



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – September, 2022

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

**Greater love
hath no man
than this,
that a man
lay down
his life
for his
friends.
John 15:13**



John 15:13 speaks of the greatest expression of love: sacrificial love. The greatest act of sacrificial love was provided by God on our behalf. He laid down His life for His friends and sacrificed Himself for us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are other ways to practice sacrificial love: listening, helping, encouraging, and giving.

There are many who are suffering with COVID - 19, and we now understand firsthand how difficult it is to conduct the normal everyday activities, when suffering with this virus. My husband Tom and I were ill with COVID for over two weeks, and it certainly took the stuffing out of us!

We were fortunate to have a few good Samaritans who came to our aid during our time of need. Meals that were dropped off were greatly appreciated and everything tasted so good! Those who prayed for our recovery, provided peace and assurance.

It is advisable to take precautions as no-one wants to suffer through this virus. If a neighbour is ill we can help, however, without putting oneself in harms way. If you see a need and have a phone number, give a call, and ask how you can help. Groceries, medications, and meals can be dropped off on a step, so not to come in close contact, with the person or the virus!

LOVE is ACTION!

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Cybersecurity is everyone’s job – “together” is the best way to stay protected online. Cybersecurity awareness involves being mindful of cybersecurity in day-to-day situations. Being aware of the dangers of browsing the web, checking emails, and interacting online are all components of cybersecurity awareness.

Cybersecurity is important because it protects all categories of data from theft and damage. This includes sensitive data, personally identifiable information (PII), protected health information (PHI), personal information, intellectual property, data, and governmental and industry information systems.

Bridges of Love was very fortunate to have a Cybersecurity Specialist student with us for his practicum this summer. Eduan identified areas where our systems were vulnerable, putting best practices, in place.



We appreciate CDI College for this opportunity, making our workspace protected and safer for the ministry, and for those who partner with us. Thank you, Eduan, for your expertise and experience, raising the bar for cybersecurity awareness!

THE SIMPLE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE



“More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, and be known as someone who wants to live with them. It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence.

Still, it is not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets.

It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn’t be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you don’t simply like them, but you truly love them.”

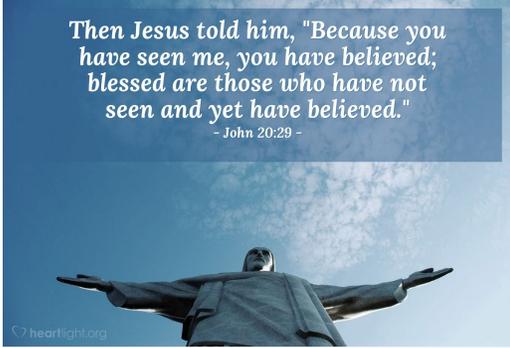
~Henri Nouwen



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – August, 2022

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.” John 20:29b



Thomas loved the Lord, but he allowed human reasoning to over-shadow the truth, permitting unbelief to cloud his faith. Like Thomas, so many today yearn that our human senses, would secure the deep desire of our heart. Do we need a voice or vision to supplement our faith, or do we require a supernatural sign or a special revelation to safeguard our trust in God?

Jesus says we are to live by faith and not by sight. We are to live by faith and not by signs. We are to live by faith and not because of some alternative system that supports our faith.

Thomas' hope in Christ was restored and reignited. He believed in the Lord Jesus Christ because he saw Him with his own eyes. Thomas worshipped Him when He came and stood among His followers in the Upper Room. But the Lord gently scolded this chosen apostle, who had been with Him throughout His early ministry, with the words, "because you have seen Me, you have believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Yes, it would be easier to believe in Jesus if we could see a definite sign or miracle. The approval and blessing of God, however, is on the one who has faith in His Son, trusts His Word of truth, and believes the Holy Scriptures. We are to live by faith, not by sight or sense or situations. We have all the proof we need in the Bible and the testimonies of those who have faith to believe.

