



BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE

Newsletter - Spring, 2004

Canadian Churches Making a Great Impact on their Communities...

'Jesus was a daring bridge builder. He imagined a bridge of unprecedented spiritual influence--one that could span a chasm roaring with skepticism, indifference, hostility, even persecution. He imagined a bridge able to connect his people--"my church," he called them--to a disbelieving, disinterested world'.

Robert Lewis

It is a great privilege to have recently joined the Compassion Ministry Track with Vision Canada. My heart's desire, is to see Canadian Churches across our nation connect intimately with their communities, by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

Let me tell you a little story that our Pastor in Calgary shared with us a few years ago, the first Sunday we attended the church. We were not intending on making a quick decision on where to settle, but this little illustration made the decision an easy one. I don't know if this is a true story but it is a good illustration of how a simple act of kindness can impact ones life profoundly. The story goes...

Pastor Higgins the senior pastor in the community church would often visit shut-ins in his community to share with them about the gospel. An older gentleman, John, who lived near the church was one such shut-in, so Pastor Higgins would drop in for a little visit. Week after week he would share and read the Bible with him but there was

never any evidence that he was accepting what was being shared. He seemed to just enjoy the company.

One day, while the Pastor was visiting, he noticed that John had very little food in his cupboards. The next week he brought a 'lamb chop', said nothing and laid it on the counter. From then on, each time he came, he brought a lamb chop and continued sharing his faith with John.

One day, after repeating this routine for months, he arrived to an empty house with a nurse cleaning things out. She told Pastor Higgins that John had passed away the previous night, and he had wanted her to tell the Pastor that John had accepted the Lord before he died. He said to tell you, however, that it was not because of the Bible reading and his sharing the gospel. It was because of the lamb chops!

We made a commitment to this church that first Sunday because we knew they had a heart for the 'Great Commandment' and a budget for lamb chops!!

Jesus tells us in Matthew that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind and love our neighbour as ourself. Are we fulfilling the Great Commandment by reaching out and touching someones life in a tangible & personal way?

Let us all give sacrificially as we demonstrate God's Love by sharing a little 'lamb chop' with others. I know that if we each give a little, we all can accomplish much for God's Glory

Can You Imagine?

- ♥ **Can you imagine** the community in which you live being genuinely thankful for your church?
- ♥ **Can you imagine** city leaders valuing your church's friendship and participation in the community--even asking for it?
- ♥ **Can you imagine** the neighbourhoods around your church talking behind your back about "how good it is" to have your church in the area because of the tangible witness you've offered them of God's love?
- ♥ **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?
- ♥ **Can you imagine** the community actually changing (Proverbs 11:11) because of the impact of your church's involvement?
- ♥ **Can you imagine** many in your city, formerly cynical and hostile toward Christianity, actually praising God for your church and the positive contributions your members have made in Jesus' name?
- ♥ **Can you imagine** the spiritual harvest that would naturally follow if all this were true?

The Church of Irresistible Influence
by Robert Lewis



**EVERY ACT OF
LOVE IS AN ACT
OF PEACE
NO MATTER HOW
SMALL**

MOTHER TERESA

For God so loved the world..





The Church of Irresistible Influence

'Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven'. Matthew 5:16

Living Proof...of a Loving God

Let me introduce a book that has had a great impact on my life. 'The Church of Irresistible Influence' written by Pastor Robert Lewis of Little Rock, Arkansas says that in this post-modern age, people need to see proof of Christ's love, to believe the truth of the gospel. As my little 'lamb chops' story points out, it is often necessary to show an unbelieving world tangible acts of kindness, to let them see and feel the love of Christ.

In other words, we need to make a shift of our church life, from 'Proclamation to Demonstration' of God's unfailing Love. It is about spanning the great chasm and connecting the community as 'salt & light'. We are trying to build bridges on truth alone, while the world is crying out for the evidence through our testimony as we model Christ's love.

Let me tell you another little illustration. This time it is a true story...in fact... it is my own personal story.

