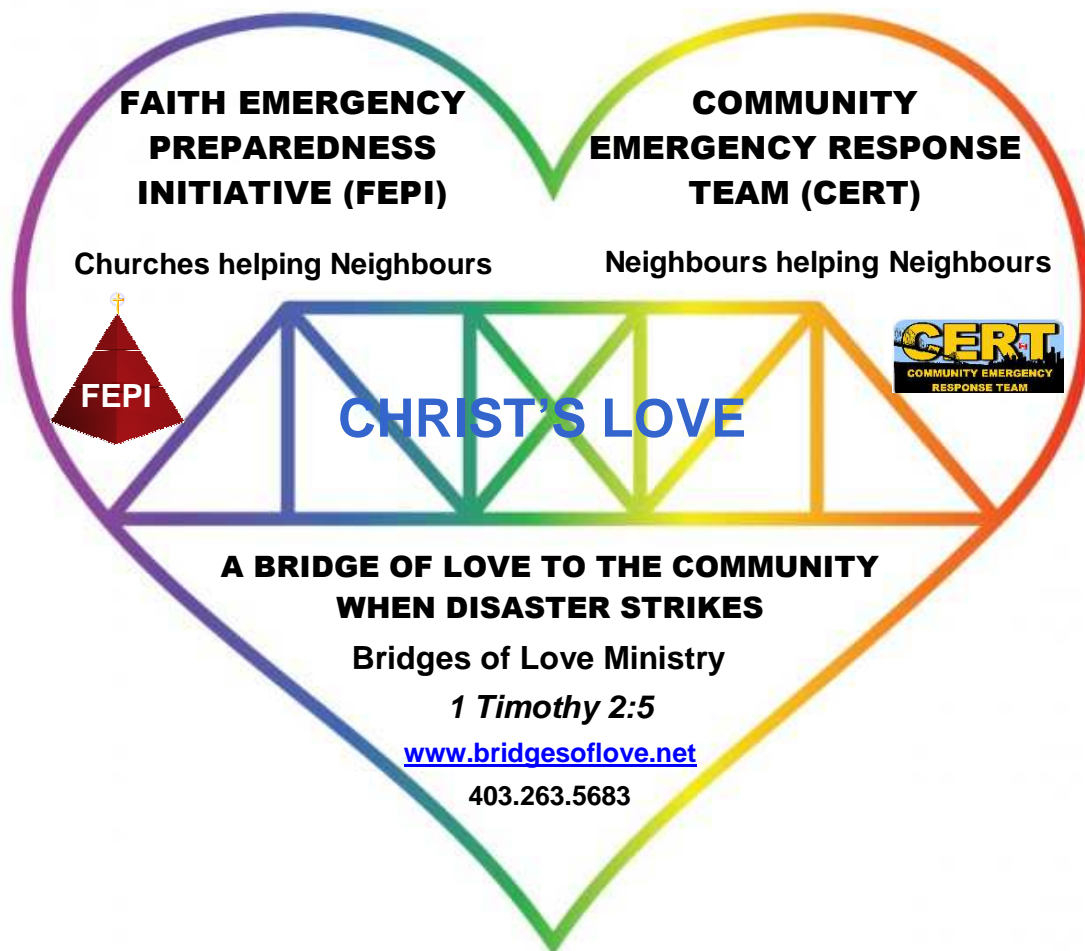




BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – December, 2016

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus” 1 Timothy 2:5



“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.”

1 Timothy 2:5

Though some people think there are many ways to God, in practice, each person must choose a single way. We can stand on one side of a gorge and discuss the possibility of many bridges across the abyss, but if we are determined to cross, we will have to commit to one bridge.

We are all separated from God by sin and we need a Saviour—a way across the abyss of sin and back to God. Only one person in the universe is our Mediator and can stand between us and God and bring us together again—Jesus, who is both God and man.

Building Bridges of Love to our communities as “salt and light” (Matthew 22:39) provides living proof of a loving Saviour. Jesus loved his world: not just in words, but with deeds. If our Christianity is real, let’s live it so that others may see it, and experience His love.

BRIDGES OF LOVE

Jesus came to show us how to live as faithful servants in his kingdom. Because Jesus was sent by God, we can trust him with our lives.

Bridges of Love Ministry was birthed to connect the church with the community in which it is found. The bridge to make that vital connection is emergency preparedness.

With disasters on the increase and communities vulnerable and often unprepared, Bridges of Love provides resources, training, and a network of churches that can assist.

Over the past two years, nine Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) CANada training Summits have been facilitated in Calgary. 46 individuals have basic emergency CERT training so are better equipped to respond safely and effectively.

