

The Journal of Christian Veterinary Mission

WINTER 2016

Christian Veterinarian



CELEBRATING
FORTY YEARS
OF MINISTRY
1976 - 2016



Christian
Veterinary
Mission

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Winter 2016

In this Winter Issue of the *Christian Veterinarian*, we're focusing on how God has worked through Christian veterinarians around the world for the past 40 years. The Lord has blessed this ministry abundantly, and together we celebrate how He has used the veterinary profession to transform lives and communities.



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What is Your Next Step?

By Dr. Kit Flowers, CVM President



I recently heard a retired individual give counsel to a young professional, sharing with them how fast a professional career

can go by. I am amazed when I consider all that has happened in my own life in the last 40 years. The CVM family is celebrating 40 years of the organization's history in this current fiscal year. For a majority of the last 40 years, the Lord's work through CVM has been a centerpiece of my personal faith journey. I praise and thank Him for this and yet I also stand in wonder at how fast it has gone by. The apostle John records some interesting words in the last verse of the book of John:

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written."

-John 21:25

We have some sense of this verse as we have made efforts to remember and celebrate the many ways God has led this work. He has mobilized thousands to be a part through prayer, giving, encouragement, and service. There have been incredible advances in His kingdom work as a result. We continually remember and give praise and thanksgiving to Him for this. As a result of His work, we want to issue a challenge:

What is He asking of you as a next step? At meetings and courses this year we extend that challenge and encourage individuals to respond on a card. We listed a few ideas of areas where their next step may take them, and encourage them to share with us what the Lord has laid on their heart.

Perhaps your next steps with CVM could be one of the following: pursuing long-term or short-term missions, sharing your faith in the workplace or school, and committing to regular prayer and financial support of CVM ministries.

We have been greatly encouraged by the responses given and the ways in which God is working in the lives of the CVM family. As these cards are turned in, we issue a dog tag for their keychain, praying that they will be reminded daily of the next step He is speaking to their heart. We commit in turn to pray with them in this journey.

Please celebrate with us 40 years of ministry. Send an e-mail, video clip, or voicemail of a special celebration memory. Pray about taking a next step, and as you do, send me an e-mail so that I might pray for you and also send you a reminder "Next Step" tag. kflowers@cvmusa.org

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

Dr. Kit Flowers
CVM President



The Impact of Partnership

By: Dr. Brad Frye, CVM International Program Director

Just as your partnership has helped transform lives and communities, the long standing partnership with the Navajo Reservation has been a significant part of this ministry's journey.

One of CVM's core values is relationship and partnership. Long-term impact occurs when a relationship is formed, nurtured, and cherished. Because of this, and the hearts of many to serve, this ministry has been able to continue being the hands and feet of Christ on the Navajo Reservation, and witness the Lord's work.

In 1977 Dr. Tom Loafmann from Glencoe, MO was the first CVM volunteer to serve with his family near Ship Rock, AZ where they treated animals, trained technicians, and led Vacation Bible School.

After several short-term volunteers, CVM Dr. Bob Bradrock and his family moved to the Navajo Nation from 1984-1986. Concurrently, Dr. Mike and Debra Storer and their three children spent two years in Hardrock, AZ with the Navajo Gospel Mission. Since then CVM has had over 120 separate outreaches to the Navajo Nation. This represents more than 600 veterinary professionals and their

families who have had the joy of working with the Navajo people!

One of the most consistent short-term volunteers has been Dr. John Kruckeberg from Williamsport, TN. In 1976 John made his first trip to the Navajo Nation. Since that time he has participated in over 50 short-term trips with CVM. John's passion for Native American ministry has led him on 14 trips to the Navajo Nation, 7 trips to Lakota-Sioux, 7 trips to the Cherokee, and additional work on Hopi, Apache, Shoshone, Blackfeet, Choctaw, and Pima.

Hundreds of volunteers have traveled with John, learning about Native American cultures and absorbing his passion to serve others. John says, "Animals, especially pets, play a critical role in our relationships with many of the Native Americans. God sent them [animals] for this reason. It is not just about production and food, but [about] relationship."

