



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – December, 2020

“FEAR NOT; FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY, THAT WILL BE FOR ALL PEOPLE.” Luke 2:10 (NIV)



The greatest event in history just took place! The Messiah was born! The shepherds were terrified, but their fear turned to joy as the angels announced the Christ-child.

Our first picture of Jesus is as a baby in a manger, which is the subject of a beautiful Christmas scene, but we must not leave Him there. This tiny, helpless baby lived an extraordinary life, died for us, ascended to heaven, and will return to earth as King of Kings. Christ will rule the world and judge all people according to their decision to serve Him.

What is our reaction to Christ's return? Do we experience fear and anxiety about what will happen, or are we filled with joy and anticipation of Jesus' return?

Accepting Jesus as the only way to God the Father, asking for forgiveness of our sins, assures we are part of His Family and we will spend eternity in Heaven. There is no reason to fear the Day of Judgment, as our eternal future in glory, has already been secured.

Very thankful we can have that assurance we are saved through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ~ ***“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”***

Warmest Christmas Greetings,

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for God's faithfulness and protection! Having the assurance of a Saviour who is in control of all things during this challenging time, brings renewed hope. As another year ends, we are so very thankful for health, family, friends, colleagues, and the ministry God has entrusted to our care.

Our new High River office and operations/training centre continues to serve us well. What a difference it has made to have space dedicated to our ministry. We can hold small events and meetings with relative ease due to our furnishings flexibility, which can be arranged in various configurations, depending on the event.

The beginning of October, we had our first event, CERT Train-the-Trainer. Three gentlemen attended who already had expertise and experience, but wished to hone their skills with a sincere desire, to give back to the community. Evaluation results were encouraging to repeat CERT T-T-T.

Exciting news from Mount Royal University was recently received, announcing Bridges of Love acceptance into their Community Service Learning Project! Starting in January, a supervised team of students will provide practical hands-on, campaign materials and support covering social media campaigns, web content development, videos, brochures, etc. A wonderful opportunity to refine our communication and marketing resources.

We are very pleased to welcome High River Alliance Church as part of our Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI). They have also kindly offered to have our next CERT Summit in their church allowing for a larger number of attendees.

May your Christmas be filled with joy, peace, and thanksgiving as we celebrate the greatest gift of all time!



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – November, 2020

“GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS” John 15:13



In those final hours just prior to Christ's crucifixion, Jesus was with those that were his dearest and closest friends. Friends who had given up everything to walk with Him--friends who had eaten, slept and marched with Him for three and a half years.

We often define LOVE as an emotion but the Bible describes love as a sacrificial ACTION. While it is rarely necessary to die for the sake of another, genuine love usually involves some level of sacrifice. As Christians, we are to show unconditional, selfless love for others—just as Jesus did for us.

As Remembrance Day approaches, we are reminded of the great price and sacrifice our soldiers paid, for our freedom.

“They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

*For the Fallen,
Laurence Binyon*

More than 2,300,000 Canadian soldiers have served through our nation's history and over 118,000 have made the ultimate sacrifice.

LEST WE FORGET!

CERT Train-The-Trainer

October 5-6, 2020 Bridges of Love held its first Community Emergency Response Team Train-The-Trainer session. This additional training for perspective instructors, is for individuals who already have some formal education in one or more of our basic training modules, who desire to hone their teaching skills and become better acquainted with the CERT material.

How very fortunate we were to have a very skilled trainer who conducted the educational sessions for our CERT T-T-T. Judy McMillan-Evans shared her knowledge and years of experience making the sessions both entertaining and fun! She really brought the best out in each of us and challenged our teaching skills to reach beyond the normal methods traditionally used. Judy is not only a fantastic leader and educator but a great example of an instructor who exhibits grace, humility, and sacrifice.

Three very experienced students spent two days honing their skills for instructing. As well, they were given an over-view for the 8 modules included in the basic CERT training. Since we had such experienced individuals we gave them a module to teach for the second day. Even though it was short notice, they each did an excellent job! We are very fortunate to welcome Al, Cam, and Andrew as very capable instructors for CERT Basic Training.



GIVING TUESDAY The Global Day of Giving

Canada, join us for the 8th Annual Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday harnesses the potential of social media and the generosity of people around the world to bring about real change in their communities. Across Canada, Giving Tuesday unites communities by sharing our capacity to care for and empower one another.