As followers of Christ, we have been given the Great Commandment to love God and our neighbour. Bridges of Love Ministry provides opportunities to live out our faith in times of crisis.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – November, 2016

“THANKS BE TO GOD WHO ALWAYS LEADS US IN TRIUMPH IN CHRIST...” 2 Corinthians 2:14

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.”

2 Corinthians 2:14

Serving Christ requires we maintain God's perspective and focus on what He can do through us, not what we can do by ourselves. It is so easy to become discouraged when difficulties arise, but in all circumstances, we are led in triumph.

Paul gives thanks to the Lord for his ministry, his relationship with the Corinthian believers, and the way God used him to help others. The road was not always easy as he faced many difficulties, but Paul was a faithful ambassador for Christ.

Bridges of Love Ministry came into existence to provide opportunities and resources to connect church with community. God opened doors that could not have been imagined. In 2006, Dr. Tim Foggin invited us to mobilize Canadian churches, to be ready to respond to an Influenza Pandemic.

Ten years later, we are still focused on this opportunity but it has since broadened and expanded to include any emergency that could occur. After a large-scale disaster, local governments do not have the capacity to manage the over-whelming needs of an entire community. With dependence on municipal services, residents are exposed to long-term recovery efforts.

When we trust God for His plan, we can expect the unexpected... Never could we have imagined years later, to be facilitating emergency training. Volunteers who are better prepared and equipped to serve in their communities when over-whelming disasters occur; can maintain a sustained level of care.

**Not only physical lives saved,
but souls for eternity.**

CHURCHES HELPING NEIGHBOURS - FEPI

The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) was Bridges of Love's first emergency preparedness endeavor.

During the Alberta Floods in 2013, donations became our focus matching flood victims with donations. We were very fortunate as RECOVERS provided a web site which made the matching process very effective.

The telephone did not stop ringing for five months as hundreds of items were matched. Donated items ranged from cars to furnaces and everything in between. Churches assisted with deliveries and recovery efforts.

The look on Ann's face when she received a lovely vehicle from a generous donor will never be forgotten. Her car had suffered damages from the flood waters. Many tears were shed that day...



FEPI went into action following the flood when churches provided accommodation for 24 flood volunteers. Showers were a must, so churches that fit the needs were quickly identified, due to prior information stored in our Church Resource database. Churches shared facilities providing showers, cots, hot meals and manpower.

CHURCHES HELPING NEIGHBOURS

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS - CERT

Much of the emphasis for emergency planning has been on mobilization and reinforcement of resources. This is important, but uncontrolled mobilization and over response are common problems. Volunteers with no experience, training or proper equipment turn up at an incident, wanting to assist.



Bridges of Love's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is a grass roots strategy that is both practical and realistic strengthening community safety and preparedness through increased civic participation. When first responders are over-extended in a major disaster, CERTs can save lives and protect property.

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – October, 2016

“BE PERFECT, THEREFORE, JUST AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT.” Matthew 5:48

“Be perfect, therefore, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:48

We are told to be as perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. God is the only pattern of perfection which He recommends to his children. Is this goal, therefore, unattainable and out of reach?

Can perfection be reached when we seek to love others as completely as God loves us? Christ calls us to excel and rise above the level of mediocrity, and to mature in every area, becoming like him. Those who strive to become perfect will one day be perfect, even as Christ is perfect.

We all have natural affections—some people we like better than others... Yet we must never let those likes and dislikes rule our Christian life.

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”
1 John 1:7

The true expression of Christian character is not in good-doing, but in God-likeness. When we are transformed from within, by the Spirit of God, we will exhibit divine characteristics.

“The secret of a Christian’s life is that the supernatural becomes natural in him as a result of the grace of God, and the experience of this becomes evident in the practical, every details of life, not in times of intimate fellowship.”

Oswald Chambers

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ. This maturing process will not be complete until we see Christ face-to-face. Knowing that it is our ultimate destiny, should keep us striving and growing in our love for Him and others.

Dear Mom,

I have been reading a book on the “Building of a Family” and I came across a passage that reminded me of your loving ways in dealing with people.



In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her tireless work with Calcutta’s poor. During the presentation, she was asked what she felt was the world’s worst ill. “Loneliness”...she responded. “People today are suffering more from loneliness than from poverty!”

Throughout your life Mom, you are admired for your successes in loving and giving! Too many of us (including me), attempt to be admired for our accomplishments, rather than increasing the number of people who see their beauty in our eyes, and have heard their goodness acknowledged in the warmth of our voice. This has, however, been your greatest accomplishment in life.

Christ said that we should nourish those around us and cherish the warmth of their response, just as He does with His Church

You have nourished me and I cherish that you are my Mother. I love you for everything—knowing your sacrifices along life’s path.

Love,
Garth

I found this letter after our Mom passed away in 1994; while sorting through some of her belongings. It was written by my brother, Garth. His special note was tucked away until it surfaced again while packing for a recent move.

