

COUNTRY

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Matters



A Small Town Discovers...
**THEY HAVE NOT
BEEN FORGOTTEN.**

JENNINGS →



Village Missions

Keeping Country Churches Alive

A View From the Country

by Brian Wechsler, Executive Director



*At the gas station, the local coffee shop
or the hardware store, talk always
comes back around to the economy.
Everybody seems to be hurting. . .*

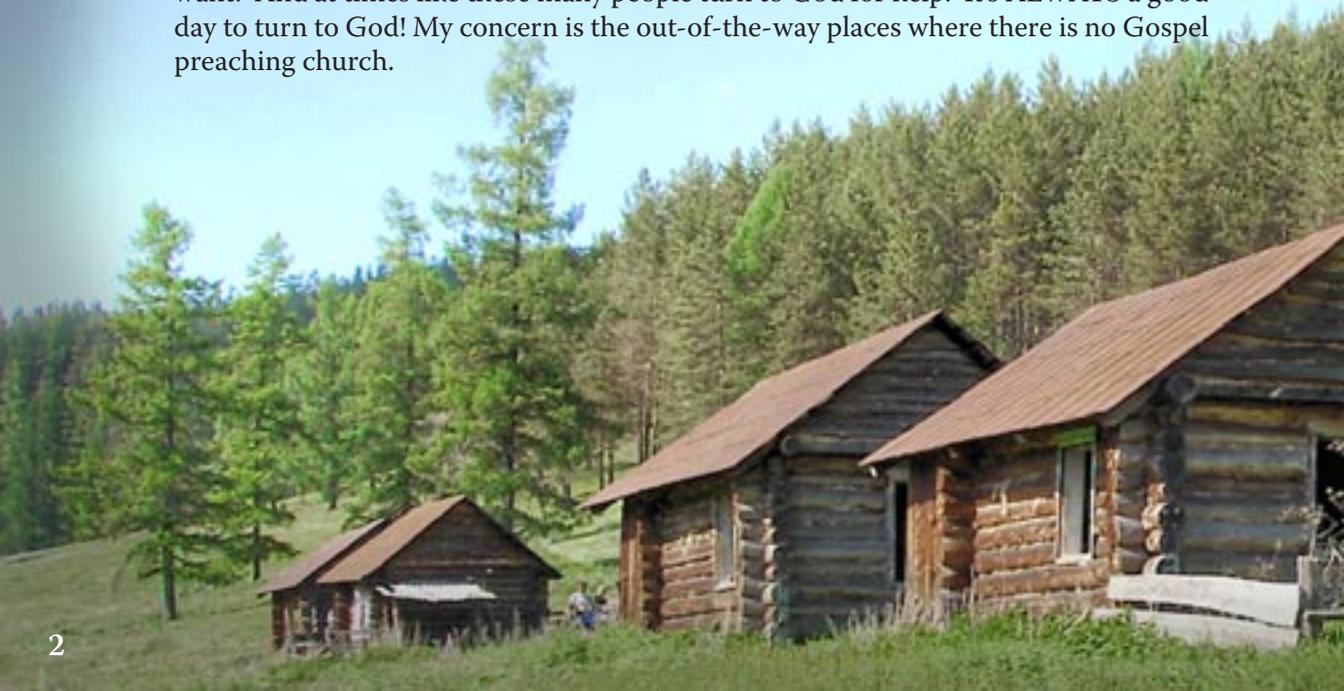
And anyone who isn't feeling the pinch is worried they soon will be feeling the pain of the times. There's plenty of gloom in the air.

Some folks wish they could go back to the good old days. Others dream of what might have been, could have been, or should have been.

And they're all hoping for better days . . .

A lot of the folks would say they want more money. Or at least they don't want to lose what they put away for a rainy day.

But when you dig deeper you discover it's not the money . . . It's peace that people want. And at times like these many people turn to God for help. It's ALWAYS a good day to turn to God! My concern is the out-of-the-way places where there is no Gospel preaching church.



When someone has done all they know to do and is finally ready to try God, there should be someone there to help.

What if the church has closed? What if they have no pastor? Will people look for comfort instead of finding peace? Comfort is a really good imposter, but it's fool's gold!

Country folks deserve better. They ought to have the Best . . . Jesus Christ and his peace!

Inside Country Matters today you'll hear from one community that has been greatly impacted by this reality. They've discovered they have not been forgotten. They've seen how much God loves them.

Their stories are a lesson for each of us . . . in the country and everywhere else.

Keeping Country Churches Alive,



Brian Wechsler
Executive Director



The signs are everywhere across rural North America . . .

***RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE IN TROUBLE.
But there is an answer in the Good News that Jesus Christ offers.***

A SPIRITUAL Solution

God is in the business of turning life's tough things into good things, great things, in fact. He transforms situations, taking defeats and turning them into victories. Sadness is overtaken by joy. Despair becomes hope. People find new-life in Jesus.

This kind of transformation is exactly what has happened in town after town where Village Missionaries serve.

In one small seemingly forgotten town this has happened in a dramatic way.

Three years ago, their community church was down to eight members. Now on an average Sunday there are 65 people worshipping. More than 25 people have come to Christ. Eight have been baptized. Their lives have hope as never before!

Their words, on the following pages, tell their stories best . . .



