



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – NOVEMBER, 2014

**“BUT I TELL YOU: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU” Matthew 5:44**

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven"  
Matthew 5:43-45

These verses from Matthew 5 may be some of the hardest directives from Jesus to actually abide by in this life. Jesus is telling us that we will need to love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us. Why is Jesus so animate about this directive that seems so against our human nature?

When we are wronged, often our first reaction is to get even. Instead Jesus said we should do good to those who wrong us! To love and forgive is not natural – it is supernatural. Only God can give us the strength to love as he does. Instead of planning to get even, pray for those have hurt you.

In so doing, we are not taking revenge into our own hands. By loving and praying for our enemies, we can overcome evil with good. If we love our enemies and treat them well, we will truly show that Jesus is Lord of our life. We must trust the Holy Spirit to help us show love to those for whom we may not feel kindly towards.

The past few weeks have been very difficult ones for Canadian citizens. We have felt betrayed and anger has filled the hearts of many. We certainly do not condone the actions of those men who took the lives of others but we are to be devoted to God's desires rather than our own, and to carry his love and mercy into the world.

For any who struggle with this directive from the Lord, go to God the Father in prayer, asking Him by the power of the Holy Spirit to give His love and grace to obey the commands of Matthew 5:44.

## TERRORISM & CERT

In light of the terrorism threats around the world, we will consider what the Community Emergency Response Team training has to say for this potential disaster.

In Canada, section 83.01 of the *Criminal Code* defines terrorism as an act committed "in whole or in part for a political, religious or ideological purpose, objective or cause" with the intention of intimidating the public" with regard to its security, including its economic security, or compelling a person, a government or a domestic or an international organization to do or to refrain from doing any act."

**Eight Signs of Terrorism**

- 1 Surveillance
- 2 Elicitation
- 3 Tests of security
- 4 Funding
- 5 Acquiring supplies
- 6 Impersonation or suspicious people
- 7 Rehearsals and dry runs
- 8 Deployment

CERT Basic Training Unit 8: Terrorism and CERT 8-14

Terrorism may be perpetrated by foreign or domestic individuals or groups. Attacks can occur with or without warning. Because of the nature of terrorist attacks, they can — and are often intended to — result in:

- ✓ Mass casualties
- ✓ Loss of critical structures
- ✓ Disruption of the economy
- ✓ Heightened fear

We all have a responsibility to play an active role in keeping the country safe so anything that seems out of place or suspicious should be reported to authorities. Personal safety is the first priority, however, so CERT members should treat possible terrorist incidents as a stop sign. **CERTs are not equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents.** Professional responders will need specialized equipment and personnel to respond to a terrorist incident.

## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies  
blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the  
sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns  
below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset  
glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we  
lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we  
throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it  
high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though  
poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae



Fountain and Boer War Monument  
Central Memorial Park, Calgary



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – OCTOBER, 2014

“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” Luke 10:29

## Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan

Christ’s mission was to reveal God the Father to people; bringing often difficult ideas down to a level others could understand. He explained God’s love through parables, teachings, and most of all, his life.

A very familiar parable in Luke tells of a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho where he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest and Levite going down the same road saw the man lying on the side of the road and passed by on the other side.

A Samaritan also came by the man and had pity on him bandaging his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He then went beyond the call of duty, taking him on his own donkey to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, instructing him to look after his needs.

Jesus asked, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

From the parable we learn three principles about loving our neighbour:

1. Lack of love is often easy to justify, even though it is never right;
2. Our neighbour is anyone of any race, creed, or social background who is in need; and...
3. Love means acting to meet the person’s need. Wherever you live, needy people are close by. There is no good reason for refusing to help.

“Life isn’t about getting and having, It is about giving and being” Kevin Kraus



## NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Shifting from a ‘government-centric’ to a ‘whole community’ philosophy which considers citizens as collaborators and partners, is a new concept for Canada. The community is a rich resource when alert, well-prepared and ready for emergencies; standing in the gap when catastrophic events overwhelm the existing disaster response agencies.

September 27, Bridges of Love facilitated their second **CERT CANada Summit**. Representatives (28) from the church, community and non-profit sectors came to learn how to protect themselves, family and neighbours. There was also concern for the vulnerable populations both at work and in the community.