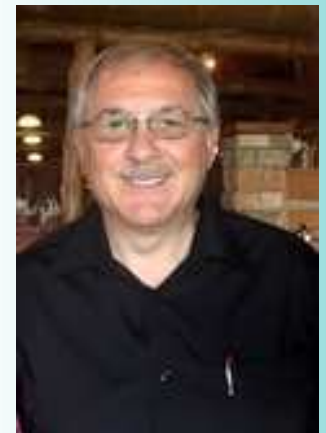
Our Mother, Birdie Mann loved the Lord with her whole heart. She shared God’s love with everyone she met throughout her life. We will never forget the example she set as she put other’s needs ahead of her own.

Paul Johnson, Executive Director of Open Doors Canada, passes after tragic motor cycle accident.

Paul was untiring as he led Open Doors Canada for 24 years.

He met the growing needs of Christians who are persecuted for their faith around the world.

Paul’s heart was always to champion their faith and share their story nationwide to both encourage and excite Christians in Canada to understand that many believers around the world wake up facing the threat of persecution every day.”



Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear Friends!

Philippians 4:1

Your encouragement and kindnesses will be missed, Paul.
See you in Glory...



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – September, 2016

“YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH...” Matthew 5:13a

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by man.”
Matthew 5:13

In the 1850's, near the height of the gold rush, San Francisco was in it's height of prosperity and expansion. At this time no one was considering the thought of building a bridge across the Golden Gate. Why?

It was considered an impossible feat for one thing, and completely unnecessary, for another. But that is exactly when the idea for the Golden Gate Bridge originated. In 1859 Joshua Norton, became the first to suggest such a bridge was needed. Reports document, Norton was considered not only a bit of a radical; he was the shining star of eccentrics!

History is marked by big ideas when someone is willing to stand up and say...What if we believed—and acted upon—this? An idea is more than a starting point. It is strong enough to spark imagination, inspire sacrifice, build faith, and sustain a commitment to preserve through adversity and opposition.

Dr. Robert Lewis believes the power of idea, then, equals power of potential influence. This is true no matter what the situation--building a structure, a philosophy, or a church.

Napoleon stated; *“Ideas, for good or for bad, rule us!”* Proverbs 23:7 (KJV) says *“As a man thinks within himself, so is he...”*

Ideas, therefore, both define us and drive us to develop a concrete reality. In 1937 the great Golden Gate Bridge was completed after loss of life, sacrifices, and dedication to an overwhelming project that many thought would never become a reality.

In 2005, Dr. Tim Foggin invited Bridges of Love to mobilize churches to be ready to assist their neighbours during a disaster (Pandemic). God gave Tim a “Big Idea” and after much prayer we embarked on a journey taking steps of faith, risks of courage, and witnessed spiritual interventions which have deepened our commitment.

Jesus preached INFLUENCE – people need to see to believe! Contact is both the means and the goal to move effectively into the world.

“BIG IDEAS”

Does the local church exist for the sake of the church or for the sake of the world?

Meeting the needs of church members sounds valid but could the needs soon turn to wants with self absorption as a result?

A “need-meeting church” can unknowingly come to exist for nothing bigger than itself.

Churches lacking a Kingdom mind-set become islands without bridges—a stranger to its own community.

If we cannot outlive the world at every turn—in our marriages, with our children, at work, with finances, in our relationships... how is it possible to speak of salvation and a changed life?

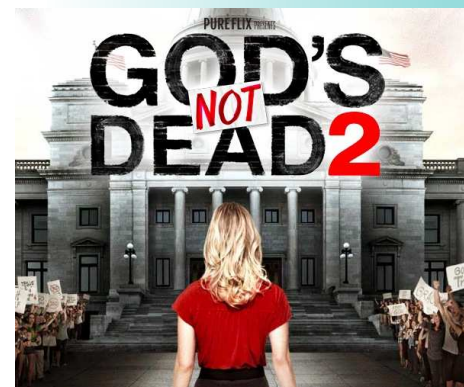
Changing lifestyles, therefore, must be a driving “Big Idea” for believers in all areas of life with a real desire for authentic spirituality and Christian lifestyles.

The second “Big Idea”—equipping church members for influential works of service in the community and the world, encouraging members to ‘go’ creates a bridge of proof.

“Jesus is telling us to take what he has done for us and in us...take that light...and what it has done to transform our lives, our abilities, our resources...and use it in such a way...which speaks to strategy, a strategy that draws people rather than repels them...that they...meaning the world around us; our friends, our neighbourhoods, our city...may see our good works...and because of that undeniable goodness, because of those humble works of love, our community, rather than ignoring, ridiculing, or reacting in unnecessary anger, would instead do something absolutely amazing; Give glory to our Father who is in Heaven.”

