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COUNTRY *Matters*



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...
MISSIONARY!



village Missions

Keeping Country Churches Alive



A View From the Country

with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

A long time before any politician used the old phrase “it takes a village,” people who lived in the country already knew it. They lived it.

When you live in a small community, you get how everyone depends on someone else at some point in time. The idea of a farmer bringing in the harvest alone is ridiculous. A rancher rounding up cattle with no help is unthinkable. It takes a village.

And it goes further than that in a rural community. When help is needed at school, it’s up to the parents to come and support. When they need volunteers at the fire department, it’s up to people to volunteer. Everyone benefits. It takes a village.

It’s the same with the spiritual needs of the community. See, people don’t know the Good News is anything other than just plain old news, unless they truly understand it. And understanding like that doesn’t just happen on its own. It doesn’t always drop right in people’s laps.

The idea is to preach the Word, and love the people. Give them the

news, and pray they will understand it’s the best news they’ve ever heard. That takes regular folks – Bible-believing folks – living there in people’s lives. Folks who can become Village Missionaries. Folks who are willing to dedicate their full time and effort to loving that community and serving it. That means that if there are no Village Missionaries coming down the line, we can’t serve communities. It’s just a like with farmers: If the crop is ripe but everyone is on vacation or gone fishing, there will be tremendous harvest loss.

We are deeply committed to finding Village Missionaries, because we know that when it comes to needs, especially spiritual needs, it takes a village.

Investing in the Country Church,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Brian Wechsler

In this issue of **Country Matters**, we're focusing on the third part of **FIRE**, **R**, which stands for **RECRUITING**. To review, **FIRE** stands for:

Fields – Finding new communities in need of a full-time pastor.

Invest – Providing the financial support these communities so desperately need.

Recruiting – Supplying new Village Missionaries with a passion to “Preach the Word and love the people.”

Equipping – Training and supporting missionaries and churches to reach their communities for Jesus Christ.

A Village Missionary in each community ensures that folks in hard-to-reach places will have a chance to hear the message of Christ, in their own community, from their own community. And it means that when that person hears about Christ, they can learn, grow, and be discipled by a pastor who will lead them in the Truth.

But the process of getting that kind of leader into the Country Church isn't simple. *(Next Page) ----->*





AN ESSENTIAL NEED

One of the core issues we face in keeping Country Churches alive is meeting the need for qualified, biblical leadership – leadership that understands how to minister in a country community. That’s at the heart of what Village Missions does in rural communities.

Without a leader, church communities will struggle. It makes unity difficult, and it makes having an impact on the community even harder.

So many Country Churches contact us, looking for a full-time pastor.

That’s why we’re always on the lookout for qualified people who feel called to minister to the Country Church.



So Who's the Typical Village Missionary Recruit?

There are all types of people who feel called to be a Village Missionary. A lot of our candidates are looking for a second career that brings more meaning to their lives. Others enter our ministry right out of Bible school or seminary.

When we look for Village Missionaries, here's what we love to see:

- Individuals with solid biblical training
- Folks who have experience serving the Church
- People with a love for the body of Christ and God's Word.
- Couples who want to build relationships and become involved in a community.

Of course, there are other things we look for, too, but this is the heart of it.

To learn more, please visit the "Serve with Us" portion of our website, www.village-missions.org.

Contenders Bible School

Sometimes, folks feel called to the ministry but don't feel equipped. They may even have years of experience in loving and ministering to the church, but they don't have enough Bible knowledge to feel confident preaching, or giving biblical advice.

That's where Contenders Bible School at Machias Community Church, our field in Machias, Washington, comes in.

At Contenders, the congregation is trained and people are educated specifically to go into ministry, and students are prepared to become pastors of small churches. The best part is, they meet in the evenings, so people can continue to support their families while they make the transition. Over the years, Contenders has sent out 10 couples to serve with us as Village Missionaries, as well as other couples into other ministries!

This model has been so effective that we are encouraging it throughout our Mission. So far three other schools are in place, and many more are being planned! Christians in our congregations are being trained on a Bible-school level, and we trust that many will respond to God's call to serve with Village Missions!

Visit www.machias.org/ to learn more.



How Can I Pray?

Pray that God would draw the right people into serving the Country Church.

Pray for an increase in formal Bible education to build up solid Biblical leaders.

Pray for funding to support the recruiting process and training of Village Missionary pastors.

Below: A 15-year reunion of Village Missionary graduates from Contenders Bible School.



Pray that the people in the Country Church will experience the transforming power of the gospel in their lives! Having a Village Missionary couple in their communities makes a world of difference.



It Takes a Village...

Maybe being a Village Missionary is something you'd like to consider, or maybe you know someone who is a likely candidate.

Please email us or call us! We'd love to hear from you.
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