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COUNTRY *Matters*

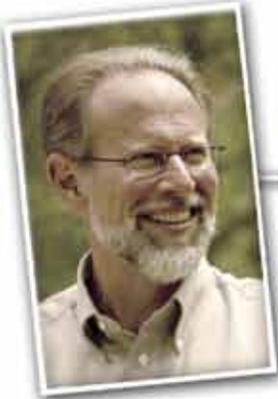
**K I N G D O M
I N V E S T M E N T**

PUTTING THE "I" IN FIRE



village Missions

Keeping Country Churches Alive



A View From the Country

with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

ETERNAL TREASURE: INVESTING IN SOULS

Each year, people in rural communities invest in important things. They invest in the future, and hope – and many pray – for a solid return on their investment.

They do this in ways that are not always obvious. There's the farmer, who invests time and energy each spring, preparing the fields to make sure the crops are planted, watered, and tended with great care. And as summer goes on, so does the investment. More time, more energy, expecting a great harvest.

Other families start a business in a small town, and nurture it and watch it grow over many, many years. Yes, they want to keep the business going and provide for their families, but they also are providing a service or a product for their community.

There are also ranchers who understand the need for preparation for the coming year, making sure they spend the winter taking care of their herd, the spring expanding it, and the summer preparing for market.

All of these are an investment of time and money.

Such investments usually don't yield an instant return. Instead, they develop over time and slowly grow. Meanwhile, they steadily tend the land, work their corner grocery store, or keep watch over their cattle. Each of these are trusting God for the outcome, that He will bless their hard work.

In many ways, our Village Missionaries are in the same position in the communities they serve. But instead of investing financially, they are investing in people – in souls. Each day they spend making calls on their neighbors, every Sunday they preach, and each conversation over a simple cup of coffee they share with someone in their community – these things are all steady investments that can have tremendous impact on people's souls when they come to know Jesus. It is more than worth it.

This summer issue of Country Matters is focused on putting the I

in FIRE. You may remember from our “New Fields” newsletter what this year’s theme, *FIRE*, stands for.

F is for new Fields – places where a church might close without Village Missions’ help.

I is for Investing – it takes people, time, and yes, money, to help supply spiritual leadership for rural places.

R is for Recruiting – we look for leaders who feel called by God to small communities.

E is for Equipping – we seek always to equip our leaders and the communities they serve.

When Village Missions sends a missionary family to a church that has asked us for help, we are making a significant investment. We will provide that family with salary and other forms of support so that they are free to make an investment in the lives of people. So when you invest your money in Village Missions, you’re really investing in the lives of people in the Country Church, bringing the gospel straight to them, from within their own community! An investment of money results in an investment in lives that results in an eternal treasure! It’s the best investment that anyone could make...it’s an eternal investment!

YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE “I” IN “FIRE,” INVESTMENT.

Each morning from 8-8:30 AM at our Village Missions office, we take time to pray together. Among other things, we ask God to continue to invest in the Country Church.

