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COUNTRY *Matters*



Village Missions of Canada



A View From the Country

with Murray Graham, Executive Director

Taking Larger Steps

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” – 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)

This piece of wisdom from Paul to Timothy still rings true 2,000 years later.

Although young in age, Paul clearly had great love, respect, and confidence in his young protégé, taking Timothy with him on missionary journeys, sending him to oversee and support the growing church in Ephesus, and even praising his character and love for Jesus in several letters to other churches.

So, what kind of picture do we see when we look at Timothy?

We see a passionate, spirit-filled young man of God whom the Lord used to proclaim the gospel and help establish Christianity’s earliest churches. What an incredible figure of faith and brother in Christ we have in Timothy!

The example set by Timothy is alive in the church today, as God calls more of the next generation to serve and lead our churches. In fact, we see this trend happening right now in Village Missions! **It has been so exciting to see the Lord bring in young families**

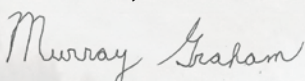
and missionaries to serve the forgotten places of rural Canada.

One of those couples would be Matthew & Shanay Deneault, now serving on their first field in the beautiful town of Cardston, Alberta. If the last name sounds familiar to you, that's because Matthew's parents are Village Missionaries Wayne & Joy Deneault, serving in Nukko Lake, British Columbia!

Although they began their ministry here just months ago, the Lord has already started opening doors for them to meet both the spiritual and societal needs in their church and community.

So, as you read how God is working through the Deneaults and their new church family, I pray two things for you. That you would be inspired and encouraged by what the Lord is doing in Cardston. And that you would pray for Matthew & Shanay as they embark on the lofty task of preaching the Word and loving the people in this southern Alberta town.

In Him,



Murray Graham | Executive Director



Matthew & Shanay Deneault



Wayne & Joy Deneault

“GOD PLACED US HERE ”

Cardston is your typical quaint, little town full of friendly people, with the occasional horse and buggy going down the main street.

Resting in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in southern Alberta, this agricultural community was founded by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the late 1800s, becoming Canada's first Mormon settlement.



Today with a population of around 3,500 people, the pioneer spirit of past times can still be felt through local rodeos and carriages passing by. The Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe) Indian Reserve, one of the largest in North America, borders

Cardston to the north. And of course, the community's Mormon heritage continues to shape the culture here.

In the centre of town is Cardston Baptist Church. After a lengthy period without long-term pastoral leadership, this faithful little country church turned to Village Missions for help. Finally, in September 2019, Matthew & Shanay arrived as the first Village Missionaries in Cardston.



Matthew & Shanay Deneault

Although they have only just begun their ministry here, what the Lord has already done has made Matthew & Shanay excited about the future.

“We believe God has placed us here to be a part of revitalizing churches in rural North America,” they say. “We have grown so much. But, we know we have a long way to go.”

So, how has the Lord already opened doors for the Deneaults to preach the Word and love the people in Cardston?

NEW LIFE

For many years, the congregation of Cardston Baptist sifted through several part-time and bi-vocational pastors, and even guest speakers from time to time. However, these alternatives never lasted long, and could never replace the value of a committed, full-time shepherd.

“We’re not a big enough congregation to afford a pastor on our own,” recounts Barrie, the church board chairman. “So, we really felt a full-time pastor would be a game changer for the continuity of our church.”



***Board chairman
Barrie***

Through contacts within the church family, they were connected with the ministry of Village Missions. It wasn't long before they received a call from Executive Director Murray Graham with exciting news—a young missionary couple wanted to come to Cardston to pastor their church!

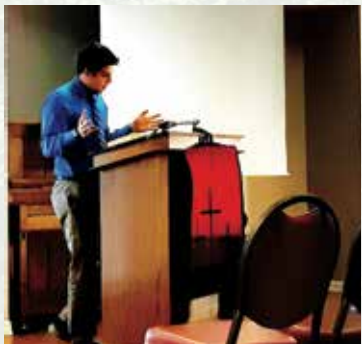
And Matthew & Shanay arrived just a few months later!

“It’s been amazing for us!” shares Barrie. “They’ve really added new life and energy to our church.”

One exciting thing for Matthew & Shanay has been helping with worship. For years, the congregation used an iPod to play music on Sunday mornings. With their talent and passion for music, Matthew & Shanay not only help lead worship, but also encourage others to get involved, too!



Matthew (center) practices with worship leaders before a Sunday service.



