



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – December, 2013

“BY WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT, AND BY UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED.” Proverbs 24:3

STORM WARNING

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus tells a parable that compares and contrasts two builders: one wise and one foolish. He emphasizes how critical it is to have a strong foundation. Building a house is simply an analogy for building a life. The two lives Jesus compares have things in common; they both build, they both hear Jesus' teaching, and they both experience the same set of circumstances in life. The difference between them isn't caused by ignorance but by one ignoring what Jesus said. Externally, their lives may look similar; but the lasting, structural differences will be revealed by the storms of life.

To build “on the rock” means to be a hearing, responding disciple. Practicing obedience becomes the solid foundation to weather the storms of life. Believers are not only to hear the truth but also to put it into **practice**. Commitment to love and to serve others is evidence of true faith. Keeping God's Command to “Love One Another” shows our faith is vital and real and we are overcoming our own selfishness.

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.”
Proverbs 24:3

MITIGATION IS MORE THAN INFRASTRUCTURE

This November, 2013 **ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES Stakeholders Summit** was held in Calgary. For the second year, I had the opportunity to attend and appreciated hearing from experts in the field.

Greg Weadick, Associate Minister for Recovery & Reconstruction, SE Alberta, opened the Summit with praise for the emergency agencies efforts during the recent floods but noted we still failed in personal preparedness.

It was also noted, that mitigation is more than infrastructure. It is essential to invest in emergency preparedness, training, planning and equipment. Mitigation should be transparent with community involvement.

Bryan Koon, Director of the **Florida** Division of Emergency Management stressed the importance of partnerships. In their region they help support NGO's and grass roots endeavours through education, and funding to make sure they are successful and able to assist with the greatest effectiveness when called upon.

Len MacCharles, Deputy Chief CEMA, one of the Key-note speakers, said there was concern for the cost of our new EOC in Calgary. When the floods came, however, the city was ready! “Expect returns on what we invest”

Ron Robinson, Director of Emergency Management, Medicine Hat gave mitigation efforts that are Reasonable, Achievable, and Sustainable?

- ✓ Invite Community Associations
- ✓ Develop Clear Risk reduction framework.
- ✓ Encourage stakeholders to sign up to the Risk Reduction campaign
- ✓ Promote active engagement of community members in using the informational resources
- ✓ Build partnerships in projects with local government, NGO's the private sector, etc. to make your local area safer.

Achievable Mitigation and Risk Reduction

- ✓ Advocate for increased urban risk reduction at the local level.
- ✓ Encourage greater involvement of local stakeholders in regional and international policy development
- ✓ Strengthen the links/relationship between NGO's local governments and community based organizations

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY REPOSE TEAMS (CERT)

The damage caused by natural disasters or from manmade/technological events can affect all aspects of a community. Individual preparedness, planning, survival skills, and mutual aid within neighbourhoods and worksites during this initial period are essential measures in coping with the aftermath of a disaster.

If available, emergency services personnel are the best trained and equipped to handle emergencies. Following a catastrophic disaster, however, you and the community may be on your own for a period of time because of the size of the area affected, lost communications, and impassable roads.

The purpose of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training is to provide the individuals who complete this course with the basic skills that they will need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. By working together, CERT members can assist in saving lives and protecting property using the basic techniques in this course. The target audience for CERT is individuals who desire the skills and knowledge required to prepare for and respond to disaster.

**“WORKING AS A TEAM,
PROTECTING ONESELF,
DOING THE GREATEST GOOD
FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER”**



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – November, 2013

“FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY...” 2 Timothy 1:7a (NIV)

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER



BEARING



TOGETHER



*“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”
2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)*

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you NOT to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Nelson Mandela
1994 Inaugural Speech



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – October, 2013

“SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE...” Galatians 5:13

*“You, my brothers, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge the
sinful nature, rather, serve one another in love.”
Galatians 5:13*

Paul distinguishes between freedom to sin and freedom to serve. Freedom to sin is no freedom at all, as it enslaves us to Satan. On the other hand, followers of Christ are free to do what is right to glorify God, through loving service to others.

For the past three months, Bridges of Love has engaged in helping those affected by the flood rebuilding efforts and other tragedies. One family lost their home and belongings due to a devastating fire. It has been a learning experience how best to assist and learning to listen through these difficult times.

Donations have been offered of every description and we recognize the care taken to offer items that are clean, appropriate for the need, and something we would want to receive ourselves. When we were at the beginning stage of matching donations with those in need, we received an email from Erin who had clothing and other items she wished to share.

A return email was sent to Erin, thanking her for posting her donation on our site, sharing we had a family who was in need of her kind contribution. Shauna's family had lost many of their belongings in the flood, as they had just moved into their home weeks before the disaster hit. Boxes in the basement had not yet been unpacked.

Erin had never met this family, so she wanted to make sure she provided items they really needed. After receiving clothing sizes for each of Shauna's six children, she spent a week putting together donations that were extra special with notes of encouragement attached. The extra love and attention shown was evident and greatly appreciated!