VEHICLE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Even the best-maintained vehicles suffer breakdowns. You may already have in mind a list of items you should keep in your trunk. Whether you're commuting or on a summer road trip, roadside emergencies can happen with little warning. It's important to keep a few roadside assistance items in your trunk so that you can get back on the road quickly. Prepare for the unexpected by creating a comprehensive roadside emergency kit.



Roadside emergencies tend to involve electrical system snags, fuel delivery difficulties, and tire troubles. Car batteries usually last three or four years in our northern climates, and failure in winter is typical. Alternators are stressed keeping up with the battery and vehicle systems, and tires are susceptible to damage from road debris and potholes. Running out of fuel on long drives is another common problem. Everyday road hazards include animal strikes and fender benders. Prepare for the unexpected is sound travel planning!

Vehicle Emergency supplies to consider:

Tire repair kit; jumper cables or booster box; flashlight or headlamp; multi-tool; hose clamps; extra fluids; siphon; empty gas can; CB radio for communication dead zones; safety triangles; road flares or safety flashers; ABC-class dry chemical fire extinguisher; First-aid kit; water and non-perishable foods.

NAPA Auto Parts: Roadside Assistance Kit - 50 pcs+ \$74.78 (10% discount with AMA Membership)

CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting networks, devices and data from digital attacks, damage, loss or unauthorized access.

Just as physical security protects buildings and people in them from various physical threats, cybersecurity safeguards digital technologies and their users from digital danger. This includes sensitive data, personally identifiable information (PII), protected health information (PHI), personal information, intellectual property, data, and governmental and industry information systems.



Cybersecurity can be categorized into five distinct types:

1. Critical infrastructure security
2. Application security
3. Network Security
4. Cloud security
5. Internet of Things (IoT) security

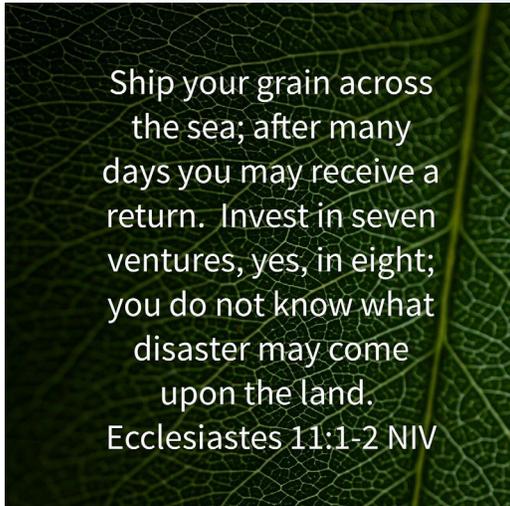
Bridges of Love is building a security-first culture to reduce risk to our network and to protect our partners.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – July, 2022

“CAST YOUR BREAD UPON THE WATERS, FOR AFTER MANY DAYS YOU WILL FIND IT AGAIN” Ecc. 11:1



Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.
Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 NIV

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon summarizes that life involves both risk and opportunity. Since there are no guarantees in life, we can take a risk and expect results or we can take the biggest risk of all, and do nothing! Solomon does not support a negative and despairing attitude, where we are paralyzed by fear. In contrast, he encourages a spirit of trust and adventure, facing life's risks and opportunities, with God directed enthusiasm and faith.

Waiting for the perfect time to proceed will result in inactivity as the right conditions may never come! If we listen to nay-sayers and succumb to fear, we may miss the blessings of the Lord and the privilege to be a witness for His provisions.

If God tells us to do something, the key to success is obedience. It takes perseverance and trust in God to venture out of our comfort zone, often to unfamiliar and perhaps risky waters.

Don't worry about what we may not have as God always makes a way! God has given us all different gifts and we should be investing our talents for His glory. When we are called to step out in faith, know that God is greater than any problem or risk!

“An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory” Ralph Waldo Emerson

DAYS OF DELUGE!

Massive rainstorms dump large amounts of water, swamping areas that are unable to handle such a deluge. Floods are the most frequent and costly natural hazards in Canada. They can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of the thick snow pack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or man-made dam. While some floods develop slowly over a period of days, some develop quickly, causing flash floods.