Matthew loves sharing God's word with the Cardston congregation.

Although Matthew is still refining the skill of sermon preparation, his love of preaching has deepened since their arrival. "I love teaching the congregation and visiting with them," says Matthew. "The church has been very supportive, and we are encouraged by their love and commitment to the Lord!"

There is still a lot of growing and learning for this congregation and their new pastoral couple. But what an exciting and encouraging start to their church and ministry together!

MAKING INROADS

Meeting people and making connections.

That about sums up the last few months for Matthew & Shanay as they find their place in the community! Yet, two main avenues have already opened to help meet the needs in Cardston.

One is through the local youth centre.

Through volunteering here once a week, Matthew & Shanay have met, and hopefully in the future, will mentor, some of the young kids in the town.



Matthew & Shanay are excited to reach youth in their area.

"It's been good to meet the youth," Shanay shares. "We're starting to have conversations that go below surface level. We are excited for how God will use this avenue for His glory!"

The second avenue has been on the neighboring Blood Tribe reserve, where struggles with substance and alcohol abuse—along with spiritual struggles—are common.

“One of our elders works with an organization among the native peoples,” explains Matt. “He has begun workshops to help those struggling with different life-controlling issues. Through his connections, we have many opportunities to minister to the indigenous peoples.”

Because of their growing presence and involvement around town, more townsfolk are meeting the Deneaults and learning about the small country church they serve! This was palpable in November when Matthew was invited to pray at Cardston’s Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Despite being a little nervous about praying in front of 300 people, Matthew felt very honored that the community asked him—the new guy!—to lead their town in a time of prayer together.

“I appreciated that they would think of asking the new pastor!” he shares. “God used that as a way for us to meet a whole bunch of new people.”



The Deneaults are building relationships in their congregation and their community.

LOOKING AHEAD

It’s amazing to think that the Deneaults have been only in Cardston for five months, and the Lord has already opened many doors for them to serve the church, build relationships, and make connections in the community.

And not only that, but the faithful members of Cardston Baptist Church have a shepherd to lead and guide them once again. “We are excited that Matthew & Shanay are here, and we look forward to growing together in Christ alongside them,” says Barrie.

Village Missions is here not just to keep the doors of this country church open, but to help them become a beacon of hope for the

gospel of Jesus Christ.

“I think of it this way,” reflects Matt, “now that we are here, we can encourage and build up the church to be the light God has called us to be in Cardston.”



Matthew, Shanay, and baby Caleb

Many years of ministry are ahead of Matthew & Shanay, their newborn baby, Caleb, and their new church family. There will be highs and lows. Moments of celebration, and moments of sadness. Tears of joy, and tears of grief.

For sure, rural ministry is not an easy path.

But, the God of the universe—the One who is able to do more than we could think or ask—is with them! God has a plan for the Deneaults and Cardston Baptist Church. And what an incredible, ever-unfolding story it will be.

“We know we are where the Lord wants us to be and we’re excited for what He has in store.”

- Matthew & Shanay Deneault



New Fields

Purdy Community Church

Surrounded by forests and lakes, this rural community in southern Ontario is a little over two hours west of the Canadian capital of Ottawa. This little country church joyfully received new Village Missionaries Jonathan & Laura Germain and their family in March 2019. Jonathan is the son of missionaries Ron & Joan Germain, who have served in rural Ontario for over twenty years.



Golden Prairie Community Church

With a small population of just 30, the village of Golden Prairie rests among the farmland and rolling hills of southwestern Saskatchewan. Farming and ranching are the leading occupations. This little country church is the only one in Golden Prairie, and has been served by new Village Missionaries Rod & Denise Nikkel since July 2019.



Cardston Baptist Church

Less than 20 minutes from the Montana border, Cardston is a unique field in southern Alberta. It is considered Canada's first Latter-Day Saints settlement, and its Mormon heritage still largely shapes the culture. New Village Missionaries Matthew & Shanay Deneault arrived here in September 2019. Matthew is the son of Village Missionaries Wayne & Joy Deneault, who currently serve in Nukko Lake, BC.



