

SPRING 2011


USA: www.village-missions.org Canada: villagemissions.ca

COUNTRY *Matters*

GOD'S LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER



 Village Missions
Keeping Country Churches Alive

A portrait of Brian Wechsler, a man with glasses and a beard, smiling. The background of the entire page is a cloudy sky with a silhouette of a tree and a bird in flight on the left side.

A View From the Country

with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

When wonderful things happen you hear people shout it. Or when victory comes at the last moment possible, just before calamity, people utter it gratefully. And even when things simply turn out to be just a little less terrible than they could have been folks say it, too . . . “God is good!”

It’s true. But the fact is God is good *all the time*. Not because of a good turn of events. He is good because He is love. He is unfailing, never-changing love, always on our side, through thick and thin.

The economic problems of the past couple years have created enormous challenges for individuals, businesses, governments and ministries. Churches feel the pain as they suffer along with their members and friends. These are truly tough times.

And we need those moments when extraordinarily good things happen to remind us of what we know . . . God IS good! It brings our eyes up off our problems and reassures us that God understands, God cares more than we can understand.

I have had many reminders this year of God’s deep abiding love. He continues to be so faithful, meeting the needs of our Village Missionaries who are serving across North America.

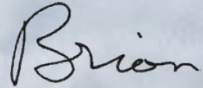
This issue of Country Matters contains a report on our annual financial report, as well as a few stories of God's goodness poured out in rural communities in Canada and the US.

In short, I can report our budget has tightened, but it is balanced in the U.S. In Canada, we're not quite there but making good progress. In both countries we have churches that are seeking our help. They need our help to find a Village Missionary Pastor to serve their small town. They feel their church must not be allowed to close its doors.

And I agree. And I am so thankful that friends like you have sacrificed in hard times to keep their doors open.

God truly IS good. Thank you for being a vitally important part of His expression of love for communities that have often been ignored.

Keeping Country Churches Alive with You,



Brian S. Wechsler
Executive Director
Village Missions



GOD'S LOVE ENDURES.



I believe you'll be blessed as you read just a few of the stories of what God is doing where Village Missionaries are serving.

Patrick McAloon, NASHWAAK BRIDGE, NB

"I visited a man in the hospital who had a lung removed due to cancer complications. He was very tired from his operation, so I didn't stay for too long. But before I left, he told me that he was not a Christian. I was not able to share my devotion to Christ with the man, so I vowed to meet with him again someday. After he had been released from hospital, I visited him at his home to share the gospel with him. At the end of our time together, he prayed to receive Christ as his Savior."

Henry & Marilyn Vandermeer, NUKKO LAKE, BC

Over the years, Marilyn and I have worked with a family in our community. We have looked after their kids, attempted marriage counseling, seen the breakup of the family, and grieved with them and for them often. Fortunately, we still have a wonderful relationship with their kids. They were supposed to come along with us on our annual bike trip, but it was cancelled when several of them were busy. We decided that instead of the bike trip, we would send the youngest child to Ness Lake Bible Camp. On Wednesday, he called very

..FOREVER.

excitedly, exclaiming, "I have good news, Pastor Henry! I accepted Jesus into my heart this week at camp!"

Terry & Jane GRINDROD, BC

Two years ago we picked up a hitchhiker in the rain and brought him home, dried his clothes, fed him, and shared the Gospel with him. He was very open and expressed a desire to walk with the Lord.

A few weeks ago, we took our children twenty miles down the road for an ice cream cone. As we headed home, we passed a young couple hitchhiking. Something compelled me to pick them up. After driving with them for a few minutes, we discovered that we had helped the same fellow two years earlier. The woman said that they had just been talking about us when we stopped. The Lord gave them another opportunity to hear the Gospel and our pleadings, to yield their lives to Him.

Don & Dorene, WORLEY, ID

The Lord continues to work in folks' lives. The man I'd been working with, that I hoped would indeed come to Christ... did! After coffee one day, he asked me to go for a ride, and he stopped at one of his lifelong favorite places. I had the privilege of leading him to the Jesus Christ. What a joy! Since that day, he has been growing like a weed and even

"In good times or bad God continues to change hearts and lives."