Comments from those who attended the various sessions:

- *Everyone should take this course! Thank you for your hard work for putting this together.*
- *Thanks for persevering Marg!!*
- *Fabulous day. Thank you for sharing! Look forward to the next one.*
- *Fantastic! Lots of info.*
- *Beyond my expectation! I thought I'd be bored. ☺*
- *Good variety of information.*
- *Hands on exercise identifying ICS functions were very good.*
- *Excellent info and speakers.*
- *Right amount of information – created a questioning, learning environment.*
- *Stayed on the direction of CERT – we now know where we fit.*

Community Emergency Response Team training is very basic but it heightens awareness and gives additional skills helpful for saving lives and protecting property. After the Summit one attendee expressed how he now realized how little he knows about Disaster Medical Operations so desires to take additional training. CERT Summits are intended as an introduction to a broad base of topics which opens the door for further conversations, planning, practical exercises; forming CERT teams in each community.

## CERT 2 CANada SUMMIT



THANK YOU PRESENTERS & PARTICIPANTS



Fire Safety & Utility Controls



Disaster Medical Op.



Food Safety



Personal Preparedness/CERT Kit



Psychology of Disasters





# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – SEPTEMBER, 2014

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Give thanks in everything...in all circumstances. Paul is not saying give thanks for everything, but in connection with everything that happens. In every circumstance, no matter what or where, you can still thank God. That's God's imperative to the growing Christian. Paul is speaking here of a life marked by thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is an attitude, a natural part of Christian character. With Thanksgiving drawing near, it is more than a holiday for the grateful believer -- it's a way of life. Bo Baker said, *"Thanksgiving is grace dressed in unselfishness, gratitude spelled out in personal concern and character showing its colors like the lovely leaves of fall."*

Not everything that happens to us is good, but God uses everything that happens to work for our good. Ten years ago, Bridges of Love was birthed. This ministry emerged from a dislocated heart! We had lost our beloved home (B & B) and business due to a falling economy which was followed by a job loss for a position which prepared me for God's next chapter. Even though it broke my heart at the time, He knew another assignment was already waiting...

Chip Ingram, author of Holy Ambition teaches what is required to make a difference for God. It takes moving beyond what the Christian subculture tells us is right and holy and acceptable. It's about the truth we've lost – that the God of the universe is actually looking for in regular people like you and me to accomplish things beyond our wildest dreams. It's about holy ambition!"

In order for our life to make a significant difference for God, He will take us through six incremental steps which will prepare and engage us for His service...

1. Developing a dislocated heart
2. Experiencing a broken spirit
3. Practicing a radical faith
4. Creating a strategic plan
5. Exercising personal commitment, and
6. Growing a courageous soul.

## CERT CANada Summit Modules

**ALBERTA HAZARDS:** You cannot prepare for everything so it is important to know the hazards which are more prevalent in our area which pose the greatest threats to family and community.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/ICS:** While emergency management services personnel are the best trained and equipped to handle emergencies, they may not be immediately available in a catastrophic disaster. By learning how to work as a team, neighbours and co-workers will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number.

**FIRE SAFETY:** Fire chemistry, fire hazards, fire suppression safety, and hazardous materials.

**DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS:** In a disaster, there may be more victims than rescuers, and assistance from medical professionals may not be immediately available. CERT personnel are trained to be part of disaster medical operations providing treatment for life-threatening conditions such as airway obstruction, bleeding, stroke, conducting simple triage & rapid treatment.

**LIGHT SEARCH & RESCUE:** Identify sizeup requirements for potential search & rescue situations; techniques for searching exterior and interior; debris removal and victim extrication, and protect rescuers during S & R operations.

**FOOD SAFETY:** Environmental Public Health Department will once again share the potential hazards of food, how to recognize risky situations, and what to do to reduce or eliminate that risk.

**DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY:** The psychological impact of a disaster on rescuers and victims and how to provide "psychological first aid" while caring for yourself, your buddy, and victims.

**CERT ORGANIZATION:** CERT mobilization, documentation, ICS Functions, next steps...

**TERRORISM & CERT:** What is terrorism? Terrorist targets, terrorist's weapons, preparing at home, work, and in your neighbourhood.

**PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS:** *"Yourself, your family then your neighbours"* Your own preparedness in an emergency will make all the difference to be able to assist others. Your personal preparedness plan should be tailored to the hazards in your community, and should include: community alerts, developing household plans, conducting drills to practice, and assembling/maintaining a 72-hour kit.

## CERT 2 CANada SUMMIT

September 27, 2014  
Rocky Mountain College



CERT teams are prepared to respond to a disaster with **head** - rather than **heart!** CERTs 'love bee...ing prepared.' They have a God who hears them, the power of love behind them, the Holy Spirit within them, and all of heaven ahead of them. They have direction for every turn, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm. (Max Lucado)

CERT training gives basic skills to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available. Working together, CERT teams can assist in saving lives and protecting property.



**"BEE...CERTified"**

Register: [www.bridgesoflove.net](http://www.bridgesoflove.net) or  
Call - Marg at 403.263.5683

**TOGETHER CERTS CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – AUGUST, 2014

**“--PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.”** *Philippians 4:9*

**“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice.”**  
*Philippians 4:9*

It is not enough to hear or read the Word of God, or even to know it well. It must be put into practice in order to develop a habit living according to God’s word.

How easy it is to listen to a wonderful sermon Sunday morning and forget what the pastor said on Monday. How easy it is to read the Bible and not think about how to live differently.

Living out our faith means being an ambassador for Christ. An ambassador does not speak on his own authority. He simply says what he has been commissioned to say. An ambassador is more than a messenger; however, he is also a representative. The reputation of who he represents is in his hands.

The Lord is interested in how we live our life for Him on a daily basis, not on what we do in ministry for Him. Do family, friends and co-workers see us as Christ followers or do they even know we have a relationship with God?

God is seeking a vessel set apart for Him, separated totally from the allurements of the world around, and fully yielded to His will. It is a long-term commitment into a new lifestyle. It is a call out of one lifestyle, which looks so logical and right to the world into another lifestyle programmed for victory and the ability to stand where others would fall or turn and run.

In his counterintuitive book, “Leading Quietly”, Harvard Professor Joseph Badaracco steers us away from the well-worn leaders-as-heroes path and onto the road less traveled, where ordinary people get things done. The most effective leaders are rarely public heroes, these men and women are not high profile champions of causes and don’t strive or want to be.

Finding and connecting with others is not about boldness – it is about LOVE. When we pay attention to people we nudge them towards Jesus as a connecting bridge between them and God.



## CERT CANada

**“TOGETHER CERTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”**

Just as the government realizes that better coordination between agencies is imperative, it is equally imperative for non-government organizations and the faith-based organizations to establish better coordination between each other and with the public sector agencies.

The stage has been set and the foundation laid for being engaged in an activity that has the potential to save lives as we care for our communities during an emergency. Not only will a great service be provided to our communities but as we display God’s love we will be an ambassador for Him.

Individuals who engage in CERT training have servant hearts, willing spirits, and are ready for action. CERT training is a very valuable course offered to individuals, church groups and community members in an effort to make communities safer, more prepared, with greater resiliency when incidents occur. Not only will people be better prepared to assist themselves, church and community but we believe it will cause a changed heart leading to a more compassionate and caring community. With the ‘me’ generation so prevalent in today’s society, this program will take the focus ‘outside’ ourselves, as we ‘bear’ together...



## Required CERT Equipment

Each CERT member is required to have and maintain a CERT Kit.

These items are essential:

- CERT ID (required for call-outs)
- Helmet
- Vest
- Dust Mask
- Goggles
- Rubber/latex Gloves
- Leather Gloves
- Sturdy Shoes
- Long Pants
- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Bottled Water
- Non-perishable Food
- Pen
- Set of the CERT Forms
- Code of Conduct



Individuals who have taken the CERT training will have their equipment packed and ready for any emergency. (Can be purchased from Bridges of Love after taking the CERT training - \$40)

CERT equipment is not the same as a 72 hour kit. The 72 hour kits include those items which will sustain a family until the first responders are able to assist.

**BOTH ARE IMPORTANT!**





# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – JULY, 2014

**“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:14**

**How significant is my life? Do I make a difference or does anyone even notice?**

In 1963, Edward Lorenz presented a hypothesis to the New York Academy of Science. His theory, stated simply...