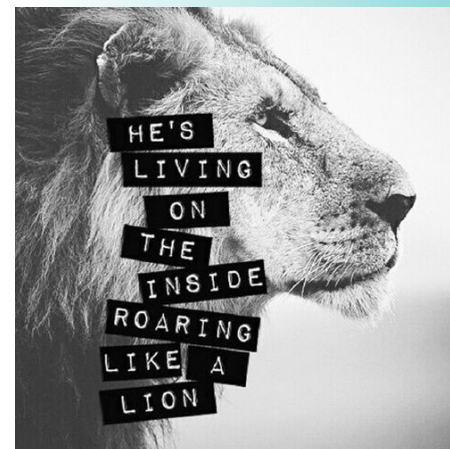
Dr. Robert Lewis (Pastor)

The Church of Irresistible Influence



“Any rule saying you can talk about every human being who ever existed, except for Jesus is discriminatory. Somebody will always be offended. 2000 years of human history proves that. So I say we get it over with!”

~Tom Endler





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – August, 2016

“I EAGERLY EXPECT AND HOPE THAT I WILL IN NO WAY BE ASHAMED... Phil. 1:20

“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Philippians 1:20

Our determined purpose is to be our very best, for Christ's glory. To reach that level of commitment is solely a matter of the will, not of debate, reasoning, or of Bible study. It means complete surrender of our own agenda, as we follow the call of Jesus.

We often reason that if Jesus Christ compels us to do something and we are obedient to Him, He will lead us to great success. We should never assume that our aspirations for success are God's purpose for us. In fact, His purpose may be exactly the opposite...

Humans are very focused on achievement. We presume that if we are doing well, God is indeed blessing our efforts. If, however, we are not reaching the level of achievement we desire; then we assume we must be out of His will. The question of whether or not we arrive at a particular goal is of little importance to the Lord. What we see as only the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself.

Oswald Chambers affirms God's purpose for each of us is to depend on Him and on His power now. If we can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil of life, the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished. God is not working towards a particular finish—His purpose is the process itself.

God's training is for now, not later. His purpose is for this minute, not for sometime in the future. We have nothing to do with what will follow our obedience, and we are wrong to concern ourselves with it. What people call preparation, God sees as the goal itself.

When we do something out of a sense of duty, it is easy to explain the reasons for our actions. When we do something out of obedience to the Lord, there can be no other explanation—just obedience.

God's purpose is to enable us to see that He can walk on the storms of life right now. When we realize obedience is the goal, then we can stay calm and full of joy, despite our circumstances.

EXTREME WEATHER

A tornado is coming! Do you have a plan for you and your family? Do you know how to access local alerts? At home, are you better to stay upstairs or downstairs? Is your yard a safe place to hide? Do you have what you need to make it through a power outage? What about family members? What about pets?

Many face those questions in the heat of the moment, but it is best to carefully think through your response, long before the storm begins...

We seem to be getting more frequent and extreme weather – with record-breaking temperatures, storm intensities, property destruction, and even fatalities that were unheard of in the past. The news is filled with catastrophic events all over the world.

What is causing all this destructive phenomena? Why do they appear to be happening more frequently than they used to? What seems to be certain: **Abnormal is the new normal—we need to learn to expect the unexpected!**

The general rule of thumb for any emergency is to plan and prepare in order to survive and recover. Everyone can take three actions to remain safe during an extreme weather event.

1. Be informed
2. Have an emergency kit
3. Develop a plan

Bridges of Love's **Community Emergency Response Team** training offers individuals peace of mind. CERT graduates have taken the necessary steps to be ready to respond effectively.

With more extreme weather events occurring now than in the past, we have to be prepared for a new kind of survival. Learning how to prepare, survive, and recover from extreme weather events is—like it or not—an integral part of life in the 21st century.

EMERGENCY KIT

Each kit should contain:

1. **Water** – One gallon per person per day. Keep a three-day supply in case of evacuation and a two-week supply in case you get confined to your home.
2. **Food** – That won't spoil and is easy to prepare.
3. **Flashlight** – With extra batteries
4. **Radio** - Battery-powered or one that can be powered by a hand crank.
5. **First Aid Kit**
6. **Family Medications** – Two week supply
7. **Multipurpose Tool** – Swiss Army knife
8. **Whistle** & brightly coloured bandanna
9. **Matches** or butane lighters
10. **Personal hygiene items** – Two week supply
11. **Copies of important papers & personal documents** - birth certificates, passports, and insurance policies
12. **Mobile phone** – back-up battery and charger
13. **Contact information** – In case of emergency numbers
14. **Cash**
15. **Blanket**
16. **Map** – Your location and surrounding area

Excerpt from National Geographic's

EXTREME WEATHER SURVIVAL GUIDE

By

Thomas M. Kostigen



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – July, 2016

“DEAR FRIENDS, SINCE GOD SO LOVE US, WE ALSO OUGHT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.” 1 John 4:11

“So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they’re busy doing things they think are important. This is because they’re chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

*Quote - Morrie Schwartz
...Tuesdays with Morrie
By Mitch Albom*

Fourteen years ago this month, Bridges of Love was incorporated as a Religious Society and the name registered with the Province of Alberta.

