

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

September 2020

THE NEW NORMAL

On page 2 we have provided a chart by Dr Reg Bibby of the University of Lethbridge which graphically portrays the number of persons who have been directly affected by COVID-19. However, the numbers do not tell the whole story. There are also issues of meaning and consequences.

The average person looking at the data might say that COVID-19 consequences are not all that bad. However, not revealed in the statistical data is the pain and suffering of those who have died and those who mourn those deaths (so multiply the impact of the number of deaths and those receiving ICU treatment by an unknown but large factor).

To this we can add the longer term impacts on peoples' cardiac systems and kidneys that are just beginning to be understood and the relatively new phenomenon that people are being re-infected.

Then there is the impact on healthcare professionals - concerned about their patients and fearing for their own safety and that of their families. The same can be said about teachers, as students return to school where, even if the students do not have any symptoms, they are capable of infecting their teachers, resulting in illness and deaths in adult populations.

The average person, looking at the numerical data, might also wonder whether there really is a necessity for mandatory masking, social distancing, and all the other hygiene requirements - AND the economic shutdown and its consequences - AND the consequent mental health issues (stress, depression, anxiety). However, it is precisely those requirements that have significantly lowered the COVID-19 "spread" in Canada.

Prudence needs to be the "watchword" - and empathy for those who are suffering - along with encouragement of those who are spending long hours in research laboratories seeking to understand the ways in which COVID-19 functions and to look for an effective vaccine.

When the Israelites escaped from Egypt and encountered the harsh realities of the desert, including the lack of food, they longed for the "fleshpots of Egypt" (meat cooked in large pots). They were forgetting that God had saved them from slavery. (Exodus 16) We may long for a return to normal – but the reality is that we are needing to live with a "new normal" and we can trust God to be present with us in what is emerging.

John Carr



Quote of the Month

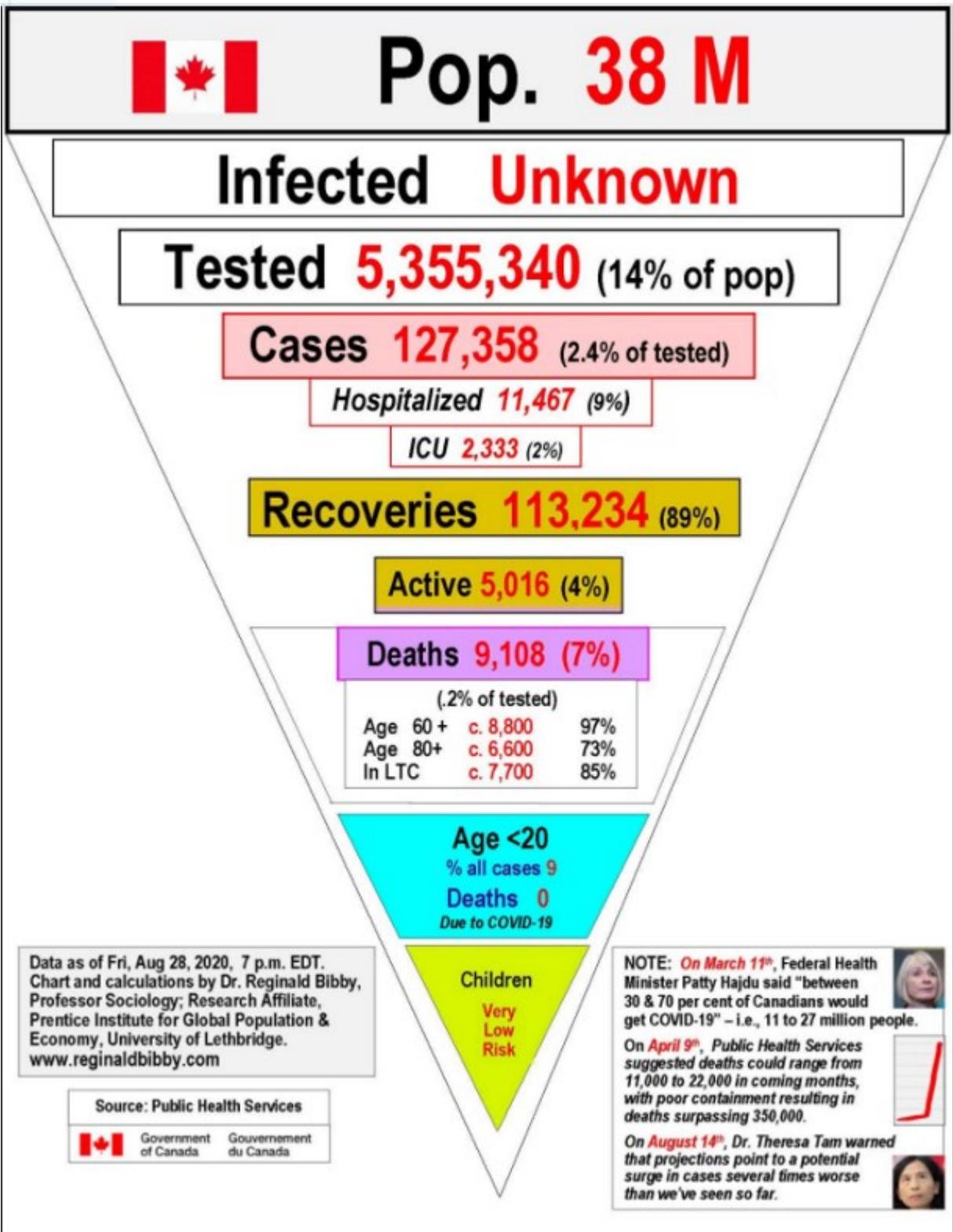
What is viewed as "normal" can change dependent on both timeframe and environment.

