

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

USA: [www.village-missions.org](http://www.village-missions.org) Canada: [villagemissions.ca](http://villagemissions.ca)

# COUNTRY *Matters*

THE PROMISE OF  
A FUTURE



 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 scenic view of a lake and mountains at sunset or sunrise.

# A View From the Country

with Brian Wechsler, Executive Director

## THE PROMISE OF A FUTURE

Our Annual Report for 2010-11 is designed to give you a look at what God has done as well as how He has used caring people like you to help keep country churches alive. And we hope it also gives you a look at what can be in the future.

Seeing the income and expenses doesn't tell half the story. It's a bit like looking at a wheat field in middle of winter. That field might not look like much to the untrained eye . . . but hidden under the snows of winter there's potential. Great things can happen. Barren ground can become a fertile field. Today's frozen ground holds tomorrow's harvest!

Folks who live off the land understand. Putting energy into frozen, empty soil is not a waste of time. Just because there's no evidence of life right now, doesn't mean there never could be. It doesn't mean there won't be . . .

There's potential in the unseen!

But before the harvest there's work to be done. There are seeds to be planted, fertilizer to be applied, weeds to be wiped out and prayers to be prayed. Sure, it takes time and a whole lot of hard work. And it goes without saying the farmer can't control the weather.

Come harvest time, IT'S ALL WORTH IT.

For those of us who aren't farmers we understand, too. We owe them a debt of gratitude. If no one ever worked the field, what would we eat? If no one ever planted seed, no one watered, no one farmed day-in-and-day-out we'd have unproductive fields, and empty stomachs.



Here at Village Missions we see the places across North America that might look spiritually barren to some, but we see the potential—potential for abundant, everlasting life.

Someone who isn't a farmer might miss the secret potential of a snow-covered field. But we pray that Christians will never miss the power of God to work in the lives of folks in country communities. Souls out here deeply need to know the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our pastors at Village Missions make it their duty and joy to tend faithfully those in the fields they serve. They are committed to planting the seed – The Word of God – in the hearts of people. They want to be an encouragement as the Holy Spirit weeds out deadly behaviors in folks' lives. Being there for the Harvest of Hope is magnificent!

Thank you for helping keep country churches alive. Never forget the potential that's out there!