We are fortunate to have an early warning system in place to enable officials to alert the public to the location of the flood and the time it will impact the general public. If evacuation is necessary, do so immediately!

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Twelve inches of moving water can wash a car away and six inches of fast moving water can knock an adult off his feet. Avoid wading in flood water as it could be contaminated with oil, gasoline, or sewage. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery only outdoors and away from windows.

*“Anyone can find themselves in the path of dangerous weather, but the threat is particularly formidable for those who lack the resources to protect themselves when needed, evacuate when necessary, and rebuild after a disaster. **The takeaway:** adapting to a world of superstorms is literally a matter of life and death!”*

The Superstorms, Special TIME Edition

ALBERTA.CA stresses the importance of individual property owners sharing in flood preparation. It is not solely a governmental responsibility. During a flood, quick action is important! Being a community volunteer, getting to know those in your neighbourhood, is a good way to get started. Being part of a CERT team provides an excellent opportunity to be connected, ready, and equipped, when disaster strikes!

The greatest risk of all is to risk nothing...

- To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
- To weep is to risk appearing weak.
- To love is to risk rejection.
- To reach out is to risk involvement.
- To hope is to risk disappointment.
- To compete is to risk losing.
- To trust is to risk betrayal.
- To be confident is to risk appearing arrogant.
- To live is to risk dying.



Heather Mack, former Director of Government Relations, Insurance Bureau of Canada shared at our CERT Summit...

“There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction.

John F. Kennedy





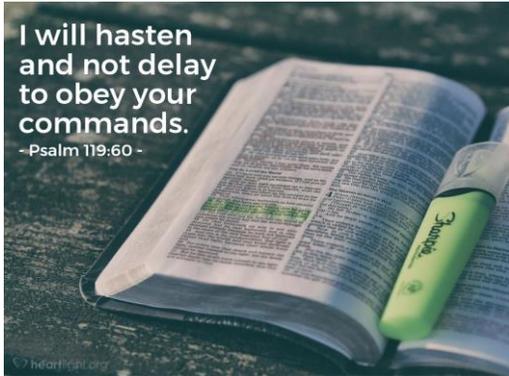
BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – June, 2022

"I WILL HASTEN AND NOT DELAY TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS." Psalm 119:60

I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

- Psalm 119:60 -



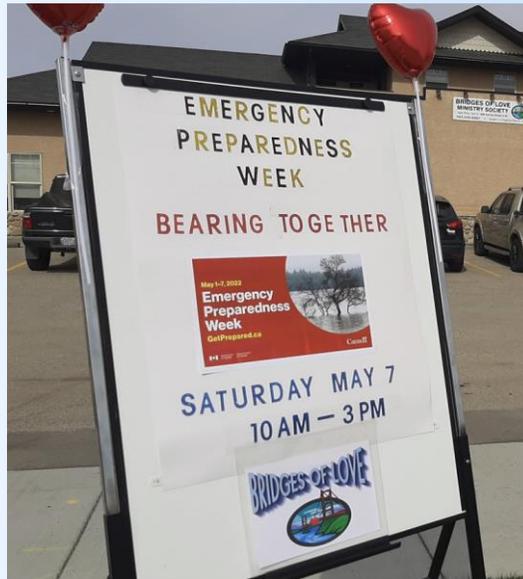
We live in a world of competing ideas and worldviews in an increasingly globalized and inter-connected world. American Worldview Inventory, 2022 from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University recent nationwide [survey](#), among a representative sample of America's Christian pastors, shows that a large majority do not possess a biblical worldview. In fact, just slightly more than a third (37%) have a biblical worldview and the majority – 62% possess a hybrid worldview known as Syncretism, the blending of ideas and applications from a variety of holistic worldviews forming a unique but inconsistent combination that represents their personal preferences.

As veteran researcher and CRC Director of Research George Barna explains, "It's just further evidence that the culture is influencing the American church much more than Christian Churches are influencing the culture."

Barna offers a note of hope in spite of the data. "You cannot fix something unless you know it's broken. Other recent research conducted suggests most pastors believe that they are theologically in tune with the Bible. Perhaps these findings will cause many to take a careful look at how well their beliefs and behavior conform to biblical principles and commands."

