

COUNTRY *Matters*

**PREACH THE
WORD
LOVE THE
PEOPLE**



AND NOW THESE
THREE REMAIN
FAITH, HOPE AND
LOVE AND THE
GREATEST OF THESE
IS...

LOVE



Village Missions of Canada

Keeping Country Churches Alive



A View From the Country with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

The Bottom Line

Most of us have had the experience lately of watching our financial investments take a nosedive. Whether it's an RRSD or tax-free savings account—all our ways of saving for the future seem to be struggling in the present.

Of course, Jesus warned us about this! He told us, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal . . .” (Mat. 6:19 NKJV). I'll let you decide whether it's moths, rust or thieves on Bay Street.

I don't think Jesus is telling us to neglect saving and planning for retirement. I think He wants us to have the right understanding of earthly riches and, especially, the direction of our hearts.

He goes on to say, “. . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mat. 6:20-21 NKJV). He would have us make eternal investments! Doing so is a sure test of our heart condition.

Treasures in heaven may involve many things, but it certainly includes souls won to faith in Christ. We know they will be there in heaven!

However, in this issue you are going to learn about an investment both on earth and in heaven.

When you give to Village Missions you are certainly “laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Thousands upon thousands of people have come to Christ because a Village Missionary was sent to a community where people otherwise would not hear about Jesus. Here, you'll read about a church that continually strives to reach lost souls in its community.

But you'll also learn about an earthly investment that has produced an incredible return. Through the giving of our partners, Village Missions invested in providing salary so that our missionaries could

begin to minister in the community. The church grew quickly, so they were able to cover all the expenses of having a pastor. All they needed was that small investment to get back on their feet.

Today, Garrington Community Church has returned significantly more money to Village Missions than we invested. Their giving now helps us send missionaries to other churches in need of help. Those who give to Village Missions enable churches to become giving churches. In a sense, those who partner with us are like venture capitalists who invest in a small company to help it produce a profit. It is a fantastic way to multiply what you have given!



An investment in a struggling church changes lives—in this generation and in the generation to come.

The bottom line (pun intended) is that lives have been won to Christ because a Village Missionary was in the community.

Standing with the country church,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Brian Wechsler
Executive Director, Village Missions



Finding Consistent Leadership

In the 1950s, the Canadian Sunday School Mission (now One Hope Canada) started a Sunday School class in the small town of Garrington, Alberta. The church began regular Sunday services in the 1960s, but for twenty-five years the congregation struggled to maintain consistent leadership. In 1986, the church contacted Village Missions, and later that year, Ken and Marlene Shields became the church's first Village Missionaries.

As is the case with all Village Missions fields, the church supplied its new missionaries with a parsonage, but Village Missions supplemented the salary for the Shields. This ensured that the church could receive full time leadership. While the goal of many churches is to become self-supporting, Village Missions will continue to supplement these costs as long as the church is in need of it.

Under the leadership of Ken, the church in Garrington thrived, enjoying steady growth, with attendance in the 50s and 60s. For the first years, the church was able to pay \$100 toward the Shields' salary, with Village Missions supplementing the rest. By 1993 the church was nearly self-supporting and even completing the construction of a new church building.

A New Chapter

As the building neared completion, Ken retired from Village Missions, and Ed and Ruth Peters stepped in as Garrington's new Village Missionaries. The couple benefited from Shields' work and saw immediate growth in the church.

"With moving into the new building, the community got interested. We immediately had a few extra numbers and dollars. It was a fairly natural progression," said Ed.

Over the next few years, the congregation reached into the 100s, and the church paid most of the salary, and in 1997 the church became self-supporting.

Garrington has given back more than originally invested so that Village Missions can continue to help other churches across rural Canada.

Village Missions was there to support Garrington with a pastor and salary when they needed it, but overall, Garrington has given back

more than originally invested so that Village Missions can continue to help other churches across rural Canada. But the story doesn't end there.

Sending Out Leaders

As a third-year student in college, Ed wrote a comparison paper about three different ministries, one of which was Village Missions. In his studies, he read in a Village Missions pamphlet that the majority of missionaries around the world came from rural communities.

"I thought, if that statistic is true, then if I go into a rural church and we are able to send out one couple as missionaries, it's the equivalent of my wife and me going. If we're able to send out two, we've doubled that."

Since 1993, Ed and Ruth have sent out over 20 individuals and couples into full-time ministry. Ed and Ruth mentored three intern couples over the past years, two of whom went into Village Missions. A third couple, Leonard and Helen Trenholm, were a part of Garrington Community Church for 16 years before joining Village Missions. They now serve in Meadow Creek, BC.

