

Christian Veterinarian

The Journal of Christian Veterinary Mission • 2023-24



Cover Story:
Mongolia - The Light Story

Inside:
Transformed to Reflect His Light
A message from CEO Dr. Lee Myers

Contents

Page 3

Transformed to Reflect His Light

Pages 4-5

Mongolia - The Light Story

Page 7

Take the First Step

Page 9

Taking a Leap of Faith

Page 15

Impact from One Worship Night

Page 16

Highlights from Global Affiliates

Intersection of Faith & Profession

Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Lee Myers | lmyers@cvm.org

Missions

Dr. Brad Frye | bfrye@cvm.org

Short-Term Missions

Ryan Jeffers | rjeffers@cvm.org

Workplace & Student Ministries

Dr. Lauren Charles | lcharles@cvm.org

CVM Board Officers

Chair

Dr. Joe Wright

Chair-Elect

Dr. Mike McTigue

Secretary

Dr. Ginger Pelc

Treasurer

Dr. Bill Brown

Chief Governance Officer

Dr. Bob Hott

Donor Services

Leslie Saville | lsaville@cvm.org

Marketing & Fundraising

Krista Forseth | kforseth@cvm.org

Communication Designer

Jeremy Rodriguez | jrodriguez@cvm.org

CVM Canada

Lisa Blazer | lbalzer@cvm.org

Transformed to Reflect His Light

By Dr. Lee Myers, CVM CEO



As CVM enters its third year as an independent organization, we give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! At the core of CVM are our relationships with each other and with Christ, and we thank Him for blessing CVM with faithful volunteers and staff who use their time, talents, and treasures to advance the Kingdom.

We closed out the year with 465 short-term volunteers serving in 28 countries, 37 veterinary field workers and their families in 17 countries, and 8 more in the pipeline! CVM continues to recruit dozens more to work the fields for the Lord's harvest. The US Region Representatives this past year connected with an unprecedented 6500 students and veterinary professionals through school visits, Real Life Real Impacts, and conferences. These numbers reflect countless testimonies of how Christ transformed lives through CVM.

We are indebted to experienced advisors who guided us through the year of transformation as we earnestly sought the Lord's will for CVM. As a result, and with strong support from the Board of Trustees, CVM is more streamlined with robust strategies and renewed programming in the coming year. We remain rooted in our foundational vision and mission as we embrace innovation and focus on three strategic priorities.

1. Point others to God by using veterinary medicine to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people (missions and ministry).

2. Equip and encourage veterinary professionals to use their God-given time, talents, and treasures to share Christ around the world (development and evangelism).

3. A ministry that invests in future generations of veterinary professionals to help strengthen their faith journey (growth).

The new CVM theme is from John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". Wherever God has placed you, you can serve Him through CVM and reflect the light of Jesus!

CVM's Vision

Christ's love expressed through veterinary medicine.

CVM's Mission

Christian Veterinary Mission exists to challenge, empower, and facilitate veterinary professionals to serve others by living out their Christian faith.

Mongolia - The Light Story

By Dr. Laurie Day



Laurie's first spay: on Mom's kitchen table, spring 1990

We're in Mongolia!

How did THAT happen?? John and I grew up as nominal Christians; neither of us considered international missions work. It simply wasn't on our radar. We did not attend the Christian Veterinary Fellowship during veterinary school; and for our first fifteen years of marriage, Sundays were for hiking and cross-country skiing, not church fellowship or worship.

Our professional priorities were to succeed in practice and become known in the veterinary world of dairy practitioners.

Our family priority was to raise our children to be hard-working, polite and quick to serve others. We put them in a Christian school to help them learn good values; and for more than 20 years our family was involved with raising puppies with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

But God was at work! Through involvement with these activities, we met many wonderful folks—many of whom were Christians. God worked in our hearts drawing us to fully follow Christ in 2003.

When I was a senior veter-

inary student on a preceptorship, I tried to pay for my meals. My host Connie said, "Put your money away. It's no good here!" I answered that he needed to let me repay him! But he explained, "When you are in practice, do the same for another student. That's how you can repay me."

His example bore fruit. Through twenty-nine years of dairy practice in southern Idaho, more than 100 students came through our practice for up to four weeks—and most stayed in our home. Our children grew up sharing family spaces with young people from across the country, and overseas. We shared our lives and the light of Jesus Christ with them. In later years, John sat down with each one for personal finance and debt counseling, something he also did at CVM's Real Life Real Impact events for several years.

How did we first meet Christian Veterinary Mission? John met CVM at an American Association of Bovine Practitioners breakfast in 2004. We took our first short-term mission trip to Mongolia in 2006. Over the next eleven years, we participated in six more CVM short-

term mission trips and attended several CVM Short Course events, where we focused on short-term missions training and workplace ministry. John also served eight years on the CVM Board.