*A butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air—eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet.*

*Lorenz and his ideas were literally laughed out of the conference. What he proposed was ridiculous.*

*Therefore, because of the idea’s charm and intrigue, the so-called “butterfly effect” became a staple of science fiction, remaining for decades a combination of myth and legend spread only by comic books and bad movies.*

*So imagine the scientific community’s shock and surprise when, more than thirty years after the possibility was introduced, physics professors working from colleges and universities worldwide came to the conclusion that the butterfly effect was authentic, accurate, and viable.*

*Soon after, it was accorded the status of a “law.” Now known as The Law of Sensitive Dependence upon Initial Conditions, this principle was proven to be a force encompassing more than mere butterfly wings.*

*Since has shown the butterfly effect to engage with the first movement of any form of matter—including people.<sup>1</sup>*

Can we really make a difference? The answer lies in our perspective, our priorities, and our source of power. The power we receive in union with Christ is sufficient to do his will and to face the challenges that arise from our commitment to doing it.

“When we know that everything matters—that every move counts as much as any other—we will begin living a life of permanent purpose”. We must focus all our energies toward winning the race...



## CERT CANada

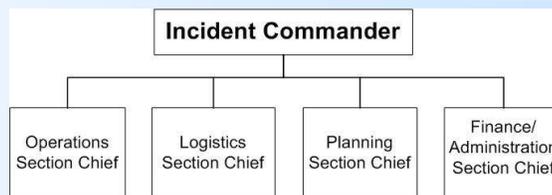
### INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the system used by emergency response agencies to manage emergency operations. When CERTs activate, they become part of that system.

The basic ICS structure for CERT is established by the person who arrives first on the scene. This person becomes the Incident Commander/Team Leader (IC/TL). Initially, the IC/TL may handle all the command positions of ICS but, as the incident evolves, he or she may assign personnel as needed to the four ICS Command Functions:

- Operations Section Chief
- Logistics Section Chief
- Planning Section Chief
- Finance/Administration Section Chief

Through an effective ICS, all CERT members report through a chain of command to the IC/TL. The IC/TL reports to the first fire or emergency enforcement official at their location and takes direction from that person until otherwise directed or until the CERT is relieved.



CERTs will typically require the Operations, Planning, and Logistics functions. The CERT Incident Commander/Team Leader is responsible for handling or delegating each function.

Free On-line ICS 100 is intended as an introduction and over-view of ICS.

<http://apsts.alberta.ca/online-courses/ics-100/>

**Your Life...**

**And what you do with it today...  
MATTERS FOREVER**

By Andy Andrews

When George Washington Carver was nineteen years old and a student at Iowa State University, he had a dairy sciences professor who, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, would allow his six-year-old boy to go on “botanical expeditions” with the brilliant student.

It was George Washington Carver who took that boy and instilled in him a love for plants and a vision for what they could do for humanity. It was George Washington Carver who pointed six-year-old Henry Wallace’s life in a specific direction—long before he ever became Vice President of the United States.

It is amazing to contemplate, isn’t it? George Washington Carver flapping his butterfly wings with the peanut...

*There are currently 266 things he developed from the peanut that we still use today.*

He flapped his wings with the sweet potato...

*There are 88 things carver originated from the sweet potato that we still use today.*

And while no one was even looking, George Washington Carver flapped his wings a couple of times with a six-year-old boy - Henry Wallace, who became President of the USA.

*By your hand, millions—billions—of lives will be altered, caught up in a chain of events begun by you this day.*



<sup>1</sup> Andy Andrews; THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT – How Your Life Matters, 2009



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – MAY, 2014

“BE PREPARED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON” 2 Timothy 4:2

*“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

2 Timothy 4:2

‘Be prepared in season and out of season’ means to always be ready to serve God in any situation, whether or not it is convenient. Be sensitive to the opportunities God gives us.

In 2008, Bridges of Love facilitated a Regional Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness and Response inviting many presenters from across Canada. One very special person who spoke on *Care for the Care Giver* was Lt. Col. Irene Stickland. She shared a story called “**The Order of the Red Blanket.**”

Irene’s story came from her own experiences while travelling home from a Christmas family visit in the US. Her brother had given her a warm red travel blanket which she treasured on this stormy, snowy 16 hour overnight journey home. During the night she was delayed in a bus station part way across the country and needed to change buses.