This is just one story of the many blessings received from people who knew how to serve one another in love. It has indeed been an out-pouring of sacrificial giving from individuals who expected nothing in return. Their only desire was to help hurting people through a devastating time. They may never meet the individuals and families they helped but God received the glory through their many acts of kindness.

THE STAR THROWER STORY

A story was inspired by the writing of Loren Eiseley. Eiseley combined the better of two cultures. He was a scientist and a poet. From those two perspectives he wrote insightfully and beautifully about the world and our role in it.

There was a wise man, much like Eiseley himself, who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He enjoyed a ritual, walking on the beach, before he started his work.

One day strolling along the shore, gazing down the beach that stretched for miles, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He began to walk faster to catch up. As he got closer, he realized it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing. He was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

Closing the distance between them, he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The young man paused, looked up and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back; they'll die!"

"Young man, don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You cannot possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Bending down, he picked up a starfish throwing yet another one into the sea, past the breaking waves.

"It made a difference for that one!"

His response surprised the man. He didn't know how to reply. So instead, he turned away and walked back to the cottage to begin his writing.

All day as he wrote, the image of the young man, crept into his thoughts. He tried to ignore it but the vision persisted. Finally, late in the afternoon he realized that as a scientist, and as a poet, he had missed out on the essential nature of the young man's actions.

He came to the conclusion that the young man was choosing not to be an observer but to make a difference in the lives of those starfish that he saved.

That is our challenge. We must each explore opportunities to find our own starfish.

"BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER - Bearing Together"

Reflecting on past disaster experiences is a necessary part of the healing process. Many have assisted through <https://alberta.recovers.org>

We wish to provide a venue to say thank you and meet those who have provided a helping hand and hear stories from those who have been assisted.



Speakers: **Len MacCharles**,
Deputy Chief, CEMA
Fred Weiss, President
BGEAC/Samaritan's Purse
Rev. Diane Beaman,
St. Benedict's Anglican Church -
High River, AB
Chris Kuryak - Chief Operations
Officer, RECOVERS

Open mic for others to share
their special experiences.

Date: Saturday, October 19
Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
(Light lunch provided)
Venue: McDougall Centre
455 - 6 St SW, Calgary, AB

Please R.S.V.P.

Bridges of Love Ministry
403.263.5683
margpollon@bridgesoflove.net



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – September, 2013

“Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two” Matthew 5:41

***And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.
Matthew 5:42-42 NKJV***

We have all heard and been part of remarkable stories since the Alberta floods. Painful times are usually doorways to new opportunities. Many acts of kindness and generosity have touched heart and soul!

Last week-end we were given an opportunity to help a family who had lost their place of residence and belongings due to a fire in their community. They were new immigrants to Canada so did not have an abundance of material belongings. It was, however, another difficult new beginning for their family.

We checked with our 2013 Alberta Recovers web site donor to see if her gift could go to this family instead of a flood victim. Mabel was more than pleased to help anyone who could use the furniture. New Beginnings Church stepped forward with help from Pastor's truck to pick up the donation in the NW and deliver to the NE. When Pastor Allan and his son arrived, Mabel offered additional items which would not fit in one load. Pastor Allan kindly offered to return for the second pick-up...going that extra mile.

A Muslim family has seen Christ's love in action, not only from Pastor Allan and Braden but also from a Catholic family who filled their two vehicles with many needed necessities and then personally delivered to this family of four.

Those who have assisted in various ways do not expect anything in return. They are doing it out of obedience to serve the Lord with love in their hearts. Giving is a fundamental principle of the Christian life. It is a matter of the heart. God creates within the Christian's heart a desire to give, and we derive great joy by fulfilling that desire.

A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS!



This look of amazement was caught on camera as a flood victim from Bridgeland was introduced to her gorgeous vehicle, donated and delivered by a Red Deer family.

Bridges of Love had the privilege of connecting three donated vehicles with two High River flood victims and one Calgary flood resident. Each was most grateful for the kind generosity of their <https://alberta.recovers.org> donor. What a blessing for all who were involved.



Bonnie (Donor), Ann (Recipient), Marg (BofL)

Relationships fostered during this disaster certainly reinforces that God turns bad situations into good; for His Glory. We had an opportunity to share the Canadian Bible Society booklet, ***“God is our shelter and strength – words of hope from the Bible”***, with those devastated by the flood. We also shared **CSB Bibles** with three families who lost their copies due to flood waters.

“BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER - Bearing Together”

Reflecting on past disaster experiences is a necessary part of the healing process. Donations posted through <https://alberta.recovers.org> have been matched with flood victim rebuilding needs. Not all donations have found a home, however, but we are available for the duration of the rebuilding phase.

We wish to provide a venue to say thank you and meet those who have shared and those who have had a helping hand. An opportunity to share stories will be given at...

“BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER - Bearing Together”

Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

Date: Saturday, October 19

Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Venue: McDougall Centre
455 6 St SW, Calgary, AB

R.S.V.P.

