



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – April, 2020

**“FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU; BE NOT DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD” Isaiah 41:10**



*Fear not,*  
**FOR I AM WITH YOU;  
BE NOT DISMAYED,**  
*for I am your God;*  
**I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU,  
I will help you,**  
**I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH  
MY RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.**



ISAIAH 41:10

The book of Isaiah is the first of the writings of the prophets in the Bible, and Isaiah, the author, is generally considered to be the greatest prophet. He was a strong and courageous man of God, fearlessly proclaiming His message ~ return, repent, and be renewed.

We are presently facing frightening circumstances with a Pandemic creating havoc and fear all over the world. As Christians, we are not immune to trouble, but we have the realization of God's presence. These are indeed confusing times, but God says, fear not as He is with us. We do not need to understand His ways as he is working by a completely different set of values. Eternal!

“I am your God.” He doesn't give us the answer, He gives us Himself and His strength when the load becomes too heavy. There is no way we can sink, He is holding us up with His hand, and with that same hand He takes hold of us.

It is easy to become dismayed, but we are to trust in God's redemption through Christ and rejoice.

~ John 3:16

## OF CHURCHES, PANDEMICS, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Fourteen years ago, a discussion paper was written, to address the threat of an Influenza Pandemic. [Of Churches, Pandemics, and Emergency Preparedness](#) a collaborative effort between Dr. Tim Foggin and myself, was written during a time when most were not overly concerned of such a risk to health and economy. Now that we are experiencing firsthand the outcomes from a novel virus, COVID-19, Tim's insight and knowledge into a pandemic threat, were indeed very accurate.



A door opened introducing Pandemic Preparedness to Christian Leaders throughout Canada. Tim and I were part of a National Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness and Response which took place in Winnipeg. This was a collaborative effort between the Mennonite University and the Centre for Disease Control. Following, a Regional Summit was planned, introducing pandemic planning to Faith Leaders across our Province. May 14 & 15, 2008 at Rocky Mountain College sixteen presenters from the Public, Private, Faith, and NGO communities came together to share their passion and expertise with 150 Christian leaders. This was a very effective time of collaboration between the various sectors with everyone building trust and working towards a common goal.

Excellent messages from the [Summit](#) were captured on video and audio and are still very relevant for the COVID-19. Andrew Nikiforuk, Dr. Rob Blackaby, Lt. Col. Irene Stickland, Dr. Rob Elford, and John MacDonald are available on our website. Please take a few moments to listen to Mike Schuster's song [“UNIFY”](#).

Practically Speaking...  
**How Can the Local Church Respond?**  
CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS

FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE (FEPI)  
Bridges of Love Ministry Society  
March, 2020

"So do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Churches have an opportunity like never before to put our faith into action. A pandemic is a civic responsibility that everyone needs to address but as followers of Christ, we are to be His example, as the shining light in our community. How does that play out individually as well as corporately as the body of Christ? Please join on a mission of joining hands with our Christian brothers and sisters to meet people where they are - our neighbours next door...



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