"I WILL HASTEN AND NOT DELAY TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS." Psalm 119:60

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK



BEARING



TOGETHER



CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Pastor Dr. Robert Lewis's book, "The Church of Irresistible Influence" was the inspiration for Bridges of Love. Little did we know in the start-up phase, however, that Emergency Preparedness and CERT Training would be our connecting bridge!

The book begins with a challenge with one of our goals! *Can you imagine a large number of your church members actively engaged in, and passionate about, community service, using their gifts and abilities in ways and at levels they never thought possible?*

Recently, we watched on the news, the devastation caused from a horrific storm in Central Canada. The Ottawa Mayor mentioned how "neighbours helping neighbours" brought people together. CERT volunteers with basic emergency training provides an outlet for church and community members to engage in an on-going activity, where they are ready to assist during times of disaster, at a moment's notice.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thanks to Alberta's Civil Society Fund, Bridges of Love looks forward to a Program Director, joining our team. Please see the attachment or visit our [website](#).



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – May, 2022

“LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD” Galatians 6:9



Galatians 6:9 has been a guiding verse personally and for our Ministry. When we first began Bridges of Love in 2004, Stockwell Day, former Minister of Public Safety, sent a letter of support, concluding with this verse. May 14, 2005 Art Hanger, MP for Calgary NE presented Bridges of Love with a letter of recognition for the dedication and commitment to see individual Christians, Churches, and Ministries working together to build strong, caring and loving community relationships. Galatians 6:9 was again included with Art's letter.

Bridges of Love is embarking on its nineteenth year. Many lessons have been learned along the way, which will stand us in good stead, as we broaden our scope.

A giant leap of faith was taken when we secured office space in High River during a pandemic! From a human perspective, this was indeed a risky move with restrictions hampering our normal activities and decreasing donations.

This past year, however, has afforded us the opportunity to outfit our office, to revise and update our website, and we had adequate time to apply for grants that would offer a financial foundation on which to grow. God continues to be faithful now allowing Bridges of Love to expand our borders across Alberta. It is with much thankfulness and gratitude that we share this wonderful news!

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY GRANT RECIPIENT

ALBERTA COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

“When disaster strikes, civil society is always first in line to offer a hand up to support Albertans through any emergency. This funding will help further enhance the capacity of civil society to provide immediate disaster assistance and bridge the critical gap between the time of disaster and the arrival of emergency services. I am pleased Bridges of Love will be using this funding to share resources and training with organizations across Alberta.” Jason Luan, Minister of Community and Social Services

Bridges of Love is very pleased to announce the success of our grant application for the **CIVIL SOCIETY FUND** awarded by Alberta's Community & Social Services! Thank you Jason Luan, Minister of Community and Social Services and the CSF Team for their recognition of the importance of Bridges of Love's two programs: The Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative (FEPI) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The title for Bridges of Love Ministry Society's grant proposal is:

“The Power of Civil Society...Moving at the Speed of Trust”

Templates for our two programs were developed and tested in Calgary and area. Now, with much appreciation for the Alberta Government funding; over the next two years, Bridges of Love Ministry will be sharing resources, CERT training, and lessons learned, with other regions across our Province.

Building relationships before disaster strikes is essential to foster trust across the sectors. Collaboration is key for the success of FEPI and CERT. We look forward to getting to know our neighbours across Alberta, so when catastrophic events happen, civil society is ready to move at the **speed of trust!**

Bridges of Love promotes community resilience, connecting people, churches, and networks through coordination, resources and CERT training.

The announcement for the 37 recipients with amounts received, along with information regarding Alberta's CSF process, can be found on the [Government of Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/civil-society-fund-2021-22-grant-recipient-list) site (Civil Society Fund 2021-22 grant recipient list). Year 2 is focused on building the capacity of civil society organizations to support the social and economic recovery of Albertans.

JOB DESCRIPTION, Program Director

**Bridges of Love looks forward to a Program Director joining our team.
Please see job posting attached or click on [LINK](#).**



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – April, 2022

“IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.” John 16:33

“I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE peace. IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE heart! I HAVE overcome THE WORLD.”