Bridges of Love Ministry
403.263.5683

margpollon@bridgesoflove.net





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – August, 2013

“Let us start rebuilding” Nehemiah 2:18

*“Let us start rebuilding”
So they began this good work.
Nehemiah 2:18*

One does not have to look far, to see people from all walks of life helping flood victims, in a multitude of ways. It has touched hearts and souls to witness such a large out-pouring of love and concern for those who have suffered through this devastating event. Assistance has been given by volunteers; knee high in mud filled basements, ladies making sandwiches by the hundreds to distribute to community workers, donations of clothing, household items, furniture, cars, and the list goes on and on...



Thank you to so many who contributed to the response, recovery and now through the re-building phase. Statistically, engagement in relief efforts decreases significantly, however, as time passes. We must, therefore, make a concentrated effort to keep the umbrella open, for as long as it takes, to care for those devastated by the 2013 Alberta Floods.

This crisis has caused great distress for so many residents all over the Province. Do we allow our circumstances to cause discouragement stealing joy and peace?

Our inner attitudes do not have to reflect our outward circumstances. It is easy to become discouraged but ultimate joy comes from Christ dwelling within us. Even though these are very challenging times, we can keep our eyes and focus on the Lord, and He will be our strength giving hope to carry us through.

<https://alberta.recovers.org>

God provides in such marvelous ways. Please allow me to share how He answered our plea for help...

Samaritan's Purse has been doing a marvelous job of mobilizing volunteers for the recovery efforts. Bridges of Love started matching needs with resources on our web site at the start of the flood disaster. If items offered could be utilized immediately, we suggest they call NeighbourLink, where it can be deployed for immediate use. Donations for later placement were tracked on our web site. The process of cataloguing the many items on our excel spread sheet was time consuming and provided no security for both donors and those in need.

Jill Browne's search to find a solution to track donations resulted in an introduction to RECOVERS web site. Due to a disaster in their home town and ensuing flood of donations, sisters Caitria and Morgan, had a plan. RECOVERS website is customized to track donations and volunteers with those who are in need. We are so appreciative for <http://alberta.recovers.org> making our matching process manageable.



RECOVERS is located in San Francisco. We are very grateful to our American neighbours kind generosity. Chris, Caitria, and Alvin dawn “Love Bee...ing Prepared” toques; even Marie Curie the rescue dog is ready for action! Terrific young people with a clear vision to make a difference. Please hear their inspiring story.

Caitria and Morgan O'Neill: How to step up in the face of disaster <https://recovers.org>

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

There have been many special stories as a result of the 2013 Alberta Floods. “Adopt-A-Family, Bearing with you” was inspired by a little 9 year old girl named Georgina.



Georgina's Mom posted on Facebook a photo of this pair of sad looking bears who were also victims of the High River flood. Until this time, her daughter had not realized children's lives were also affected by this disaster. When she heard children had also lost their precious possession, she decided to take action...

Georgina marched to her room, closing the door behind her. After some time, she emerged with her special collection of “Build-a-Bears” announcing she wanted to share her friends with children who lost their favorite teddies in the flood.

Rebuilding lives after losing hope is a difficult process. Through “Adopt-A-Family”, we are matching those who need a helping hand with those who can come alongside and assist more personally. Each child of the adopted family will receive one of Georgina's special bears. Register: “Adopt-A-Family”

<https://alberta.recovers.org>



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – July, 2013

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." Ezekiel 2:1

*"He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you."
Ezekiel 2:1*

God addressed Ezekiel by calling him "Son of man," emphasizing the distance between them. It is amazing that He chooses to do his divine will on earth through finite, imperfect beings, to serve Him.

Have you ever been driven to do something that you know God has called you to do which you know seems completely unreasonable to others? Are we willing to give even small gifts of **surrender**, to show our love is genuine?

Trusting God with our lives takes faith and perseverance to never give up. If He has called us to task it is not up to us to debate the issue. We are to be reckless—totally unrestrained and willing to risk everything—by casting our all upon Him.

Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen. We are assured that every hope or dream we have will be fulfilled if it is noble and of God.

One of the great stresses of life, however, is the stress of waiting on God. *He brings fulfillment, "because you have kept My command to persevere..." (Revelation 3:10).*



Perseverance means more than just hanging on, which may be only exposing our fear of letting go and falling. Oswald Chambers

GET PLUGGED IN...



BofL FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE (FEPI)

Become a three-tiered "BRIDGE" Partner



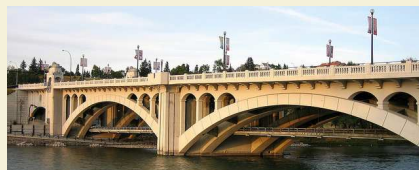
PEACE BRIDGE PARTNER

0 - 100 Church Members - \$101.00



STONEY TRAIL BRIDGE PARTNER

100 - 300 Church Members - \$201.00



CENTRE STREET BRIDGE PARTNER

Over 300 Church Members - \$301.00

+++++

BENEFITS – "FEPI BRIDGE" PARTNER:

- ♥ Framed FEPI "Bridge" Certificate
- ♥ FEPI Operations Manual
- ♥ Laminated 'Muster' Sign
- ♥ Integration with Calgary Emergency Management Agencies structure
- ♥ Coordinated "FEPI" Response
- ♥ Training

LOVE BEE...ING PREPARED, that none be left behind

APPLES

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a convention in Chicago. They assured their wives they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time...

