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I WAS DISCOURAGED.

Growing up the son of Village Missionaries, I learned early that ministry is not glamorous. I had seen firsthand how rural churches suffer when families move and how God can turn things around and bring new life. But I was

discouraged. In my mind, the church might not survive another year.

In spite of my doubts, two years later the church in Cardston is a thriving group of 35-40 people, young and old, gathering together regularly. What changed?

God reminded us why we were there.

We were there because we loved the people and believed that God would be faithful (in His way and His time) to produce growth in the lives of those we minister to. Our part was simply to be faithful and trust God, so we persevered and we turned

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to the only one who could revitalize the church in Cardston: our faithful God.

We prayed that God would provide us with three new couples/families that year and He did. He was faithful and graciously gave us what we asked and more besides.

Have we had our share of challenges the last two years? Absolutely, but also new opportunities. Today we are involved in ministries we weren't before. For example, this spring I led four men through the first class of the Contenders Discipleship Initiative & we also began a weekly service at the local care home. All this has been possible because God is faithful and we, as a church, are committed to faithfully serve Him with what He has given us (whether little or much).



IT'S ABOUT FAITHFULNESS IN THE LITTLE MOMENTS.

Ministry in rural Canada (and everywhere else) isn't about making something happen, it is about faithfulness in the little moments. The Sunday school teacher who prepares a lesson

not knowing if she'll have one kid or ten that week. The pastor preparing a sermon with the same diligence whether there are two in the pews or two hundred. The Christian who loves his or her neighbor whether they respond to the Gospel or not. These things make a difference, because God is faithful to keep His word. We have seen that firsthand in Cardston and that is why we are so thankful to be a part of the ministry of Village Missions, helping the church in Cardston thrive.

Matthew & Shanay Deneault serve as Village Missionaries at Christ Community Fellowship in Cardston, AB. They met in Bible college and married in August 2018 before serving as interns with Village Missions for 10 months in Grindrod, BC. Matthew & Shanay have served in Cardston since September 2019. They have two children (and another one due next month). Learn more at christfellowshipcardston.com



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