JOHN 16:33

In the book of John, every chapter reveals the deity of Jesus and His true identity is underscored through the titles He is given – the Word, the One and Only, Lamb of God, Son of God, true bread, life, resurrection, vine. When Jesus uses the phrase, “I AM” he affirms his pre-existence and eternal deity.

Jesus says, *I am the bread of life* (John 6:35); *I am the light of the world* (John 8:12, 9:5); *I am the gate* (John 10:7); *I am the good shepherd* (John 10:11, 14); *I am the resurrection and the life* (John 11:25); *I am the way, and the truth and the life* (John 14:6); and *I am the true vine* (John 15:1).

The greatest sign is the resurrection and John provides a stirring eyewitness account of finding the empty tomb. Jesus summed up with these words he told his disciples in Verse 33. He said to take courage, in spite of the inevitable struggles they would face. They would not be alone.

Jesus does not abandon us in our troubles if we remember that the ultimate victory has already been won. We can claim peace during the most troublesome of times. During this Easter season, let us enjoy the Peace of Christ, as we give thanks for His sacrifice and celebrate Christ’s resurrection and His gift of eternal salvation.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Spring clean-up on a property, should begin with the home as it is the largest fuel source. There are several potential paths, so blocking each will greatly improve the odds of the house surviving an encroaching fire.

Tall dry grass accelerates a fire’s spread outward and forward from its point of origin. If it reaches flammable shrubs, the fire begins to climb the “fuel ladder.” Low tree limbs overhanging the burning shrubs dry out from the heat, and soon the flames leap into the limbs and ascend into the tree top. This enables the fire to move rapidly from tree to tree and if a tree standing close to the house ignites, the fire’s next move could very well be the structure itself.

Removing dry grass and flammable shrubs near the house and pruning trees, will help create a defensible space. A wildfire has a third means of reaching the structure, however. The updraft from an active fire can cast embers miles beyond the perimeter. If an ember lands on a roof covered by leaves, needles, or other debris, the fire will have found a path to more destruction. If the ember rolls into the rain gutter, and leaves or conifer needles have accumulated, the ember has a ready-made fuel bed. This material doesn’t always burst into a tall, showy flame. Rather, it kindles a smokeless, smoldering burn that creeps into the underlayment of the roof.

Creating breaks in the vegetation, keeping plants and grass pruned, watered, and green; and keeping firewood and propane tanks uphill 30 feet or more away from the home, will give security against damage or loss from wildfire.



My dad raises bees. Visiting his farm, he proudly showed me all the honey retrieved from his hives. Removing the lid of a 5-gallon bucket we were surprised to find three little sticky bees struggling on the top. Feeling concerned for their fate, I asked Dad if we could help them. He felt they wouldn’t survive, but he did agree to take them out of the honey bucket, carefully placing them outside in an empty container.

Due to the disruption from the earlier honey collection, bees were flying everywhere, so we decided to leave the scene and let nature take its course.

Checking a little while later, we were happy to see the three little bees surrounded by their fellow bees, who were busy cleaning the sticky honey off each tiny body. It wasn’t long before each bee was sufficiently clean to fly away.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by community who would not give up; refusing to let them drown in their own stickiness! They were resolved to help until every fellow bee was free.

LOVE IS ACTION!



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – March, 2022

“LET THEM GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HIS UNFAILING LOVE...” Psalm 107:21



We all have regrets about past decisions; ones we wish we could reverse. Those who have truly suffered and have deep regret for their actions, appreciate God’s forgiveness and unfailing love with greater understanding. When we experience trials and disappointments, there is the potential for greater praise and worship.

This past year has brought divisions, uncertainty and disappointments over vaccinations and mandates; bringing discourse within families, friends, co-workers, and communities. Agreement with the “Freedom Convoy” is also a contentious issue, but an outcome that Canadians can agree, is the display of unity when people come together—strangers in many cases, championing a cause they strongly support. No matter what the background, religion, or ethnicity, oneness and joy manifest.