Definitions of "normality" vary by person, time, place, and situation.

Source: Wikipedia

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*Reproduced with the permission of Dr Reginald Bibby
August 29, 2020*

FROM OUR MINISTER: Recent enriching studies

Those who know me well would agree that I enjoy working with people, and love having encouraging conversations with them. There is always room for improvement, as I'm aware that there are many more skills to learn and to practise in being a pastoral presence for people going through tough times.

During the past year, Session and Presbytery granted a time of study leave to do an online 'Diploma in Applied Psychology and Counselling' through the Kelowna College of Professional Counselling. The study leave boiled down to carefully chosen days and one full week at the end that fitted into the allotted study leave that ministers get as professional development. Our Day-Book editors, John and Marilyn asked me to write a brief description of what I've been learning.

I gladly do so. In a nutshell, there was much reading and studying to be done. Included in the course was an understanding of psychological theories, ethics, healing words, case management, milestones in human development, conflict and suicide intervention, psychiatric diagnosis, depression and anxiety, group dynamics, addictions, child, youth, and family counselling, couples counselling, abuse and domestic violence, as well as grief psychology. This is a mouthful, maybe even daunting, and it all just makes me realize how little I know. I still have some volunteer hours to do before I can graduate and receive the diploma.

I look forward to assisting Nesta and Martin Sawdon as we implement and establish Stephen Ministries. Read more about that on this same page of the DayBook.

The studies I went through have been truly enriching and very applicable for congregational ministry. Thank you to all who were understanding with regards to the magnitude of this course and for all the patience, as well as to my beloved wife, Carina.



A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Stephen Ministry".



STEPHEN MINISTRY:

listening with love.

Here's what people are saying about Stephen Ministry.

"I thank God daily for my Stephen Minister. I don't know how I would have made it through the last year without her."

Did you know that Dayspring is becoming part of this world wide community of care? There are thousands of Stephen Ministry congregations representing over 150 Christian denominations across US, Canada and the world.

In conjunction with McKernan and Greenfield Baptist, Martin and I completed our basic training Jan 2019, and February of this year we took the leadership course just before Covid arrived. Since then we have been actively involved with Greenfield's ministry.

Good news, we are now in a position to begin a ministry at Dayspring.

Who benefits? Anyone who is facing difficult times either in our church or beyond, Christian or non Christian, who would welcome someone to walk with them, listen, and share God's love on a one to one confidential basis.

Shortly we plan to show some brief videos to familiarize you with this caring program.

Nesta Sawdon

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

We join our prayers with those around the world praying for the people affected by the terrible disaster in Beirut.

Thousands have been injured and hundreds of thousands of people have become homeless. Much of the food in Lebanon is imported due to limited production capacity, and many of these food reserves were destroyed by the explosions—exacerbating food insecurity in a country already affected by COVID-19 and a severe economic crisis.

PWS&D has been providing support to Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners for several years. These partners are on the ground, actively assessing the situation to determine how best to respond. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Source: <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>



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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, October
and June

2nd Sunday of November, December,
January, February, March, April,
and May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Gina Kottke

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Hostensia Bineba (on leave)	Sam Malayang
Bill Davis	Samuel Mforteh
Jane de Caen	Jan Ray Moncada
Darlene Eerkes	Nick Nation
Peter Eerkes	Laura Patterson- Fortin
Carina Grosskopf	Heather Tansem
Ransford Kusi- Menkah	Mary Waugh

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn
Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Fionna McCrostie

Worship Arts Coordinator

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda

Custodian: Jim