About 28 years ago, my husband and I had just moved to Toronto and we were looking for a church. We had been church attenders during our upbringing but we did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One day, we received a knock at the door, and a lady from a neighbouring church asked if we had children to attend Sunday School. We had one son at the time and we were happy to hear about this church in our community. She invited us to attend her church which we did that Sunday. The next week, we had a two elders call at our home asking us this question. If we died that night, would we know with assurance, that we would go to heaven? We said we hoped so, but we could not say for sure. We could not answer without reservation so that evening, these two men introduced us to the Love of the Lord Jesus Christ and we accepted Him as our Saviour. What an adventure it has been and it just keeps getting better!!

For the next six months, they sent a lady weekly, to disciple us in God's Word. What a tremendous gift this church gave us. Thank you Audrey and Parkway Bible

Church in Scarborough, ON. You made a difference..

This is why I am so committed to not only the 'Great Commandment' but also the 'Great Commission'. If this church had not been serious about going out into their community and building loving relationships with their neighbours, we may never have heard about the love of Jesus Christ. We have been told that very few people, the smallest percentage, come to the Lord in this manner. Are we impacting our communities for God's Glory?

This past month, the movie 'The Passion of the Christ' has been the topic of conversation for so many. Like others, I have been impacted profoundly from 'The Passion' and it has made me appreciate even more the sacrificial gift of redemptive love God gave each of us through His Son.

We took the follow-up training that was offered through Campus Crusade, and found it to be most beneficial in teaching how we can share our faith and to answer questions that might arise from the movie.

We all have a responsibility, to walk as Jesus walked. He was full of compassion and love for His Neighbours. Let each of us be committed to fulfilling Jesus' dream of building churches of irresistible influence in our communities.

'Bridges of Love'

Marg Pollon

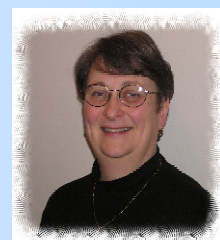
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EFC PARTNERSHIPS
COMPASSION
MOBILIZING CHRISTIANS TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE





BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE

COMPASSION IN ACTION - JUNE, 2004



Strength in Partnerships



How does a church with a vision of building 'Bridges of Love' reach not only their community but the whole city? The answer is, **NOT ALONE!** No matter how large and influential a church might be in a local community, that church represents only a small part of the body of Christ. And as good as its bridge-building efforts may be, its impact will be, at best, limited. No one church can effectively reach a city! The city is too large, too diverse, too complex, for any one ember from Christ's redemptive fire to light the way.

But what if there were a way to not only turn churches outward but also to join them together in unity of purpose? Nothing brings churches together in a city better than prayer and good works. Suspended by these two towers a broader and more powerful bridge of spiritual influence is being constructed to the glory of God. As different as many of us are, these two components develop a spiritual authentic common ground.

UNITY OF PURPOSE



How Do Partnerships work?

This past January at the EFC Roundtable Partnerships Forum we spent time discussing Partnering Principles for the 21st Century. John Rogers, Executive Director of Langham Partnership UK & Ireland, gave us excellent strategies for partnering. Here are a few highlights on how to be effective in partnerships.

Partnering and collaboration come out of the heart of God. Partnering is one important way in which the unity of the Body of Christ is demonstrated to the world. Therefore, partnership development is a profoundly spiritual activity.

- ♥ Effective partnerships seek the direction of God in all they do.
- ♥ Effective partnerships have a designated facilitator or a facilitation team.
- ♥ Effective partnerships have a clear purpose.
- ♥ Effective partnerships start by identifying needs before shaping structure
- ♥ Effective partnerships have clear, well-defined objectives.
- ♥ Effective partnerships keep their eyes on the ultimate vision.
- ♥ Effective partnerships are built on relationships of trust, openness and mutual concern
- ♥ Effective partnering focuses on what the partners have in common rather than on what makes them different.
- ♥ Effective partnering maintains a high level of participation and ownership by the Partners.
- ♥ Effective partnering imparts the vision and skills for partnership development to all the partners continuously.
- ♥ Effective partnering does not come Free of Charge.
- ♥ Effective partners recognize that Partnering is an on-going process, not a one-time event.
- ♥ Effective partners recognise that they have various constituencies whose needs must be acknowledged and whose contributions must be valued.
- ♥ Effective partners have an 'advocate' for partnering in their own ministry.
- ♥ Effective partners have clear identities and visions.

