

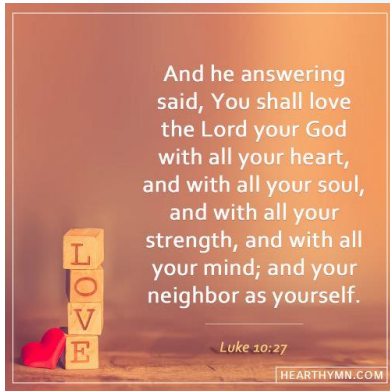


Bridges of Love

JANUARY, 2025



"TEACHER, HE ASKED, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?" Luke 10:25



The familiar parable of the Good Samaritan, begins with an expert in the law testing Jesus with the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asked, "What is written in the Law and how do you read it?"

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' was his answer."

Since the move to Red Deer, our office location is in the heart of the city, just down the street from the Homeless Shelter and the Addiction Recovery Centre. We have not advertised our ministry openly as there is so much need in this area, that we have honestly been afraid to let them know we were here! I am sure our response has not been what God called us to! We cannot help everyone, but we have been praying that God would place those we could assist in plain view, so a connection could be made to provide help in a meaningful way.

"**CROSSWALK**" a Bridges of Love program has been on the back burner for several years. We now feel it is time to launch this opportunity. Can you imagine churches engaged in an endeavour that regularly assists people who are suffering or struggling due to circumstances beyond their control? This is indeed an opportunity with the potential to fulfil the Greatest Commandment, to love God and our neighbour by providing a safe passage into our communities!

FELICIA'S FEATURE

"CROSSWALK"

Serving the Community through Compassionate Action

A new year brings new opportunities as well as continued challenges for many. Families and individuals may be facing loss of income, sickness, or depression that are often unseen and unspoken. Some are deeper issues, but other problems may just need a helping hand from someone who cares and can provide hope and bring light into the darkest moments. That's why "**CROSSWALK**", Bridges of Love's newest program has been created providing opportunities and open doors for the local church to support those who are going through hardships that are difficult to go through alone.

Crosswalk is about more than just providing resources, however—it's about creating lasting change through compassionate action. Since churches are the heart of this initiative, we invite interested members to engage from the start to shape and develop how best to structure this new program. For success, a broad base of passionate churches will be necessary so there will be many requests that may be forthcoming. Bridges of Love will provide the infrastructure, support, and help facilitate connections; to make the process as seamless as possible but we need your ideas, input and loving commitment!

As Galatians 6:2 reminds us, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Together, we can create a network of compassion that goes beyond church walls and truly uplifts our neighbours. The more we work together, the greater the positive change we can bring to those facing life's toughest moments.

RED DEER CERT SUMMIT



We are looking forward to introducing CERT to Red Deer and the surrounding area. As we spread our training across Alberta, we try to locate instructors from the region where the event will take place. If you know of anyone who might wish to be involved in our next training session, please ask them to give us a call. We are looking for professionals for the Disaster Medical Operations, Psychology of Trauma, Search & Rescue, and Fire Safety & Utility Controls modules. We offer CERT Train-the-Trainer instruction for any who wish to hone their skills and learn more about the CERT modules.



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