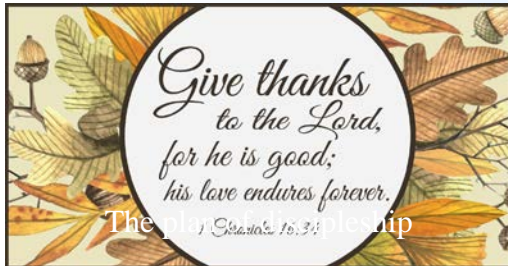




BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – October, 2020

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER. 1 Chronicles 16:34



In 1 Chronicles 16:34-36, we find David's psalm of thanks. This song tells us that we are to give thanks for Thanksgiving.

Two of God's primary characteristics are celebrated in this verse: His goodness and His love. Because God is good, our existence and worship should revolve around giving thanks. When we recognize and affirm his goodness we are holding up his perfect moral nature; focusing on God's power, mercy, majesty, and love.

This past week, Bridges of Love celebrated our Grand-opening for CERT Canada's new headquarters. We are so very thankful God provided a venue to continue building Bridges of Love. It has not been an easy road, but God has been faithful. We look forward to serving Him with continued passion and determination.



COMMENTS FROM JOHN BARLOW, MP GRAND-OPENING OF BRIDGES OF LOVE

Congratulations on the Grand Opening of your Canadian Headquarters right here in High River. I am sorry I couldn't be there today to celebrate with you, but please know how much I support the important work you do to strengthen our communities.

We should all be proud of the tremendous contributions made by Bridges of Love. They play a vital role through offering sessions to assist church and community to care for themselves, their families and their neighbours doing the greatest good for the greatest number. This new facility will allow even more families and communities to learn and grow.

Our communities are better places because of the work of Bridges of Love. This centre will have a real impact on the day-to-day lives of the residents of Foothills.

After a disaster, people want to help. Bridges of Love's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, assures a safe and effective community response.

Out of the darkest situations, there can be many bright lights that demonstrate the kindness, generosity, compassion and sense of good that comes with living in a small community. Their strong spirit and resolve to help those in need is an example for all. This is something I admire and whole heartedly support.

But this is just the beginning. The grand opening is a symbol of the possibilities still to come, and the achievements that will take place right here.

I once again extend my profoundest congratulations to all of those individuals that played an integral role to make this possible

I would like to offer my thanks and good wishes to everyone who has had a hand in bringing the Bridges of Love to Foothills.



WHEN: October 5-6, 2020

WHERE: #5 - 609 Centre St.
SW High River, AB T1V 2C2

TIME: 8 am - 4:30 pm
Evening: 7:00 am - 8:30 pm

REGISTRATION FEE - \$49.00

REGISTER: 403.649.0087

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Ideal students will already have training (qualifications) in one of the Basic CERT Training modules.

Fire Safety & Utility Controls
Search & Rescue
Psychology of Trauma
CERT Organization
Disaster Preparedness
Disaster Medical Operations
(Units 1 & 2)
CERT & Terrorism

PANDEMIC PROTECOL

Number attending will be limited to comply with COVID - 19 protocol. With Registration, a CERT mask (\$10 value) will be included, for optional wear.





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – September, 2020

ENTRUST TO RELIABLE PEOPLE WHO WILL ALSO BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH OTHERS” 2 Timothy 2:2

2 Timothy 2.2

...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The plan of discipleship

We know discipleship is a very important step in the life of any believer, but especially critical as a new believer. Christians are designed to grow!

Jesus commands us to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). We need to formally disciple others so growth comes easily and is enjoyable without frustration due to ignorance and hopelessness.

In the initial stages of being a follower of Jesus Christ, it is necessary for the immature Christian to be watched closely and cared for by Godly teaching and modeling. As the new believer grows in knowledge of God's Word, former problems disappear.

The mature Christian is refined over a longer period of time. Their spiritual roots grow deep as they come to know God more intimately. Mature Christians should bear fruit which shows itself in several areas of life: more Christ-likeness, serving others, and use of their spiritual gifts to equip the body of Christ.

Discipling takes a believer, at any stage of his/her growth, and shepherds them through a learning and doing, until they are qualified to do it for another new believer.

Jesus was the master disciple, and His success was shown by the rapid growth of the church. After Jesus' death there were only 120 believers but within weeks the number had grown to thousands. God wants us to follow that pattern, so that we can maximize our impact, on the world.



Just as we need to make disciples to see growth and maturity in the body of Christ, it is also necessary to train qualified men and women to produce competent instructors for the CERT Basic Training course.

