



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2024

"LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND" 1 Corinthians 13:4-8



MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY UPDATE

Our third road trip to Mountain View County, January 23 - 24 was another profitable and very enjoyable time. The focus was to visit the town offices to encourage their support for our upcoming CERT Canada Summit and to share posters and brochures with churches we missed on previous trips, schools, insurance companies, and grocery stores, all located in Carstairs, Cremona, Sundre, Olds, and Didsbury.



The church is composed of many types of individuals from a variety of backgrounds with a multitude of gifts and abilities. It is often the case, that these differences may cause people to be divided as in the case of Corinth. But despite the differences, all believers have one thing in common--faith in Jesus Christ. On this essential truth, the church finds unity! As members of God's family, we may have different interests and gifts, but we have a common goal.

As Valentine's Day draws near, this is a special time when we demonstrate our love in tangible ways for family, friends, and others we hold dear. We all appreciate a box of chocolates or a bouquet to celebrate this yearly tradition.

My husband Tom proposed marriage on this romantic day, February 14, 1968, and we are now in our 54th year of marriage! Our love has withstood the test of time with mountain-top and valley experiences! We are often asked what has kept us together through the ups and downs when divorce is so common.

Our response comes with the words "I WILL" spoken during our wedding vows which impacted our marriage and faith commitment.

"LOVE ALWAYS PERSEVERES"

The highlight for this short road trip was meeting the Council Members from St. Stephens Catholic Church who kindly invited us to share while we were in Olds. What a lovely group of people who gave their full attention to our short presentation. We came away feeling blessed by their warmth and hospitality. Thank you, Father Nilo, for this special opportunity!

Another commitment was made to our Alberta Government when we signed the Civil Society Fund grant contract in March 2022 in support of Bridges of Love project, **"The Power of Civil Society, moving at the Speed of Trust"**. We are in our final leg with only five months remaining to fulfil what we said we would accomplish! We cannot do this alone, however, as support is needed from the community!

MVC CERT SUMMIT

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."
—Dale Carnegie.

This Summit has been the most challenging of events due to facilitating it in a county that is not familiar with Bridges of Love programs and where we do not know the various communities.

Building trust and strong relationships takes time but unfortunately, with another Summit to complete before the end of June, we do not have the luxury of taking many months to build stronger relationships. We also felt it wise to have our instructors from Mountain View County so they could continue to train once we share our template so CERT teams would bring ongoing strength and resilience to the county.



Thank you in advance for your assistance in making this event a resounding success! We look forward to meeting soon!