



The Compassionate Friends of Canada

When A Child Dies...

National Newsletter - January 2019

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Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.

- Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF

TCF Founding Day: January 28, 1969

Our October 2015 issue detailed how **The Society of The Compassionate Friends** came to be founded in England by Joe and Iris Lawley, Joan and Bill Henderson, Betty Rattigan and the Rev. Simon Stephens. If you or your chapter would like to have a copy of Joe Lawley's booklet, ***The Love That Does Not Die***, which tells the full story, just let us know and we can mail you a copy.

-A photo of the cover is at the end of this newsletter-

Many TCF members and chapters choose to light a candle in their home or at their January meeting to recognize our founders and celebrate their achievement. This seems especially appropriate in this, our fiftieth year.

To celebrate the milestone, The Compassionate Friends of the United Kingdom will hold an **International Gathering in England** later this year:

50th Anniversary Supportive Gathering

De Vere Horwood Estate,

Milton Keynes

November 1-3, 2019

www.tcf.org.uk



The
Compassionate
Friends

Another new TCF Canada Facebook site: Men in Grief

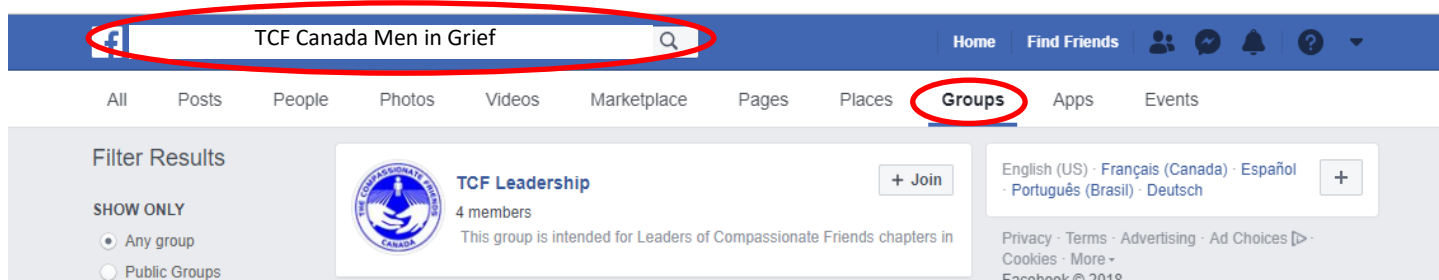
As with our other TCF Canada Facebook pages, this is a closed, moderated group. It is intended to include not just fathers, but stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, anyone who is grieving the loss of a child from a paternal or avuncular perspective.

To join the **TCF Canada Men in Grief** group you must have a Facebook account.

On the Facebook home page type in the following on the search line to search for the group:

TCF Canada Men in Grief

Make sure that you select the **Groups** filter on the line following your search to display the group results.



Disclaimer

TCF Canada hosts these sites and monitors to the best of its ability the membership applications to provide an environment that is as safe as possible.

Milestones

A key part of the TCF support philosophy is to give hope to the newly bereaved by showing how others walk the path beside them. This story is an example of the need we have to look for meaning in random events, such as the premature death of our loved one. Do you have a coping / survival story you would like to share?

Trivial Pursuit

I have always been a trivia buff, from back in the days when it used to be called General Knowledge. So it was a pleasant surprise when the contest that I had been playing daily announced that I had won a trip for two to the Mayan Riviera in Mexico. Being more eco-tourists than beach enthusiasts, Eileen and I saw this as a great opportunity to experience local culture and history, including visits to the old Mayan cities of Tulum and the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Chichén Itzá.

The latter location resonated with us as, just before graduating from high school, our son Kevin spent Spring Break with several friends in Cancun. Among the souvenirs of his trip were a Mexican cigar, a split of tequila and pictures of ... Chichén Itzá.

Kevin died suddenly in 1994 just as he was starting his second year at Trent University. That placed his visit to Cancun in 1993 - 25 years before our 2018 trip. Although 25 is just a number, a 25th anniversary is widely recognized as a significant event.

Scientists tell us that there are no coincidences, that apparent connections between random events are simply our human brains trying to find order in a chaotic world. Nonetheless, it is compelling to wonder

whether some level of cosmic karma resulted in our prize destination being in Mexico and not another, less relevant location; why it coincided with the 25th anniversary of Kevin's visit; and the significance of the ancient Chichén Itzá site and its mystic alignment with the Spring and Fall equinoxes. And noting that the Mayan calendar is based on a 5,125-year cycle between planetary alignments (i.e. 205 times 25), why the numbers 5 and 25 (i.e. 5 times 5) seem to feature so prominently in this serendipity.

Perhaps the universe is just unfolding as it should, and these wonderings are merely our hopeful brain trying to connect the trivia dots. But in the words of one of our frequent Facebook posters, perhaps it is one of those slivers of hope that we can hold on to.

Andy Bond - TCF Ottawa

Donations Gratefully Received

This month our thanks go out to our **Southeastern New Brunswick** chapter in the Moncton area, and to generous individuals in Alberta and BC. We could not do it without you.