Course Overview:

- A competent CERT instructor delivers the CERT Basic Training course accurately, conveying the messages and intent of the CERT Program (e.g., safety, teamwork, place in overall community emergency operations plan)
- A competent instructor assures that participants achieve the objectives of the CERT Basic Training course.
- A competent CERT instructor delivers training effectively and at an appropriate level, thus enabling participants to learn and correctly apply skill sets.
- A competent instructor creates a comfortable yet managed learning environment.

OVERALL COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the *CERT Basic Training* course.
2. Demonstrate the ability to present an assigned portion of the course (teach-back).
3. Communicate the core values of the program.
4. Demonstrate classroom management techniques.
5. Demonstrate effective teaching techniques.
6. Model appropriate behavior as an instructor.

BRIDGES OF LOVE FIRST CERT TRAIN-THE- TRAINER COURSE

WHEN: October 5-6, 2020

WHERE: #5 - 609 Centre St.
SW High River, AB T1V 2C2

TIME: 8 am - 4:30 pm
Evening: 7:00 am - 8:30 pm

REGISTRATION FEE - \$49.00

REGISTER: 403.649.0087

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Ideal students will already have training (qualifications) in one of the Basic CERT Training modules:

- ✓ Disaster Medical Operations (Units 1 & 2)
- ✓ Fire Safety & Utility Controls
- ✓ Psychology of Trauma
- ✓ Search & Rescue
- ✓ CERT Organization (ICS)
- ✓ Terrorism
- ✓ Disaster Preparedness

Questions

Marg @ 403.649.0087

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Number attending will be limited to comply with COVID - 19 protocol. With Registration, a CERT mask (\$10 value) will be included, for optional wear.





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – August, 2020

“THOSE WHO WAIT ON THE LORD...SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT” Isaiah 40:31



There is no great thrill in walking, yet it is the test of our steady and enduring qualities. To 'walk and not faint' is the highest stretch possible as a measure of strength. The word walk is used in the Bible to express the character of a person—God does not say, "Be spiritual," but He says, "Walk before Me..." (Genesis 17:1). Oswald Chambers

Last summer my husband suffered a heart attack which followed with triple by-pass surgery. The doctor's orders were clear for recovery...a steady walking schedule! I recall the exhaustion he experienced, during our first outing, making it just a very short distance. Over the months, however, as we kept at a steady regime, he gradually regained strength and increased his endurance.

Trusting and hoping in the Lord is expecting that His promise of strength will help us to rise above life's distractions and difficulties. Can we relax, confident that His purposes for our lives are right? As with an eagle, God makes us go through harsh trials of endurance and change. This is necessary to shape our Christian character and faith. In such times, we need to unite with the Lord like strands of rope by waiting upon Him. This unity renews our strength.

Being grounded on the truth of the reality of God's presence, not just a simple awareness, but an understanding of the reality, continually keeps the Lord before us. We will not fear, as we realize He has been with us all the time! God will never leave behind His children, but He wants to renew our strength. Wait upon the Lord and we will soar like an eagle!

WHY USE A MASK (COVID-19)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Albertans are encouraged to wear non-medical masks in public at all times when it's difficult to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.

Wearing a homemade or non-medical mask in public is another tool to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. It hasn't been proven that masks protect the person wearing it, but it can help protect people from being exposed to your germs.

Masks should complement – not replace other prevention measures. Continue physical distancing and good hand hygiene, and stay home when sick.

When to use a mask:

- When it is difficult to maintain 2 metres distance from people for a prolonged period of time such as in:
 - Public transit and airplanes
 - Grocery stores & pharmacies
 - Hair salons and barbershops
 - Some retail stores
- Masks can become contaminated on the outside or when touch with hands
- It's important that masks are used and disposed of properly. If worn incorrectly, one can accidentally spread infection instead of preventing it.

What to do:

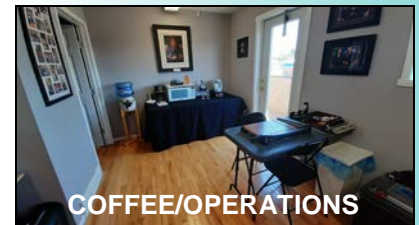
- Wash or sanitize your hands:
 - Before putting it on
 - Before taking it off
 - After taking it off
- Inspect the mask, holding it by the ties or loops and discard if damaged or dirty
- Tighten with ties or ear loops to reduce gaps
- Keep nose, mouth, and chin covered
- Remove if wet, torn or dirty and dispose in a lined garbage bin.
- Store cloth masks in a sealed bag until it can be washed in hot, soapy water.

