



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2011

“...Always be prepared to give an answer.” 1 Peter 3:15

**“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**

True faith always results in deeds, but the deeds do not justify us. Faith brings us salvation; active obedience demonstrates that our faith is real.

Responding in love, as we serve others, is being sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s prompting. During an emergency it is essential to respond with Christ’s eyes and heart.

During or after a disaster, people often search for meaning and hope amid the rubble of destroyed homes and lives. Those involved in a major disaster are forced to make a decision whether to become more devoted to their faith commitments, or to turn away from God in disappointment and anger.

How do we answer...**“Where was God”** during a disaster and does He really care?

Erwin W. Lutzer¹ says, “God does not delight in the suffering of humanity. Surely this would be consistent with His basic nature of caring about the world. It is not necessary for us to know God’s purposes before we bow before His authority. And the fact that we trust God even though He has not revealed the details is exactly the kind of faith that delights His heart.

Through the tragedies of others, we have the opportunity to be pried from our comfortable lifestyles and enter the suffering of the world.

Disasters help us to see what is truly valuable and what is not. Tragedy separates the trivial from the weighty, the temporal from the eternal.

Tragedies rid us of the overconfidence we often have that we are in control of our own destiny.”

¹ “Where Was God? Erwin Lutzer

FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE (FEPI)

Churches in major centres traditionally have not been formally integrated with the Municipal Emergency/Health Management Agencies. Uncontrolled mobilization and over response are thus common problems in emergencies. Due to lack of coordination and integration, well-meaning volunteers have difficulty with physical access to disaster areas and associated activities. They are blocked from delivering resources and services due to lack of proper credentials identifying them to serve in some official capacity.

When a disaster occurs, coordination of response is a critical and crucial factor. The benefits and means to a solution with responders/facilities identified and credentialed are critical steps to an effective church response. The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative offers the missing piece for a truly effective church response.

Major emergencies pose problems for resource management that are different from those in routine crisis events. Significant emergency responses may require the use of resources (personnel, facilities, supplies, and equipment) from multiple organizations and jurisdictions as well, may require the use of non-traditional resources.

Dear Ms. Pollon:

“When it comes to emergency management and emergency preparedness, we all have a role to play. Individual citizens and communities, academia, emergency first responders, the private sector, volunteer organizations, and all levels of government must work together to provide an effective and coordinated response to disasters.

I commend you and your initiative in strengthening the emergency preparedness and response relationship between faith community members and their local governments. Good partnerships based on effective collaboration, coordination and communication are a key component of effective emergency management systems.

Yours sincerely,

Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P. Minister Public Safety

(Shared with Permission)

“EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS... READY OR NOT!!”

Emergency Preparedness Week is an annual event that takes place during the first week of May. This national event is coordinated by Public Safety Canada. During this week, activities are organized across Canada to raise awareness of the importance of having an emergency kit; making an emergency plan; and identifying risks in the region.

This year Bridges of Love in support of [Emergency Preparedness Week](#) and the **Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative** invited **Dr. Arthur Bradley** – author, [“Handbook to Practical Disaster Preparedness for the Family”](#) to share his expertise.. Rocky Mountain College, Calgary and CrossRoads Church, Red Deer are co-sponsoring the sessions and are our hosts. Please join for a very informative time on how you and your family can be better prepared for any emergency.

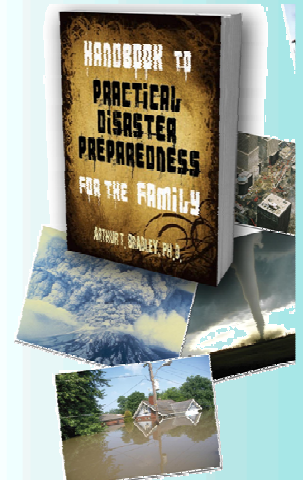
Rocky Mountain College – Calgary
April 30: 9:00 – Noon

CrossRoads Church – Red Deer
May 2: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

No cost but please register.

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Pre-order Session Price - \$20.00