In the book of Psalms we hear believers crying out to God from the depths of despair, as well as singing in celebration, enjoying new heights of joy and thanksgiving. Psalm 107:21 offers comfort and hope in an honest expression, to those who know they have messed up.

God’s free gift of forgiveness and unfailing love for all of mankind, offers new life in Jesus Christ, and a break from past misgivings.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (CRR)

“When large-scale unstable events occur, citizens are the “first responders.” CRR programs must evolve to increase the odds of critical lifesaving action.”

Daniel Byrne, Community Support Officer

A Paradigm Shift – With severe events on the rise, is it necessary to redefine the meaning of ‘first responder’, reimagine the purpose and approach to CRR, and usher in a paradigm shift for community first responders.

As we continue down a road of social and environmental change, we must adapt in order to save lives and protect property. The mass chaos that delays a professional response, necessitates a shift from a do-it-yourself approach to a whole community philosophy. No one organization can manage a complex event.

The African Proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child”. It also takes community involvement to respond effectively to a disaster. Why not respond safely with a bit of training, equipment, and coordination? Today, from a pandemic to social unrest, our country has entered into unprecedented times that challenge our emergency response.

CERT Canada has the capability to enhance emergency response, increasing the odds of critical life-saving action, being delivered everywhere at the same time and on time. We must go beyond simply educating individuals on how to be safe, we must instruct, equip and train volunteers; those who will be the first to respond during a major event, who can deliver immediate lifesaving skills until the professionals arrive.

The heart of a community’s strength lies within the residents themselves and their ability to withstand, respond, and recover. It is time to shift the paradigm from a government-centric response, to an approach that considers trained community volunteers, as assets rather than liabilities!

ENLARGING OUR TERRITORY

In 1 Chronicles 4:10
Jabez asked God to:

1. Bless him,
2. Enlarge his territory,
3. Be with him in all he did, and
4. Keep him from evil and harm.

Jabez acknowledged God as the centre of his life. His most important action was to conquer new territory with divine blessings.

We are very thankful to have a prayer team led by Bridges of Love’s Board Member, Denise Hill. We are indeed following Jabez’s example as we seek to broaden our territory.

A stronger financial foundation is now necessary for Bridges of Love to expand our team. Two grants appeared a good fit with our mandate, so we are praying we will be successful with our bid. Some funds should be allocated in a few months, so the timing is good, with COVID restrictions coming to an end.

Until these resources are secured, however, we would appreciate your help to ‘bridge the gap’. Thank you.





BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2022

“SUFFERING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; AND CHARACTER, HOPE” Romans 5:3



THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

A group of women studying Malachi, a book in the Old Testament, came across a verse Chapter 3:3 which says: *“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”* This verse puzzled the women, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the ladies offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week this woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot – then she thought again about the verse, that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered “Yes”, and explained that he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be damaged.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled at her and answered, “Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it.”

If today you are feeling the heat of this world's fire, just remember that God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ are refining you. “You are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ.”

Author Unknown

PUTTING FEET TO OUR FAITH



1. Prayer: Praying for your community is the calisthenics that gets you in shape for the marathon of service; igniting your faith and putting it into action.

Spiritually Ready: During any crisis, many questions arise asking, where is God? Always be ready with a response for the hope that lies within you.

Be Informed: Combat fear through education.

2. Develop Local Partners:

Build Relationships of trust for a spirit of teamwork.

Take Stock of Resources, Facility, & Volunteers: Complete Bridges of Love's FEPI Church Contact & Form.

Resource Assessment form



3. Register for Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT): Be prepared, equipped, coordinated, and part of a CERT team in your community.



Ready, Set... Reserve your place!
403.649.0087

“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his Love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” Romans 5:3-5

Suffering was the norm rather than the exception for first-century Christians. As believers we know we will overcome, but until that day arrives, we will experience difficulties, that help us mature in our walk with the Lord. We can rejoice in suffering, as we know God is using life's difficulties to build our character. The problems we encounter will help us persevere, deepen our trust, and give greater confidence, diligence, and hope for the future.