ANNUAL REPORT

How **God Has Used** Village Missions - 2010

Serving **191** communities in the US
Serving **29** communities in Canada

Average Attendance
in the US and Canada:
13,579 per week

**Indicated Decisions
to Follow Jesus Christ:**

380 adults **520** children

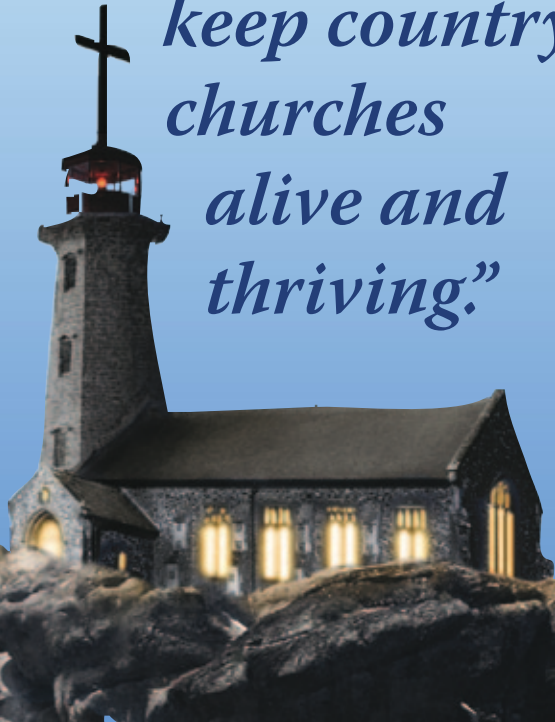
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Village Missions was chosen as one of MinistryWatch's Shining Light Ministries for 2010.

www.MinistryWatch.com

*“Our calling is to
do whatever we possibly
can in order to
keep country
churches
alive and
thriving.”*



witnessing to his friends! Another young man assured a deacon that he had also recently come to Christ, which was the reason for his faithful church attendance with his family.

Michael & Faye, DOUBLE ADOBE, AZ

The first day of our Vacation Bible School, we had 101 kids and twenty-six adults! That was a great start. On Friday, we had our high attendance of 108. We gave the Gospel and several responded. One was a five-year-old who lives near us and is practically a grandson to us. His mom just celebrated a full year of sobriety on the 25th of this month, a battle she has been fighting for many years. She came to know the Lord when her son was born. And now, this week her son was born again!

Richard & Pamela Bosworth, HINKLEY CA

Back in October 2009, we had several new people begin to attend church. I remember one young lady in particular. She had been to our church primarily to get food.

One day, she was panhandling at the market and thought she might just come up to church. Well, she received Christ and has made a dramatic turnaround. She has been a faithful attendee and been baptized.

Her husband was in prison and got out at the end of February, but can't attend church because of parole restrictions. Instead, every Tuesday evening we hold a Bible study at their home with eight others. We have dinner and then about an hour and a half Bible study. This has been very exciting for our whole church and has created a lot of excitement.

ANNUAL REPORT

How God Provides for Village Missions Ministry Needs:

INCOME (US)



INCOME (CANADA)



Where Village Missions Spends Ministry Gifts:

EXPENSES (US)



EXPENSES (CANADA)



NET ASSETS (US): \$1,598,961

NET ASSETS (CANADA): \$466,448



Our Commitment to You

As members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, we're committed to the highest level of financial stewardship and accountability.

We ask only for genuine ministry needs. All contributions we receive will be used as indicated in accordance with our policies and procedures. As stewards of your gift, we exercise

careful, complete control and administration over all funds.

We trust God to meet the financial needs of our ministry through people like you who want to keep country churches alive.

Our ministry is never about numbers. It's about sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Thanks for caring and sharing your love today.



Keeping Country Churches Alive



SAVING ^{THE}
COUNTRY CHURCH

"Saving the Country Church" is airing on Cornerstone and NRB television networks during the months of March and April.

But you can see a preview right now, online!

Get instant access by holding this graphic up to your webcam or smartphone camera.



Or go to www.youtube.com/user/villagemissions