Investing in the Next Generation

Ed has also started teaching the first class of the Contenders Discipleship Initiative, "Bibliology and How to Study the Bible," and he has nine students learning under him.

"It's a significant investment of time, and I am looking forward to seeing how that will pay off. The goal is that people will be much better equipped as they serve the Lord," said Ed.

"I am looking forward to seeing how that will pay off...people will be much better equipped as they serve the Lord."

Perhaps hitting closest to home, however, is Ed and Ruth's son, Brenden, who is now serving as a Village Missions' intern right in Garrington. Brenden has had the opportunity to visit with church and community members, lead Vacation Bible School, and preach on several occasions. Brenden was four years old when the Peters moved to Garrington, and Ed noted that both he and members of the congregation have enjoyed seeing the Lord lead Brenden through the years to where he is now.

"It thrills me to see some of our men take an interest in our son—building into his character," said Ed.

Reaching the Community

While Village Missions was not Brenden's plan in Senior High, he is excited about the direction the Lord is taking him and his family.



"The internship experience has been really good. It's a unique situation to be able to work under your father and have him teach you the trade. It's been a significant growing experience for me," said Brenden.

and supplementing whatever salary the church cannot offer. We have recently increased the base salary significantly to make sure we adequately provide for our Village Missionaries. We believe that an investment in our Village Missionaries is an investment in the local rural church and the kingdom of God!

"In the worldly sense of investing, you are looking for a certain percentage. Within the kingdom of God, we don't look at it that way. It's an eternal investment—something that goes way beyond this lifetime. The value of every dollar and every prayer—we will never see the impact of what we are creating."

When you choose to help a struggling country church, you are making an eternal investment. Those funds are what keep country churches open and give them the opportunity to reach their communities. Sometimes investment doesn't end there. Like Garrington, sometimes your initial investment multiplies dramatically, not only impacting a single community, but many across Canada with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Investing in Eternity

When Village Missions first sent a Village Missionary to Garrington, AB, we made an intentional investment in a struggling church. Thirty years later, that small church has grown and invested back into Village Missions. The congregation has grown significantly and they have made a massive impact on their community. They have intentionally equipped, sent out, and financially supported Village Missionaries and many other full-time ministry workers. The result of this is incalculable. Because of the investment of the church in Garrington, not only have country churches been able to keep their doors open, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is going out across the entire globe.

Thanks to the generous giving of individuals like you, Village Missions is able keep country churches open by supplying a Village Missionary



What would have happened if the church had died?



Forward Again

2015 Stewardship Campaign

Forward Again 2015 Progress Report

In late 2014, Village Missions created an initiative to help battle the spiritual darkness rising over rural Canada. This was called *Forward Again 2015*. Its purpose was to pinpoint the areas of need in order for the gospel message to effectively continue reaching lost souls across rural Canada. These included four key areas:

1. Empowering Village Missions to train, equip and release 10 new missionaries in two years.
2. Raising Village Missionaries' minimum base salary by \$500.
3. Experiencing a spiritual awakening in the rural communities of Canada.
4. Seeing an increase of prayer for our rural communities sweep across the nation.

To do this, we set a financial goal of \$285,000 by January of 2016 for the Forward Again campaign.

Through the Lord's blessing and the generous giving of our financial partners, we have been able to reach several of these goals and are close to reaching others. Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial giving!

Forward Again 2015 Campaign Statistics

10 New recruits

We currently have 6 recruits in the application process. Four of them (three couples and one single) are now serving as interns.

Financial goal of \$285,000

We have currently raised \$157,190 toward the Forward Again 2015 campaign.

\$500 Minimum base raise

We have successfully raised the minimum base salary for our Village Missionaries by \$500.

Spiritual Awakening and Prayer

We hold a monthly day of fasting and prayer specifically for the needs of Village Missions both in terms of finances and personnel. All missionaries, congregations and Village Missions Canada board members are encouraged to participate in this.

Contenders Discipleship Initiative

We have also seen 82 registered individuals growing in the knowledge of the Word through the Contenders Discipleship Initiative courses.

Awareness

This year we are represented at Missions Fest in Vancouver, BC; Edmonton, AB; and Winnipeg, MB.

2015 Annual Report

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19

Purpose Statement: Village Missions exists to glorify Jesus Christ by developing spiritually vital churches in rural North America.

Canada statistics:

(as reported monthly by Village Missionaries)

Salvation decisions in 2015:

Adult: 12

Children: 12

Baptisms:

Adult: 14

Children: 8

12,182 calls by missionaries over the year, 14,196.5 hours spent in visiting.

