT: HERE’S THE BRIDEGROOM! COME OUT TO MEET HIM” Matthew 25:6

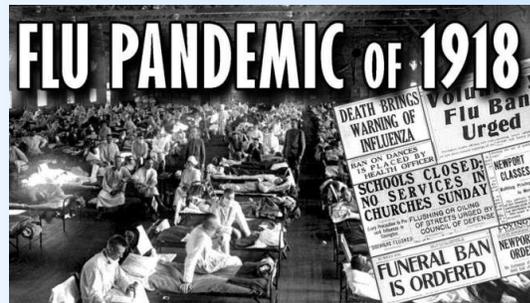
And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go you out to meet him.

—Matthew 25:6



INFLUENZA PANDEMIC...READY OR NOT

On October 8, 1918, military officials hastily moved fifteen ill Canadian soldiers travelling through Calgary on a Canadian Pacific transport train into isolation unit at a nearby army base. A thoroughly nineteenth-century approach to disease containment. The quarantine didn't work, and Calgary was soon inundated with infected civilians.



Over one hundred years has passed since the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic which felled nearly as many Canadians as the preceding war. Indeed, perhaps the most important legacy of the 1918 pandemic is that it marked the waning of the thinking that had dominated Canadian public-health practice for generations: that the vector of infectious diseases could be halted using isolation, exclusion, and sanitary reform. The federal department of health, laid the basis for a new ideology of public health governance, one that saw disease as a community problem, not only an individual hardship or a plague brought on by outsiders. By John Lorinc - Canada's History

We have learned a lot over the past 100 years and are better prepared because of it. But make no mistake, outbreaks of sudden, unexpected, and localized eruptions of infection are inevitable. [Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Chief Medical Correspondent.](#)

[“Unseen Enemy”](#), a documentary written and directed by Janet Tobias was released in 2017. Tobias collaborated with some of the world's top pathogen hunters and medical professionals for more than three years, tracking outbreaks of Zika, Ebola and influenza worldwide.

Tobias' film makes the case that successful containment can be achieved with coordinated efforts of medical professionals, researchers, governments, communicators, and the public.

THE STORY OF AN EARTHQUAKE AND THE CHRISTIANS WHO STAYED

Immediately following the 2011 disaster, a great number of local and overseas volunteers came to the tsunami-ravaged Tohoku seacoast. However, a few months later—when evacuation centers began to close, water and food distribution became unnecessary, and the work of removing tsunami mud from houses largely came to an end—most volunteers and support organizations stopped coming; but not Christian volunteers.

They worked through local churches and continued to support people affected by the disaster, even after people had moved from evacuation centers into temporary housing. Christians were aware that those suffering were dealing not just with physical needs such as clothing, food, and housing—they were also dealing with spiritual needs, as they wrestled with the loss of loved ones and possessions that had been dear to them.



As Christians continue visiting the affected people, they are known as Mr/Ms Christ with respect and appreciation.

[HTTPS://WWW.LAUSANNE.ORG/LGA](https://www.lausanne.org/lga)

Jesus told parables to clarify what it means to be ready for His return and how to live until he comes. The story of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 verses 14-30 teaches that every person is responsible for his or her own spiritual condition.

The parable is about a wedding. On the wedding day the bridegroom went to the bride's house for the ceremony; then the bride and groom, along with a great procession, returned to the groom's house where a feast took place.

The ten virgins were waiting to join the procession, as they hoped to take part in the wedding banquet. But when the groom didn't come on schedule, five of them were out of lamp oil. By the time they purchased extra oil, it was too late to join the festivities.

Five of the virgins, were foolish, and five were wise. All ten had a job to do. They had lamps. The lamps were supposed to be ready, ignited when He comes. Light. "Prepare the way of the Lord."

When Jesus returns to take His people to heaven, we must be ready. Spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our relationship with the Lord must be our own.

What do we want to be found doing when the Lord returns? Jesus is going to come back someday. The cry goes out...Let our lamps burn brightly until His return.