Faithfully tending to the country church,

Brian Wechsler

Executive Director, Village Missions



# AFTER WINTER ... NO MATTER HOW BITING AND COLD ... COMES SPRING

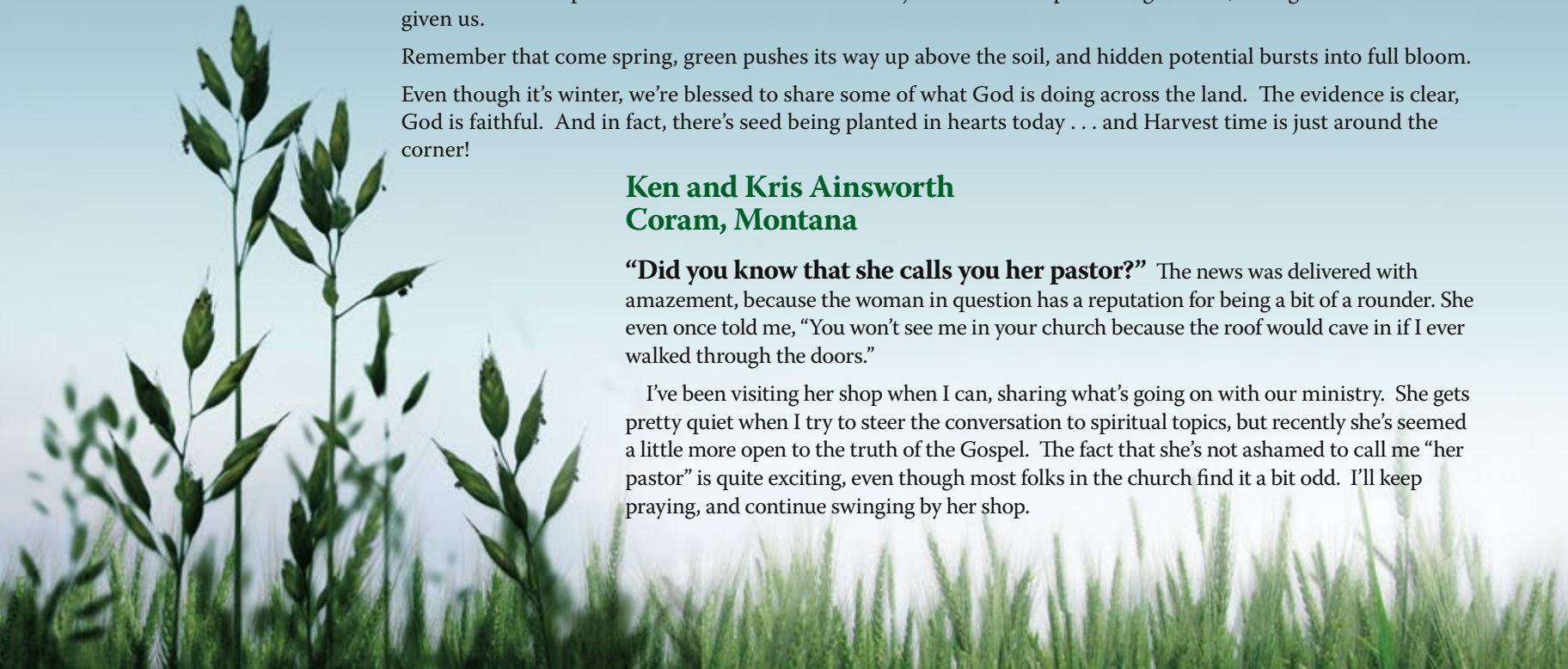
Winter can be tough . . . it's hard to see the harvest for the snow. But we know that the Lord is faithful even if we don't have a clear picture of the results to come. We just need to keep on being faithful, caring for what He has given us.

Remember that come spring, green pushes its way up above the soil, and hidden potential bursts into full bloom. Even though it's winter, we're blessed to share some of what God is doing across the land. The evidence is clear, God is faithful. And in fact, there's seed being planted in hearts today . . . and Harvest time is just around the corner!

## Ken and Kris Ainsworth Coram, Montana

**“Did you know that she calls you her pastor?”** The news was delivered with amazement, because the woman in question has a reputation for being a bit of a rounder. She even once told me, “You won't see me in your church because the roof would cave in if I ever walked through the doors.”

I've been visiting her shop when I can, sharing what's going on with our ministry. She gets pretty quiet when I try to steer the conversation to spiritual topics, but recently she's seemed a little more open to the truth of the Gospel. The fact that she's not ashamed to call me “her pastor” is quite exciting, even though most folks in the church find it a bit odd. I'll keep praying, and continue swinging by her shop.





## Chris and Tammy Immer Lummi Island, Washington

**Once again, God had a better plan than mine.** After an event I'd decided to return to the shop and continue to work on a project. I hadn't gotten as much done as I'd hoped because other things kept getting in the way. As a result, I was going to put in a late night.

God's plan all along, however, was to bring me into the company of six Islanders needing the Lord. Long story short: the Good News of how to be saved was made clear to all and all heard many scriptures that night. This lasted about 4 hours. So much for my plan!

**...they've been praying for him for 20 years....**

Cutting firewood is a low priority for me, since we have 15 cords



stored already. But a guy (that is not nice about what he thinks of "fundamentalists" and "Christians") called and asked if he could work with me on getting wood. Knowing that I don't have many opportunities to spend time with him, I made time, praying that God would use our time together for His glory.