What not to do:

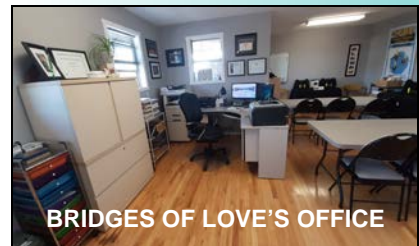
- Don't touch your face under the mask
- Don't touch the front of the mask – remove or adjust using the ties or ear loops
- Don't wear it under your nose or your chin
- Don't wear a wet, dirty, or torn mask
- Don't wear the same mask for a long period
- Do not share your mask with anyone else

BRIDGES OF LOVE OFFICE/OPERATIONS

#5-609 Centre St. SW
High River, AB T1V 2C2
403.649.0087



COFFEE/OPERATIONS



BRIDGES OF LOVE'S OFFICE



CERT TRAINING



CERT CANADA AFFILIATES



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – July, 2020

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU" Jeremiah 29:11

**"For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
hope and a future."**

–Jeremiah 29:11



Oswald Chambers shares in his devotional "Utmost for His Highest", *that living a life of faith means never knowing where we are being led*. Faith requires, however, loving and knowing the One who is leading. It is literally a life of trust, not of understanding and reason—a life of knowing Him who calls us to go. Faith is rooted in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the biggest traps we fall into, is the belief that if we have faith, God will surely lead us to success in the world.

Chambers says the final stage for a life of faith is the attainment of character with many changes in the process. A life of faith is not one glorious mountaintop experience after another, but it is a day-in and day-out consistency; a life of walking without fainting.

Jeremiah 29:11 says God has a plan to prosper and not harm—plans to give hope and a future. Since He knows the future, and provides the agenda and goes with us as we fulfill His mission, we can have boundless hope. It does not mean we will be spared pain, suffering, or hardship, but that God will see us through to a glorious conclusion.

We are indeed trusting God as we continue to build Bridges of Love; for His wise plan to unfold as we follow Him in a new facility and locality. In this challenging time when many businesses are either closing their doors or down-sizing, Bridges of Love is taking a giant leap of faith; seeking His direction with on-going commitment and determination.

What we see as only the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself.

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY

2nd Floor, Unit 5 - 609 Centre Street SW
403-649-0087 ~ www.bridgesoflove.net



July 1, 2020 marks the beginning of our 18th year serving through Bridges of Love Ministry. It has indeed been a time of spiritual growth as we trusted God for His agenda to unfold. Who could have imagined the road we have travelled and the special and exciting setting we now find the ministry.

July 1st is the day, we formally take over the lease of our new Bridges of Love office and CERT Canada Operations, Training, and Logistics Centre. We know this is God's choice for the continued growth of the ministry He has entrusted to us. We continue to build a firm foundation and structure including up-to-date resources to share with individuals and organizations across Canada.



During our start-up phase, three years were devoted to developing the Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI). Pandemic Preparedness was our initial focus, building relationships of trust with all levels of government, the private sector, NGO's, and the Christian church community. With support from Public Safety Canada and other government agencies, we were challenged to build a template for implementation, in other communities across Canada. Our quest continues to fulfill this momentous vision.

Bridges of Love's Mission
~ Mark 12:30-31

Providing opportunities for churches to be a catalyst for change – reaching out with greater concern for, and influence on, those in their community.

DIGGING A HOLE

Two brothers decided to dig a deep hole behind their house. As they worked, a couple of neighbour boys stopped by to watch.

"What are you doing?" asked one of the visitors.

"We're going to dig a hole all the way through the earth!", one of the brothers excitedly volunteered.

The other boys began to laugh, telling the brothers that digging a hole all the way through the earth was impossible! After a long silence, one of the diggers picked up a jar full of spiders, worms, insects and interesting stones. He removed the lid and showed the wonderful contents to the scoffing visitors.

Then he said confidently, "even if we don't dig all the way through the earth, look what we found along the way!"

Their goal was far too ambitious, but it did cause them to dig. And that is what a goal is for – to cause us to move in the direction we have chosen; in other words, to set us to digging!

But not every goal will be fully achieved. Not every job will end successfully. Not every endeavor will be completed. Not every relationship will endure. Not every hope will come to pass. Not every dream will be realized.