Since 2003, Dr. Sam Galphin and Dr. Page Wages have worked together to lead teams of students from North Carolina to Crown Point, Kayenta, Tuba City, and the Navajo Mountain communities. Dr. Wages' first trip to the Navajo was as a veterinary student and she now serves as a team leader for North Carolina State vet students. She shares, "It has been neat to see how increased awareness of animal health has improved over the years, with more families learning to vaccinate their own livestock and care for the injured. The population of wild dogs has also declined with the increased spays and neuters, resulting in less animals hit by

“ *The relationships developed with the families we have served have resulted in shared meals, continuous contact throughout the year, and prayer.* ”

cars. The relationships developed with the families we have served have resulted in shared meals, continuous contact throughout the year, and prayer.”

Like many new leaders, Dr. Billy Myers and his wife joined Dr. Kruckeberg in 2008 on a Navajo mission trip. They quickly developed a heart for working with veterinary students





from the University of Georgia and helped to support the veterinary system on the reservation. In 2012, they committed to lead the Georgia team outreaches on the east side of the Navajo reservation from the Tse Bonito clinic in Window Rock and then on the Apache reservation. It is exciting to see members of their team coming back year after year. A great example of this relationship building is Dr. Mary Peters. She participated in her first Navajo trip as a student from Iowa and then upon graduating, got a job at Dr. Myers' clinic and has recently taken over as team leader for the Georgia students.

Dr. Kruckeberg recently transferred his leadership to Dr. Joe Wright, and Dr. Bill Rishel of Nebraska. They work primarily on the west side of the reservation staying on the Navajo Gospel Mission with Pastor Nez and working under the local veterinary supervision of Dr. Adrienne Ruby.

Dr. Kelly Upshaw the Director of the Navajo Veterinary service shared in July at the CVM Navajo 40th celebration that "the Joy of the CVM teams encourages my staff and is a great help to our people. Our case load increase 5 to 6 fold during your presence."

CVM is blessed to have nearly 40 years of continual interactions with Navajo partners and many trip leaders and participants that go back year after year sharing Christ's love through veterinary missions.

Animals *can make a lasting* *Impact!*

Imagine changing the entire world from one person, one family, or one village through veterinary projects such as providing turkeys to families in Uganda, or goats to children in Haiti. Christian Veterinary Mission works in communities around the world where animals are much more than a companion, they are depended upon for survival. This holiday season, we invite you to partner with us and give a gift that truly matters- the kind that can transform lives and communities from CVM's Animal Impact Gift Guide at gifts.cvmusa.org



Give online today at: gifts.cvmusa.org



An Ever Growing Ministry

By: Dr. Susan Stewart

What little girl who loves animals has not dreamed of becoming a veterinarian some day? I certainly did! And because I had great support I was able to realize that dream. When I was in high school and met Christ, the dream was transformed into a passion to serve Christ through vet medicine.

It was then that I met a dynamic, smart, witty, committed vet from Georgia, who had recently started an organization of Christian veterinarians. God filled Dr. Leroy Dorminy with vision and passion and then empowered him with the capacities and relationships to move the

ministry forward. I met Dr. Dorminy when I was a veterinary student and CVM was a toddler, 35 years ago. I was so relieved! I had a passion to serve through veterinary medicine and here were people who said: "We also know vets have a role in God's kingdom work, come join us."

I have seen a lot of change in CVM as we have learned, grown, and developed to middle age. But the purpose has stayed constant, the melding of the great commission: "go and make disciples of all nations" (Mathew 28:19) and the great commandment: "love your neighbor



(the one not like you, the Samaritan) as yourself” (Luke 10:27). CVM has challenged, empowered, and facilitated many to serve who have encouraged others to hear God’s call to follow Him, and to live deeply committed lives of service and love.

Recently I asked Melissa White, a CVM staff member serving in Northern India, what she thinks is the greatest impact God has in the world through CVM and she said it is the network of veterinary related believers all over the world who encourage each other into discipleship. I agree. You are a part of the network if you choose to be. Depending on how you are connected, you may see and participate in the visible work of CVM through meetings, Shortcourse, this journal or through a small group of fellow students or professionals who meet and pray together regularly. Or perhaps you see CVM through the eyes of one who goes short or long-term to a mission area to serve, or who is aspiring and getting ready to go. Or perhaps it was a timely meeting with one who was there to listen to, love you and pray with you, to give you encouragement when you needed it or celebrate with you.

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The challenge of 40 years is not to rest in who we have been together, but to allow God to constantly renew and transform us while building on the best of who we are.”