After cutting and loading a cord of wood in the truck, he stated that we've never really talked "religion"...two hours later the Gospel was fully proclaimed. Although he just could not bring himself to believe, we know that God's Word will not return void. His in-laws will be so excited to hear that we had the opportunity to talk about such important matters. They've been praying for him for 20 years.



## Wayne and Joy Deneault Snug Harbour, Ontario

**...there is great interest in meeting again to grow spiritually....**

Joy writes, "We started our Women's Bible Study meeting and there is great interest in meeting again to grow spiritually. I spent a stressful night in an emergency room in July, and was able to share with the women what I learned through the experience: the need to trust God during all trials and the blessing of knowing His Word so that we can meditate on it, even in the emergency room. I shared some favorite verses that I have been dwelling on.

"I am hopeful that by being vulnerable and sharing God's Word from my heart, it will impact each and every woman who comes this year."



## David and Ninette Cox Oriskany, Virginia

**A normal day of worship...**

Before the worship service this week a motorcyclist appeared at our church to say a fellow rider had crashed. Three people from our congregation, who serve with the rescue department, responded. I stayed to conduct the service. The rider had several broken ribs.

Following the service a man appeared at the door to ask for help with the rescue of his dogs that had gone into an old mine after a bear. Along with the help of the animal control officer and fire department, we were able to get the dogs out of the mine . . . just a normal day of worship in Oriskany.



## **Mark & Rebecca Bueckert Ryley, Alberta**

### **...be available...**

A few weeks ago two teens and three adults were baptized at our church. It was a great day as family and friends came from far and wide to be a part of this big day. The testimonies were heartfelt and had a real impact on the congregation and the guests.

I had the honor of delivering the message for our community Remembrance Day. After the service our Legion President said, "One of these days I think I am going to have to come to your church on a Sunday." I guess all you do is be available and real with people, and let God work on their hearts.

## **Phil and Valorie Rownd Stanley, Iowa**

### **People who came to Christ here are inviting their friends, and those friends are inviting their friends!**

For example, the car mechanic who received Christ in January invited his friend, who invited his wife, who invited her friend, who plans to bring her children.

Or take another local gentleman, who invited his hired man to church. His hired man heard the Gospel and started bringing his daughter. She liked the stories about Jesus so much that she brought her friend. And now they want to help us get a bus ministry going because they know un-churched kids who need a ride on Sunday!

## “...For I have seen Him mightily at work...”

This fall Carole and I had the privilege of visiting our field in Kendrick, CO. Located on the eastern plains of Colorado, approximately 45 miles southeast of Colorado Springs, Village Missions has served this field since 2009. The field is literally in the middle of nowhere—probably about eight miles out on a dirt road, with only a few ranches visible from the church property. All you see is “wide-open spaces” any direction you look from the church.

Yet, Carole and I found wonderful facilities, and much more important, a wonderful Village Missions’ family who are faithfully serving the Lord in Kendrick. Ed and Sarah Vesser and their five children love it there and are doing a great job of “Preaching the Word and loving the people.” A division had occurred under the previous pastor but now people have returned and the spirit is good. We found a wide range of ages and a bountiful appreciation for the Vessers.

I’ve had this kind of experience in every church served by Village Missions we have visited over the past year. I found it when I visited several fields in the Midwest. We found vibrant churches with dedicated Village Missionaries. Often we learned of desperately needy situations where only the hope of Jesus Christ could bring

hope to people’s lives. We saw the work of Village Missions again when we joined the congregation of Faith Bible Fellowship in North Lansing, NY for their celebration of becoming self-supporting. We saw it again during our visit to Machias Community Church, Machias, WA, a church that has sent out about ten Village Missionaries. We met many who had been led to Christ by the Village Missionaries that serve them.



Without a doubt, we continue to minister in difficult times. We continue to face challenges in recruiting and in the current fiscal year, we are facing renewed challenges in funding. Yet, I am confident God will continue to provide, for I have seen Him mightily at work where it counts most—in a rural community where otherwise people might not hear about Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:10: “For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.” We too must “labor and strive” knowing that our efforts support those men and women and their families in the field who are bringing the hope of Jesus Christ.