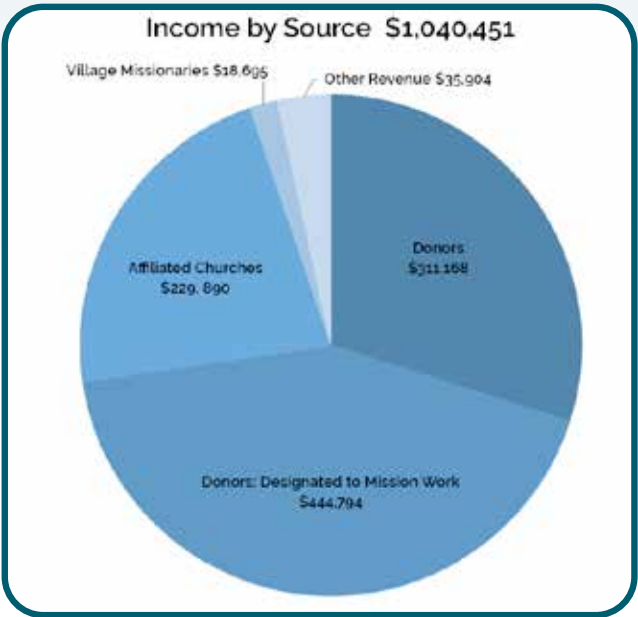
2019 Annual Report

Village Missions Board of Directors



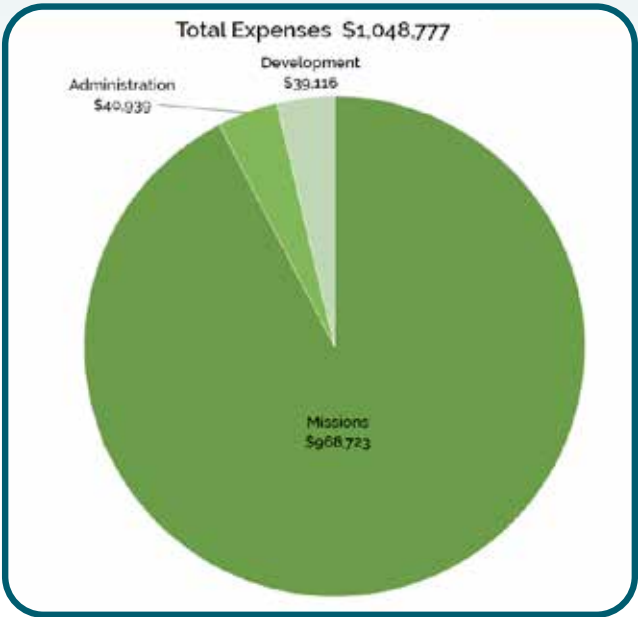
Front- Executive Director (Canada) Murray Graham, Deb Graham, Ex-officio Member & Village Missionary Jenneke Schnee, Office Manager Eleanor Tracey, CFO Jim Cross, & District Representative Henry Vandermeer

Back- Executive Director (US) Brian Wechsler, Board Member Hal York, Board Member Richard Semenyna, Board Chairman Lee Gregory, Ex-officio Member & Village Missionary Ryan Schnee, Village Missionary Arnold Tracey, Board Member Norm Janzen, Board Member Ernie Munchinsky, Board Member Tom Telfer



General Fund Income & Expenses for the year ended June 30, 2019

Revenue by Source	2019		2018	
Donors	\$311,168	30%	289,951	28%
Donors (Designated to Mission work)	444,794	43%	421,080	41%
Affiliated Churches	229,890	22%	263,874	26%
Village Missionaries	18,695	2%	25,665	3%
Other Revenue	35,904	3	23,076	2%
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>\$1,040,451</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,023,646</i>	<i>100%</i>
Expenses	2019		2018	
Missons	\$968,723	92%	926,175	92%
Administration	40,939	4%	32,300	3%
Development	39,115	4%	42,954	4%
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,048,777</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>\$1,001,429</i>	<i>100%</i>
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenses for the Year	(\$8,326)		\$22,217	
Fund Balances				
	2019		2018	
Beginning of Year	\$375,216		\$353,000	
End of Year	\$366,890		\$375,216	



Beginnings...

What God is doing in Cardston is an exciting tale, and it's only the beginning! As missionaries like Matthew & Shanay serve and labor for the gospel in rural communities, they will need the help of our faithful team of donors to rally around them with prayer and financial support.

Canada: villagemissions.ca 866.885.3885 | USA: villagemissions.org 800.617.9905


Village Missions of Canada
Keeping Country Churches Alive
PO Box 3400
Mission, BC V2V 4J5

You can join our missionaries in their work of reaching lost souls in our nation's unremembered places. Would you consider today how God might use you to bring His good news to more people in rural Canada?



Helping Country Churches Thrive