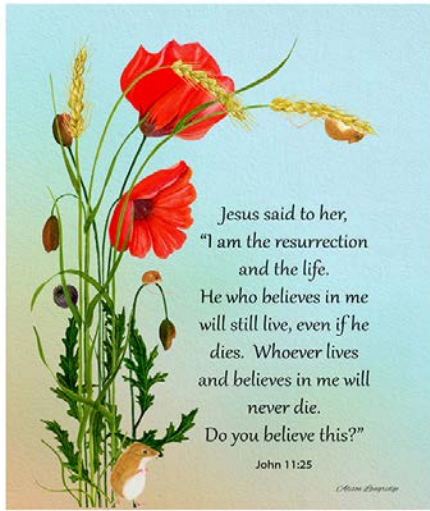
But when we fall short of our aim, perhaps we can say, "Yes, but look at what I found along the way! The question of whether or not we arrive at a particular goal is of little importance.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – June, 2020

“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE...DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?” John 11:25



CERT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER (CERT T-T-T)

Course Overview

The purpose of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer (T-T-T) course is to produce competent instructors for the CERT Basic Training course.

1. A competent CERT instructor delivers the CERT Basic Training course accurately, conveying the messages and intent of the CERT Program (e.g., safety, teamwork, it's place in overall community emergency operations plan).
2. A competent instructor assures that participants achieve the objectives of the CERT Basic Training course.
3. A competent CERT instructor delivers training effectively and at an appropriate level, thus enabling participants to learn and correctly apply skill sets.
4. A competent instructor creates a comfortable yet managed learning environment

Overall Course Objectives

At the conclusion of CERT T-T-T, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of the CERT Basic Training course.
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to present an assigned portion of the course (teach-back).
- ✓ Communicate the core values of the program.
- ✓ Demonstrate classroom management techniques.
- ✓ Demonstrate effective teaching techniques.
- ✓ Model appropriate behavior as an instructor.

In addition to the overall course objectives listed above, each unit has specific objectives, for each CERT module.

OPERATIONS ~ TRAINING ~ LOGISTICS

Trusting God one day at a time, has been our mission since we began Bridges of Love, seventeen years ago. We continue to believe **ALL** things are possible for those who love Him. We now step out in faith announcing our new Canadian headquarters.

**2nd Floor #5 - 609 Centre St. SW
High River, AB T1V 2C2**

Mailing Address:

109 - Fairway View, NW
High River, AB T1V 1C9

Office front ~ BofL signage



BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY
Matthew 5:16

2nd Floor, Unit 5 - 609 Centre Street SW
403-649-0087 ~ www.bridgesoflove.net



"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Side view with **lighted** signage



CERT CANADA
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS
OPERATIONS ~ TRAINING ~ LOGISTICS
www.bridgesoflove.ca 403.649.0087

Most people do not like to think or talk about death. Even though it's inevitable that every one of us will die; dread, anxiety, and fear still surrounds death.

Being a follower of Jesus Christ gives a heavenly perspective on dying. In John 11:25 Jesus assures that even when we die, we still live, as He holds the power for both resurrection and life.

There has been great anxiety and fear associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. And yet, the contagion of fear, may be worse than the virus itself. Many find themselves obsessing about the virus, engaging with the news 24/7, clicking on every alert. We are looking for certainty - something to allay our fears. But there is no certainty to be found so that strategy creates still more anxiety...

The danger from a pandemic is our survival instinct that begins to threaten our compassion. The contagion of fear over takes our hearts. The antidote to fear comes from opening our hearts in love.

Every choice at the core, is between love and fear. Choose **LOVE** trusting **Jesus** who is the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this?



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – May, 2020

“PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU...” John 14:27



With a global Coronavirus Pandemic continuing to nip at our heels; many are feeling the fear, stress, and anxiety that attempts to rob us of God's peace.

We can live at peace in the midst of, and despite, a chaotic and often cruel world. In fact, the possession and experience of peace is a central fruit of the Christian faith. When Jesus says, *"My peace I give you"*, this peace is different. It is not the kind of empty peace the world offers but eternal peace that comes only from a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The end result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is deep and lasting peace. Unlike worldly peace, which is usually defined as the absence of conflict, God's peace is confident assurance in any circumstance. With His abiding peace, we have no need to fear the present or the future.

May the peace of God move into our hearts, to restrain negative thoughts and feelings, filling it with His eternal joy.

