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COUNTRY *Matters*



village Missions of Canada



A View From the Country

with Murray Graham, Executive Director

The apostle John expressed great joy in knowing that his “spiritual children” were walking in God’s truth (3 John 4). For Village Missionary Jonathan Elgby, there is great joy in watching a teen from Ear Falls Chapel start shepherding another rural church. As Executive Director, I’m delighted to see an example of a rural church discipling a young man and sending him into full-time ministry.

As this story demonstrates, Village Missions plays an important role in God’s kingdom work. In partnership with you, we help country churches thrive. This happens as Village Missionaries proclaim and live out the gospel and faithfully teach God’s Word. Healthy churches—even small ones in small places—produce Christian workers who reach far beyond their own church doors.

You are an important part of this story! Both churches you will read about are assisted financially by Village Missions. Without the help of ministry partners like you, these churches could not afford a full-time pastor.

Please consider giving to Village Missions so that places like Ear Falls have a thriving church with a committed pastor. By investing in rural churches, you are investing in the next generation of Christian workers and missionaries.

Serving our Savior together,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Murray Graham".

Murray Graham, Executive Director

NOT FOR HIM

When Village Missionary Henry Vandermeer met Jordan Wilson on a Bible college campus, Jordan said Village Missions wasn't for him. He wanted to work with youth and young adults, not be the pastor of a rural church. But God had other ideas.



Jordan & Ashley Wilson

AN IMPORTANT ROLE

In fact, Village Missions had already played an important role in Jordan's life. He grew up in Ear Falls, a small town in northwestern Ontario. His family was very involved in church and the small school it operated. But families moved away, the school closed, and soon Jordan was the only teenage boy in the church. As a homeschooled student in a rural area, he didn't have many friends.



Jordan (right) during a church service at Ear Falls Chapel.

When Jordan was 16, Ear Falls Chapel received their first Village Missionary pastor. Jonathan Elgby was in his 20s and

married with an infant daughter. He befriended Jordan. They played volleyball together and helped with AWANA weekly. When Jonathan drove Jordan home, they often sat in the driveway and talked.

"Jonathan came alongside me as a friend regardless of the difference in our ages," Jordan said. "He showed an interest in my life, but he didn't push me to talk. When I did share my thoughts and feelings with him, it was because I trusted him."

"Looking back now, I see that Ear Falls Chapel kept me in my faith during a time when I could easily have walked away. The friends I had weren't Christians. I knew people in the church, but we didn't have a close relationship. Everything changed when Jonathan came because he wanted to hang out with me and be my friend. Because of his example, I started to be more serious about my faith."



DISCOVERIES & CONSIDERATIONS



Jordan prays with a group of students

Jordan helped lead the youth group at Ear Falls Chapel. In the summers he worked at a Bible camp, where he discovered he enjoyed working with older teens and young adults. He began considering a career as a young adult pastor. By the time he enrolled at Peace River Bible Institute, he had determined this was the path for him. He wanted to come

alongside teens and young adults like Jonathan Elgby had done for him.

Henry Vandermeer—a District Representative for Village Missions—visited the Bible college regularly. Each time he talked with Jordan and his girlfriend, Ashley. But Jordan didn't see Village Missions in his future.

After graduating in 2019, Jordan applied for the youth pastor position at several churches. All his applications were refused because he didn't have experience. By this time, he and Ashley were married. The doors to ministry seemed to be closing, so Jordan found a job as a security guard in Grand Prairie, and Ashley continued working in the Peace River Bible Institute cafeteria.

God kept bringing Village Missions to his mind, though. One morning in 2020, he told Ashley he was interested in VM. They prayed together and agreed to contact the mission. That same morning, he received a message from Henry Vandermeer—their first contact in over a year! This time, Jordan was ready to talk about a possible future with Village Missions.

When Jonathan heard that the Wilsons had applied to Village Missions, he was excited.



Top: Henry & Marilyn Vandermeer; Bottom: Jordan applied for several ministry jobs.

“Jordan has a pastor’s heart and much wisdom,” Jonathan said. “What excites me most is that he is walking with the Lord.”

GIFTED BY GOD AND WORKING TOGETHER

In June 2020, Jordan and Ashley moved to Wynndel, B.C., and started a pastoral internship at Wynndel Community Church. The church didn't have a pastor, so Jordan felt very nervous at first. But he and Ashley had excellent mentors in Len and Helen Trenholm, who had served as Village Missionaries for 17 years and now lived in Creston, only 11 kilometers from Wynndel.

"The church family and leadership team were very supportive of us," Jordan said. "They wanted to help me grow. Their love relieved the pressure we initially felt."

At the end of his 8-month internship, Jordan became the full-time pastor.

Wynndel is in a beautiful valley in southeastern B.C. It has a relatively mild climate, so many residents are retirees. There are young families, too, and Jordan is eager to reach the teens and young adults.

Wynndel Community Church doesn't have a youth program. Currently, it has only two teens—a 16-year-old girl and her 13-year-old brother. Ashley invited the 16-year-old over for a girls' night. Another evening both siblings came to the Wilsons' home to play games. Jordan and Ashley are coming alongside them, just as Jonathan did for Jordan. Perhaps one day these two teens will bring friends who will bring other friends. Meanwhile, Jordan knows not to underestimate the value of being a trustworthy friend and Christlike example to just one individual.



CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

As the Executive Director of Village Missions of Canada, I am excited to launch our **CONNECTIONS MINISTRY**. We are pleased to have appointed Arnold & Eleanor Tracey for this role. The Traceys have served in pastoral ministry with Village Missions since 1984 and know and feel the heartbeat, purpose and vision of our mission.

As the **Church-to-Church Connections Director**, Arnold's initial focus will be contacting the Village Missionary Pastors regarding specific needs they have and ways Village Missions can find partnerships with churches or Missions groups and/or resources to help them realize the vision they have for their rural ministries.



ARNOLD &
ELEANOR TRACEY

As the **Ambassador Program Coordinator**, Eleanor will be contacting prospective Ambassadors to help spread awareness of Village Missions, helping them to have the greatest impact in sharing the vision and work of our mission and developing a strong prayer team.

Prayer and financial support are integral to the continuance of our mission, and the relationships we're able to develop with new ministry partners will be the most important element of seeing our vision of thriving country churches become a reality.

Murray Graham

If you would like to learn more about the connections program please send a message to connections@villagemissions.ca

**GIVING
TUESDAY**


Giving Tuesday is just around the corner! It's a perfect opportunity to bless a rural church. Would you give a donation to Village Missions this year? Together we can be part of God's work as He builds His church. Every act of generosity counts!

Jordan Wilson said that without Village Missions, Ear Falls Chapel would likely have closed its doors. If that had happened, Wynndel Community Chapel might not have a pastor today. Please help country churches stay open and thrive so that rural youths

like Jordan can be disciplined and raised up to pastor other churches. Giving Tuesday is just around the corner. Would you give to Village Missions so that more small churches in small places have a committed pastor?



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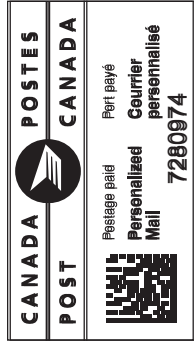


Village Missions of Canada

Keeping Country Churches Alive

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Helping Country Churches Thrive