Through these years, we met many CVM field workers serving long-term overseas. We heard lots of amazing stories and learned about home assignment needs. We had the privilege of hosting several CVM international workers and staff in our home as they passed through our area.

We also helped our church better serve a missionary family on furlough. Then John and I visited them in Moldova enroute to a CVM trip and learned that we were the first folks from home (including family) to visit them in seven years on the field.

When our children made homes of their own and our nest was empty, John suggested we explore serving in long-term missions by attending the 2018 CVM Short Course. I was opposed at first, but again God worked; I went with open hands and heart. The result? Less than three

"No matter where we are in this world, our job is to be obedient—and His light will shine."

years later we moved to Mongolia in September 2021.

As we look back on our path to Mongolia, we see God's hand in so many places, leading us with "cords of kindness", shining His light on and through

us. Every step He is with us. He won't let any little act of love be wasted. No matter where we are in this world, our job is to be obedient—and His light will shine.



Drs. Laurie & John Day at the large animal training area in Mongolia

"Put your money away, it's no good here."

Long-Term Missions with CVM

*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations. Psalm 108:3*

Go. Love. Serve.

With over 80 opportunities for veterinarians and technicians to serve full-time in cross-cultural ministry, how might you be able to serve Christ in making disciples of all nations?



longterm@cvm.org

Short-Term Missions

Where is God Calling You to Go?



shortterm@cvm.org

Short-Term Missions: Take the First Step

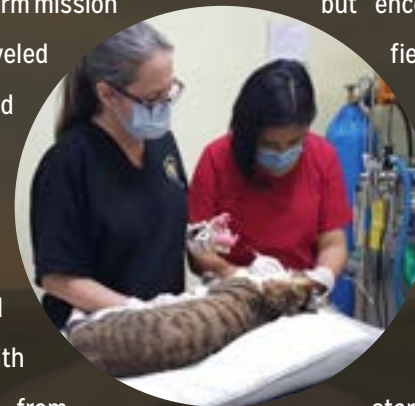
By: Dr. Heidi Lobprise

The CVM concept of “using my passion for veterinary medicine to share Christ’s love” seemed amazing to me. But as an older female with a specialty in small animal dentistry, the scenario of helping goats, cows, and pigs did not seem to be a good fit. I soon discovered that the opportunities to share my training was available on a short-term mission trip. I have traveled to universities and clinics from Mongolia to Bolivia. In India, I have helped animal owners and farmers deal with basic health issues from mucous membrane color to weight and temperature. We may think we only have basic skills to offer, but for those on the mission field, we are a wealth of information. This passion for animal care can help open doors to share our faith.

Sharing Christ’s love becomes second nature as you spend time with locals and trade stories of your Christian life. I always came away from them feeling more blessed than when I arrived. I

appreciated the religious freedoms we have when I saw the hurdles they encountered in their walks with Christ. I may not have made many ‘converts,’ but encouraging those on the field is another form of discipleship. Perhaps others receiving this help, such as the interns in Mongolia who joined us for morning devotions, start to wonder about this God that sends people to help His believers. My friendships have continued to blossom as social media keeps us connected.

Are you wondering if you can go too? Start with prayer, ask others about their experiences, and take that first step. Apply to become a short-term mission volunteer, and one day you will see a posting for a mission that calls you. Then you can say, “Here am I – send me!”





CVM invests in future generations of veterinary professionals to help strengthen their faith journey

It's never too early to think about the legacy you can leave

To learn more, call Donor Services 206-905-8462 or visit cvm.org/legacy



Leave a Legacy of Love

Workplace Ministry: Leap of Faith

By Dr. Robin Moore & Marlena Del Rio (Vet Student)

Taking a leap of faith can be scary. For Dr. Robin Moore, owner of East Bay Animal Hospital in Largo Florida, this was certainly the case when first adding her practice to the CVM Externship board.

"We've never had a veterinary student and didn't know what to expect," said Dr. Moore.

In March of 2023, Marlena Del Rio, a second-year veterinary student at St. George's University, contacted Dr. Moore about an externship. She had seen the clinic listed on CVM's website.

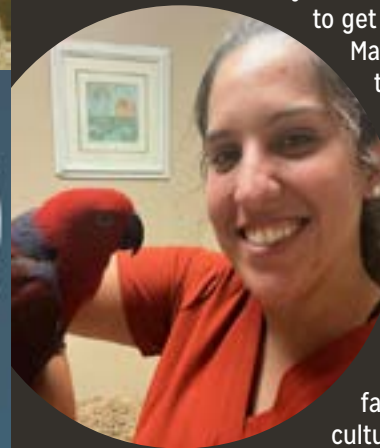


"They offered exotics and I've been hoping to get more experience in that field," Marlena said. She also wanted to see how a God-centered practice worked.

