



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2018

“OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME, AND ENLARGE MY TERRITORY!” 1 Chronicles 4:10

*Jabez cried out to the God of Israel,
“Oh, that you would bless me, and enlarge my
territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me
from harm, so that I will be free from pain.”
And God granted his request.*

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Jabez is remembered by a prayer request rather than by a heroic act. In his prayer, he asked God to bless him, help him in his work (enlarge his territory), to be with him in all he did, and to keep him from harm. Jabez acknowledges God as the focal point and reason for his work.

“Sometime around three thousand years ago, one of history’s great nobodies decided to pray. When he looked at himself and his circumstances, he saw no reason for hope. But when he prayed, he prayed the boldest, most hopeful prayer he could imagine. And God answered. God is still answering.

The prayer of a man named Jabez is motivating millions of people today to seek the Lord in a new way, to cry out to Him for blessing, and to reach for a larger life in His service. Are you one? Then you too are an answer to Jabez’s prayer. Once you see what God can do through His most ordinary servants, you’ll never want to slide back into mediocre living.

For too long, Christians have drastically underestimated God’s desire to bless them and work through them to accomplish His will in the world. If Jabez were around today, he’d be quick to tell you that the words of his little prayer hold no magical powers. But he would also tell you that if you want to experience God’s greater purpose for your life—no matter how unpromising your circumstances might be right now—you’re just a prayer away.”

Bruce Wilkinson
The Prayer of Jabez

Over a year ago, Bridges of Love’s Board of Directors, prayed the prayer of Jabez. We are ready to trust God to enlarge our territory?

Enlarging Bridges of Love’s Territory

For the past 14+ years, we were very fortunate of have our office located in St. John Lutheran Church (Bridgeland). It was indeed a special place where we were blessed and encouraged as we developed a ministry for God’s Glory. Our goal and passion to connect church and community through emergency preparedness and training evolved to where we are today.

During the 2013 Alberta Floods, the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) was activated. Finding accommodation for 24 flood volunteers was a quick yet effective process, due to information stored in our Church Contact and Resource database, compiled prior to the disaster. FEPI Churches provided facilities with showers, another church provided cots, and others shared hot meals and man-power. Good did indeed come from a catastrophe.

Grants from the Calgary Foundation provided an opportunity to test the waters for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. After nine successful CERT Summits across Calgary, the template is tested and proved beneficial, to share with other localities.

St. John Lutheran Church closed its doors last June. The new church owners are over-flowing with youth so needed additional space for Sunday school rooms. We have, therefore, been operating from our one bedroom condo since leaving our church office.

After a year of prayer and searching most communities across Southern Alberta, a possible site was found in Claresholm. This former law office has potential for Bridges of Love’s office, a CERT training center, as well as additional room for our residence. Our hope and prayer is that Bridges of Love can serve Calgary to Lethbridge from this central and high visibility location. [View](#)

This is truly a God sized project. We know disasters are on the rise, so there is urgency for communities, to be prepared and trained. We also believe God wants us to step out in faith to accomplish His agenda. We ask for your support to join us in prayer and action.



Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food stores with the hungry travelers.

The travelers go to a stream and fill the pot with water. A large stone is then dropped into the pot, and placed over a fire. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making “stone soup”, which tastes wonderful. They would be delighted to share with the villager, although it still needs a little bit of garnish which they are missing, to improve the flavor.

The villager, who anticipates enjoying a share of the soup, does not mind parting with a few carrots, which are added to the soup. Another villager walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not yet reached its full potential. The villager shares a little bit of seasoning. More and more villagers walk by, each adding another ingredient. Finally, the stone is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by travelers and villagers alike.

Moral of the Story...
By working together, with everyone contributing what they can, greater good is achieved.