Why was this name chosen? The Bible indicates love is from God. In fact, the Bible says “God is love.” Love is one of the primary characteristics of God. Love is caring in action. Love isn’t what we *feel*, but what we **do**.

A bridge is a structure connecting two sections of land so that people and vehicles can cross from one side to the other. Love is the bridge to move people from where they were to where they want to be... **“LOVE ALWAYS WINS!”**

Morrie Schwartz, a University Professor, knew what was important and practiced it in his life. Building meaningful relationships with his students as a mentor and friend provided the vehicle to positively impact lives.

Morrie was diagnosed with ALS, Lou Gehrig’s disease, a brutal, unforgiving illness of the neurological system. He wanted his final course of study, to teach how to courageously and with compassion, face the end of life. Morrie believed when we learn how to die, we learn how to live!

A former student, Mitch Albom, connects with his beloved professor after hearing of his illness. They recapture their relationship through weekly Tuesday visits.

Morrie standing on the tracks, listening to death’s locomotive whistle, was very clear about the important things of life.

“Giving to other people is what makes me feel alive. Not my car or my house. Not what I look like in the mirror. When I give my time, when I can make someone smile after they were feeling sad, it’s as close to healthy as I ever feel.”

CANADIAN RED CROSS Personal Disaster Assistance (PDA) Responder

The Personal Disaster Assistance Team is activated to respond and provide assistance for up to the first 72 hours following a disaster. The incumbent of this position is responsible for conducting a needs assessment to determine the needs of the clients. The PDA responder will provide, as appropriate to agreements with the local authorities, ESS services for relief, referral services and direct assistance for recovery, as well as, works with the PDA Supervisor to plan and organize ongoing preparedness activities. They may be asked to deliver services during a large-scale emergency response in their community.



Bridges of Love recently hosted a meeting to introduce CERT Graduates to the Canadian Red Cross PDA program. CERT Grads are trained to respond to the needs of their community as a first responder, immediately after a disaster occurs. PDA provides an opportunity to gain additional skills to assist with the recovery efforts.

We encouraged CERT volunteers to consider being a Canadian Red Cross volunteer as it opens opportunities to gain additional training to respond in emergency situations in communities across Calgary.

CERT volunteers are given basic emergency training in a variety of disciplines. We appreciate their willingness to assist other organizations and agencies when called upon.

COLLABORATION VS COOPERATION

We often use these words interchangeably, but they represent fundamentally different ways of contributing to a group and each comes with its own dynamics and power structures that shape groups in different ways ...

When COLLABORATING, people work together (co-labor) on a single shared goal.

When COOPERATING, people perform together (co-operate) while working on selfish yet common goals.

Collaboration, calls for respect.

Cooperation, calls for trust.

A discussion was recently facilitated by Propell:us at their Annual General Meeting. One conversation centered on “What does it take to be an effective collaborator?”

The Executive Director closed the meeting with his message which captured the essence for collaboration. Doug Watson, ED spoke of **LOVE** as the key. To collaborate effectively, it is essential to have the ability see the good for others, as greater than the need for success for ourselves.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – June, 2016

“...add to your...brotherly kindness love” 2 Peter 1:7

*“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.
2 Peter 1: 5, 7*

Faith must be more than belief in certain facts; it must result in action, growth in Christian character, and practiced continually in our lives. Love is spontaneous, but it must be maintained through discipline.

We are saved so we can grow to resemble Christ and so that we can serve others. As we obey and put Christ first, we will develop self-control, in every area of our life.

Growth is essential. It begins with faith and culminates in love for others. Developing the attributes that honour God takes hard work. They do not come automatically, so they must be continually practiced to become a permanent part of the Christian life.

Learning to love with no reservations is not natural. It must develop and be nurtured as we are closely identified with the Lord. Then, His sweetness will then be continually poured out.



We may become irritated with unusually difficult people! How do we deal with those who are difficult to love?

The Holy Spirit reveals to us that God loved us not because we are lovable, but because it was His nature to do so. Now He commands us to show the same love to other by saying, “...love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12)

The knowledge that God loves us beyond all reason compels us to go into the world to love others in the same way.

This kind of love is not patronizing love for the unlovable—it is God’s love that will endure forever.

