



Professional RLRI

Mideast @ University of Tennessee

February 3, 2023



FRIDAY	
11:00am	Lunch and Introductions / Welcome by Dr. Lauren Charles
12:00-12:50 pm	Michael Shirley <i>Leadership Lessons from Teenagers</i>
1:00-1:50pm	Stephen Shirley <i>Finding freedom in veterinary care from the Fruit of the Spirit</i>
1:50pm-2:10pm	Short Break/Fellowship
2:10-3:00pm	Dr. Lauren Charles <i>Prayer, A Practical Mystery</i>
3:00-3:50pm	Bliss Steele <i>Titles and Towels</i>
4:00pm	Debrief, Prayer, Adjourn to RLRI if attending

“Leadership Lessons from Teenagers” -Michael Shirley

Managing a classroom of high school students is very similar to leading a team of veterinary professionals. The key to success in either setting is learning how to meet the group needs of safety, inclusion, motivation, and purpose.

“Finding freedom in veterinary care from the Fruit of the Spirit” - Stephen Shirley

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul explains that believers are justified and made righteous through their faith in Christ, not by their obedience to the law. Through their faith in Christ, believers then come into contact with, are filled by and are transformed in the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5 specifically addresses the results of a life lived in the Spirit. Living a life guided by the Spirit is refreshing, enjoyable and rewarding. Practicing veterinary care guided by that

“Prayer, A Practical Mystery” - Dr. Lauren Charles

Prayer is a vital part of a relationship with God. It can also be a vital part of a healthy veterinary practice. Dive in with us to discover some new prayer tools and share your own with others.

“Titles and Towels” - Bliss Steele

Are you here to serve or be served? How to create great relationships, great results, and great human satisfaction through Servant Leadership!



Speaker Bios

Michael Shirley

Michael is Chief Empowerment Officer of Family Pet Health in Murfreesboro, TN. He believes that the key to success is to hire great people, equip them with the tools they need, and then get out of their way. Before opening Family Pet Health with his wife, Dr. Amy Shirley, Michael enjoyed a 16-year career in education as a 4-H agent then as a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. Michael and Amy have three children and are active in their local church where they have served in roles from small group leaders to parking lot attendees.

Stephen Shirley

Stephen currently serves as the Director of Operations at Family Pet Health where he is responsible for ensuring the processes and facilities are in place at the clinic to allow the team members to provide the highest level of care. From cleaning up dog poop and cat pee to building the online pre-visit history forms and maintaining the computer network, Stephen works to support the team at Family Pet Health to allow them to be and achieve their best.

Lauren Charles, DVM

Lauren is an Auburn grad, class of 2005. After private practice for three years and a year at Banfield, she lived and served with CVM in Bolivia for three years. There she quickly went from being single to having a family of four, including her handsome husband, Jon, beautiful Bolivian daughter, Angie, and their Bolivian Labrador, Ruby. Her growing family brought her back to the U.S., where she's currently based out of Louisville, KY. She's added two sons and a daughter to their family, and she's serving as CVM's Workplace and Student Ministries Director and also oversees the Mideast region of the US.

Bliss Steele

Bliss lives in Lancaster SC with his wife Jessica and their 18 year old son and 5 dogs. Bliss has worked with teenagers and adults for more than 2 decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster SC, serving their nearly 600 employees. During the past 7 years he has had the awesome opportunity to travel and speak to audiences teaching obedience through the unique use of Retrievers. Using these dogs as an illustration, Bliss combines biblical truths and practical application to show the power of obedience in the life of the believer. It is his desire that you will learn what it means to be in an obedient and submissive relationship with Jesus Christ.