Maybe you feel connected to the CVM network as a participant through your own ministry, whatever that may be – in your practice, in your church and community, as a supporter of CVM programs and long-term field staff, or a participant or organizer of short term work. A hallmark of CVM is that we, together, encourage creativity and innovation, listening to the Spirit to guide our service. That means you can join in an existing ministry, or find encouragement for God’s calling to your veterinary-related ministry. There are so many ways to serve Christ through your workplace every day. We would love to hear about what God is doing and share within our network, perhaps giving others the idea as well or possibly giving you connections with others engaged in similar ministry.

CVM is part of a growing network of veterinary related organizations serving Christ around the world. Through our participation with other Christian vets and their organizations around the world, we grow together; seeing our ministry through their eyes, partnering in ministry together, and learning about how God is at work. What would it look like if you were to take an active role in the partnership with CVM affiliates?

When I think of the long-term impact of the work of CVM over 40 years, I find many examples of people being fed, comforted, and cared for through trauma, poverty, grief, drought, and war. People have found Christ and become His disciples, in turn sharing love and His saving grace with many others. Farm

families improve production and children go to school and have health care. Local evangelists in Nepal and Ethiopia can support themselves through providing

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The significance of role models and encouragers should not be underestimated.

”

livestock care services. Local livestock related businesses model Christian values at work. Our ministry influences training and development of vets, vet agents, and farmers as well as government and regulatory systems.

As you have read this article, have you seen your ministry reflected here? Would you like it to be? CVM is not an “it”; the group, the organization, them. CVM has always been us, committed people serving Christ passionately through veterinary-related work as we are called, loving and caring for one another even as we challenge each other to serve. This means anyone can step in, step up, and have a positive impact on our work toward the future.

In the past, CVM has often excelled in moving through change to engage the passion and commitment of many for service. The challenge of 40 years is not to rest in who we have been together, but to allow God to constantly renew and transform us while building on the best of who we are. The advent of enormous changes in the way the world

communicates and relates through social media and technology continues to create possibilities for CVM in the future. Also, with the growing number of Christians outside the Western world, models of mission are changing. Countries such as Brazil and Nigeria have massive numbers of believers they are sending to the world.

One of the beauties of a 40 year history of blessing and being blessed in service is the learning and opportunity created in us to continue changing and growing as we are led by God as He moves in the world. We can choose. Do we let the structures and processes we have created to bring us to 40 years limit our ability to listen to God by continuing to do things “the way we have always done it”? Or do our structures allow us to be an ever new organization answering God’s call to ministry? I am in, are you? Let’s see what God has in store for us for the future!

More than a Sympathy Card

Christian Veterinary Mission's pet memorial card program lets you send personalized sympathy cards while giving a gift to keep animals healthy and transform lives through veterinary missions. Your grieving loved one or client will receive a card expressing your condolences and explaining your donation in honor of their pet to help people and animals around the world.

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Real Life Real Impact 2017

What is Real Life Real Impact? Real Life Real Impact weekends are spiritual retreats geared towards veterinary students and veterinary professionals. Meet Christian veterinarians in practice, talk with some of CVM's long-term field staff, find out about short-term missions, connect with other veterinary students and professionals and more!

Student Schedule

NORTHWEST

January 13-15, 2017
@ Miracle Ranch,
Port Orchard, WA

SOUTHWEST

January 13-15, 2017
@ Western University, CA

WEST

January 20-22, 2017
@ Colorado State University

SOUTH CENTRAL

January 27-29, 2017
@ Texas A&M University

SOUTHEAST

January 27-29, 2017
@ University of Florida

NORTH CENTRAL

February 3, 2017
@ University of Missouri

NORTHEAST

February 17-19, 2017
@ Camp Deerpark,
Cuddebackville, NY

CANADA

February 17-19, 2017
@ University of Guelph,
Rocky Ridge Ranch, Rockwood, ONT

CARIBBEAN

March 24-26, 2017
@ Ross University



NEW Real Life Real Impact for Professionals!

Due to the incredible response, CVM has opened up this event in all 5 regions plus Canada for 2017! The Professional RLRI serves as a powerful spiritual retreat where you can interact with like-minded veterinary professionals. The goal is to provide an event geared towards the current issues that veterinary professionals face and provide encouragement in your Christian walk of faith.