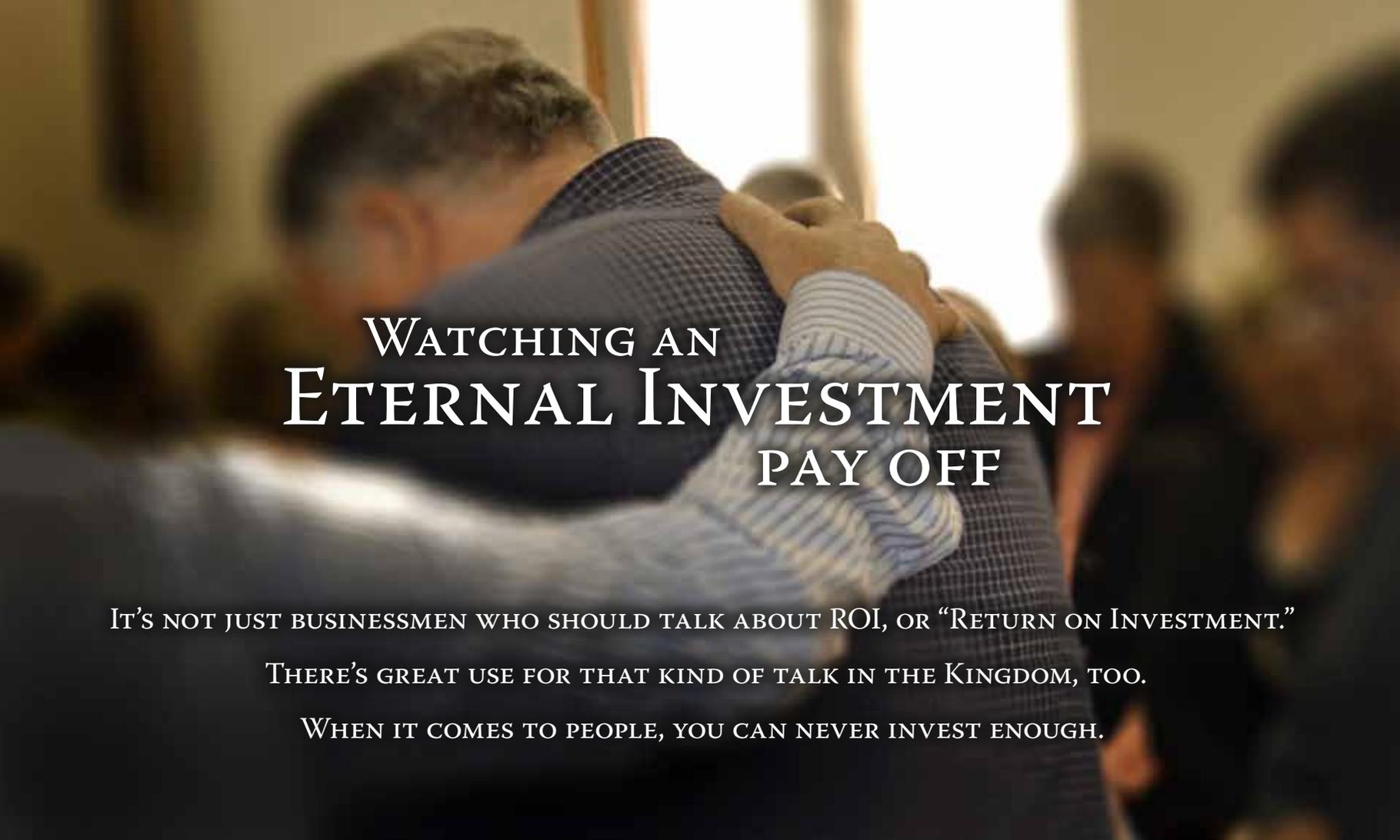
We also pray for you. You are an important part of the I in FIRE, Investment. I am grateful that so many of you understand the importance of investing in the Kingdom. You give of your time by praying and you invest your treasure in something that accrues for eternity. Thank you for your prayer, your friendship, and spreading news about what God is doing in the Country Church.

We want you to know how grateful we are for your investment, and how grateful we are to be able to report to you the results of your Investing. You are helping keep the doors of country churches wide open. Thanks again for your investment and for trusting God along with us for a great harvest.

Investing in the country church,



Brian Wechsler



WATCHING AN
ETERNAL INVESTMENT
PAY OFF

IT'S NOT JUST BUSINESSMEN WHO SHOULD TALK ABOUT ROI, OR "RETURN ON INVESTMENT."

THERE'S GREAT USE FOR THAT KIND OF TALK IN THE KINGDOM, TOO.

WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE, YOU CAN NEVER INVEST ENOUGH.

OUR VILLAGE MISSIONARIES SPEND THEIR LIVES tending to the hearts of the country people. They do this because they know it's worth it. And we are seeing the results. More and more people are coming to know Jesus. Not only is that a good return on investment, that's an *eternal* return!