Median Sunday morning attendance (per church):

Canada 32

Canada (as of June, 2015): 24 fields served by Village Missions with 9 or 38% in need of help from Village Missions for the missionary's salary. 22 couples serving as Village Missionaries 1 intern, 1 Associate Missionary; 1 District Representative Couple, and 1 Executive Director.

2015

General Fund Income & Expenses for the year ended June, 2015

	2015		2014	
Revenue by Source				
Donors	186,929	23%	169,403	20%
Donors - Designated to Mission work	389,611	48%	356,165	43%
Affiliated churches	184,780	23%	191,410	23%
Village Missionaries	24,226	3%	21,999	3%
Other revenue	18,796	2%	98,155	12%
	<u>804,342</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>837,132</u>	<u>100%</u>
Expenses				
Missions	715,769	88%	634,580	88%
Administration	94,410	12%	81,661	11%
Development	2,691	0%	5,241	1%
	<u>812,870</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>721,482</u>	<u>100%</u>
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenses for the year	(8,528)		115,650	
Fund balances - beginning of year	<u>495,922</u>		<u>380,272</u>	
Fund balances - end of year	<u>487,394</u>		<u>495,922</u>	

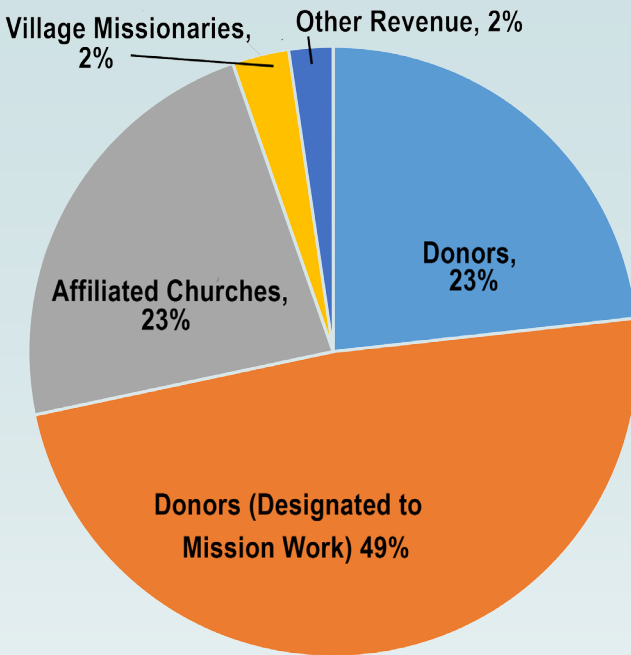


Village Missions Board of Directors

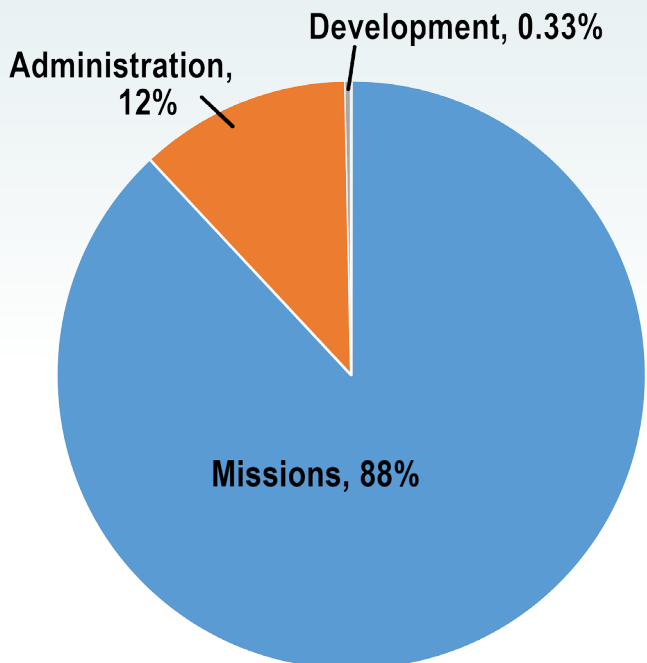
Clockwise, from lower center: Chairman of the Board Lee Gregory, Richard Semenya, Hal York, visiting missionary Elliot Harder, Murray Graham, CFO Jim Cross, District Representative Henry Vandermeer, Bob Hillhouse, Ernie Muchinstzy, Executive Director Roy Adrian. Not pictured: Don Fairholm.

Annual Report

Income by Source, \$804,342



Total Expenses \$812,870





Make An Eternal Investment

Imagine the impact you can have when you invest in a county church!
Would you consider how the Lord would have you respond to this story?
Would you come alongside us and support country churches financially?
Most importantly, would you be in prayer that the Lord would take the investments of partners around the globe and bring about a great return, winning souls to Christ across Canada?



Keeping Country Churches Alive

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