Cold and tired as she was, she looked up to see an older woman pass by – with two plastic bags around her feet, held by elastic bands. An inner voice nudged her out of her own discomfort, “that lady needs help!”

With only 10 minutes to spare before her own bus would be departing, Irene found the ladies connection, pulled on a pair of warm socks over her plastic bags, gave her lunch money, and then took her new red blanket and wrapped her snugly in the front seat of the bus, just as the door was closing...

Irene learned that cold evening; we need to be alert, aware and sensitive to human need. We should also be prepared with a red blanket to share with those in need.

The red blanket can represent our plans and preparations for any emergency, the training and education needed in order to meet the needs of people along the way. We must be willing to go “beyond the call” in response to that Divine Imperative –

**“To love, to serve and to care.”**



April 25/26 marked Bridges of Love’s first CERT training Summit. Here are some comments made by those who attended:

1. Thanks so much for putting this Summit on!
2. Each area of presentation was great but it needs to be enforced that this is for knowledge but that skilled professions will be providing direction. Community roles are as support, sometimes for the less glamorous, menial tasks...
4. Good start toward personal preparedness & supporting my community.
5. Overall a very informative event – opened my eyes to the importance of being prepared.
6. Sessions was very well organized and supported.
7. Would like to take another session to get the modules that I couldn’t take.
8. Excellent Summit! Very interesting
9. Absolutely enjoyed, awesome material (hand-out) outline of topic, Excellent!!
10. Our church would like to help set up a storage room preparing for an emergency
11. Great work organizing and putting this on. Thanks Marg
12. I think the event was a success. I was impressed with the number of people that came out and the presenters. All of the presenters that I sat in on knew what they were talking about and did an excellent job. I am planning to attend the next one as well.
13. Thank you for an excellent course and great environment.
17. Has motivated me to take more courses to be better prepared
18. High level review from a great range of topics
19. I would like to see 10 – 20 from our church going to the next session.
20. Very comfortable, well organized, well appointed. Thank you for your hard work organizing this valuable event.



**THANK YOU FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT!**



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

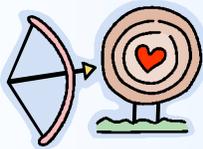
LOVE IS ACTION – APRIL, 2014

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

“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”  
Luke 12:40

Just as disasters come with little warning, a Christian workers greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any moment.

Jesus tells us how to live until he returns. We must watch for Him, work diligently obeying His commands; living out our beliefs to reflect Jesus' love as we serve others.



It is so easy to get off target and become preoccupied with the small matters of life. We forget our assignment and God's directions. One of the incredible abilities of Jesus was to stay on target. His life never got off track.

Max Lucado shares: by answering four simple questions, we can be more like Jesus; we can stay on course...

- 1. Am I fitting into God's plan?**  
(2 Peter 3:9) God's plan is to save his children.
- 2. What are my longings?**  
(Psalm 37:4) When we submit to God's plans, we can trust our desires.
- 3. What are my abilities?**  
(Romans 12:3) Be aware of our strengths. Where are we most productive? Identify our strengths and then major in them.
- 4. Am I serving God now?**  
(Col. 3:23) Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people.

### THE P.L.A.N.

Am I fitting into God's Plan?  
What are my Longings?  
What are my Abilities?  
Am I serving God Now?

## CERT

COMMUNITY  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE  
TEAM



SUMMIT

GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER

**CERT SUMMIT TRAINING**  
FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 25  
SATURDAY ALL DAY, APRIL 26  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE  
4039 Brentwood Rd NW, Calgary  
COST: \$49.00 per person  
Includes: Friday dessert, snacks,  
Sat. lunch and training materials  
AGE: 16 – 99

Do you have a desire to be prepared with basic emergency skills to respond to your family and communities needs during a disaster? Then this emergency training is for YOU!

Learn from professionals how together, CERT members can assist in saving lives and protecting property using the techniques and information shared through CERT training.

