

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

COUNTRY *Matters*

ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS
OF BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST
TO RURAL COMMUNITIES



 **Village Missions**
Keeping Country Churches Alive



A View From the Country

with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

ON FIRE FOR JESUS

Out here in the country, people understand Heaven. They understand Hell. They might misuse the word once in a while, but at least they understand that it is more than an abstract concept. They understand the words of Jesus when He said He'd build His church, "and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." But they also know that if there is no church, the gates of Hell will prevail.

Out here, people understand the concept of commitment. They have a fire that burns within them, so when they decide to do something, they go "all-in." If they get a chance to play football, they leave it all on the field, they play their hearts out, they're there to win. In the same way, they go all in for their family, for their community, and for their country. These are people with a passion and a commitment to finish the things they start.

This same attitude, this passion and commitment, are part of the

DNA of Village Missions. As an organization we look at what God has called us to do, and we go all in.

You see, for us to succeed we have to be "on FIRE" for Jesus - or more specifically, **F-I-R-E**. In this case, "FIRE" stands for "Fields, Income, Recruiting, and Equipping."

Our first step is identifying new **Fields** that need help - and they are everywhere. Then we determine the help the local country church needs in order to reach their community.

We determine and raise the **Income** necessary to establish and maintain a sustainable church presence, right where it's needed most, in the heartland of our country.

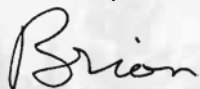
Next we **Recruit** good candidates, led by God to serve as Village Missionaries. This spring we are looking at recruiting 11-12 new couples for the field.

Finally, we ensure our missionaries and churches supported by Village Missions are **Equipped** to reach their communities. We do this in several ways but especially with veteran couples called District Representatives who visit our missionaries and churches regularly. We are also implementing a program that disciples church members and trains leaders from within the local country church.

Ultimately, we're all about helping set communities and individuals "on FIRE" for Jesus Christ. We're about helping the local home church be the place where prayer and repentance take place so that there can be honest and true revival – not just a revival meeting but a revival of hearts. A revival that makes a difference in a community – and, we pray, a difference that would touch our entire nation. It starts in a little rural community, in a little organization that understands that the gates of Hell will not prevail. But for that we must be on the move, we must get people on fire for Jesus.

I'm excited about the coming year, our 65th year of seeing lives changed throughout rural communities everywhere. Out here in the country, the harvest is plentiful, and one little church can make all the difference.

Faithfully tending to country churches,



Brian Wechsler
Executive Director, Village Missions



SENDING WORKERS INTO THE FIELDS...

As the winter season progresses and we prepare for the spring, we are blessed to share some of what God is doing across the country – already sowing seeds of His Word and His love through the members of the local country church, where only they can reach. . . and Harvest time is just around the corner!

A NEW EXPERIENCE

*Dennis and Leslie Burke
Amsterdam, New York*

I had a busy day this Sunday after teaching, preaching, and having company in for dinner, and then a homeless man called and wanted some help. He was on the other side of town from where I live and I really didn't want to go.

I took another guy with me and we stopped at Stewart's for a few groceries and I had a bag of clothes with me to give to the man. We gave him the things we brought and visited for a few minutes. I shared with him that the best thing we could offer him was a right relationship with God because of what Jesus did for all of us on the cross. We read some Scripture and prayed with



him. When we left, the guy I brought with me said he had never done anything like this before and he was thankful I had included him. Sure am glad the Lord gives us strength to do what He has called us to.

EARNING THE RIGHT...

*Paul and Denise DeVall
Glendorado, Minnesota*

I have been helping now for several months with our local Meals-on-Wheels program. I guess I finally "earned the right to be heard." As we finished cleaning up on Thursday, Dave, the man I was serving, said, "Paul, I've got a question..." And he went on to ask about what I thought about the Bible being inspired and having contradictions. He said, "I think it is a good guide, but not everything in it is right." So we discussed the inspiration of scripture which led to a discussion about the only way to be saved. Dave stated,



“I believe that if a person is basically good and believes in God, they will be all right.” I responded with, “The Bible says, ‘There is salvation in no other name under heaven [but Jesus] whereby we must be saved,’ and it says, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.’” The discussion continued regarding the gospel and salvation. I praise God that He has opened the door of discussion about His Word and the Gospel. I pray that we will continue to have discussion in the weeks ahead.