ALL BUT ONE!

He paused, took a deep breath experiencing a twinge of compassion for the girl, whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, asking that one call his wife, to explain he would be taking a later flight. He returned to the spot where apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did!

The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! Tears ran down her cheeks in frustration. As she groped for her spilled produce, the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping or caring about her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor as he gathered up the battered and bruised apples. He pulled out his wallet saying, "please take \$40 for the damage. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...."

He paused and turned to look back.

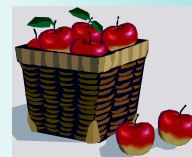
"Are you Jesus, she questioned?"

He stopped in mid-stride answering;

"No, I am nothing like Jesus!

He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place."

The girl nodded, "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help. Thank you for responding to His call..."





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – June, 2013

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” Ephesians 4:12

“A church rooted in the living Lord is a church that encourages people to move beyond their comfort zones and invest themselves in face-to-face, person-to-person, hands-on kinds of ministries.”

~George Gallup Jr.

Building bridges of love to our community is a two-way structure which requires visionary thinking and a strategic plan. The outcome will bring change and joy for those congregations who are up to the challenge. How do we move from personal agendas to kingdom causes?

“If spiritual maturity is defined in terms of living the life and serving the world, then most evangelical churches are, at best, investing in only the first half of the battle”

Today we need the additional investment of developing a process that equips people to serve better, not just live better. If not, we doom church members to a self-focused immaturity and place the church to the sidelines of the community.

There are very real obstacles making the transition from being served to serving, from finding community ‘in’ the church to impacting the community ‘as’ the church.

Dr. Robert Lewis, “The Church of Irresistible Influence,” found there were four primary roadblocks that one must personally overcome, in order to transition into ‘bridge’ building.

Obstacle #1 – Fear

If the church becomes serious about penetrating the community with God’s love, it will be costly. Change is inevitable so personal sacrifices are necessary.

Obstacle #2 – Confusion

By providing a clearly defined process for people to follow, confusion about the transition to ministry is reduced.

Obstacle #3 – Lack of Direction

When it comes to serving the kingdom, “*What are the options?*” People want to serve with purpose, meaning and fulfillment.

Obstacle #4 – Questions of Impact

This final obstacle is rooted in faith. As we look across a terrifying—and ever—widening—chasm, are we prepared to bridge the gap? Is the span that exists between the church and the community simply too vast and too intimidating?

Albertans told to prepare for more severe weather storms

Kevin Usselman

After dubbing Wild Rose Country the new natural disaster capital of Canada, the Insurance Bureau of Canada is urging government, business leaders and citizens to ramp up efforts to mitigate losses from storms and floods.

The CEO of the IBC, Don Forgeron, shares with the Chamber of Commerce luncheon; his message is simple; everyone needs to adapt to the changing climate.

Scientists predict because of rising global temperatures we are going to see a 10 per cent increase in severe weather between now and 2050.

660 News Meteorologist David Spence says every year some of the most intense hail storms in the country occur between Calgary and Red Deer and east towards Drumheller.

Over the past few years, Alberta has dealt with everything from hail storms and floods to wildfires. The IBC reports over the past four years insurers have paid out roughly \$670 million annually to Albertans, up from an average of \$100 million annually from the previous 15 year period.

Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association Serve Day

Is your church prepared to meet the needs of your community should a disaster occur in your neighbourhood? Are you connected with your neighbours in a meaningful way, where they feel comfortable asking for assistance should the need arise?



Bridges of Love Ministry provides resources and opportunities for the local church to connect with the community. If you do not have an activity for CEMA’s **Serve Day**, please consider handing out our emergency magnet with checklist. It is not too late and we’d love to provide this valuable opportunity, for your church to connect more intimately with your neighbours. Please join other churches who are looking forward to a special time engaging with their community.

DISASTER ALLEY, 2013

The weather could not have been nicer, with thousands attending Calgary Emergency Management Agency’s (CEMA) event, Disaster Alley 2013. It was a great opportunity for Calgary residents to become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the various emergency organizations. As well, individuals and families learned valuable lessons for taking care of themselves, for at least 72 hours.

Bridges of Love invited visitors to our booth to take a “Love Bee...ing Prepared” emergency quiz. We shared our emergency magnet and checklist as a thank you and reminder that Calgary churches are preparing to assist their communities in the event of a major disaster.



Don MacKenzie was on hand to demonstrate his expertise making toques on a loom. This activity was definitely a hit sharing toques with children and adults alike...



