



Southwest RLRI 2024 Featured Speakers – Davis, CA

Friday Evening

February 9

Bliss Steele

Bliss lives in Lancaster SC with his wife, Jessica, their son and seven dogs. Bliss has worked with teenagers and adults for nearly three decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster, SC serving their nearly 800 employees. Bliss uses his unique experiences from growing up on the mission field traveling the world, to serving in the local church, along with his years as a dog trainer to combine biblical truths and practical application showing what it means to be in an obedient and dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

bsteele@nutramaxlabs.com

Saturday

February 10

Session I

Dr. C, DVM

Dr. C graduated in 1992 from UCD with her bachelor's in Physiology, and minor in Nutrition and Spanish. She received her DVM from UCD in 1996. She married in 1990 while still an undergrad, and though she planned to be a large animal veterinarian, being pregnant upon graduation led to her going into small animal practice for nine years in San Diego. From 2005-2007 she, her husband and four children went to the mission field for two years. From 2008-2014 she worked for CDFA in Tulare, and then her family returned to the field in the fall of 2014.

cafreddvm@gmail.com

Session II

M.

M grew up in Taiwan as a missionary kid. He graduated from Modesto Jr. College with an AS in Physical Anthropology and from California State University, Sacramento in 1994 with a BS in Health and Safety/Community Health Education. Mark worked in a variety of professions ranging from marketing director for AMR Sacramento, Project Manager for Laidlaw San Diego, Marketing Director Covenant Living Mount Miguel in San Diego and homeschooled 4 children for 6 years. He has served as a cross cultural community development trainer and discipleship trainer for the past 9 years in Central Asia. His wife is a veterinarian.

66jmarkfred@gmail.com

Session III

Mary McDonald, DVM

Dr. McDonald worked as a large animal ambulatory vet in Virginia until moving to Bolivia, South America to serve with Christian Veterinary Mission. While there, she trained rural animal health care workers and taught at the vet school in Santa Cruz. She currently does revolving goat trainings and distributions in East Africa. Yearly she teaches F.A.R.M. (Farm Animal Refresher for Missions) course on her farm in Virginia where she teaches vets, techs, and students how to share their faith cross culturally, and offers hands on practice with horses, cattle, poultry, swine, and sheep/goats.

Marymcdonald@sams-usa.org

Session IV

Ehren McClarty, DVM

Dr. Ehren McLarty completed a B.S. in Animal Science at Andrews University in southwest Michigan before completing her DVM degree at UC Davis in 2015. After a one year rotating internship at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center, Dr. McLarty returned to UC Davis to complete a residency in Diagnostic Imaging. On completing her residency in 2020, Dr. McLarty joined the faculty at UC Davis as Assistant Professor of Clinical Diagnostic Imaging. Dr. McLarty was blessed to grow up in a Christian home and has been a member of the Woodland Seventh-day Adventist Church for 12 years, where she enjoys serving in music and children's ministries.

emmclarty@ucdavis.edu

Session V

Tami Waterman, DVM

Dr. Tami is a Southern California native who graduated from Cal Poly SLO with an Animal Science BS Degree in 1999. She worked as a research biologist for 2 years before marrying and moving with her husband, Brett, to Columbus, OH where Dr. Tami graduated from the Ohio State University in 2005. Shortly thereafter, Brett and Dr. Tami moved back to the Central Coast of California to start their careers as a Small Animal Veterinarian and Agricultural Irrigation Engineer. They opened a mobile veterinary practice, 805MobileVet, in 2019 and have four daughters, a dog, four cats, 42 chickens, a kestrel and couple of mice. The Waterman family enjoys traveling, hiking, hunting and raising 4H animals, especially chickens.

watermandvm@yahoo.com

Session VI

Mary McDonald & Bliss Steele

See bios earlier.

Panel

We will have an open time to pose questions to our speakers, hear additional stories of serving in the workplace and/or in the mission field, and allow others in the room to share a response if they feel inclined.

Evening Message

Curtiss Gibbs, M.Div

Curtiss Gibbs joined the CVM team as a Region Rep in 2017. He serves as our West Region Rep, after having spent 5 years serving as the Northeast Rep. Previously, Curtiss served in pastoral ministry for 13 years in the local church, mostly focused on youth, college students, and missions. He studied at the University of Georgia for his undergraduate degree and at Fuller Theological Seminary for his Master of Divinity. Curtiss loves connecting people to their calling and working to see individuals and groups thrive as they serve God. He and his wife, Shannon, have been married since 2003, and love to spend time outdoors and in the company of family and friends.

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Sunday

February 11

Worship at local churches, such as Life Pointe Church.

