



Bridges of Love

"GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS" 1 Thes. 5:18

Rejoice always,
Pray continually,
Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we look toward Thanksgiving, it is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has given us. Some seasons of life are filled with joy and abundance, while others may bring uncertainty, sorrow, or challenges we never expected. Yet Scripture reminds us that our joy, prayers, and thankfulness do not have to fluctuate with our circumstances or our feelings.

The Apostle Paul gives us three simple but powerful instructions in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." These three short verses are sometimes described as the "standing orders" of the church. They give us a beautiful rhythm for daily Christian living. God's will is not always a hidden mystery that we must somehow discover. Often, it is found in the simple, faithful choices we make each day.

Sometimes giving thanks begins with something very small:

"Lord, thank You for today."
"Thank You for giving me strength."
"Thank You that I am not alone."
"Thank You for the people who love me."
"Thank You for Your faithfulness."

Why CERT Belongs in the Emergency Management Operating Picture

The Government of Alberta's 2025 Preparedness Survey of Albertans found that 45% of Albertans identify personal networks—including friends, family, neighbours and community organizations—as a trusted source of emergency preparedness information.

That finding reinforces an important truth: preparedness is about more than emergency kits and response plans. It is about people, relationships and community capacity built before a crisis occurs.

Professional emergency responders are essential. But increasingly complex emergencies can exceed the capacity of any single agency or organization. The community itself must also be part of the preparedness picture.

Building Capacity Through CERT

Bridges of Love's CERT training helps build that additional capacity. The goal is not to create another emergency-response organization or replace professional responders. The goal is to strengthen the system we already have. Imagine trained volunteers who understand their roles, know how to communicate, have practiced together, and can work alongside professional responders within clearly established boundaries. That is the potential of a community prepared as a "Team of Teams."

**Build the relationships. Train the people.
Exercise the system. Establish trust.
One operating picture. Many teams.
Shared purpose. Prepared people!**

PREPAREDNESS IN PRACTICE

McChrystal Group — Team of Teams

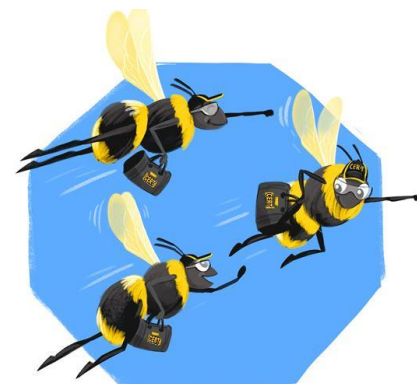
PREPAREDNESS IN PRACTICE

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"Preparedness isn't a plan. It's the capacity to assess, align, and act faster than conditions around us."

Think of preparedness like a full tank of fuel. A plan sitting on a shelf, one person who knows the process, or an untested system may look like preparedness—but when a crisis hits, that can leave an organization running on a quarter tank.

Unfortunately, Bridges of Love recognizes that we are still running below full capacity. There are critical measures still needed to build the readiness, relationships, and resources required for an effective response.



CERT Teams- Ready, Trained, Equipped to assist Neighbours