May the Lord bless and keep you
May His face shine upon you
May his graciousness be like an endless stream
May the Lord show his favour
To your house and your neighbour
'Till the last remaining strains of striving cease
May He grant you peace.

[For the Journey by Steve Bell](#)

ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH COVID-19

The on-going daily news is often alarming and discouraging but we know that good is emerging from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

During a recent shopping excursion to the Okotoks Costco; a conversation began with a lady who was also waiting in-line, to enter the store. She was wearing a home-made mask which caught my attention. I made an inquiry to whether she had sewn the mask. Her answer was 'yes' saying she was making many masks for her daughter, who was working in a Woman's Shelter, in the Yukon. She expressed concern they did not have any protective gear, so she was collecting what she could find, to send the following week.

Did she have any gloves, was my next question. Her negative response brought to mind, a box of nitrile gloves in our garage CERT storage supplies, waiting to be included in our CERT kits.

The ladies name I learned was Karen, and she was invited to follow us to High River as our charity had a few boxes of gloves to share with her daughter and the organization for which she worked. She was most happy and grateful to accept.

A Bridges of Love business card was handed to this new friend from Calgary as she was leaving. She exclaimed, "Oh, I know you; my husband was pastor of the Rosscarrock Church of Christ and I have heard him speak of your ministry." (This church is also part of our Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative, FEPI). After further conversation, we learned John was in need of a respirator for his current job. After locating the respirator in our supplies, thanks to a donation from Heather, a CERT grad, we dropped the PPE to their residence the following day.

It was indeed an encouraging encounter that warmed our hearts; knowing God orchestrated this chance meeting so we could bless, and in return, be blessed!

COVID-19 BLESSINGS

One evening, an unexpected call came from Sundi, our High River Real-Estate Agent. She said she belonged to a group called the "Foothills Angels" and they were dropping off meals to seniors. Sure enough, an hour later, a caravan of vehicles stopped on our street with three angels complete with wings; sharing delicious turkey chili and homemade scones. 😊



CONNECT LEADERS GROUP

Pastor Phil Nordin, with the Connect Leaders Group in Calgary, initiated a zoom meeting for pastors and ministry leaders. Various pastors shared their experiences; navigating through unfamiliar territory with on-line church services, and how they are connecting with their members and serving their communities. The meeting ended with a time of prayer and communion service.





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!

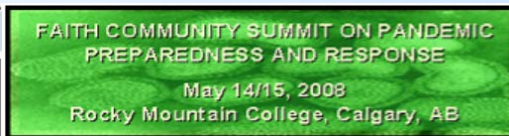
“I am your God.” He doesn't give us the answer, He gives us Himself and His strength when the load becomes too heavy. There is no way we can sink, He is holding us up with His hand, and with that same hand He takes hold of us.

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 Fogg 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...



<http://www.certcan.recovers.org>

NEIGHBOURS HELPING
NEIGHBOURS



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2020

“THE KING SAID TO ME, “WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?” Nehemiah 2:4



Our world is filled with nay-sayers, grippers, complainers, self-proclaimed prophets, and “armchair quarterbacks” who talk about all the problems in the world proclaiming; ‘someone ought to do something!’ What we need are people who will not just discuss and complain but people who will take action~

Nehemiah recognized a problem, and was distressed. Instead of complaining or wallowing in self-pity, he prayed and took action! Nehemiah knew God wanted him to motivate the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem’s wall; so he left a good position in the Persian Government, trusting God to use his talents, to get the job done.

At the appropriate time, Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild its fallen walls. Armed with royal letters, Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem to organize the people into groups, assigning them to specific sections of the wall.

The construction project was not without opposition, however. People tried to halt the project with insults, ridicule, threats, and sabotage. Some of the workers became fearful; others became weary, but in each case Nehemiah employed a strategy to frustrate the enemies standing firm until the wall was completed, in just 52 days. Nehemiah demonstrated excellent leadership. He was spiritually lead to listen to God’s Call. He used prayer, careful planning, teamwork, problem solving, and courage to get the job done.

God is in the business of working through His people to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks. Nehemiah had little power, but he had great influence. He was trusted by the King. He was a man of God, concerned about the fate of Jerusalem.