“Mini” Emergency Preparedness Sessions

Bridges of Love’s Board of Directors as well as our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members have been in conversation regarding Mini Emergency Preparedness sessions as an introduction for CERT training Summits. How best could we increase visibility and provide understanding for the importance of building resilient communities?

This past week-end, Bridges of Love was invited by residents of Rocky View County in the Cochrane area, to participate in a Fire Management and Emergency Preparedness Workshop. This event was initiated and planned by the community. As you can see from the photo below, the event was very well attended. Residents are taking action being proactive to gather information and strategies to safe guard their properties and community. With vegetation so very dry this past spring, residents are indeed concerned that a similar disaster as Fort McMurray, could happen in their own locality.

Randy Smith, Chief of Rocky View County was responsible for our participation as he has been involved as a CERT trainer. Randy knows the value of basic training with Neighbours helping Neighbours.



Bridges of Love understands everyone’s busy lives. For this reason, we would like to offer a mini Emergency Preparedness session where information for taking care of yourself and family will be covered. Communities planning their own event will stimulate greater interest when planners are known and trusted in the community.

Fire Management and Emergency Preparedness

Acreage holders, are you concerned about fire risk? Have you thought about how you can mitigate those risks on your land?

Rocky View County (Chief Randy Smith)

- Fire Smart, including Inter-Agency Cooperation, Vegetation Management, and Emergency Planning
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)
- 72 - Hour Preparedness
- What First Responders want to know in the event of a disaster

The more you’re prepared and the better our communities are coordinated, the more thorough and useful our response can be.

CERT (Bridges of Love, Marg Pollon)

- CERT resources
- Emergency Preparedness
- What NOT to do in the event of an emergency
- Next steps to coordinating community-based Emergency Response Plans
- How to respond to emergency situations safely and without hampering First Responders in the field.





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – May, 2016

“YOU ALSO 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

Christ's return at an unexpected time creates a need to be ready to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not an easy task! We are so caught up with the business of life and absorbed in our service to Jesus Christ that we neglect the reason for our service.

Before Christ's return, we have time to live out our beliefs and to reflect Jesus' love as we relate to others. The Life Application Bible gives attributes of people ready for Christ's return:

- ✓ Not hypocritical, but sincere (Luke 12:1)
- ✓ Not fearful, but ready to witness (Luke 12:4-9)
- ✓ Not worried, but trusting (Luke 12:25-26)
- ✓ Not lazy, but diligent (Luke 12:37)

Jesus tells us how to live until He comes. We must watch for Him, work diligently, and obey His commands.

Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him; He appears where we least expect Him, and always in the most illogical situations. Readiness will not be brought about by service, but through a life focused on our Saviour, with a spiritual authenticity watching for His return.

Do we know our neighbours? A children's story, *“No Room for Neighbours”* illustrates the results from building relationships in our communities.

A 'bandicoot' had 30 guest rooms in his burrow, but he never had a guest stay with him. A 'bilbie' moved into the neighbourhood and to the bandicoots amazement, they became fast friends. Why? Because the little bandicoot had a need and his neighbour the 'bilbie' lovingly came to his rescue.

Building intentional relationships is critical in our efforts to meet others where they are. We know the impact of Godly Love. As humans, we all have a need to be loved and when we exhibit Christ's presence in our lives as we serve, people will see Christ.

Let us not wait for a disaster to strike, but look NOW for opportunities to build relationships of love with those in our communities.

CERT CANADA SUMMIT 9

April 15-16, 2016



AEMA Field Officer, Ian Fox (Key-note)



Chief Randy Smith, Fire Safety & Utility



Search & Rescue - Chair Carry



Terrorism - R.C.M.P. – INSET



CERT Organization/ICS



CERT Graduates – April 2016

Disaster Alley

Disaster Alley is a great event for families and individuals alike. It's an annual preparedness event that occurs in Calgary every May. As Calgary's largest preparedness event, Disaster Alley Showcases over 30 exhibitors, such as the Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Search and Rescue Association (CALSARA), Hawcs, and many more groups who provide assistance in emergencies and disasters. These exhibitors educate guests about what they can do in an emergency or disaster.



Everyday Heroes at Disaster Alley



Saturday May 7
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
McMahon Stadium

They're your friends and neighbours.
They're everyday heroes.
Meet the responders at Disaster Alley.
calgary.ca/disasteralley
Proudly supported by the Insurance Bureau of Canada
IBC BAC

Emergency Preparedness Week

Disaster Alley happens during Emergency Preparedness Week - a national event in May that aims to build a culture of preparedness in Canada. The event is coordinated by Public Safety Canada, in close collaboration with the provinces, territories and partners.

Please visit Bridges of Love's booth



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – April, 2016

AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER.

Proverbs 27:17

"The freedom to do your own thing ends when you have obligations and responsibilities. If you want to fail yourself—you can—but you cannot do your own thing if you have responsibilities to team members."