It was a wonderful day, ending with a visit from many, over a piece of “Love Bee...ing Prepared” cake.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – May, 2013

“WE ARE GOD’S FELLOW WORKERS, YOU ARE GOD’S FIELD, GOD’S BUILDING.” 1 Cor. 3:9

Inspiration is when your heart and soul get moved to the point of action.
Anonymous

A group of businessmen and women are riding up the side of a mountain in a gondola. It is unclear where they are going or why they are headed up the mountain, but it appears they are on their way to a meeting.

About halfway up, the gondola comes to a screeching halt. The car starts swinging back and forth high above the mountain.

The people start to panic, and the women start to scream.

One man speaks up and says, “It’s okay, guys—I’ve done a course on positive thinking. Positive thought makes a positive impact.”

He gets the others to start saying it with him: “Positive thought makes a positive impact. Positive thought makes a positive impact.”

But one man is skeptical. As he watches them panicking and chanting their mantra, he looks around and sees a green button. He pushes the button, and the gondola starts moving smoothly up the mountain again.

The Royal Bank of Scotland commercial ends with this phrase from a narrator:

“Talk is no substitute for ACTION.”¹

The great missionary J. Hudson Taylor said, *“Unless there is an element of risk in your exploits for God, there is no need for faith.”*

We all have a choice whether to live a safe and perhaps boring life or we can choose to follow our heart and live a life worthy of being called a child of the King. That is a life of significance—a life that takes risks for the sake of making a difference in the world.

The Boston bombing is a reminder of the risks we face. Out of the sorrow, however, we hear reports of heroic individuals who took action in the midst of the crisis; no matter what the cost.

“Our greatest fear should not be that we fail, but that we succeed in something that does not matter.”

Daniel Henderson

¹AWAKE, Noel Brewer Yeatts; BakerBooks, 2012

FREE ON-LINE COURSES

Basic Emergency Management (BEM)

This course provides an overview of emergency management in Alberta including the systems and processes for preventing, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and disaster. You will learn about the key provisions of the Emergency Management Act and have the opportunity to identify the roles and responsibilities of various levels of government and other key organizations involved in emergency management.

Exercise Design 100

This introductory self-study program will provide you with the basic concepts of exercise program management, including key terms and an overview of the exercise design process. Upon successful completion, you will be able to actively participate as a member of an exercise design team or program committee member.

ICS 100

The Incident Command System is a standardized management system used to organize and manage a scaleable response to emergency incidents of any magnitude. ICS 100 (Module 1) is intended as an introduction and overview of the ICS. It is intended for people who may be assigned to incidents in non-supervisory roles and as a prerequisite for students continuing on through other levels.

Emergency Social Services (Basic)

The Emergency Social Services Basic course was created by the Public Health Agency of Canada’s (PHAC), Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CEPR) in collaboration with the council of Emergency Social Services Directors.

- Emergency Lodging
- Emergency Food Services
- Emergency Clothing
- Personal Services
- Registration and Inquiry
- Reception Centre

Calgary Emergency Management Agency “DISASTER ALLEY 2013”



Participating Organizations

AEMA
Alberta Health Services EMS
Animal & Bylaw Services
ATCO Gas
Bridges of Love Ministry
Calgary Airport Authority
Calgary Fire Department
Calgary Police Service – Mounted unit
Calgary Police Service – Air Support
Calgary Search and Rescue Assoc.
Calgary Transit Operations
Calgary Transit Public Safety & Enforcement
Canada Task Force 2
ENMAX
Public Safety Communications
Red Cross
Salvation Army Food Unit
Samaritan’s Purse
STARS
St. John Ambulance



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – April, 2013

“YOU ALSO MUST BE READY...” Luke 12:40

“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Luke 12:40

Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Jesus repeatedly said he would leave this world but would return at some future time (Matthew 24; 25). Christ's return at an unexpected hour is not a way to catch us off guard, but because of His great love for each of us, his return is delayed so more people will have the opportunity to follow him. Before Christ's return, we have time to live out our beliefs and to reflect Jesus' love as we relate to others.

A Christian worker's greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not an easy task as our battle is not against sin, difficulties, or circumstances but against being so absorbed in our service to Jesus Christ that we are not ready to face Jesus Himself at every turn.

Being raised by a Godly Mom, I recall her words to be ready to meet Christ, at any time. She would caution her family about attending events, where if Christ should come, we would be not be ashamed or have regrets. Her words have stuck with me over the years and I still appreciate the example she set for her family.

People ready for their Lord's return are:

Not hypocritical, but sincere;
Not fearful, but ready to witness;
Not worried, but trusting;
Not greedy, but generous,
Not lazy, but diligent.¹
Who...
“Love One Another”

In Matthew 7:14, the gate that leads to eternal life is called “narrow.” This does not mean that it is difficult to become a Christian, but that there is only one way to live eternally with God and only a few who decide to walk that road.

Jesus taught us how to live through his life on earth. Knowing God takes faith, focus and follow-through.

Life Application Study Bible, New International Version, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Zondervan

“PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CAN PROVIDE A POTENTIALLY LIFE-SAVING IMPACT ON YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.”