# “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 2011:

Adult: 394  
Children: 536

### New Membership:

Adult: 412  
Children: 45

### Baptisms:

Adult: 311  
Children: 257

### Rededications & other decisions:

Adult: 1227  
Children: 293

**143,442 visits** by missionaries over the year, **148,780 hours** spent in visiting.

**Average Sunday morning attendance:** 13,778 overall (64 per church)

**United States (as of October, 2011):** 185 fields served by Village Missions with 79 fields or 43% in need of help from Village Missions for the missionary's salary/health insurance. 185 couples serving as Village Missionaries, 6 District Representative Couples, 5 full-time office staff (including Exec. Dir., Assist. Dir., and C.F.O.) and 4 part-time staff.

**Canada (as of October, 2011):** 29 fields served with 12 fields or 41% 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:

**Eight fields have requested leadership from us in 2011.**

**Chesaw, WA, January 2011.** Population of 300, located in the Okanagan valley of northern, middle Washington. People started meeting in 1992 as a Bible study and organized as a church in 2000. They average 30 for services and are being served by Village Missionaries Duane and Holly Scheidemantle.

**Arcadia, NE, February 2011.** Population 360, located in central Nebraska. A K-12 school is located across from church. Village Missionaries Ray and Carla Berry are serving this field.

**Neligh, NE, March 2011.** Population of 1500, also located in north east Nebraska. The church was started in the 1950's. Church services average 30 and the AWANA Ministry, 30. They will be purchasing a parsonage. Village Missionaries Nathan and Stephanie Dick serve this field.

**Scottsville, KS, April 2011.** New second field. Population of 26. Located in Mitchell County 12 miles from Beloit. They were with Village Missions for many years and then when they were waiting for a missionary they called a retired pastor to fill in until he stepped down in May 2011. Village Missionaries Gene and Mary Little are serving this field as well as the field in Formoso, KS. This is farmland raising corn and wheat.

**Vesta, WA, June 2011.** Population 400, located 36 miles southwest of Olympia. The church was founded in a house. They are averaging 16 in the worship service. They have only had pulpit supply for the last 6 years. They would



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## New Fields (continued):

really like to draw families there that have children. Associate Larry Goin is serving there now.

**Prescott, WA, July 2011.** Population of 1300 located on Hwy 124, 20 miles north of Walla Walla. It is located in the Palouse wheat farming country. There are around 30 who worship in Sunday Service. New Village Missionaries Mike and Kim Krutsch arrived there December 29.

**Defiance, NM, (Navajo field) November 2011.** Located near Gallup, NM. Population of 1613. Western Indian Ministries started it. It has had pastors who were Native American. Fifteen people attend Sunday Services. Village Missionaries Jimmy and Nevey Francisco serve this field.

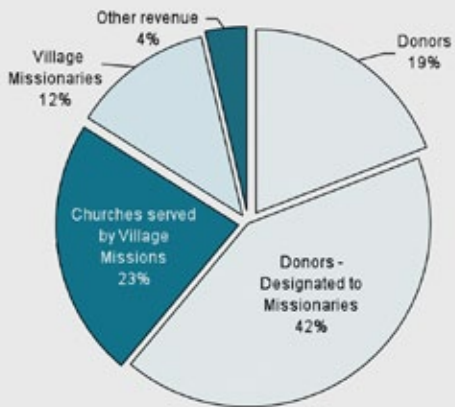
**Mayer, AZ, November 2011.** Population 1767, located in central AZ on Hwy 69 between Phoenix and Flagstaff. Thirty people attend Sunday services. Leading occupations are education, construction, metal and metal products, and mining. Associates Jim and Jeannie Knight will start serving there in January.