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

by Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

**IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN OUR MISSION TO FURTHER GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH,
WE MUST GATHER INFORMATION THAT ALLOWS US TO SEE OUR COMMUNITIES AS THEY REALLY ARE
AND NOT MERELY AS THEY APPEAR TO BE**

BRIDGES OF PROOF

For the job of bridging the Mississippi River, the resume of James Buchanan Eads did not naturally surface. Why?

Engineering degree - NONE

Bridges Built - NONE

Work Experience - Underwater salvage, a gadabout, gunboat builder & river boatman

What James Eads displayed that qualified him for the undaunting task of bridging the great Mississippi chasm was an *unbridled self-confidence and an unmatched knowledge of the river itself.*

Often, as 'engineers of churches,' pastors and lay leaders desperately desire to bridge the gap, but when measuring the gorge with the world's mathematics, they come to believe the span is simply too vast.

Jesus Christ was a daring bridge builder of another kind. Against his own overwhelming odds, he imagined a bridge of unprecedented spiritual influence—one that could span a chasm roaring with skepticism, indifference, hostility, even persecution. He imagined a bridge able to connect his people--my church, he called them--to a disbelieving, disinterested world. Nothing, he believed, would prevail against the power of the church: *I will build my church*, he said, *and the gates of hell will not overcome it.*

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" John 14:12.'

As we turn to face the Great Chasm, can we believe Him?

- ♥ *How does the community around you "Know" your church? Do they feel a positive connection with it?*
- ♥ *What tangible influence is your church having on your community?*
- ♥ *What kinds of "living proof" has the community around you experienced of your church's Christianity?*
- ♥ *What is the primary purpose of your church structure? How is it designed to process and move people into personal ministry?*
- ♥ *What changes in your church structure are critically needed?*
- ♥ *Does your church have a vision for the city? What evidence can you give?*
- ♥ *How well does your church know the needs and make-up of your community?*
- ♥ *What will it take to reconnect your church with your community?*

by Pastor Robert Lewis

BRIDGING PARTNERSHIP

Each school day morning 15 to 20 children receive a healthy breakfast through a unique partnership between local churches, schools, and charity organizations. The program is the result of the hard work and vision of a member of New Life Community Church named **Leslie**. Leslie saw a need in the community and had the determination and persistence to find a workable solution.

Through her contacts in the local elementary school, Leslie discovered that many children were not receiving breakfast in the morning and as a result, were doing poorly in school. The Principal of the school wanted to implement a breakfast program and was even aware of a national charity that would provide food for a breakfast program. The problem was the school did not have the facilities or staff to operate a program. The local church had the facilities and volunteers, but did not have the financial resources to supply the food. The national charity had a policy that they would only operate through schools, not churches or other non-school agencies. There was also concern within the church over issues like injuries, theft, behavior problems ...

After many discussions an arrangement was worked out that satisfied everyone. The school would order the food from the national charity and receive the food at the school. Volunteers from the church would immediately pick up the food and deliver it to the church. The church provided the facilities and volunteers to run the program. The school promoted the program with parents of children they thought would benefit. They also provided expertise and advise to volunteers on how to manage elementary age children. A set of operating guidelines was developed to make sure all parties understood the process and all potential issues were addressed. Since then the Breakfast Club has blossomed into more than just a "feeding program". Strong relationships have developed amongst all parties, more agencies and corporation are contributing, and many of the parents are now involved in operating the program.