11 Reasons for Your Church to Engage in Disaster Relief by Dr. Paul Williams

1. Churches inspire trust providing a setting in which many people come to know and trust each other.
2. Worship services provide necessary communication channels with a setting where information can be disseminated and education and training can happen. *(FEPI Churches are community Muster sites)*
3. Churches know how to mobilize volunteer leadership.
4. Churches can identify special needs parishioners. *(Churches connected with their communities, can identify the vulnerable)*
5. Churches establish compassionate ministries.
6. Church buildings can function as a community shelter. *(In Calgary, 15 churches have been assessed so are ready to open their doors as Reception Centers at a moment's notice)*
7. Churches provide comfort and spiritual solace. *(Trained volunteers can serve and respond in many areas)*
8. Churches can network with community disaster response efforts. *(BofL has built relationships with Municipal, Provincial and Federal Emergency Agencies forming the FEPI Advisory Council)*
9. Churches teach their people to share their faith. *(FEPI churches are ready to give an answer if asked why they are assisting during a disaster situation)*
10. Churches can take an active role in cooperating with local disaster response organizations. *(BofL secured a Service Agree with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency in May, 2011)*
11. A church can cooperate with churches and compassionate ministries. Networks of churches working together in compassionate ministries before disaster strikes will be much more effective through their combined efforts in the wake of a disaster or crisis. *(FEPI)*

“LOVE BEE...ING PREPARED” That none be left behind

Bridges of Love warmly thanks Don MacKenzie for his kind generosity. Little did he know, his gift of knitting looms for toques, would result in over 400 “Love Bee...ing Prepared” toques being made and shared with many. Don not only provided the tools but he recently cashed in his “pennies” to present Bridges of Love with six large balls of wool! Thank you Don.



You might be wondering who is knitting up a storm with all this wool! Marg has bee...n busy but Susanne Ostrander has taken over as ‘Queen’ of toques. Thank you Susanne for all your great work!

Bridges of Love will have a booth at the Calgary Emergency Management Agency's (CEMA) Disaster Alley May 5. Look forward to seeing you at the new location at McMahon Stadium's east parking lot.

Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association (CEMA) SERVE DAY
June 8-9

If your church is participating please consider distributing emergency magnets and resources. Give us a call to learn more.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2013

"MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU." John 15:12

*"A **new command** I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*

Of the two instances when Jesus used the word "command" the first was in His final message when He gave the New Command to the disciples at the Last Supper (John 13:34).

The second instance was when He gave His final charge—the Great Commission—to His disciples just before His ascension (Matthew 28:19-20).

Gaylord Enns poses the question... "Have we missed the significance of the New Commandment Jesus gave each of His followers?" Due to his extensive Biblical study writing "Love Revolution," it revealed a stunning omission in his own thinking. Gaylord attended church all his life, yet in his training, in years of personal study and in decades of teaching others, he could not remember being taught or teaching others this basic truth. **"Love one another"** was Jesus' Command—the One Command He owned as "His." He concludes, how could he possibly have missed something so clear, so obvious and so simple?"

Early Christians had a treasure—the Command given them by Jesus. They loved each other deeply. This love was clearly seen in the scriptural record of those early years.

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were saved." (Acts 2:44-47)

As time passed, however, their love for one another was tested and over the decades that followed, their attention drifted from the Command Jesus had given them.

Thus, a core commandment of Christian discipleship faded from the vision of the early church fathers. Enns shared, the unfortunate irony was that the goal of orthodoxy was to keep Christianity authentic. Yet the very mark of authenticity that Jesus had given them was lost, even as they pursued this noble goal.

MISSION FEST ALBERTA, 2013



Bridges of Love appreciated and enjoyed sharing our message of love with many at Edmonton's Mission Fest. The high-lite of the week-end began when a frail, seemingly defeated young woman passed our booth. I had spoken briefly to the gentleman who accompanied her the previous day and learned he was part of a recovery program. He relayed how well he was doing and was obviously very proud of his progress. He now returned with his girl-friend so perhaps she could connect with other Christians and experience a similar transformation.

On two occasions this couple passed our booth and each time she exclaimed her delight for the colourful toques. She did not stop to talk but commented quietly as they hurried by. I felt God's tug to go after her as she made her way down the aisle.

Tapping gently on her shoulder, I asked if she would like a little toque containing a jar of honey labeled, "God's Sweet Love."

Her eyes spoke such sadness but a little smile came to her lips and she said, "Really, for me?" Tears began to fill her eyes. She hugged me so tightly that she dropped the little bag, with the honey jar shattering, as it hit the floor.

As I hurried back to our booth to retrieve another bag, this experience was a strong reminder that we can not overestimate the value or overemphasize the significance, of the core commandment of authentic Christian faith and practice.

And this is his [God's] commitment:

**To believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
And to **LOVE** one another as he [Jesus]
commanded us. 1 John 3:23**

Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association **SERVE DAY** June 8 - 9, 2013

It was with excitement and appreciation that Bridges of Love learned the plan of a Calgary church to distribute the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative magnet as part of their "Serve Day" week-end. What a great idea and one that gives 'synergy' to CEMA's...