*“That’s our church.
It’s our second home
and we love it!”*

*“We came here to love
these folks. And we want
to share with them the
hope that we have . . . the
hope that there is in Christ.
Preach the Word and love the
people. That’s what we came here
to do.”*

*“It’s amazing. Once you open your
eyes you come to Jesus and things
change. You see how much better
things are . . .”*





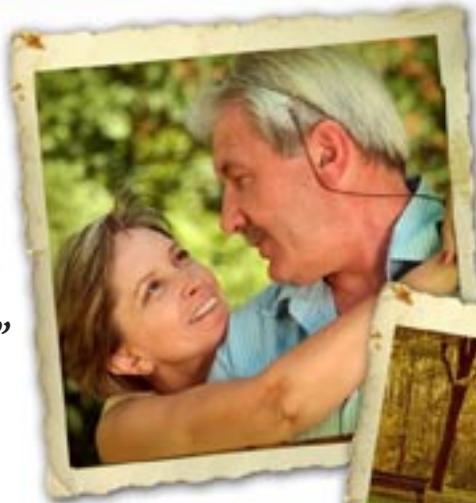
Some of the new people coming to this church had never been inside a church before. Their parents had never been inside a church. Their grandparents had never been inside a church.

Others were facing prison . . . dealing with histories full of attempts to find peace in deadly ways. The town had its share of broken hearts . . .

But God brought them love, forgiveness and hope. And a new way to look at each day and all the challenges they face.

“The church has accepted us for who we are and where we are in life. They love us in spite of the difficulties. They’re just here for us.”

“God has renewed our marriage and given us hope.”



“God turned my life around and I believe he has turned the life in this community around too.”



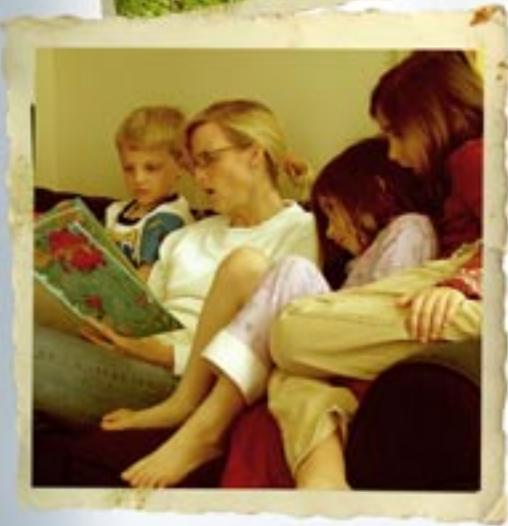
“My husband has become a born-again believer. And my faith has been reaffirmed. I know God is with me no matter what.”





When individuals in a small community have problems, the community has problems. Trouble touches everyone . . . and sadly that includes the youngest ones, too.

Jesus called the little children to come to him 2000 years ago. And today he continues to do this in even the most remote places.



“The single greatest thing that can happen in a home is a parent trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior. Their life will be changed, they can walk a new walk. And their children will have hope.”

“We need to look to God for the guidance. We need to look for our churches to help us raise our kids.”



“Helping the children here, that’s the most important mission I have . . .”

“Now there are things for the kids to do at church. And I see a lot more children coming to church than there was a couple years ago. That’s a good thing.”

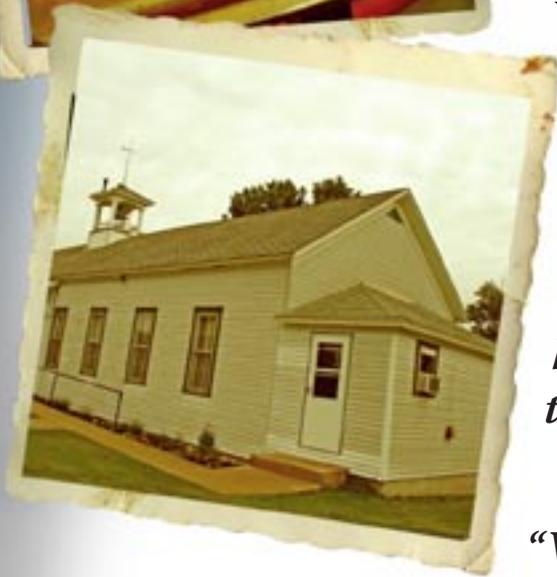
“I might not be able to do much . . . but if we can help the children and let them know there’s a lot better life for them, then there’s a chance they don’t have to follow some of the bad examples here in town.”





Keeping Country Churches Alive is something we talk about a lot. We believe God uses the local church in powerful ways. And without the church in a remote community the spiritual dynamic of the entire area suffers. When Village Missions helps a community keep their church from dying, God does good things there!

And when a church realizes the power of God working through their church they want this for others.



“I think every small town needs a small town church that they can go to and just learn God’s word, learn the Bible, and learn how to follow what God wants them to do.”



“We have a small church that we all dearly love. With help we hope to expand and grow so we can help more kids and adults in our town.”

“Faith is not what we see. It’s what we hope for. We live on it every day.”



“Personal involvement is a big thing here. It’s good for everyone to be involved in God’s work right here in our town.”



KEEPING COUNTRY CHURCHES ALIVE IS IMPORTANT!

Inside are quotes from people who understand in a deep personal way just how important having a church to call home is . . . Their lives, their families, and their community have been touched and changed by the power of God working through an unassuming Village Missionary.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP KEEP A COUNTRY CHURCH ALIVE, YOU CAN . . . PLEASE CALL US OR VISIT

www.theyarenotforgotten.org

Village Missions: (800) 617-9905. Village Missions, Canada: (877) 277-7901

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