Most importantly however, the children are doing much better in school. Although all the agencies and people involved had different strengths, weaknesses, and perspectives, they all had a common goal; to help the children do better at school. This was the secret of the program's success. We are all different parts of the body. Individually we can accomplish only so much. But by working together and focusing on the common goal we can use each other's strengths to accomplish much much more. Inspired by the success of the Breakfast Club, the church has carried this philosophy into many other ministries, including helping the homeless, clothing programs, food hampers, counseling, and overseas missions trips. This philosophy has allowed us to have a far greater impact than we could by working on our own.

by Andrew Bitcon - Breakfast Club

CELEBRATION 2005

The Celebration 2005 initiative of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada will be launched officially on Friday June 25 on the 100 Huntley Street television program, a year ahead of this national series of events aimed at helping local congregations show the love of God to their communities in practical ways. Ron Mainse, host of 100 Huntley Street will be interviewing Celebration 2005 participants Guy Saffold of Trinity Western University, Barb McDonald of One Way Ministries and David A. Macfarlane, Director, National Initiatives of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Please pray that the program bring glory to the Lord and that God might use Celebration 2005 to spark a new awareness of authentic Christianity in action. We praise the Lord for the growing list of major sponsors of Celebration 2005 that currently include: World Vision, Wycliffe Canada, Crossroads Communications and Trinity Western University.



Please check out C-2005 web page
www.celebration2005.ca



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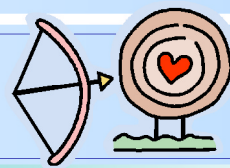
**Please submit any bridge
building stories from your
church either to C-2005
web site or to 'Bridges of
Love' at the above email.
Have a **LOVELY** summer!!**



BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE

Compassion in Action - July, 2004

THE 'MARK' OF A CHRISTIAN... Are we on the MARK?



"What is the Mark of a Christian?"

This question was asked of us recently, at a morning Prayer Breakfast. It was a question inspired by Francis Schaeffer, in his book, 'The Mark of a Christian'. Let me share some of the highlights with you. If this whets your appetite and you wish to read more, please check out the website below .

<http://www.ccel.us/schaeffer.html>

Christians have not always presented a pretty picture to the world. Too often we have failed to show the beauty of love, the beauty of Christ, the holiness of God.

Is there then no way to make the world look again--this time at true Christianity? Must Christians continue to stand with arms folded, going on in their old sweet ways, presenting to men a tarnished image of God--a shattered body of Christ?

Francis Schaeffer challenges us to exhibit the 'Mark' of a Christian.

WHAT IS THE MARK?

At the close of his ministry, Jesus looks forward to his death on the cross, the open tomb and the ascension. Knowing that he is about to leave, Jesus prepares his disciples for what is to come. It is here that he makes clear what will be the distinguishing mark of the Christian:

My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:33-35

What he says here is not a description of a fact. It is a command which includes a condition: 'A new command I give you Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, *if* you love one another.' An *if* is involved. **If** you obey, you will wear the badge Christ gave. But since this is a command, it can be violated.

The point is that it is possible to be a Christian without showing the mark, but if we expect non-Christians to know that we are Christians, we must show the mark.

This passage reveals the mark that Jesus gives to label a Christian not just in one era or in one locality but at all times and all places until Jesus returns.

The Christian really has a double task. He has to practice both God's holiness and God's love. The Christian is to exhibit that God exists as the infinite-personal God; and then he is to exhibit simultaneously God's character of holiness and love. Not his love without his holiness: that is only compromise. Anything that an individual Christian or Christian group does that fails to show the simultaneous balance of the holiness of God and the love of God presents to a watching world not a demonstration of the God who exists but a caricature of the God who exists.

As Christians we are called upon to love all men as neighbours, loving them as ourselves. We are to love all true Christian brothers in a way that the world may observe. This means showing love to our brother in the midst of our differences--great or small--loving our brothers when it cost us something, loving them even under times of tremendous emotional tension, loving them in a way the world can see. In short, we are to practice and exhibit the holiness of God and the love of God, for without this we grieve the Holy Spirit.