~Lou Holtz

Building a strong team requires patience as well as perseverance. It takes time to build relationships of trust. We often begin as strangers but as time passes, we become a tight unit, working together for a common goal and purpose. Team leaders must frequently remind team members of the importance of individual roles in the larger scope of a project to help instill a sense of urgency and ownership. Whether it is a sports team, or working as a team in a work environment, we each have a role to play in order to achieve success.

Christ forms us into a body—into a group of individuals who are united in their purpose to love God and to love one another. If an individual stumbles, the rest of the team is there to prop him/her up.



Just as Jesus was dedicated in His pursuit of us, we are called to share His love. As a tangible reality, love when shared with others through selfless service, is the best means of demonstrating the example Jesus set.

Even though we cannot earn our way into God's eternal presence, a surrendered life is motivated by love, obedience, and gratitude to the One who surrendered it all for us.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK...

While emergency services personnel are the best trained and equipped to handle emergencies, they may not be immediately available in a catastrophic disaster. In such a situation, members of the community may be on their own for several days or even longer. They may have to rely on their own resources for food, water, first aid, and shelter. Neighbours or co-workers may have to provide immediate assistance to those who are hurt or need help.

Community Emergency Response Teams respond in the period immediately after a disaster when resources are overwhelmed or delayed. CERTs respond to a disaster as a team.

Working together as a team was put into motion at our last training session. Building a 5ft. tower from paper, took innovation and collaboration, to achieve the goal in the shortest amount of time.



"HOLD IT...I THINK WE DID IT!!"



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CANADA SUMMIT 9

Location: Stay Bridge Suites
2825 Sunridge Way, NE

Friday Evening - April 15, 2016

Key-note Speaker:

Ian Fox, Field Officer

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Alberta Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Saturday April 16, Training Modules

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Fire Safety – Chief Randy Smith

Search & Rescue – Chief Randy

Smith, Rocky View County

Terrorism – Sgt. Chris Griffin,

R.C.M.P. INSET

CERT Organization/ICS -

Marg Pollon, Bridges of Love Ministry

COST: Adult - \$149.00 Student - \$99.00

2ND SATURDAY SESSION - TBA

Includes: 8 Modules & Friday Evening Key-note, Friday dessert, Sat. Breakfast & Lunches, Literature, CERT Kit & Cap, Certificate & ID Card

REGISTER - Event Brite

www.bridgesoflove.ca



Sponsor: Insurance Bureau of Canada

Facilitator: Bridges of Love Ministry

**We are seeking additional sponsors!
Please consider how you can be involved.**



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2016

“LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. HATE WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD” Romans 12:9

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; clinging to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves”

Romans 12:9-10

Christians are to be known by their excessive love for God and people. How can we do that? Some individuals have learned how to pretend to love—how to speak kindly, avoid hurting feelings, appearing to take an interest in others. But God calls us to real and sincere love that goes far beyond pretense and politeness.

It is hard to imagine anything more practical than to love, honor and serve one another, pray for one another, and meet one another's needs. Sincere love is the virtue that defines genuine Christian service.

This past week-end we were at Edmonton's Mission Fest. Bridges of Love has a booth each February and we look forward to seeing those familiar faces we have met over the many years of attending.

One person whom my husband and I especially look forward to seeing each year is John. John is mentally handicapped but he is able to make it on his own and has not missed a Mission Fest all the years we have participated. John is well known by all as he doesn't miss an opportunity to stop by and share whatever is on his heart. This year he was especially burdened for someone he knew, who was ill. He said he was praying for this particular person as he was very worried about her well-being.

John loves Bella, our 'Bearing together' bear. Passing our booth, he gives it a pat on the head saying, **“BIG BEAR!”** We all chuckle and acknowledge that yes indeed; Bella is a big bear with a big heart, to care for others!



WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN – AND WILL – SAVE LIVES!!

“Disasters are first and foremost a local phenomenon. Local communities are on the frontlines of both the immediate impact of a disaster and the initial, emergency response, which, experience has shown, is crucial for saving the most lives. It is therefore fitting that we focus our energies on improving local communities' resilience to natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction begins at home – in our schools, places of work and worship, and throughout our local communities. It is here where we will either save lives – or lose them – depending on the steps we take today to reduce our vulnerability to tomorrow's hazards. Education is vital, as is the sharing of experience within and among communities. As importantly, disaster risk managers need to listen and learn from the grassroots up – not vice versa – so that we can build upon examples of risk reduction that have been tried and tested in the crucible of local experience.”

–Margareta Wahlstrom
UN Assistant Secretary-General,
Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

It is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the changing weather patterns, terrorist's threats, earthquakes, pandemics, train derailments, and countless others disasters happening all over the world. God asks us to serve through love and obedience to His principles, so what better opportunity to engage with a God ordained activity.