BUILDING UP TOMORROW’S LEADERS

*Douglas and Sally Johnson
Buttermilk, Kansas*

Praise God for Zach and Lona Ellis (our high school youth leaders)

Melanie Dunn (a parent who helps) and also Dale and Kendy Johnson, who attended the Right Now Conference in Dallas, TX, two weeks ago. They came back so excited and full of great ideas. Our church paid most of their way to this conference and has been talking about doing it again next year, and bringing all the church leadership if possible – board members, Doug and I and others who are interested, since it is not only a conference for youth leaders, but leadership in general.

Praise the Lord that Zach and Lona were able again this year to also take the youth group all the way to Denver to help pack Samaritan’s Purse shoe boxes. Denver is an 8-hour drive from here! They left the day after Thanksgiving and returned yesterday. As a group they also were able to be a part of Denver Rescue Mission and help feed 250 homeless people. They also attended a small inner city interracial church. What a blessing for our high school kids to have this experience.

Celebrating 65 Years of Preaching the Word and Loving the People

Village Missions will reach a significant milestone in 2013 as we celebrate 65 years of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to rural communities. I wonder if the Rev. Walter Duff, Mrs. Baugh, Miss Clark, and Archie and Evangeline McNeil, as they signed the organizing papers 65 years ago, imagined the impact Village Missions would have on the kingdom of God! Did they foresee that even entire tribes would be reached across the world by missionaries who were first led to Christ and then discipled at small rural churches served by Village Missions?

This milestone of 65 years of ministry could never have been reached without the support of Friends and Family like you. The results have helped shape a legacy of hope and new life in the heartland of our country.

Here's what has happened as a result of Village Missions:

Those who've never known Jesus have the opportunity to discover Jesus. It has only been through the local country church that



so many “forgotten people” have been introduced to Jesus. Through churches supported by Village Missions, new and mature believers can learn to walk in a more faithful way with God. Christians are equipped and earn the right to share their faith in their community, where everyone knows everyone else's business.

Hearts and lives have been forever touched.

Village Missions is like no other organization, positioned to reach into the heart of rural North America from the inside, bringing Jesus into country communities. These people shouldn't be



forgotten. They need to discover God loves them, even though they don't live in the urban centers. Village Missions has provided full-time spiritual leadership that will impact not only folks in small communities, but the heartland of the entire country.

No retreat - Our founders, Rev. Walter Duff, Mrs. Baugh, Miss Clark, and Archie and Evangeline McNeil, prayed – they didn't retreat. They prayed for miraculous results. Those results happened. I'm sure now, 65 years later, they would be astonished at the results of prayer, faithfulness, and an attitude that said "Love God, and fear nothing"

We may face extremely challenging times in our Mission, but God has also provided great opportunities as well. We have begun to move forward on an initiative to foster discipleship, leadership training, and the training of potential Village Missionaries, called *RAVMI - Rural America Village Missions Initiative*.

Already, four of our fields have such training! I believe that as we implement this initiative, God will provide additional, highly qualified missionaries to place in fields. Based on what I see happening on several of our fields, I believe God is calling us to expand our impact on rural North America, and through vibrant rural churches, on our entire nation. I envision a great host of spiritually vital churches making a great difference in the church as a whole. I believe it is time for our Mission to advance, not retreat.

Sixty-five years ago, a godly group of people began a great enterprise that has had an inestimable impact on the Kingdom of God, helping people be "on FIRE" for Jesus (I personally have benefited from the ministry of Village Missions). And today, we are deeply committed to the same thing – to helping those who live in rural communities understand what it is to be "on FIRE" for Jesus.

“For it is for this we labor and strive...” (1 Timothy 4:10)

Purpose Statement: Village Missions exists to glorify Jesus Christ by developing spiritually vital churches in rural North America.

Combined US & Canada statistics:

Salvation decisions in 2012:

Adult: 387
Children: 518

New Membership:

Adult: 355
Children: 73

Baptisms:

Adult: 323
Children: 222

Rededications & other decisions:

Adult: 1,252
Children: 347

166,372 visits by missionaries over the year, **149,115 hours** spent in visiting.