***“Let us start rebuilding.”
So they began this good work.***

Nehemiah 1:18

COVID – 19

Coronavirus Cases: 79,757 (February 24)

Deaths: 2,629

Recovered: 25,272

Dr. Arthur Bradley

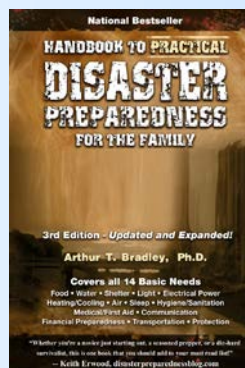
[Handbook to Practical Disaster
Preparedness for the Family](#)

Dr. Bradley’s Observations:

1. No one knows how bad things are going to get.
2. Experts aren’t yet sure of lethality rate (Currently at 10%).
3. It is believed that people can be re-infected.
4. The virus is easy to spread – airborne with perhaps up to 9 days life on surfaces.
5. It can be spread before symptoms show up.
6. People may remain contagious for some time after recovery (not proven yet).
7. Unlike anything I have seen in my life time.

Basic Preparations:

1. Stock your cupboards (30 days min.).
2. Store water (14+ days).
3. Stock consumables.
4. Get basic protective equipment (N95 masks, gloves, glasses/goggles).
5. Get in habit of frequent hand-washing and using hand sanitizer.
6. Set aside some emergency cash.
7. Keep medicines (prescription/non-pre) topped off.
8. Put together an evacuation plan.
9. Put together a bug-out bag.
10. Establish a preparedness network.



PAST TIME TO TELL THE PUBLIC...

Before a disaster strikes, pre-disaster planning is critical. Communication and networking, knowing the strengths and vulnerabilities of one’s community, using technology, social media, engaging the private sector, increasing knowledge and skills, and building relationships of trust are all important means of building a culture of preparedness.

We have a window of opportunity to prepare for the possibility that containment of the COVID-19 will fail. Officials are worried, alarmed, and anxious. We can take steps NOW to be ready for the worst case scenario.

A very trusted source passed on a “go-to site” for risk communication from experts, Jody Lanard and Peter Sandman. They posted this article on February 23, 2020.

***“It will probably go pandemic,
and we should all prepare now”***

It is important to help people understand that while you think - if you do think so—that this is going to be pandemic in terms of becoming very widespread, no one knows yet how much severe disease there will be around the world over short periods of time. Will it be a mild, or moderate, or severe pandemic? Too soon to say, but at the moment, there are some tentative signs that....”

[Read more...](#)



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2020

“FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS” Roman 6:23

FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS
ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST
JESUS OUR LORD.

ROMANS 6:23

CHRIST'S MISSION

A disaster relates to an event that threatens death or injury resulting in a community that is unable to cope through its own resources.

It is in this context that Christ comes to rescue and restore humanity. The mission of Christ, was both crisis intervention and through disaster recovery. Many of Jesus' encounters took place at times of trauma in the lives of individuals who met Jesus as he moved from place to place. Others were brought to Him for healing and restoration due to issues in their lives, which needed His counsel and teaching.

Disaster recovery involves returning a community to a state of healthy function. Jesus did not minister from a distance. He was a willing, participating ministry agent who came beside people in times of crisis and in the stress of their situation. He sought a holistic restoration of people which included healing through their physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational needs. It was never a case of fixing the symptom, but restoration of the complete person.

We live in a time of great uncertainty where a single traumatic event could tip a whole community into fear and turmoil. Having a strong faith foundation provides an infusion of hope; offering confidence and strength, to deal with traumatic circumstances.

Our perspective, response, and testimony depends on the consequences of our choice. Eternal life is a free gift from God offering us hope and the assurance that we will spend eternity with Him.

A NOVAL (NEW) VIRUS THREAT

An epidemic is a disease outbreak where many people in a community or region becomes infected with the same disease. A pandemic is an epidemic that occurs over a wide area, such as several countries or continents.

One of the best preparations societies can make for any type of danger, whether pandemic or otherwise, is to have a knowledgeable and well-informed society and educated, wise decision-makers.

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including whether and how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus.

The recent out-break, coronavirus 2019-nCoV is generally a respiratory virus, causing fever, flu-like symptoms, and pneumonia. Some reports, however, have cited cases of non-respiratory symptoms, including nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting. Because the Wuhan virus is new, humans have no antibodies against it. Since doctors have not had time to develop treatments or vaccines, prevention is presently, the only course of action. Protecting yourself with the same procedures we practice to prevent contracting a cold or the flu, is recommended.

Since the recent announcement confirmed that infected people can transmit 2019-nCoV before symptoms appear, the virus possesses the ability to become widespread. Current early numbers suggest between 1% and 10% mortality rate. Presently, it is listed as 4% fatal, hitting the elderly and people with other health conditions, the hardest. In comparison with the annual flu, with a mortality rate of approximately 0.1% to 0.3%. Officials warn the outbreak hasn't peaked, with each patient with the new coronavirus, infecting two other people.