**"Better Together - United in Purpose -
Serving our City"**

Synergy is the cooperation of multiple elements to produce a result greater than the sum of their individual effects. The term **synergy** comes from the Greek word *synergia* συνεργία from *synergos*, *συνεργός*, meaning "working together".

Would you consider this initiative as your "Serve Day" event? What a sign of the body of Christ being 'united in purpose' delivering a postcard sized magnet (below). The message -- their local church is ready to serve, not only one week-end a year, but coordinated to respond to their emergency needs, any time... A great outreach event for youth groups!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

Being prepared for any emergency is only sound planning. With emergencies happening more often and with greater severity, churches across Calgary are working towards a coordinated approach to community care. Having a collective response will generate a shared understanding of capabilities within a community. There is a need for each of us to contribute; as no one organization can manage a disaster.

CITY EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	9-1-1
City Services	3-1-1
Community Connections	2-1-1
Non-Emergency Police	403-266-1234
Poison Centre	1-800-332-1414
Health Link Alberta	1-800-408-5485
Disaster Services	1-800-272-9600
Canadian Red Cross	1-800-800-6493
Alberta Children's Hospital	403-229-7070
NeighbourLink Calgary	403-264-5976
Salvation Army Canada	1-416-425-2111

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY

Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative Coordination Centre
204 - 6A St. NE Calgary, AB T2E 4A5

Should an emergency occur in your community and you are unable to connect with a City Emergency Agency, please give our Faith Coordination Centre a call. Depending on the nature of the need, a FEPI church in your community will do their best to assist.

Office: 403.263.5683 - 24 hr: 403.616.0536
emergency@bridgesoflove.net

Serve Day - www.cemainfo.com



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2013

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young..." 1 Timothy 4:12

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity"

1 Timothy 4:12

Without trying we model our values. As parents in particular, we demonstrate to our children what we consider important and valuable. Children often follow our life-styles, repeating our successes and failures.

Timothy is a prime example of one who was influenced by godly relatives. Timothy became Paul's protégé and as a young minister at Ephesus, he faced all sorts of pressures, conflicts, and challenges from the church and his surrounding culture.

Timothy seemed to struggle with a naturally timid character and sensitivity to his youthfulness. Unfortunately, many who share Timothy's character traits are quickly written off as too great a risk to deserve much responsibility. By God's grace, Paul saw great potential in Timothy. Paul demonstrated his confidence in Timothy by entrusting him with important responsibilities.

This past month, my husband and I accompanied a youth group from Emmanuel Community Church as they delivered resources for Bridges of Love's Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative. It was indeed a blessing to see these youth, nervous but excited to serve, connect with their community through this endeavor. It was an excellent experience for their leader, Wendy Coughlan, the parents who accompanied the youth on the walk and for Tom and myself who witnessed first hand, many years of prayer and preparedness, come to fruition.

Dawned in their "Love Bee...ing Prepared" toques, they seized the opportunity with humble spirits and clear understanding, why they were engaged in this out-reach activity.

Informing, supporting and empowering our youth will give added confidence and determination to stand firm in their faith. Bridges of Love thanks and applauds Emmanuel Community Church and other FEPI Churches who will be meeting their community where they live. We look forward to more stories from their experiences as they fulfill God's Greatest Commandment – 'Love the Lord and our neighbour.' (Matthew 22:36-39)

Hats off to all and toques on...

Enhancing Community Resilience by Informing and Empowering Youth

J. David Durrant (Cumberland Now)

Community resiliency is augmented when children and youth are educated in preparedness and response (Twigg 2004). Children and youth are also less burdened by social inhibitions and outright discrimination, and are quick to form bonds with their peers, regardless of class, race or religion, [thus] they have the ability through this characterization, to increase awareness of risks and hazards within a culture of "it won't happen here" or "doesn't affect me (UNICEF 2005)."

Studies published by UNICEF (2004) clearly document the ability of children and youth to actively participate in urban and environmental planning, contributing enthusiasm, creative ideas, and a willingness to cooperate.

When children learn about hazards' type and frequency, and how to protect themselves, they also learn that they do have the power to help themselves, no matter what adults around them may think (Finnis et al, 2004). Knowledge of protective behaviour will decrease children's vulnerability when alone or unsupervised, and will decrease their family's vulnerability, because the children could act independently. Community resilience can be enhanced when we inform, empower and enable youth.

I read this article many months ago but it did not strike a cord until I spent an evening with the Emmanuel Community Church youth group and witnessed first hand their enthusiasm and interest in emergency preparedness and handing out emergency resources to their community. They were indeed a 'breath of fresh air' and great kids with servant hearts.

A few comments from the youth who made connections with their neighbours...

"They were really nice people who listened to what we were saying..."

"There was the odd person who was not as interested since it was church related but most appreciated that help was coming from a church in their community."

"Some people were skeptical when they heard we were from the church but after we shared that we wanted to help during a disaster they were grateful. I think it is important to let them know we are from a church!"