CARPE VITA

(SEIZE THE LIFE...)

OPERATION TABERNACLE

OUR FINEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN GIVE!

Moses was obedient to God's request to build a tabernacle. The Israelites gave their finest and in great abundance.

Can we do the same?

My desire is to have a city wide Silent Auction with ALL churches participating. October 10th, is thanksgiving week-end, and we have so much for which to thank our Lord. Let us share in our bounty by giving God our finest..

The money would go towards a facility for our homeless families.

I am trusting God to give us His Agenda.

Please pray for His guidance and blessings to build **Bridges of Love**.

BBYSSIW (Luke 5:5)

**Let us become churches of
Irresistible Influence**

- ♥ **Confident Stand**
What a Christian has
- ♥ **Compassionate Service**
What a Christian does
- ♥ **Careful Speech**
What a Christian says
- ♥ **Contrite Submission**
What a Christian feels
- ♥ **Concerned Sharing**
What a Christian gives.

"If our definition of being a Christian is simply to enjoy the privileges of worship, be generous at no expense to ourselves, have a good, easy time surrounded by pleasant friends and by comfortable things, live respectably, and at the same time avoid the world's great stress of sin and trouble because it is too painful--if this is our definition of Christianity, then surely we are a long way from following the steps of Him who trod the way with tears of anguish for a lost humanity; who sweat, as it were, great drops of blood; who cried out on the unrequited cross, 'My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken me!'"

In His Steps by Charles Sheldon

THE GIFT WITHOUT THE GIVER IS BARE...

What is the test of Christian discipleship? Is it not the same as in Christ's own lifetime? Have our surroundings modified or changed the test? If Jesus were here today, would He not call us to give up our wealth and literally follow Him? I believe Jesus would demand as close a following, as great a denial of self, as when He lived in person on the earth and said, 'Except a man renounceth all that he has, he cannot be my disciple.' This is, unless a man is willing to do that for Jesus' sake, he cannot be Jesus' disciple.

...and then he saw the figure of the Son of God beckoning to him and to all the other actors in his life history. An angel choir somewhere was singing. There was a sound as of many voices and a shout as of a great victory. And the figure of Jesus grew more and more splendid. He stood at the end of a long flight of steps.

"O my Master, has the time come for a new dawn of Christian activity? O my Lord, break upon the Christendom of this age with Your light and truth? Help us to follow you all the way!"

Mr. Maxwell arose at last with the awe of one who has looked at heavenly things. He felt the human forces and sins of the world as never before. And with a hope that walks hand-in-hand with faith and love, Henry Maxwell, disciple of Jesus, lay down to sleep and dreamed of the regeneration of Christendom, and saw in his dream a Church of Jesus Christ" without spot or wrinkle or any such thing," following Him all the way, walking obediently in His Steps.

from... In His Steps by Charles Sheldon

Inn From the Cold

The past 2 months I have had the opportunity to help out with 'Inn From the Cold' at the church where I have my office. It has opened my eyes and touched my heart.

Inn From the Cold was started by St. Stephen's Anglican Church. There has been great growth over the years as over 64 churches now open their doors to the homeless.

Each evening of the week, fifteen men women and children are bused to the participating churches of many denominations and here they are treated to a wholesome dinner, breakfast and bag lunch to go.

Many volunteers are needed to make this time a reality. Cots are set up, meals prepared, dishes & bedding washed. Two volunteers normally spend the night and others arrive at 5:00 am to prepare breakfast. For so many in our city, Inn From the Cold, has been a touch of God's Love and a solace from the harshness of the outside world.

Service really does cause a change in the heart. I know from my own personal experiences, serving others has changed my heart, to care deeply for others - which is my definition for love.

'Inn From the Cold' is a wonderful program, but I feel families need more stability. This week there was a Mom with 4 children from 2 to 15 years and another Mom with a 2 year old and another one due shortly. How can we help??