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

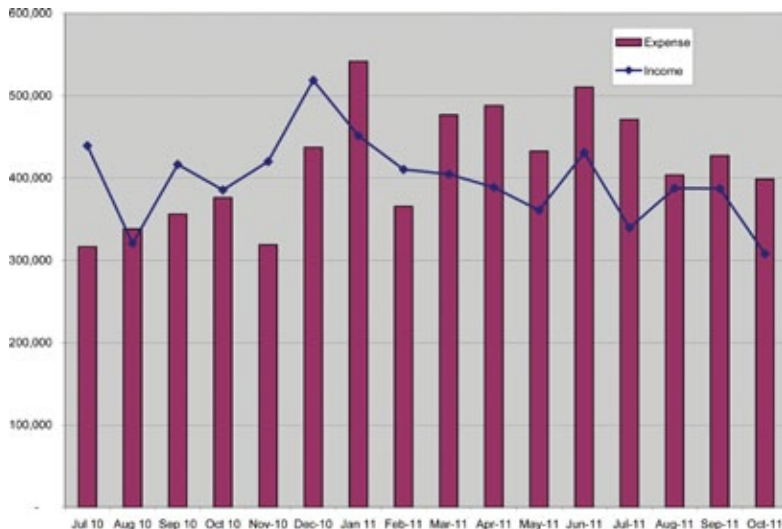
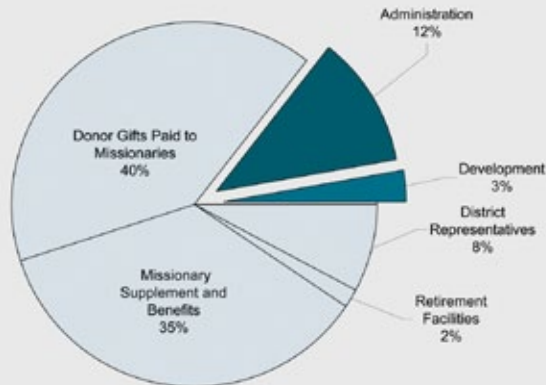
	2011		2010	
<b>Income by Source:</b>				
Donors	\$ 1,021,183	19%	\$ 864,885	16%
Donors - Designated to Missionaries	2,236,740	42%	2,324,946	44%
Churches served by Village Missions	1,214,628	23%	1,259,595	24%
Village Missionaries	666,235	12%	668,149	13%
Other revenue	196,828	4%	180,659	3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,335,614</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,298,234</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Village Missionaries	4,002,267	76%	4,002,441	78%
District Representatives	407,741	8%	365,079	7%
Retirement Facilities	94,835	2%	86,815	2%
<b>Subtotal: Rural Ministry Programs</b>	<b>4,504,843</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>4,454,335</b>	<b>86%</b>
Administration	610,544	12%	561,880	11%
Development	149,647	3%	142,447	3%
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>5,265,034</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,158,662</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets</b>	70,580		139,572	
Pension Related Charges Other Than Net Periodic Pension Costs	707,118		(763,004)	
<b>Net Assets, beginning</b>	1,598,961		2,222,393	
<b>Net Assets, ending</b>	<b>\$ 2,376,659</b>		<b>\$ 1,598,961</b>	

# General Fund Income and Expenses, July 2010 - October 2011 (U.S.)

## Income by Source \$5,335,614 (U.S.)



## Operating Expenses \$5,265,034 (U.S.)



## Your Prayers Are Needed!

Although Village Missions ended our fiscal year June 2011 in the black, the trend of expenses greater than income finds us in an increasingly difficult financial position in the new fiscal year. Please pray!



## Village Missions Board of Directors

*Front row from left: Roy Bell, Bud Hopkins (Secretary-Treasurer), Gil Doebler, Ken Moore, Doug McGraw*

*Back row from left: Keith Walker (Vice-Chairman), Don Stuart, Glen Hanson (Chairman), 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