A church in Calgary that embraced CERT training for their ushers is Bonavista Evangelical Missionary Church. Pastor Lori Glass and her husband Bob took the training initially. Their ushers were then asked to participate so they could be prepared, trained, and equipped to be the first responders for their church and community in the event of a major disaster.

CERT Canada is “NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS”. We are trained to assist ourselves, family, and neighbours during a disaster when the professional first responders are over-whelmed and there is no-one else on the scene to assist. We have the skills and desire to save lives.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM SUMMIT 8

Location: Stay Bridge Suites
2825 Sunridge Way, NE

1st Session – March 12, 2016
8:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Disaster Medical Operations

– Dr. May Mones

Food Safety – Nadine Newman, AHS

Psychology of Trauma - Beth Henry,
Prairies to Peaks Consulting Inc.

Personal Preparedness - Brent Davis,
Samaritan's Purse



2nd Session April 15, 2016
Friday Evening Key-note, TBA
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

April 16, Saturday Modules
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Fire Safety – Chief Randy Smith
Search & Rescue – Chief Randy Smith,
Rocky View County

Terrorism – Sgt. Chris Griffin, R.C.M.P.
INSET

CERT Organization/ICS -
Marg Pollon, Bridges of Love Ministry

Adult - \$149.00 Student - \$99.00

Includes: 8 Modules & Friday
Evening Key-note, Friday dessert,
Sat. lunches, literature, CERT kit &
Cap, Certificate & ID Card

REGISTER – Event Brite

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**NEIGHBOURS HELPING
NEIGHBOURS**



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2016

“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY PEACE, PATIENCE...” Galatians 5:22

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Galatians 5:22

Based on scripture, the attributes for the Church that Jesus died for are clear. Our profession of faith in Christ must be clearly evident by a lifestyle that provides strong evidence of our complete devotion to Jesus. A life that honours God is the life of a person whom He has changed. The proof of a person's faith is not in head knowledge or the religious gatherings they attend, but in the way they integrate what they know and believe into their everyday practices.

The fruit of the Spirit is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we join our lives with His. We must know him, love him, imitate him, and walk in His shoes.

This past month we had the privilege of walking alongside residents in Chestermere who were devastated by the July 2015 flood. Many months later, they were still struggling with recovery efforts after water destroyed basements, furnishings and property.

We are not called to go to church but are called to *be* the Church. As agents of transformation in this world we die to self, pick up our cross, and follow the way of the Master.

“Thus by their fruit you will recognize them.”

Matthew 7:20

Community Emergency Response Team Helps Chestermere Neighbours

On January 7, 2016, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Danielle Larivee, announced details for close to \$9 million being released for Chestermere flood relief. Funding that would assist residents get back on their feet.

A loss of precious memories, material possessions, and the emotion associated with a devastating experience; prompted the City of Chestermere Community Services Director, Donelda Laing to contact Marg Pollon, Founding Executive Director of Bridges of Love Ministry. Trained volunteers through their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training were invited to provide psycho social support to residents of Chestermere during the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP). Seven CERT members trained in Disaster Psychological Trauma volunteered their time to be a listening and compassionate ear.

Devastating circumstances can be overwhelming for families who may be struggling with other issues as well as a major disaster. One more event may be the tipping point.

This could have been the case with one flood affected resident exposed to long-term recovery efforts. Frustration mounted as she spoke to City & Provincial workers. A CERT volunteer standing nearby sensed her anxiety. Holding up a little sign, “Bear Hugs Given Here,” the distressed resident immediately dropped her bag, put out her arms to welcome a big bear hug! Not only did she receive one hug, but others involved in her case, joined in! This small act of love defused a tense situation.



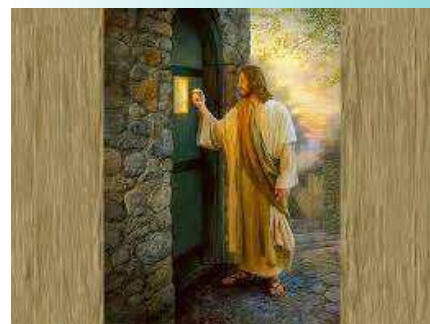
A FRIEND

A friend visited me this morning arriving early. He sat down and we chatted for a while about how things were going in my life.

He carefully and compassionately listened to all I had to say. He then stood up, walked over and gently held me in His arms, making all my cares disappear.

After reassuring me not to worry, that everything would work out, He asked if I knew anyone else who would appreciate a visit from Him.

With another reassuring hug, He thanked me for your name. As we walked to the front door, He announced He was on His way to your place, for a little visit.



***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*”**

For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8