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COUNTRY *Matters*



Village Missions of Canada



A View From the Country with Murray Graham, Executive Director

As Executive Director, Deb and I have the privilege of getting to know each of our missionary families across rural Canada.

It's always an honor to visit them on their fields because that's where we really get to see our missionaries in action! Watching them preach the Word and love the people, bringing the hope of the gospel in these forgotten places, is truly amazing.

One of the fields that Deb and I have gotten to visit is Horsefly, British Columbia.

Tucked away in the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains, this rural village has a thriving forestry and agriculture industry. But another thing is thriving out here in the bush...

...a thriving country church, on fire for the Lord.

Cariboo Christian Church of Horsefly joined Village Missions in 1987. A small but faithful group of believers have continued to preserve a gospel witness in Horsefly, reaching the lost with the gospel of Christ.



Two of those believers are Alvin & Diane Doerksen, local ranchers who moved to the bush nearly four decades ago. Through an incredible journey written by the Lord, Alvin & Diane now serve as the Village Missionaries here.



Alvin & Diane Doerksen

In this edition of Country Matters, I want to share just a snapshot of their incredible ministry in Horsefly.

I pray that their story will remind you of two things. First, how the Lord is continuing to build His kingdom in the unremembered places of this nation. And second, that even one soul coming to Christ is worth a joyous celebration.

Let's explore this testimony of God's grace and power together.

In Him,

Murray Graham
Executive Director

“When we come to the end of ourselves, when we have nothing left to give, that’s when God starts working.”

—Alvin & Diane

QUESTIONABLE MOTIVES

"I can't say we obeyed God when we came to Horsefly."

Alvin Doerksen and his family left the Okanagan of southern British Columbia and settled in the bush 500 kilometres north for two reasons—the childhood dream of owning a ranch, and the opportunity to capitalize on land development.

The Doerksen family established their ranch in the rural community of Horsefly, now eager to reap the rewards from the construction industry.

Then the financial crash of the early 1980s arrived. Alvin and Diane didn't go broke, but they lost everything they had.

It was here—in the brokenness of unfulfilled dreams and depression—that the Lord took the shattered pieces of their lives and began to create a mosaic of His grace.

"Even though there are many things wrong with how we got here," shares Alvin, "we both made a commitment to find a way to serve God in Horsefly."

And the Lord faithfully fashioned a way for them to do just that.

Today, Alvin & Diane still operate the ranch and work in logging. But they also serve as the



Alvin & Diane
Doerksen

Village Missionaries at Cariboo Christian Church in Horsefly, strengthening the body of believers to proclaim the gospel out in the bush.

A NATURAL TRANSITION

"We would not be here if it weren't for the love and encouragement of the people in this church."

Alvin & Diane joined the rural congregation of Cariboo Christian Church in the summer of 1985.

Despite their hectic schedule running the ranch and logging the nearby forests, this dynamic couple invested their time, talents, and hearts into this body of Christ.

So whenever the church, which joined Village Missions in 1987, was without pastoral leadership, they turned to Alvin—the rugged rancher with a strong passion for proclaiming God's Word.

Alvin wasn't always convinced he had a knack for preaching, remembering the first time he stepped into the pulpit—his knees shook so fiercely he can't believe no one heard them.

But with practice, Alvin became a seasoned pastor and fervent student of the Bible. In fact, Diane once counted that Alvin read over 10,000 pages of theology books...in one year!

With each interim period between missionaries, the Doerksens grew confident



Alvin stands in the pulpit (above); Diane watches over a small group of church children.





in their ability to love and lead the congregation.

So in 2012 when the church was without a Village Missionary again, they asked Alvin & Diane to become the next pastoral

couple. With prayer and humility, the Doerksens embraced this "incredible and awesome responsibility."

Their mission as Village Missionaries has been to carry out the mandate of Ephesians 4:12: "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."

"Our goal through the years," Alvin and Diane share, "has been to strengthen the people of the church so that each individual would be a missionary."

So, how have they empowered the church to become missionaries themselves? Here is one small but powerful story.

"Alvin and Diane have provided excellent leadership over the years. It's interesting that whenever they provide leadership, the church has grown!"

Henry & Marilyn Vandermeer, District Representatives

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Every year, members of the congregation go out into the community to deliver cookies and invitations for the church's Christmas program to nearly 80 homes.

For one gentleman, this act of kindness changed everything.

Divorced and unable to see his children, he came to Horsefly alone in a small travel trailer. Unfortunately, he had none of the tools needed to survive in this frigidly cold landscape. So when the winter snow began to build, he had no way to dig himself out or keep his property clear.

That was his life—trapped in a cold, gloomy existence without hope.

Then one icy evening, there was an unexpected knock at his door. Who fought their way through the fortress of snow to see him?

He opened the door to discover strangers standing in his doorway. Greeting him with a warm plate of cookies and even warmer smiles, they shared that they were from Cariboo Christian Church.

After inviting him to their Christmas program, they made the arduous hike back through the snow and sleet, wondering if they would ever see this man again.

To the church's surprise and delight, he showed up to the Christmas program.