"A few asked if they had to pay for the materials but when they heard it was free, they were happy."

LOVE BEE...ING PREPARED ~ That none be left behind

How can we be better informed to prepare our home and family in the event of a disaster? How do we make a disaster preparedness plan? What supplies should we include in a 72 hr. kit? Who do we call when systems are over-whelmed and we are not able to access public emergency agencies?

These questions and many others are answered in Alberta Health Services ["Personal and Family Disaster Preparedness Guide"](#) which was distributed to a West Dover community along with a post card sized Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) fridge [magnet](#) with Calgary's Emergency Agency's phone numbers as well as Bridges of Love's FEPI Coordination Centre's contact information.

Twelve enthusiastic youth, grades 7 to 12 from Emmanuel Community Church youth group lead by Wendy Coughlan, braved the cold and dawned their "Love Bee...ing Prepared" toques to personally deliver valuable emergency information to their community. Neighbours were very pleased to learn a local church partnered with Bridges of Love Ministry Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative to be coordinated and ready to assist; should a disaster occur.





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – January, 2013

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." 1 John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

Light represents what is good, pure, true, holy and reliable while darkness represents what is sinful and evil. In the dark, good and evil look alike; in the light, they can be clearly distinguished. God is light and perfectly holy and true. To belong to God we must walk in the light turning away from sinful ways.

As we step into a new year, it is often the custom to set goals and resolutions leaving unhealthy lifestyles and habits behind. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour we rise to a new life of fellowship with him overcoming darkness and sin.

Recently, we have been broken by the senseless deaths that took place in Connecticut at the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting. Innocent lives were violated by an action that was without understanding. With each crisis our world seems a little darker with hopelessness invading our lives.

Little can be said to ease the pain of those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Grieving hearts—sharing pain can only be touched by other grieving hearts realizing that any answer must begin with personal compassion and a broken heart.

In his book, *Holy Ambition*, Chip Ingram asks tough questions that bring us to the reality of how far we may have drifted from walking in the light.

How do you we react to bad news?

How do we deal with those times when something is going on in the world that threatens our way of life or our comfort zone? When was the last time we prayed, mourned, and fasted after hearing a report about God's will not being fulfilled in His church?

When was the last time we wept after news about the plight of people in need?

When was the last time we were emotionally, even viscerally, disturbed when we heard about injustice, suffering, or God's people operating in a way that was contrary to the clear, written will of God?

"Walk in the light" means that everything that is of the darkness actually drives one closer to the center of the light.

Oswald Chambers

Faithful Action

Working with Religious Groups in Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery

Center for Religion and Civic Culture
University of Southern California
November 2012

"Over the past decade, there has been increasing interest among public officials to engage the faith-based sector. This increase in both desire and mandate to work with faith-communities has not been adequately supported with the requisite knowledge, cultural competencies, and religious literacy to deal with the complexities of the many different faith-communities and the resulting myriad of organizational expressions in the United States. In fact, many government efforts see congregations solely as locations from which to execute government initiatives, source individual volunteers, or perhaps provide shelter during an emergency. Congregations are not understood as a system with unique institutional attributes, substantial underutilized assets, and organizational partners that can be more fully harnessed in times of crisis.

Similarly, congregations across the religious and political spectrum are simultaneously interested in, and cautious about, engagement with public officials. While they work to meet the needs of their congregants and their surrounding communities, and in some cases may have a more global perspective, many remain wary of partnerships with public agencies because of legitimate concerns about government intrusion into the lives of their congregations, or historic experiences of partnerships gone awry.

*However, if the sustainable involvement of congregations can be **systematized**, there is great potential to increase their engagement and effectiveness in disaster preparedness and response. Understanding the capacity and capabilities of congregations and envisioning what they might be able to do with more training and sustained support represents an important step. Addressing mutual concerns and closing the knowledge gap that exists between faith communities and government will also enhance partnerships. Addressing this critical link in the emergency management and public health emergency chain will enable congregations, FBOs, and government efforts to more effectively and efficiently work together during times of crisis."*

www.bridgesoflove.net/FaithfulAction2012.pdf

LOVE BEE...ING PREPARED ~ That none be left behind

Churches are invited to participate in an out-reach activity that could save lives. Calgary churches of various denominations will soon deliver small postcard sized magnets with a valuable message to their neighbours.

"Please place this magnet on your fridge and if you need assistance during a disaster, you will find the city emergency numbers as well as contact information for Bridges of Love's Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) Coordination Centre. This is an alternate number to contact when emergency agencies are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the many demands for their services."

We are grateful to [Alberta Health Services](#) for sharing their Personal and Family Disaster Preparedness Guide, to assist with preparedness planning.



We are pleased to also offer the magnets in Chinese, Punjabi and Hindi for those neighbours who would like the information in their own language. We appreciate the kind assistance of the Calgary Chinese Baptist Church and the Calgary Punjabi Church who did the translation. Thank you.

Please give us a call if your church would like to participate in "Love Bee...ing Prepared"
403.263.5683