REGISTRATION  
403.263.5683 – 403.616.0536  
[margpollon@bridgesoflove.net](mailto:margpollon@bridgesoflove.net)  
[www.bridgesoflove.net](http://www.bridgesoflove.net)

Large Scale Disasters generate a need for a great number of volunteers with a variety of skills, abilities, expertise and training. **Serve Day** is coming and what better contribution can anyone make than to **safely** care for another life or perhaps save a life during any emergency? CERT Summit training offers modules in:

- 1. Alberta Hazards** – *Bill McMurtry, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Environment Canada*
- 2. Emergency Preparedness/ICS** – *Patrick McCabe, Acting Coordinator of Emergency Management, Calgary Emergency Management Agency*
- 3. Fire Safety & Utility Controls** - *Jennette Allum/Edward Petry, Calgary Fire Department*
- 4. Disaster Medical Operations** – *Brian Cheung, Nurse, Alberta Health Services*
- 5. Light Search & Rescue** – *CALSARAC*
- 6. Food Safety** - *Jason Feltham, Health Inspector, Environmental Public Health Department*
- 7. Disaster Psychology** – *Mental Health & Wellness*
- 8. CERT Organization** – *Marg Pollon, Founder, Bridges of Love Ministry*
- 9. Terrorism & CERT** – *Eyvi Smith, Community Outreach Liaison, RCMP*
- 10. Personal Preparedness & CERT Equipment** - *Brent Davis, Disaster Team Coordinator, Samaritan's Purse*



Disaster and emergencies can strike anytime, anywhere. If one happened today, what would you do and who would you depend on for the next 72 hours to stay safe?

### Who depends on you in 72?

Alberta Emergency Management Agency's theme, "Who depends on you in 72?" If you or your family is caught in an emergency or disaster, are you prepared? Do you have a 72-hour kit? An emergency plan?

Preparedness is a shared responsibility. We know that in some cases when a disaster occurs, it can take up to three days for emergency responders to reach you while they deal with the response and the most critically injured. Make sure you take the time now to prepare yourself with the items necessary to survive for a 72-hour period.

Please attend **Bridges of Love's CERT Summit** to learn how to prepare a 72-hour kit?

### DISASTER ALLEY

The fifth annual Disaster Alley will be held Sunday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at McMahon Stadium (east parking lot). This is your chance to learn about how The City of Calgary and its partners prepare for an emergency or disaster. Disaster Alley is a FUN, FREE FAMILY event that occurs every May during Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4 - 10, 2014).

SEE YOU AT DISASTER ALLEY!

<sup>†</sup> Max Lucado; JUST LIKE JESUS, 1998



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

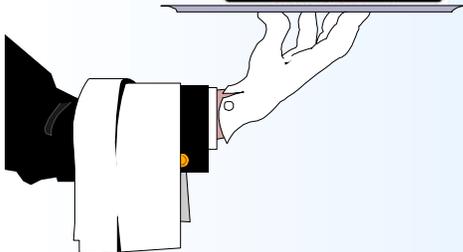
LOVE IS ACTION – MARCH, 2014

“...CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE...” Joshua 24:15

*“But as for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord.”  
Joshua 24:15b*

The time comes when we have to choose who or what will control us. Will it be God, our own self or another substitute? The choice is ours.

In taking a definite stand for the Lord, Joshua displayed his spiritual leadership. He challenged the people to make a conscious choice to always serve God. Regardless of what others decided, Joshua made a commitment to God, and he was willing to set the example of living by that decision. The way we live shows the strength of our commitment to serving God.



*“You are prepared as you have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within you, and all of heaven ahead of you.*

*You have direction for every turn, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm.”*

Max Lucado

Being prepared to serve our communities during a disaster takes radical faith, total commitment, a courageous soul, and a strategic plan. CERT training will assist those who complete the course, to be prepared both physically and intellectually, realizing we have the necessary tools to face emergencies, large or small.



Residents of Calgary have a ‘golden’ opportunity to learn basic emergency skills that will better prepare for a disaster. Dr. Arthur Bradley, author of “Handbook for Practical Disaster Preparedness for the Family” says; preparedness should always be motivated by love and concern, never by fear and paranoia.

CERT Basic Training is designed to prepare you to help yourself and to assist others in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Since emergency personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference using your CERT training to save lives and protect property.



*Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Candice Bergen, Minister of State (Social Development), congratulate the recipients of the second Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards at a special ceremony.*

Toronto, Ontario  
27 February 2014

### Introduction

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today honoured the recipients of the second Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards (PMVA) at a special ceremony in Toronto. He was accompanied by Candice Bergen, Minister of State.

The Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards recognize two national recipients, as well as 15 individuals, businesses and not-for-profit organizations in five regions across Canada. The awards also highlight best practices in community leadership and encourage partnerships across sectors.

Regional award recipients are:

Social Innovator: Bathurst Youth Centre des jeunes Inc. (Atlantic); Society of Organized Services (British Columbia and North); May Court Club of Brockville (Ontario); **Bridges of Love Ministry Society (Prairies);** and Petites-Mains (Quebec).

The recipients, who were selected through a rigorous assessment process, were presented with medals, certificates and lapel pins. As part of their recognition package, each recipient will identify a not-for-profit organization to receive a one-time funding grant in their honour.



### WHEN DISASTER STRIKES...

Basic services (e.g., electricity, gas, water, telephone, transportation, and banking) may be suddenly cut off. Similarly, residents and their families may have to evacuate at a moment's notice. What we have on hand, or what we are trained to do when a disaster or an emergency strikes, can vastly improve comfort and safety in the initial hours and days of the emergency. Many individuals, families, and businesses were caught unawares to deal with the 2013 Alberta Floods. **Could we be better prepared should another disaster reoccur in our Province?**

Bridges of Love Ministry together with experts in the emergency/health fields are facilitating and presenting the **Community Emergency Response Team** training. CERT Basic Training is designed to strengthen individuals and their communities in the event of a catastrophic disaster. By working together, CERT members can assist in saving lives and protecting property using the basic techniques offers in this valuable training.

Large scale disasters generate a need for a great number of volunteers with a variety of skills, abilities, expertise and training.

**“Doing the greatest good for the greatest number”**

**Special recognition to the New Initiatives Program;  
The Calgary Foundation's Flood Rebuilding Fund.**

Friday Evening, April 25 – Sat. April 26, 2014  
Friday 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM; Sat. 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE  
4039 Brentwood Road, N.W. Calgary, AB  
\$49.00 (Includes dessert, lunch and snacks)  
Course Out-line: [www.bridgesoflove.net](http://www.bridgesoflove.net)  
R.S.V.P. 403.263.5683 or [margpollon@bridgesoflove.net](mailto:margpollon@bridgesoflove.net)



# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – February, 2014

**“Only let us live up to what we have already attained.” Phil. 3:16**

*“Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.”*

**Phil. 3:16-17**

Christian maturity involves acting on the lessons learned and guidance we have already received. We can always make excuses that we have so much to learn. The instruction in Philippians 3:16 is to live UP to what we already know and live OUT what we have already learned. We do not have to be sidetracked by an unending search for truth.

Paul challenged the Philippians to pursue Christ likeness by following Paul's own pattern or example. That Paul could tell people to follow his example is a testimony to his character.

Learning to live a life that is honourable to the Lord and an example to others takes hard work and intentionality.

A person I have grown to admire, as he tirelessly worked most of his life toward fulfilling his dream, is Chris Hadfield. He knew from a very young age that someday he would be an astronaut and that dream gave him direction for his life. He shared in his recent book, **“An Astronauts Guide to Life...on Earth”** that it took years of serious, sustained effort, due to the need to build a new knowledge base, develop physical capabilities and dramatically expanding technical skill set. But the most important thing he needed to change was his mind. He had to learn to think like an astronaut.

Just as space travel gave Chris Hadfield a personal obligation to be a good steward of our planet and to educate others about what's happening to it, Christians also have a Christ given obligation to represent His heart to a watching world. We must set our minds on knowing Christ living our lives to reflect His model of servant-hood and self-sacrifice. What kind of follower would a new Christian become if he or she imitated us?



## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES...

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Bridges of Love Ministry together with experts in the emergency field will be introducing Community Emergency Response Team training at an informal information meeting. CERT Basic Training is designed to strengthen individuals and their communities in the event of a catastrophic disaster, saving lives and moving to a quicker recovery.

**Len MacCharles, Deputy Chief Calgary Emergency Management Agency, Wayne Cao, MLA** and other officials will be on hand to provide guidance as we move toward resilient communities. We encourage you to attend and bring others who would also like hear about this golden opportunity, to become better prepared for any disaster, which might occur in our Province.

**THE CALGARY FOUNDATION** provided matching funds for Bridges of Love to facilitate 4 CERT Summits. Please attend our information meeting for more details for how we can be better prepared...