Calgary needs a facility to provide temporary housing for families in transition.

I feel that God is calling us to unite our efforts to build a Bridge of Love. Let us show a watching world that Christians truly do display the

MARK. Please give me a call to discuss how **TOGETHER** we can make a difference for the homeless families of Calgary who need a temporary residence. We can't let our children face such uncertainty when we are blessed with so much.

TOGETHER WE CAN...

"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming,
--WOW--WHAT A RIDE!!"

BRIDGES OF LOVE

Marg Pollon

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Please check out my new website

www3.telus.net/public/loveu



EFC PARTNERSHIPS
COMPASSION
MOBILIZING CHRISTIANS TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE



BUILDING

BRIDGES OF LOVE

Compassion in Action - August, 2004

"He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well.

Is that not what it means to know me?" Jeremiah 22:16

WHAT ARE WE MISSING IF WE DO NOT GIVE, ESPECIALLY TO THE NEEDY?

THE LAW OF ETERNAL REWARDS, by Randy Alcorn, states that if we don't reach out in our giving, as individuals and as churches, we miss out on a central aspect of biblical teaching: God's deep concern for the poor and needy.

WE WILL MISS OUT ON:

- ♥ **CHRISTLIKENESS**, because Christ is the ultimate giver (2 Corinthians 8:9). "Grace" is giving, and Jesus was full of grace and truth. Giving is an expression of his basic nature. We give because he first gave to us.
- ♥ **A GREAT PRIVILEGE**. When the Macedonians were told they didn't need to give because they were so poor themselves, they 'urgently pleaded...for the privilege' of giving to the needy (2 Corinthians 8:4).
- ♥ **BLESSINGS**, because Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. (Acts 20:35).
- ♥ **EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES**, because so many of these come when we reach out to the poor. Jesus said people would know us by our love for one another. After explaining how the early church would sell their assets to give to the needy, Scripture tells us God added to the church's numbers daily (Acts 2:47).
- ♥ **ETERNAL REWARDS**, because Jesus said if we give to those who can't pay us back, God himself will pay us back by rewarding us in heaven (Luke 14:14).

WE PROVIDE TANGIBLE ASSETS
FOR OURSELVES IN HEA
VEN BY GIVING AWAY TANGIBLE
ASSETS ON EARTH

Silent Auction

Last Saturday in the Calgary Herald, Joe Woodard, printed an article about '**CARPE VITA**' - Operation Tabernacle". He has echoed my desire to help the homeless families in our city. For those who did not see the article I will add it to my newsletter.

CITY'S HOMELESS TO BENEFIT FROM SILENT AUCTION

Calgary Christian activist Marg Pollon is part of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's Vision Canada Leadership Roundtable, in her case focusing on compassion ministries. Her office in Calgary is called the Bridges of Love Ministry Society.

Pollon is organizing Operation Tabernacle, a city-wide silent auction to be held in all ("I mean all") the churches, with proceeds going to building a facility for Calgary's homeless families. The action is also seen as an occasion for Christians to visit each other's churches.

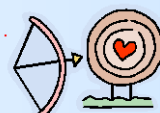
Why Project Tabernacle?

'When Moses obeyed God's request to build a tabernacle, the Israelites gave their finest and in great abundance to the project,'.....

I am sorry to make this request an urgent one, but winter is quickly approaching. **When I have seen what I have seen**, with little children without a home, I cannot be quiet.

I don't know if I would call myself an 'activist' but I am passionate to be obedient to fulfill God's Great Commandment. Let us seize this 'Open Door' of opportunity and join in Carpe Vita as we demonstrate the love of Christ and the 'mark' of a Christian

TOGETHER WE CAN...



CARPE VITA

(SEIZE THE LIFE...)

OPERATION TABERNACLE

OUR FINEST IS THE LEAST WE CAN GIVE!