Average Sunday morning attendance: 13,678 overall (72 per church)

United States (as of June, 2012): 189 fields served by Village Missions with 83 fields or 44% in need of help from Village Missions for the missionary's salary/health insurance. 189 couples serving as Village Missionaries, 6 District Representative Couples, 3 Administrators (Executive Director, Assistant Director, and C.F.O.) 3 full-time office staff and 1 part-time staff.

Canada (as of June, 2012): 29 fields served (1 Associate) with 10 fields or 35% in need of help from Village Missions for the missionary's salary, 2 District Representative Couples, 1 Regional Administrator, and 1 office staff.



New fields

The central value of our Mission is that rural communities and rural people are valuable to God. It burdens us greatly to know that there are communities where the church is closed or about to close. We know that the Christians will perhaps find a place to worship elsewhere, but we also know that no one will reach the unsaved members of the community. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring Christ to these places.

Seven new fields have requested leadership from us since July 2011. Some of these are now being served by Village Missionaries, and some are still in need. They are:

Prescott, WA, July, 2011. Prescott was a former field served by Village Missions. Located on Hwy 124, 20 miles north of Walla Walla, it has a population of 1300. It is located in the Palouse wheat farming country. Before assigning leadership, around thirty attended worship. New Village Missionaries Mike and Kim Krutsch arrived in January 2012 and attendance is now in the low forties.

Defiance, NM, (Navajo field) November, 2011. Defiance is located near Gallup, NM, and has a population of 1613. The church was begun by Western Indian Ministries and has always had pastors who were Native American. About twenty people attend Sunday Services. Village Missionaries Jimmy and Nevey Francisco serve this field.

Mayer, AZ, November, 2011. Located in central AZ on Hwy 69 between Phoenix and Flagstaff, Mayer has a population of 1767. Leading occupations are education, construction, metal and metal products, and mining. Twenty people attended Sunday services and the church had no male leadership when they asked us for help. We were able to use our Associate Ministry effectively there, first sending Associates Jim and Jeannie Knight, and then Associates Francis and Rosemary Klontz. Both couples did an excellent job of laying a good foundation. We assigned new missionaries Dan and Cheryl Wuthrich in July, and they are already seeing good progress in attendance and spiritual growth.

Endicott, WA, February, 2012. It is currently being served by Village Missionary Associates, Jim and Diane Everest, who live in nearby Moscow, ID. Village Missionaries Fred and Cinda Tribble have been assigned to the church and are arriving in January, 2013. The community has a population of 265 with the leading occupation being wheat farming and related business. This church was on the verge of closing. The current pastor could only come in on Thursday to preach. The congregation comes from a 20-mile radius to attend.

Sierraville, CA, September, 2012. It is currently served by Associate Village Missionaries, Jim and Jeannie Knight. Located in Central/Northern California, the town has a population of 290. Leading



New Fields (continued):

occupations are ranching and government jobs. The church began in 1948. They have tried for many years to find a pastor.

Falmouth, MI, October, 2012. New Village Missionaries Seth & Julie Finch started serving there in November. The population in the town is 250, with 1,000 in the township. It is located in the north central part of lower MI. Leading occupations are dairy farming, logging and forest related jobs. They want to revitalize their dying congregation.

Lincoln Center, ME, November 2012. The field is located in north central Maine, with a population of 500. Leading occupations are the paper mill, school, hospital, and local businesses. The average income is \$25,000 a year. It is an independent church with an average of 15 people that now attend. There used to be between 90-100 attending. They are currently awaiting leadership.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets (U.S.)

