

## **BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

*“Our faces, then, are not covered.*

*We all show the Lord’s glory, and we are being changed to be like him.*

*This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*  
*2 Corinthians 3:18*

In his book “Just like Jesus”, Max Lucado says that God’s desire for each of us, might read like this: God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.

My prayer over the past year has been that God would transform me into the likeness of the Saviour. I know with this desire comes a changed heart and to achieve a pure and compassionate heart it is often a painful process. As I have prayed and asked for His wisdom, courage and intimacy with the Father and stepped out in faith to follow Him no-matter what the consequences, my heart’s desire has been for God to take charge of my life and ministry as I trust Him for all things.

As I look back over the past year, I have to marvel how God has been working...not only in changing me but refining ‘Bridges of Love’. What an adventure it has been – with risks, challenges and readjustments to keep on His Agenda. The heart of Christ was relentlessly focused on one task and Bridges of Love has had many irons in the fire the past year.

I feel I have been obedient, however, in all my activities, as it has been a wonderful school for educating an ‘eaglet’ as Tom calls me. Each involvement has taught me lessons and broadened my network as well as given me confidence in areas where I needed growth. I knew that my ‘break-neck’ speed could not continue indefinitely, however, so I have been seeking the Lord to sift through my busy schedule and show me where He wanted my attention to focus.

Not quite the answer to prayer that I had been seeking however came in October, 2005 when Dr. Tim Foggin from Burnaby, BC contacted me to help mobilize churches across Canada to be ready in the event of an Influenza Pandemic. This was one opportunity I sure didn’t anticipate, but I could see the fit and application. Being a Medical Laboratory Technologist before starting this ministry gave me some confidence to accept this challenge.

Tim and I worked diligently for the next few months to complete a guide called ‘Of Churches, Pandemics and Emergency Preparedness. We had it completed for Mission Fest Vancouver in February, 2006 as Tim had been invited to set up a forum on Church Pandemic Preparedness. He invited me to sit on the panel so it was our first formal introduction to preparing the church for a response to an emergency such as a flu pandemic.

Since this time, I have been invited to write articles, had numerous interviews for papers/ magazines, have been on two TV programs on the Miracle Channel, spoken at the General Assembly for the Missionary Alliance’s Conference as well as have attended a National meeting with the Canadian Council of Churches. Our guide has been well accepted by the church community and due to our web sites; it has been used in many countries around the world.

I have formed a Calgary contingency group that is now working on material to present to our local church body. Dr. Bill Bieber and his wife Sharon from Medical Ambassadors International and Dr. Wayne Elford, Past President of the Canadian Medical Dental Association and myself are working together as well as pastors, NGO's, chaplains, parish nurses and lay persons. My desire is to see churches working together to unite their efforts in reaching and caring for their communities.

On the same subject, I am meeting with Devin McNaughton, an Edmonton representative from Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. Minister Stockwell Day put me in touch with the Alberta Regional Director. We met, and then Devin was appointed to work as an advisor to unite the faith community with the government and health authorities. We will develop a template that can then be duplicated across Canada.

A Christian University in Manitoba has asked me to look into the possibility of setting up a National Conference on Church Emergency Preparedness. My prayer is that a National Conference would spark a flame in the churches across Canada to take hold of the Great Commandment. We have an opportunity like never before, to be the shining light that God envisioned for His Church.

Let me just back-track a little to fill you in on my involvement with the National Evangelism Partnerships. My partnership with the NEP under EFC's umbrella came to an end at the last Round Table talks in Feb. 2006. Commitment has always been a very strong force in my life so it was hard to see this come to an end. The two years that I was part of this team was a wonderful introduction to a National endeavour and I appreciated having Dr. Wayne Whitbourne and Dr. Tim Foggin as part of my Compassion Track. God answered my prayer by removing some activities from my busy life but He has not taken away the lessons learned and people met that will stand well for what lies ahead. I will always be grateful for this time with the National Evangelism Partnerships under the leadership of Dr. Murray Moerman.

It wasn't long, however, after this time that a miracle was in the making. The opportunity to attend a Vision Conference in Kampala with 5 other African countries became a reality in June, 2006. For two weeks, I attended a course called Disciple Nations Alliance which was a wonderful opportunity to learn first hand from Pastors and others in ministry how to build community. It gave me an opportunity to grow in my understanding and practical application of what it means to have a Biblical Worldview perspective and the accompanying necessary action. The first week was spent in the Bible and what God says about serving others and the second week was learning to 'train the trainers'. What valuable resources and education I received and now I pray that opportunities will arise so that I might share it with others.

We also had an opportunity to travel up to Kitgum in the Northern part of Uganda. This experience was one I will never forget and I feel it has impacted my life to the extent that my worldview has been altered. I know that God had a reason for my attendance not only to attend the course but to see a part of the world that has opened my heart and soul to those in Africa.

For the past two and one half years, I have also been very active in the Micah Challenge as Mobilization Chair. I am happy to report that due to our team's efforts, we now have a web site ([www.kingdomstorehouse.com](http://www.kingdomstorehouse.com)) where one can order resources to raise awareness of this movement. We also worked hard putting together a template for a concert that is scheduled for next summer. I have appreciated my time with this Global Initiative, but once again I have felt God's hand in directing me on. I resisted for many months before handing in my resignation the

beginning of August and it has been a very hard decision. I have been blessed, however, with many affirmations from my colleagues for the work accomplished during this start-up time.

The Micah Challenge message is very much a part of my heart and I pray that this movement will be supported and affirmed across Canada. I will continue to raise awareness where I can, to inspire and facilitate action for Canadians to embrace the Declaration of Integral Mission which is the Micah Challenge message.

*"...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..."*

In closing, I will just mention that I have continued on with the Board of the Alberta Council of Global Cooperation and have also joined Art Hangers (MP) Board as well; I continue my position as treasurer for the Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association. I also sit on the Intercessor Committee for the Global Day of Prayer.

As well, Bridges of Love has applied to be a registered charity, so I am praying that we will soon have the status to offer receipts. I am so thankful to John Hutchinson with Concerts of Prayer for allowing me to receipt through this ministry for now. It has been a great gift.

It has truly been a wonderful year. To my board, Herb Arnold, Pastor Todd Harris, Louise Post, Steven McDonald and Tom, I am so very grateful for all you have done in support of this ministry. Especially to my husband Tom, who has given sacrificially in allowing me to follow my heart. The road has often not been an easy one but he has allowed God to take control and set me free to grow and mature as I follow Christ into the unknown.

Many thanks to Dr. Tim Foggin for introducing me to an area of ministry that I know is God induced. Prayer has been at the heart of all we have undertaken together so it is wonderful to have a colleague with the same priorities and dependence on the Lord.

My continued appreciation to St. John Lutheran Church for their love and support in providing office space. Dorothy and I are truly kindred spirits and I could not get along without her listening ear and friendship.

Many thanks as well to our Pastor, Paras Persad and to the Missions Committee at Eastside Community Baptist Church, for their encouragement and kind support.

My very special appreciation to those who have prayerfully supported and given financially to this ministry. To spend these moments with you all has been a high privilege and I want you to know how grateful I am for serving God in building 'Bridges of Love'. God has been my strength and my shield to carry me forward. I could not do it without Him and your prayers have given me the courage, the peace, as well as the holy ambition to never give up...

To each of you I give my love and warmest thanks for being part of this journey. I know that with Christ, we can truly move mountains...

Love in His Service and For His Glory,

Marg Pollon  
Bridges of Love  
August 18, 2006