**1<sup>st</sup> NW - Rocky Mountain College, April 25-26.**

## CERT INFORMATION MEETING

**Wednesday February 19, 2014  
10:00 am – 11:30 am  
Bridgeland/Riverside Community Hall  
917 Centre Ave. NE  
R.S.V.P. Marg at 403.263.5683 or  
margpollon@bridgesoflove.net**

## DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now. But I don't worry about that much. I'm happy anyhow.

For as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has over flowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the goings tough, but there are caring folks around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for His blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the going gets steep and rough, I'll not ask for other blessings~ I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy to help others bear their loads. With them I'll share my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
George McPhee





# BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – January, 2014

“...PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD” Ephesians 4:24

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

**Ephesians 4:22-24**

New Years resolutions are a common tradition and practice as we resolve to make wiser decisions for our eating habits, exercise, and work schedules for the coming year. Do we also consider our spiritual walk for how we must discard the old ‘self’ to put on the new way of thinking and acting directed by the Holy Spirit? We are not to be driven by desire and impulse but we are to be imitators of God, living a life of love, following in His steps.

We can grieve the Holy Spirit by the way we live. Are we pleasing or grieving God with our attitudes and actions?

The watching world should see a difference between Christians and non-Christians – not just on Sunday mornings but in every circumstance of our daily life. Our love for others should go beyond affection to self-sacrificing service.

An example of sacrificial love was shown by Myrna, a member from one of our Quadrant Lead FEPI churches. She invited me and a Mom she adopted through our Adopt-a-Family for flood victims, out for lunch. She arrived with a huge bag of gifts for the families six children as well for the two of us.

As we visited over lunch, I mentioned Bridges of Love had a call from another flood family from High River, who needed a hand-up for Christmas. Myrna immediately, sprang into action, saying she and other family members could help bring joy to yet another family.

I am sure this expression of love touched the hearts of these two families.

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

**Ephesians 2:8-10**



## THE CALGARY FOUNDATION FLOOD REBUILDING FUND

Following the devastating Southern Alberta Floods of June 2013, The Calgary Foundation established the Flood Rebuilding Fund, which supports qualified donees in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts.

The Calgary Foundation is donating its services and does NOT recover administrative costs or credit card transaction fees, so 100% of donations are directed toward recovery work and the next waves of need in Calgary and area - which includes the hardest hit areas of High River, Canmore, and surrounding First Nation reserves.

### Two programs are being offered:

**Increased Demand Program** – supports the work of qualified donees that are experiencing or are likely to experience increased demand for their existing services as a result of the flood.

**New Initiatives Program** – offers support for initiatives that restore community spirit, rebuild gathering places and enhance community resilience.

The programs are open to qualified donees who serve individuals, communities or neighbourhoods affected by the flood.

Bridges of Love is very grateful to The Calgary Foundation for their generous support providing matching dollars through the New Initiatives Program. This grant will assist with the development and implementation for the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training in Calgary in order to enhance community resilience.

Bridges of Love together with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency and other supporting FEPI partner organizations will develop and implement CERT training tailored to the needs of our communities and city.

Those who take the CERT training are a valuable asset in emergency response, but are NOT trained to perform all of the functions or respond to the same degree as professional responders. CERTs are a **bridge** to professional responders until they are able to arrive.

Learning how to work as a team; neighbours and coworkers will be able to do the **greatest good for the greatest number during and after a disaster.**

## IF YOU NEVER FELT PAIN

If you never felt pain,  
How would you know I am a healer?

If you never had to pray,  
How would you know I was a deliverer?

If you never had a trial,  
How could you call yourself an over  
comer?

If you never felt sadness,  
How would you know I am a comforter?

If you never made a mistake,  
How would you know I am a forgiver?

If you knew all,  
How would you know I answer all your  
questions?

If you never were in trouble,  
How would you know I would come to  
your rescue?

If you never were broken,  
How would you know I can make you  
whole?

If you never had a problem,  
How would you know I can solve them?

If you never had any suffering,  
How would you know what I went  
through?

If you never went through the fire,  
How would you become pure?

If I gave you all things,  
How would you appreciate them?

If I never corrected you,  
How would you know I love you?

If you had all power,  
How would you learn to depend on me?

If your life was perfect,  
What would you need me for?

Love Jesus