Moses was obedient to God's request to build a tabernacle. The Israelites gave their finest and in great abundance.

Can we do the same?

My desire is to have a city wide Silent Auction on Thanksgiving week-end with ALL churches participating. The sky is the limit so be as creative as you want. Get the youth involved and have fun working together to raise money for this worthwhile and essential project.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE IMPACT THIS
COULD HAVE ON OUR CITY...?

Please pray for GOD'S guidance as we build **Bridges of Love** and become churches of Irresistible Influence.

BBYSSIW (Luke 5:5)

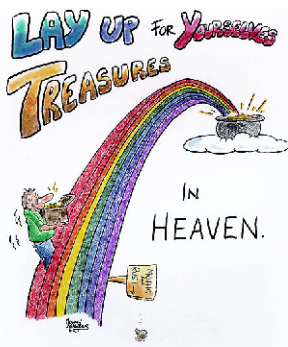
(but because you say so, I WILL)

PLEASE CONTACT ME TODAY!!



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

Matthew 5:16



THE LAW OF REWARDS...While our faith determines our eternal destination, our behavior determines our eternal rewards.

GIVING WHAT YOU CAN'T KEEP TO GAIN WHAT YOU CAN'T LOSE Randy Alcorn

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in HEAVEN" Matthew 6:20

This past week, I was down at Olympic Park to witness a team from the 'Lighthouse' Church distribute food to the homeless. I was amazed at how many came to share in sandwiches, cookies, pie, tea, coffee and lemonade. They also distributed used clothing which disappeared in a hurry. With winter approaching I know these items were greatly appreciated. I sensed a deep caring from the team as they ministered to the needs of the people they have grown to love.

After much prayer and planning this ministry has touched lives with the warmth of Christ's Love. There is an abundance of food offered to the homeless but the relationships that are built make the difference. It takes time and often hard work to build this trust, but the rewards are eternal. Thank you for walking in Jesus' steps.

CITY WIDE PRAYER RALLY

The 6th City Wide Prayer Rally took place on July 23rd at St. Michael's Catholic Church. It was a very special evening with over 280 attending. There was a true unity of spirit as people from all denominations in Calgary praised and worshiped our Lord.

Please mark your calendar for the next City Wide Prayer Rally to be held on October 22nd at the First Nazarene Church.

CANADIAN REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP

I was very fortunate to attend the Prayer, Revival and Evangelism Conference in Regina recently. This was the second in a series of schools of revival and prayer.

Now is the time to re-ignite the flame in hearts. Now is the time for a passion for God to glow in the church. Please join me as we pray for revival across our land.

BRUISED APPLES

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding.

All but one... He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved goodbye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping, and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?"

She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

Bridges of Love Calendar

I have been investigating the possibility of creating a calendar for Compassion Ministries. My thoughts are to have a bridge along with a compassionate story from each province that would be printed for each month of the year. Nice that the two coincide!!

I have been given a majestic picture of the Confederation Bridge from an engineering company who were responsible for this bridge. They have given me permission to use this picture on the cover of the calendar.

If you have seen the movie, 'Calendar Girls', this is where my inspiration came from. They raised much money from this calendar and built a hospital with the money.

To prepare for this calendar, please share your compassionate stories, of people whose hearts were touched with the love of Christ. I know that so many lives have been changed and transformed because someone stepped out and made a difference. Please email them to the address below and perhaps your picture and story will be on the first 'Bridges of Love' calendar.

Thank you

The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure. Matthew 13:44

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY

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MOBILIZING CHRISTIANS TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE



BRIDGES OF LOVE

2004 IN REVIEW

LOVE IS ACTION

What if the 21st century was more than the dawn of a new millennium? What if, for the churches of Canada, it commenced a new spirit of cooperation? What if pastors reached out to one another, embracing one another in love, no longer competing with, but supporting one another, praying with one another, crying out to God for their community, working together?

WHAT IF??

