March 2014

Exports from the Rural Church



The major agricultural headline across western Canada this fall has been the lack of grain movement. Whatever the cause, the problem is that farm after farm has bins full of grain that they can't haul away from their farm and community to the grain terminals that dot our country.

So the grain sits as farmers wait for the opportunity to export their commodity.

That is, after all, the nature of agriculture here: we grow things for other people. We depend on shipping our products out. We are where things come from. We produce the wheat in your bread, the oil in your margarine, the pork chop in your freezer, and quite likely, the next young couple in your church.

Rural communities are in the export business, but we don't just export commodities--we export our young people as well. They go on to university, they go on for jobs and opportunities in the city, and they go

on to serve in churches in other places. Of the three longstanding families in our church, one family has exported a missionary, a worship leader, and two active church members. Another family

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has exported a teacher at a Christian school, an active church member, and has one child left attending our church. Another family has exported two of their three children to churches in the nearest large city. This week another young person from our congregation secured a job and





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housing in the city. A bright light in her graduating class, we trust that she will shine in the city as she did here.

Every month Village Missions invests in rural churches and communities by subsidizing pastors' salaries. Most often we think that

It is an investment in the future of the church.

this is an investment in the future of rural churches, but it is more, it is an investment in the future of the urban church. If you attend a church in the

city or town there is a very good chance that the new people in your college and career group, your small group, and quite possibly your next pastor, chairman, or deacon will be the cream of our crop, our most valuable export.

This article was written by Ryan Schnee, a Village Missions missionary-pastor serving at Middle Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.

> "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers."

> > 1 Corinthians 3:7-9



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