



## RLRI Mideast 2023 Program Summary – University of Tennessee

Friday Evening

February 3

CVM Hosts

Dr. Lauren Charles, Dr. Kara Song,  
Dr. Nancy Moore, and Dr. Elizabeth Mendoza

Evening Challenge

**Dr. Diane Hendrix - “God is the Only True and Constant”**  
Whether you are in the highs or lows of life you can see God everywhere. The important part is to know God well enough to recognize His presence.

Praise & Worship

Saturday

February 4

Devotional and Worship

8:30am

**“The Old is Gone the New Has Come” - Dr. Elizabeth Mendoza**

Did you know that in 2021, the world was creating 2.5 quintillion bytes of data each day! That’s 2.5 x 10<sup>18</sup>. What an enormous amount of information being presented to our brains on a daily basis. Yet the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit in our hearts has the power to transform us for eternity. The world is loud. Focusing our eyes and hearts on Jesus will give us the strength and ability to do the work that God has set before us in this awesome profession of veterinary medicine.

Session One

9:30am

**“Work Life Balance: My Journey to Guilt-Free Living in the Middle” - Dr. Marc Caldwell**

Marc has tried too much of both sides of the work-life balance spectrum, come and hear about his journey to guilt-free living in the middle.

**“Living in the Sweet Spot” – Bliss Steele**

**“Short-Term Missions: Going When Everyone Else is Staying” – Ryan Jeffers**

There are countless barriers to going overseas on short- or long-term mission trips. Family, finances, dreams, friends, comfort, and inadequacy cause many to not follow God's will for their life. Will we put comfort and security over the Great Commission? Is He worth it? Whether you have been on 0 or 10 short-term mission trips, He has called each of us to reach the unreached, love the unlovable, and comfort the hurting. He is more than worth it. Come and hear how you can combine your faith and your profession to serve others through missions with CVM.

### Session Two

10:30am

#### ***“Is There Such a Thing as ‘Secular’ Work?” – Dr. Jessica Bianco***

Veterinarians do kingdom-building work in all corners of the globe... even right here at home! In this session, we'll cover some highlights learned during a year-long faith and work fellowship designed by Tim Keller's team at the Center for Faith & Work in NYC. Every job is designed by God to serve a purpose in bringing about His creative work, healing power, and restorative grace in our world. Veterinarians have a unique mission opportunity no matter where or what field in which you practice. Come explore ways that you can advance the kingdom of God with any career path.

#### ***“You Mean it IS Possible? How You CAN Pay Back Your Loans” - Dr. Kara Song***

Despite the constant clamor that it is impossible to pay off your loans and you just need to live with them, Kara found that it is possible. Hear about her journey as she works to pay them off and how others have been able to make this happen as well. Maybe you too, will find that it is possible rather than impossible and share this hope with others.

#### ***“Experiences in Short-Term Missions” – Dr. DJ Krahwinkel***

How many blessings can a person experience in short term mission projects? Times of feeling “well done” and other times feelings of “short comings”. We will re-live some of these God-given blessings received over a period of 30 years with approximately 30 mission opportunities to 9 different countries in Africa, South America and Central America. Most of these working with local people delivering veterinary care for their essential livestock populations while demonstrating Christ love for “the least of these”.

### Session Three

11:30am

#### ***“Self Leadership – A Journey of Personal Transformation” – Dr. Mitch Moses***

To lead others, we must lead ourselves. Developing self-leadership is a lifelong journey, that starts with the first step. Based on the teachings of Dr. Tim Elmore, we will journey through habits and attitudes that will help us learn to lead ourselves with increased efficiency and effectiveness.

#### ***“Student Debt, Dystocia, and How We Got Out” – Drs. Alex Hagan and Jessie Herman***

Two veterinarians, two large student debt burdens, two children, and one healthy marriage. We have always had faith that God would lead us out of debt. We want to share our story and encourage you that insurmountable student debt can be defeated and joy can be found in the veterinary profession, even if it takes a few tries to find the right fit.

#### ***“Missions: Being Useful for God When You Feel Useless” – Dr. Justin Woolsey***

When considering a short- or long-term mission trip, it is natural to look for opportunities where we will feel useful. What happens when expectations don't meet reality? What if you feel called

somewhere but don't feel like you are qualified to serve? How can God use us? I can't promise answers to your questions, but I will share what I feel that God taught me during my time in Mongolia.

Lunch 12:30pm

Session Four 2:30pm

***“You Are More Than Just a Veterinarian – Where Is Your Identity?” - Dr. Meggan Graves***

What defines you? Where do you place your identity? In this session you will hear a story of adoption and how it transformed a heart and way of thinking to no longer want to be seen as a veterinarian, but first and foremost, a child of God.

Warning: This session may evoke laughter, tears, goose bumps, and a new perspective.

***“Don't Be Catfished By Job Announcements.” – Michael Shirley***

Nearly every veterinary job announcement in today's market mentions “Mentorship.” Clinics know that candidates are looking for professional and personal connections in a positive environment. But beware: some promises of mentorship fall short of expectations after the job begins. If you are a veterinary professional (or soon to be one!) looking for quality mentorship in your next job, learn how to spot the well thought out mentorship plans among the sea of fake promises. And if you are a clinic promising mentorship to new hires, evaluate your program to ensure you aren't lying to yourself and job candidates.

***“Transformation Through Intentional Discipleship and Serving in Your Jerusalem and Beyond” – Dr. Nancy Moore***

God's call in Romans, in view of His mercy, we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. How can intentional discipleship and local veterinary missions fit in this? Disciples make disciples. Could you take the next step to disciple someone? To serve in your own “Jerusalem”?

Session Five 3:30pm

***“Marriage and Family in Vet School and Beyond”-Drs. Larry and Veronica Bardroff***

This talk will navigate Larry and Veronica's life from vet school to currently working in a mixed animal practice alongside raising and homeschooling 4 kids and serving in their local church. The goals of this talk are: to show where the Lord was and is at work in their lives, how to submit to the Lord and his leadership, how to lead your family in the Lord and how to spur one another on in the Lord daily. “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7

***“Listening to God”-Dr. Billy Richardson***

What does it mean when we pray for eyes to see and ears to hear? 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” Billy will share his journey into and out of practice ownership.

**“Trusting God in the Hard Times (and Good Times)” - Dr. Thach Winslow**

Thach will share the testimony of his walk to Christ – His transition from believing in God to knowing Him and now living to serve Him.

Session Six

4:30pm

**Spouses Panel – Moderated by Helen Woolsey**

Spouses come and share ideas and encouragement with other spouses of vet students and professionals on the same journey.

**New Grad Panel – Moderated by Dr. Amanda Brzozowski**

Join a group of recent graduates to ask questions and hear from them about what has surprised them since starting out in the real world.

**Missions Panel – Moderated by Ryan Jeffers**

Ask your missions questions to CVM staff and volunteers with many years of short and long-term missions experience.

UT Vet School Tours

5:30pm

Dinner

6:30pm

Evening Challenge

7:30pm

**“Transformed By His Love” - Dr. Lauren Charles**

Worship and Prayer

8:30pm

Sunday

February 5

Visit Area Churches or Gather for Fellowship over Extended Breakfast with New Friends