Income by Source:

| | 2012 | | 2011 | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Donors | \$ 778,776 | 15% | \$ 1,021,183 | 19% |
| Donors - Designated to Missionaries | 2,303,933 | 45% | 2,236,740 | 42% |
| Churches served by Village Missions | 1,242,039 | 24% | 1,214,628 | 23% |
| Village Missionaries | 677,216 | 13% | 666,235 | 12% |
| Other revenue | 155,909 | 3% | 196,828 | 4% |
| Total income | 5,157,873 | 100% | 5,335,614 | 100% |

Operating Expenses:

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Village Missionaries | 4,680,615 | 79% | 4,002,267 | 76% |
| District Representatives | 356,640 | 6% | 407,741 | 8% |
| Retirement Facilities | 84,314 | 1% | 94,835 | 2% |
| Subtotal: Rural Ministry Programs | 5,121,569 | 86% | 4,504,843 | 86% |
| Administration | 607,208 | 10% | 610,544 | 12% |
| Development | 150,198 | 3% | 149,647 | 3% |
| Total expenses | 5,878,975 | 100% | 5,265,034 | 100% |

Increase (decrease) in Net Assets

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------|
| | (721,102) | 70,580 |
| Pension Related Charges Other Than Net Periodic Pension Costs | (1,264,465) | 707,118 |

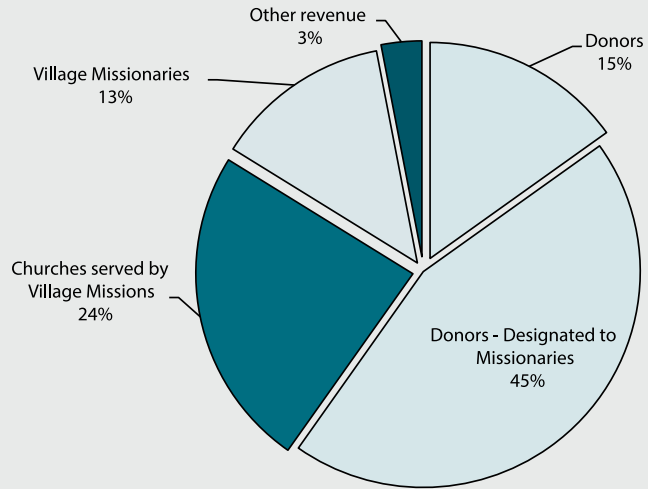
Net Assets, beginning

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| | 2,376,659 | 1,598,961 |
|--|-----------|-----------|

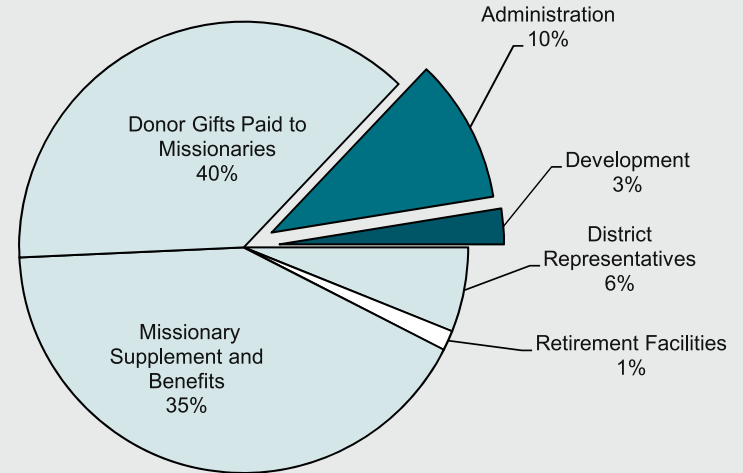
Net Assets, ending

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| \$ 391,092 | \$ 2,376,659 |
|-------------------|---------------------|

General Fund Income and Expenses, for the year ended June, 2012 (U.S.)



Income by Source \$5,157,873 (U.S.)



Operating Expenses \$5,878,975 (U.S.)



Village Missions Board of Directors

Front row from left: Roy Bell, Ken Moore, Glen Hanson (Chairman), Keith Walker (Vice-Chairman), Gil Doeblar

Back row from left: Doug McGraw, Don Stuart, Michael Kane (new board member), Jerry Kennedy



If no seeds were ever planted, there would be no life.

Our Commitment to You:

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

We ask only for genuine ministry needs.

All contributions to Village Missions will be used as indicated in accordance with the policies and procedures. As stewards of your gift, we exercise complete control and administration over all funds.

We trust God to meet the financial needs

of our ministry through those who see the potential in the country churches.

Thanks for partnering with us to bring God's Harvest to country places.



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Keeping Country Churches Alive