We can testify to this truth, as 20 years ago, we lost our home and business. This was indeed a devastating time for our family, but it changed the direction and focus for the remainder of our lives. It was indeed a crossroads, but we made the decision to follow the Lord, no-matter what our circumstances.

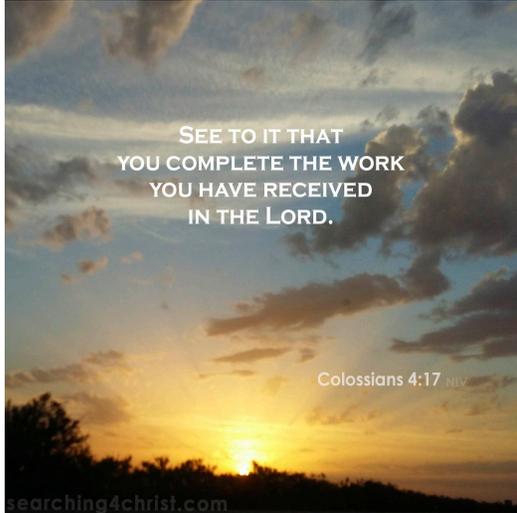
It took some time before we could truly say thank you for this time and mean it! Looking back, however, we now see how God used these difficult times to not only strengthen, but to grow our faith, so we could receive His best as we serve and glorify Him.



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – January, 2022

“SEE TO IT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE WORK YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN THE LORD” Col. 4:17



SEE TO IT THAT
YOU COMPLETE THE WORK
YOU HAVE RECEIVED
IN THE LORD.

Colossians 4:17

Paul's final words at the end of Colossians leaves a personal message. He admonishes Archippus, to finish the personal assignment God gave to him.

Our Lord's first recorded words as a young boy were, "I must be about My Father's business" (Luke 2:49). At the end of His life on earth, He said, "I have finished the work which you have given Me to do" (John 17:4).

God has given each of us certain gifts for His glory and certain tasks for His Kingdom. The apostle Paul said, "My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."

Our world is looking for a solution to our problems, but the cross presents itself in the midst of our dilemma, as our only hope. Our country is in need of a great spiritual awakening. The gospel is God's gift to us all which is a beam of light shining on this troubled world.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Since 2005, Bridges of Love has not deviated from its primary mission. The vehicle to connect church with community took a shift from the Micah Challenge to Pandemic Preparedness, but our goal to provide tools and resources for the local church to be catalyst of change and engines of influence, has remained constant.

COVID-19 has taken a toll for building relationships with the church community and the community at large. Our first major step to over-come, however, came with our lease for office and training space in High River. We have a presence in the community with excellent signage.

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY

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



We are very fortunate to also have a large lighted sign dedicated to CERT as it was not being used by the downstairs business. It is highly visible, so our location should be well known, in the community.



Over the past year we have made some connections through our grand-opening celebration in September, inviting a few guests for this special time. In October, we facilitated our first CERT Train-the Trainer session, introducing our materials to potential instructors, in preparation for our next CERT Canada Summit.

With COVID restrictions lifted for the summer months, a "Meet & Greet" event was held, with businesses and local residents joining for refreshments. Neighbours meeting Neighbours!! 😊



A Prayer for Peace

Even when life feels chaotic, we can experience Your peace because of what Jesus did on the cross. Thank you for making this possible by sending us Your Son. He made a way for us to know and experience You.

Peace is evidence that You are with us, and that You love us. Even when life feels out of control, we can cling to the truth that Your peace isn't based on our feelings or circumstances—but on Your character and faithfulness.

When we don't feel at peace, please make Your presence known to us. Remind us that You're in control. Give us Your strength and comfort when the world feels unsafe. Protect our hearts and minds from the weight of our feelings and thoughts.

Allow us to sense Your presence and to live with confidence that You are always near. Let our lives be an example of Your peace that surpasses all understanding.

We are so thankful to know Christ as our loving Saviour who knows the beginning from the end. We trust Him with our lives and our ministry. We know where we are going, and we know the One, who has prepared the way. Thank you Lord.