Both Dr. Moore and Marlena were blessed throughout the six weeks together. Dr. Moore and her office manager, Terri, agreed that having Marlena was a blessing because she filled a staff shortage just in time and she had a delightful personality that fit well with the rest of the team.

Marlena appreciated seeing how Dr. Moore was open with her faith and how that created a positive daily environment and practice culture.

"I love how Dr. Moore loves her job and takes even the most difficult circumstances with grace," Marlena shared.



During surgery one morning, a vet tech, who is not a Christian, ran to get Terri to pray over Dr. Moore. "It's amazing to see how Dr. Moore and Terri have been witnesses to others in their daily lives through vet med," marveled Marlena.

The CVM externship program created an opportunity for Dr. Moore and Marlena to join in their faith as well as develop a friendship that will last far beyond their six weeks together.



Dr. Robin (right) & Marlena (left)

Pet SYMPATHY CARDS

rememberapet.org



Use the code SYMPATHY50 on your first order of Remember A Pet cards and receive 50% off your order.

Your Giving Shines the Light of Jesus

Your gift equips Christian Veterinary Mission with the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and equipment—to fulfill our mission to challenge, empower, and facilitate veterinary professionals to serve others by living out their Christian faith.



GIVE TODAY!
cvm.org/give



In Fiscal Year 2023

CVM's Impact Reached:



51 Universities



29 Countries



58 Vet Conferences



HONORING GOD THROUGH VETERINARY MEDICINE

Proud Sponsor of CVM Since 2005



nutramax[®]
LABORATORIES
VETERINARY SCIENCES, INC.

COMBINED MISSION STATEMENT:

Through Nutramax and Christian Veterinary Mission's partnership, a combined mission statement was born: Honoring God through veterinary medicine, helping people share Christ through their professions, and supporting both veterinarians and students throughout their careers.

Nutramaxlabs.com | 1-888-886-6442



Short Course May 12-14, 2024

Whether you are interested in Short-Term trips or Long-Term service, learn how to take the next step in using the gifts, talents, and knowledge that God has given you to take His message around the globe.


Underwood, Indiana

cvm.org/shortcourse

North Central | Jan 19-21
Kansas State

Northwest | Jan 26-28
Washington State

Northeast | Jan 26-28
Delta Lake Bible Camp, NY

Midwest | Feb 9-11
Michigan State

Southwest | Feb 9-11
University of Cal Davis

Canada | Feb 16-18
Pioneer Camp, Alberta

South Central | Feb 16-18
Texas A&M

Southeast | Feb 23-25
University of Georgia

Virtual | Mar 9
Online

Caribbean 2 | Mar 22-24
St. George University

Caribbean | Mar 24-26
Ross University

REAL Life • Impact 2024

Join us for speakers, worship, and fellowship with vet students and professionals from around your region!



cvm.org/RLRI

SAVE the DATE for 2024

A DIFFERENT WAY TO CE

OCTOBER 2-5, 2024 | NASHVILLE, TN

- ▶ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- ▶ OVER 80 SESSIONS
- ▶ UP TO 21 CE CREDITS
- ▶ INCLUDES BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER

For more information
visit cvmcec.org



Student Ministry: Impact from One Worship Night

By: Kaylee Cooper (center in above photo), Mississippi State CVF Member

Although we'd crossed paths before, Aly Davis, Ginne Jeske, and I were strangers until we sat next to each other during worship on the first night of Mississippi State's 2023 Real Life Real Impact weekend. Since then, I've felt like I've known these girls my whole life!

All weekend we hit it off, then we said our goodbyes as they headed back to school in Texas. Our wheels were already turning about how we were going to meet up again...

Soon after, Ginny and Aly made the drive back to Starkville to stay with me for MSU's first AABP Spring Dinner Weekend that our bovine club had planned.

Two weeks later, I made the 11-hour drive to College Station to spend 5 days with them. We got to do all the fun Texas things, I met their sweet vet school friends, and we even attended their church together- a full circle moment when you consider how they attended my church with me after RLRI!

I never expected some of my best friends in vet school to be nine hours away at different schools. CVF gave us exactly what every vet student needs to push themselves through all the struggles - friends who understand, who pray for you, and who truly want to see God's will played out in your life. I had no idea the impact that one night of worship at RLRI would have on me. I'm forever grateful to CVM for giving me the opportunity to meet two of my very best friends!



Empowering Global Affiliates

God is on the move around the world using veterinary medicine as a bridge for the gospel

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

By: Jovelyn Pejana-Betia, DVM

It all started when my husband and I volunteered for a veterinary mission in the province of Palawan last February with a team from CVM USA. During the mission, Dr. Helen Noble from Massachusetts encouraged us to start a CVM in the Philippines. A Filipino schoolmate and a dear sister in Christ, Dr. Tuesday Carino-Templon, joined us on mission in June 2023 to hold a Free Cat and Dog Neuter and Spay Clinic. The vet mission was a success with veterinarians from the Bicol region and veterinary medicine student volunteers all the way from Manila!

