February – in Ontario, sometimes it’s the coldest month of the year, sometimes there are hints of spring. Sometimes we have lost momentum on those good habits we were trying to achieve in January. I’ve just returned from 2 conferences in January - one in Orlando, Florida and the other in chilly Toronto, Ontario. Regardless of the temperature though, it is always a joy to meet students and veterinary professionals who are excited about using their skills to help others. At CVM, we seek to challenge, empower, and facilitate veterinary professionals to serve others by living out their Christian faith. I’m encouraged by seeing the growth in the veterinary students I work with, turning to Christ to face the challenges of school and new jobs. Older veterinarians and technicians/technologists are looking for ways to serve when they are established in their careers or even looking towards retirement.

This month, I was also at two of the Real-Life Real Impact conferences – February 14 – 16 in Rome, New York and February 21-23 in Sundre, Alberta. These weekends are highlights of the year on the CVM calendar because they are wonderful times for students and veterinary professionals to connect. We target worship, encouragement and growth at these weekends as well as some fun activities.

So how are you doing with those new habits you thought about in January? Are you making them stick? Proverbs 24:16 says, “Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.” We are encouraged to get up and press on. Maybe what you’ve always done isn’t what you are called to do right now. We all have capabilities. For example, I’m a veterinarian by training; it’s what I’m good at and what I’ve done for many years. But that doesn’t mean I’m made to only be a veterinarian. We don’t need to only do what we are capable of doing, but what God is calling us to do, what he is giving us the passion for. We are constantly changing and growing in Christ. He is molding us step by step into a new creation. A few years ago, I wouldn’t have imagined myself doing what I’m doing today, but by following the passions that God has put into my heart I’ve become a short term missionary, a trip leader and been able to go places I never thought possible.
You have the freedom to choose. You can continue what you are doing or become the person God is calling you to be – to love others in new ways, to follow your passions with urgency. This will require the strength and courage to step out of your comfort zone and make a change, step into the story you were made to live. I didn’t make a mistake becoming a veterinarian, but I became someone new – a veterinarian made to serve God with my skills. How is He changing you? What are you made to do right now? Ephesians 5:14 says “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

I would love to hear from you about how God is calling you to new things, or how you are being changed. Let me know if there is any way that I can encourage you or help you.

Debbie

Praise notes

- I’m thankful for examples of answered prayers over the past month – an adoption that finally is complete, healing from illness, successful surgery.
- I’m so thankful for the faithful supporters of CVM Canada.

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for the students and professionals I’ve met at events over the past few months, that lives will be impacted. That they will have the strength and courage to take the next step.
- Pray for short-term teams planning trips in the next few months.
- Please pray for a few friends suffering from serious illnesses.

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