The love and warmth of the church compelled him to keep coming back over the next few months. Later that spring, he



The Cariboo Christian Church congregation meets for a baptism service. District Representative Henry Vandermeer (in blue) and Alvin Doerksen (in plaid) are shown in the center of the group.

accepted Christ as his Savior. The church, and all of heaven, rejoiced.

And his journey to faith all began when a few church members trudged through the dense snow to reach him with the love of Jesus.

They may not be “Village Missionaries,” but they embodied all that a Village Missionary is supposed to be—someone who preaches the Word and loves the people in forgotten places.

“The people in the church went out and touched his life and brought him into fellowship,” shares Alvin, emotion saturated in his voice. “We are so thankful and proud of this body of believers in Horsefly.”

THE GOSPEL IN FORGOTTEN PLACES

When Alvin and Diane moved out to the bush nearly four decades ago, they had all kinds of hopes and dreams.

They may not have accomplished the aspirations that they brought to Horsefly, but they found something better than any earthly achievement—the honor of laboring for the eternal destiny of souls where a gospel witness is desperately needed.

Alvin and Diane will continue to equip each member of their congregation to be a missionary themselves in the remote region of the Caribou. And they'll always remember how the Lord redeemed their story in Horsefly—a story once driven by worldly desires, but now written by His grace and power.



New Fields

Binscarth Christian Assembly

The rural community in the prairies of southwestern Manitoba has a population of approximately 425. Just 16 kilometres from the Saskatchewan border, the leading occupations for this area are agriculture and the service sector. In September 2020, Village Missionaries David & Aimee Hanson—and their baby daughter, Theodora—began serving here.



Wynndel Community Church

Beautiful mountains and forests surround this small town of 600. Wynndel rests in the Kootenay region of southern British Columbia, just 10 kilometres from the U.S. border. Out here in this rugged nature, many folks work in agriculture—sawmills, logging, and farming. This small congregation welcomed their first Village Missionary couple—Jordan & Ashley Wilson—in February 2021.



Gull Lake Alliance Church

Home to a little over 1,000 residents, Gull Lake rests near the intersection of the Trans-Canada Highway and Highway 37. Oil and farming are two of the major occupations here in this area of southwestern Saskatchewan. Currently, this congregation is patiently waiting for their Village Missionary family. Would you pray that the Lord would send them the right person/couple to preach the Word and love the people here?



2020 Annual Report

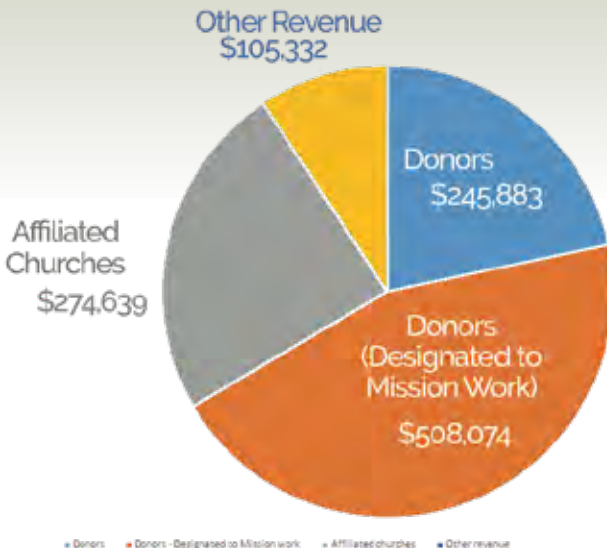
Village Missions Board of Directors



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 (retired August 2020), Board Member Hal York, Board Member Richard Semenyra, 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

Income by Source \$1,133,928



General Fund Income & Expenses for the year ended June 30, 2020

Revenue by Source	2020		2019	
Donors	\$245,883	22%	\$329,863	32%
Donors (Designated to Mission work)	508,074	45%	444,794	43%
Affiliated Churches	274,639	24%	229,890	22%
Other Revenue	105,332	9%	35,904	3%
Total Income	\$1,133,928	100%	\$1,040,451	100%
Expenses	2020		2019	
Missions	1,021,710	93%	\$968,723	92%
Administration	38,453	4%	40,939	4%
Development	27,764	3%	39,115	4%
Total Expenses	\$1,087,928	100%	\$1,048,777	100%
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$46,000		(\$8,326)	
Fund Balances				
	2020		2019	
Beginning of Year	\$366,890		\$375,216	
End of Year	\$412,890		\$366,890	



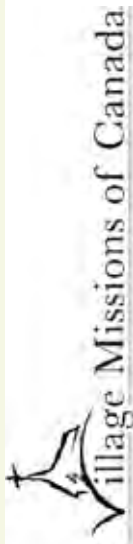
Just like the lonely man in the story, one act of kindness started his journey to Christ.

That's why Village Missions exists, to reach the unremembered in the rural places of Canada. Your prayers and support enable missionaries like the Doerksens and congregations like Cariboo

Christian Church to bring the hope of the gospel to the lost.

Would you consider how the Lord might use you to help reach another lost soul in rural Canada with the love of Jesus Christ?

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



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Helping Country Churches Thrive