We want you to see for yourself. I'm going to share with you recent updates from the field from our Village Missionaries. You'll hear stories from day-to-day life investing in the communities, stories of investing in leaders who are now giving back by serving others in the community, and most exciting, stories of salvation! And best of all, you can take part in this great investment, by praying for these people you read about right now.

So please, join me and read on!

VILLAGE MISSIONARIES DENNIS AND LESLIE BURKE, SERVING IN AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK, are

investing by building up new leaders within their church, and now those leaders are investing in their own community! Dennis writes...

"I continue to disciple a young man who is my newest deacon. It is such a blessing as we meet each week to hear about what the Lord is doing in his life. He and his wife have begun a young adult Sunday school class and it has been an encouragement in our church."

What a blessing, to see that investment of leadership grow.

And sometimes when you invest, you take a risk, because you will never know what the return on investment will be...but when souls are involved, it's always worth the risk!

NICHOLAS AND MARIAN CASTILLO IN MOHAWK, OREGON, share an unsettling experience that resulted in sharing the gospel with a man in need.

**SOMETIMES WHEN YOU
INVEST, YOU TAKE A RISK...
BUT WHEN SOULS ARE
INVOLVED, IT'S ALWAYS
WORTH THE RISK!**

"I came upon a neighbor who was engaged in conversation with a suicidal man. He gave me the signal that the suicidal man had a gun. It was at that point that I had to engage the man and I was able to quietly get him to surrender the gun to me and I was then able to tell him that God loved him and we could get him the help he needed."

"The police were able to get him to the right place for the help he needed and we pray that the simple message that God loved him and had a plan for his life will be remembered in his future."

Won't you join with Nicholas and Marian in praying that this man will remember and accept the message of the gospel they were able to share with him?



Here's an amazing story from **PAUL AND GLENDA BURNS, SERVING IN BURLEY, WASHINGTON.** They saw five salvations within the last month in their community. Thanks to your support, five more people will be in heaven!

“We have much to praise God for. I heard of five salvations through Burley Bible Church this past month. One was an older woman of about 80 who had begun coming with her neighbor several months ago. She got up and shared her testimony Sunday of how she had come to faith in Christ through the witness of her friend who was bringing her to church.

“Another young man got up and shared how before his mother passed away from cancer this past week, he had the privilege of leading her to Christ.

“Another woman shared how her neighbor trusted Christ on Good Friday.

“And still another woman got up and shared how her grown granddaughter had been delivered from drug addiction and put her trust in Christ this past month, through the witness of her 7-year-old great-granddaughter.

“In our last Good News Club of the year on Monday, a young boy put his trust in the Savior.”

Praise God for these five souls that will be with Him for eternity!
Amazing things are happening in the Country Church, because of your investment!



Finally, **STEVEN AND LISA RIEF, FROM REDLAND, OREGON**, recently received a thank-you note from a young girl that just graduated from the church AWANA program.

She's the third of her siblings to receive Christ there. Her parents do not yet attend church.

HERE'S WHAT SHE WROTE...

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rief,
Thank you so much for all the wonderful years you have taught me about God.
You guys are the reason why I started going to church and believing in God. And I want to thank you for that because God means so much to me and He wouldn't have meant anything to me if you didn't teach me about God. Thank you guys so much!!! 😊 I will miss you guys next year, but I will try to make it to some of them. Hope you like what we got you! Thank you!"

BECAUSE OF YOUR INVESTMENT, this sweet girl, as well as her other siblings, learned about God.. And I'll bet her parents have learned something, too.

Please be praying for her, and others like her in the Country Church who are waiting to hear the Good News!



Investing in Eternal Things... Expecting Great Results

Your investment in the communities Village Missions serves is bigger than a gift. We understand that, and we are grateful that you do, too. Your gift makes it possible for people who never would have heard of the forgiveness and the love that Jesus has for them to at last hear

this message. And they get to hear it from a neighbor who is there to love them and preach the Word from *inside their community*.

Thanks for investing with us, building God's Kingdom in the Country Church!



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Keeping Country Churches Alive