Professional Schedule

NORTHWEST

January 13, 2017
@ Miracle Ranch, Port Orchard, WA

SOUTHWEST

January 13, 2017
@ Western University, CA

WEST

January 20, 2017
@ Colorado State University

SOUTH CENTRAL

January 27, 2017
@ Texas A&M University

NORTH CENTRAL

February 3, 2017
@ University of Missouri

NORTHEAST

February 17-19, 2017
@ Camp Deerpark, Cuddebackville, NY

CANADA

February 17-19, 2017
@ University of Guelph, Rocky Ridge
Ranch, Rockwood, ONT

SOUTHEAST

April 28-30, 2017
@ Country Lake Christian Retreat Center,
Underwood, IN



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Igniting Global Ministry

By: Dr. Gina Wintermantel, Affiliate Ministry Director

Since Christian Veterinary Mission was founded, we have focused on encouraging veterinary professionals to use their gifts for God. This includes veterinarians in the U.S. and around the world. Our relationships with international vets, who we refer to as “CVM affiliates,” has been such a blessing as we share in our faith and worship of the Lord, as well as exchanging valuable knowledge of veterinary diseases and treatments for the local animal population. Our desire is to expand our opportunities to work together in order to carry out the Great Commission, as we believe that working together is far better than working alone.

Dr. Marty Langhofer is a long-time CVM friend who has committed himself to building relationships and mobilizing veterinarians in Romania. He has made numerous trips over the years to visit and encourage veterinary professionals and students. Dr. Langhofer has also provided opportunities for students from Romania to participate in externships in the U.S.

In 2015, three Romanian veterinary students attended Shortcourse, our annual conference in Kansas City, MO. While there, Dr. Langhofer introduced the students to Dr. Billy Meyers from Georgia, who worked with the student Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF) at the University of Georgia. When Dr. Myers told the CVF students at UG about the Romanian students, the UG

students gathered together, prayed for the Romanian students, made cards of encouragement, and sent them t-shirts.

The Romanian students were delighted to receive the gifts. As a result of ongoing encouragement and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the students have come together and decided to form their own CVF group at the University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Timisoara. In addition, some of the Romanian students are going on short-term mission trips through CVM. This new student group in Romania now has the vision to plant seeds of faith within the students at their university, and also to reach out into the practicing veterinary community.

God has used His Holy Spirit and His people to ignite a flame of love in Romania. This is one of the blessings of being a global organization. Veterinary professionals from different parts of the world can impact one another, and further the work

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Our desire is to expand our opportunities to work together in order to carry out the Great Commission, as we believe that working together is far better than working alone.
”

of Christ. CVM desires to help build these connections between veterinarians and students around the world so that He may be glorified.

One of the other blessings of working as a network is the opportunity to share in ministry together in a global setting, and be a visual demonstration of the body of Christ. As followers of Christ, we long for the day when every tongue, tribe, and nation will praise the Lord together, (Revelation 7:9). In our world today, mankind spends a great deal of energy focusing on differences and causing division. When veterinarians from different countries come together to serve on short-term teams, we visually demonstrate the united body of Christ! A diverse group of people from different backgrounds and cultures, yet transformed by the love of Christ and united together in the purpose of bringing glory to God. As teams of international veterinarians serve together, we are a testimony to the world of a God who reconciles.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."
-2 Corinthians 5:18-20

“
Veterinary professionals from different parts of the world can impact one another, and further the work of Christ.
”

Over the past 40 years, the Lord has richly blessed CVM through our relationships with veterinary professionals around the world. We have learned from each other, and challenged one another to grow in our faith. As we continue forward, CVM has a desire to continue to be a catalyst for the formation of new international Christian veterinary groups, as well as continuing to network, encourage and challenge our existing global affiliate partners. As we serve together and combine our spiritual gifts and our professional gifts, we can better carry out the Great Commission the Lord gave us.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." -Matthew 28:19



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40th
Anniversary
1976-2016

We have been blessed with forty years dedicated to expressing Christ's love through our profession. As part of the CVM family, you are a part of sharing the gospel and transforming lives around the world. Thank you for partnering with us as we express the love of Christ through veterinary medicine.

JOY

CVM's mission is to challenge, empower and facilitate veterinary professionals to serve others by living out their Christian faith.

What We Do

Our purpose as an organization is to walk alongside Christians in the veterinary community whose desire is to bring glory to God through the use of their professional skills. It is our honor and privilege to pray with, talk with, encourage, equip, mentor and provide resources and opportunities for men and women to follow God's call in their life, whether serving in their own community or cross-culturally.

Animals are a bridge to relationship. Whether at a clinic in urban America or, the countryside of Mongolia, a veterinary school in Bolivia or the Cherokee Nation, relationships are formed over the care of an animal. Trust is built, hearts are shared, and a seed is planted for the Kingdom of Christ.



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