In the great bridge collapses of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, pride has often been the culprit, with deadly results. By some accounts, as many as one in four bridges collapsed. As commerce expanded in this new age of mobility and the demand for more bridges increased, people were dying.

All of these disasters, experts now believe, could have and should have been prevented. Engineers and bridge companies—often working in isolation, competition, and the pursuit of reputation and money—were simply negligent. Their failure to cooperate with others, to seek help and assistance, and, where appropriate, to work together became the tragic downfall of their bridge-building efforts.

- ♥ Isolation
- ♥ Competition
- ♥ Pursuit of reputation

These, not the lack of competence or skill, proved to be the REAL enemies of bridge building.

If spiritual maturity is defined in terms of living the life and serving the world, then most evangelical churches are, at best, investing in only the first half of the battle. Today we need the additional investment of developing a process that equips people to serve better, not just live better. If not, we are doomed to a self-focused immaturity and the church to the sidelines of the community.

Making this move usually involves a reversal of critical perspective: from being served to serving, from finding community in the church to impacting the community as the church, from retreating to influencing, from isolation to engagement, for the church of my needs to the church of good deeds.

Robert Lewis - The Church of Irresistible Influence

This is a huge personal transition...what are the roadblocks that one must personally overcome to embrace this transition?

For the past year, I have been seeking to assist churches on this road of transition. It has been a time of building my own 'Bridges' within the community, churches and beyond.

Mission Statement: Applied Christianity

Living life in such a way that we evaluate people and our relationship with them around: "What can we do to build a bridge to 'One Soul' at a time, demonstrating the LOVE of Christ?"

Love is ACTION...

Vision Statement: Intentional Christianity

To empower all Christians to be intentional about leading their lives so that they might truly be disciples of Christ and in turn will make disciples of Christ.

As Mr. Lube says... Doing it RIGHT...before your eyes!

God's desire is to set us free, filled with passion and urgency to live for His purpose. When we begin to take initiative, we do the good that we see needs to be done, and we grow in our passion to move in the right direction.

There is nothing that will bring greater excitement or fulfillment than making our life count in a meaningful way. God has called us to love Him with our whole heart, mind and soul. This is the Greatest Commandment. Only when we give our lives unconditionally to Him, can we reach out with love to our neighbours.

I thank each of you, who have partnered with 'Bridges of Love'. I have appreciated and valued your prayers, encouragement and financial support. Thank you to St. John Lutheran Church for your kind generosity in supplying me with office space. Thank you to my team: Herb Arnold, Tom Pollon and Louise Post for your prayers and loving support and to Carleen Galenkamp for helping in the office. And especially, to my Lord who is my guiding light and continual source of strength.

"God is calling us to build global twin towers of justice and peace. We need to create a coalition of compassion. If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God, which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore, the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world."

The Micah Declaration on Integral Mission

A YEAR IN REVIEW

- ♥ Board placement - Herb Arnold, Tom Pollon, Louise Post.
- ♥ Incorporated Bridges of Love as a Society - June 2004
- ♥ National Evangelism Partnerships with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada - Compassion Track Coordinator
www.nationalevangelism.ca
- ♥ City Wide Prayer Rally - Committee Member, as of March, 2004.
www.citywideprayer.ca
- ♥ Micah Challenge Facilitation Team - National Church Mobilization
www.micahchallenge.ca
- ♥ Representative for International Media/Website/Promotion Advisory Group - Micah Challenge
- ♥ Country Love - Gospel Country Concert in Airdrie, uniting the churches to support this outreach event.
- ♥ Celebration 2005 - EFC Assisting to mobilize churches.
www.celebration2005.ca
- ♥ Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association - Treasurer
- ♥ Leading Women Conference 2006 - Committee Member.
- ♥ Facilitator for Seminars & Video Showings.
 - ✓ 'Growing in Love' Seminar
 - ✓ 'Let the Sea Resound' Video
 - ✓ Design Your Impact Workshop

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EFC PARTNERSHIPS

COMPASSION

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