The coronavirus has caught our immediate attention, but the seasonal flu is a continual threat, so we must not become complacent. The WHO reports flu causes 5 million cases of severe illness worldwide and kills 650,000 people a year. Stay informed.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM Train-the-Trainer (T-T-T)

CERT Train-the-Trainer Instructor Guide provides guidance for teaching future CERT class instructors. The Instructor Guide contains effective teaching practices, and an overview of the CERT Basic Training course material.

Overall Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the CERT Basic Training course.
2. Demonstrate the ability to present an assigned portion of the course (teach-back).
3. Communicate the core values of the program.
4. Demonstrate classroom management techniques.
5. Demonstrate effective teaching techniques.
6. Model appropriate behavior as an instructor.

In addition to the over-all course objectives listed above, each unit has specific objectives.

Note: Individuals who conduct only one or two of the units may do so without taking the CERT T-T-T course. However, this excellent training gives a necessary overview for CERT Basic Training course as well as improves instructional skills.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – January, 2020

“BE WATCHFUL, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH...” 1 Corinthians 16:13



The foundation of preparedness goes back to the beginning of time. Its principles are found throughout the Bible; with numerous passages dedicated to preparedness planning and survival.

Noah did not wait until it started to rain to build the ark!

Many wait until the last possible moment to prepare for what may lie ahead. This is evident when a disaster warning is issued. Unprepared masses descend on the local supermarket only to find the store wiped out by other unprepared individuals – all hoping to stock up right before the disaster hits.

Be watchful ~ Be strong!

As the Corinthians awaited Paul's next visit; they were directed to be on their guard—they were to be constantly watchful or alert for spiritual enemies. They were to stand firm in what they believed—that is, the gospel that brought them salvation in the beginning. They were to be men of courage with strength from the Holy Spirit doing everything in love; because without love, they would be nothing more than prideful noisemakers.

To be truly prepared for any disaster, it is necessary to know exactly what threats we could face and where we are vulnerable. Once identified, analyze how these threats could affect the community.

Bridges of Love emphasizes the importance of preparedness and training. We know, however, that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, is the ONLY ultimate survival decision guaranteed for eternity.

BRIDGES OF LOVE'S CERT AFFILIATE

ROBERT M. DAVIES, RMD SAFETY LTD.

Bridges of Love Ministry is very pleased to welcome Robert (Bob) Davies as the first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Affiliate serving Edmonton and GEA.



Bob has been involved with Edmonton Regional Search and Rescue Association (ERSARA) since its inception in 1996. He is ERSARA Training Committee Co-chair; planning the 2020 training schedule for 45 new members. He has been involved in over 300 searches, mostly local area but also, throughout the province.

He has progressed through the ranks becoming an active Search Manager working alongside Police/RCMP in the Command Post. In July 2000, Bob was mobilized to the Pine Lake Tornado disaster, assisted during Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, and participated in a search in Washington State.

Three years ago Bob started RMD Safety Ltd., doing safety audits on construction sites for oil & gas companies. He spent a month at a generating plant shutdown doing over watch of 30 Confined Space Entry Monitors.

- Completed AEMA ICS 100, 200, & 300
- Red Cross First Aid Instructor
- Basic Life Support (BLS) and Wilderness First Aid
- Certified Health and Safety Administrator (HSA) through Alberta Construction Safety Association.
- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1041 Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Level 1.

Bob is married to his lovely wife Marsha and he is the proud father of two grown step-sons.

WHY FEPI? ~ WHY CERT?

We do not have to look far to recognize that disasters are not an obscure event, but in reality, could arrive a lot sooner than many people dare to imagine. We do not wish to be alarmists, but we need to be aware, and ready to take action, for the real threats. Someday a major event will strike suddenly, and the devastation could be unimaginable.

"As we were celebrating Christmas (2019), the state of California was shaken by 9 significant earthquakes, and farther north the city of Vancouver was rattled by a magnitude 6.3 quake..."



Often, best laid plans cannot be executed, so improvisation during a disaster has been necessary. Bridges of Love's Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training shifts response from improvisation to coordination, resulting in a more resilient community.

The unprecedented impact of tomorrow's disasters is bound to test the capacity of future generations and their communities. It is critical that the decisions we make today are forward thinking based on innovative solutions.