God has provided tremendously for our needs with these projects through various channels of blessings, both from the US and the Philippines. We have accomplished our goals, however, we also recognize that there are still a lot of opportunities for improvement in doing this ministry.

We are excited about bringing more spay, neuter and animal wellness services to other communities in the Philippines. This initial experience allowed us to realize that WE CAN DO THIS! It also allowed us to assess how we can do better in our future projects. In addition to having local partners in the community and local government, we saw the need to partner with a local Christian active in the community. We are hoping to have more chances to minister to more people with their pets and animals, and with their spiritual life as well.

The success of both veterinary missions is all due to God's sovereignty in our lives. God was with us from the very start of Christian Veterinary Missions in the Philippines.

HIGHLIGHT FROM CVM CANADA

There are no words to fully describe how God has moved through the CVF group here at the University of Calgary this past year. He answered prayers: we went from about 7 to 29 people, appointed a full executive team, and registered as a UCVM student club for the first time. We were also able to go on two mission trips. May that be an encouragement: you can always trust that God's plan is better. I pray that He continues to challenge the fellowship to grow their faith, making their relationship with Him real in their lives as students and veterinarians.



Lynn Thiessen
UCVM Class of 2024
University of Calgary
Veterinary Medicine



x
x
x
x

CHRISTIAN VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS: Live out your faith through our online training!

Our self-paced, interactive, and engaging courses are taught by experts in veterinary missions and veterinary education. You'll learn about faith and wellness, long-term and short-term missions, and workplace ministry. Access your course whenever and wherever you decide. Check back often for new courses!



TWO ROADS CROSSING CVM PODCAST

The Intersection of
Faith & Vocation



cvm.org/podcast

CVM Animal Impact

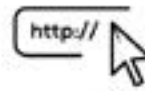
Select a Gift. Make a Difference!

Check out our Animal Impact Gift Guide! Your gift of an animal or veterinary service transforms lives by providing sustainable sources of food and income to families living in poverty.



www.cvm.org/animal-impact

Connect with us!



www.cvm.org



(206) 801-5511



info@cvm.org



@ChristianVeterinaryMission



@CVMUSA



@ChristianVeterinaryMission



Christian Veterinary Mission



Christian Veterinary Mission



CVMUSA



Two Roads Crossing

CVM Mobile App



Christian Veterinary Mission

Available in App Stores



Ministry Around the World - Staff Raising Deputation

Consider supporting these missionaries through our webpage at cvm.org/all-long-term-staff.

Candidates

Dr. E
Dr. H & J
Dr. P & E
Dr. S & R
Katie Blount
Dr. Corey & Kaethe Gallagher

Europe

Dr. Dan & Charlotte Paulsen
Drs. Trent & Tabby Cox

Africa

Dr. C & A
Dr. D & R
Dr. Gina Wintermantel
Dr. Lena & Patrick Wensel
Dr. Rebecca Quam
Dr. S & A
Dr. Troy & Bekah Sammons

Asia

Dr. B & T
Dr. Hillary & Michael Mincher
Dr. Mary & Richard Ballenger
Drs. B & A
Drs. John & Laurie Day
M & B

Latin America

Dr. Patricia Lyon
Dr. Rick & Mary Ervin

USA Staff

Dr. Barry & Colette Schwenk
Dr. Brad & Angela Frye
Curtiss & Shannon Gibbs
Dr. Daniel & Rachel Graham
Dr. Elizabeth & Jaime Mendoza
Drs. Fred & Vicki Van Gorkom
Dr. Kara & Paul Song
Dr. Kelly Crowdis
Dr. Lauren & Jon Charles
Drs. Lee & Billy Myers
Dr. Nancy & Carnell Moore
Nancy Krutzsch & Jonathan Strobel

Volunteer Associates

Dr. Andrew & Chris Spence
Drs. Billy & Lee Myers
Dr. Coalson Lacey
Dr. Gerald & Francis Mitchum
Dr. John & Kristen Coatney
Dr. Julie & Steve Henderson
Dr. Karen & Ron Stoufer
Dr. Kit & Jan Flowers
Dr. Lee Ann Berglund-Fosdick
Dr. Margaret Thompson
Dr. Mary & Jack McDonald
Dr. P & M
Dr. R & H
Dr. Rocky & Alicia Lindsey
Dr. Sara & Jason Phipps
Dr. S & K
Dr. Thach Winslow
Drs. M & S
Emily Arndt
Jan Flanagan
V.E.T. Net Team



PO Box 5888
Lynnwood, WA 98046

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6781