Driving home from church, a young mother asked her 5-year-old twins what they thought they would be when they grew up. One son shouted out “I want to be a missionary vet.” The mother thought to herself that a doctor would fit, but how could a vet be useful overseas? At the age of 11-12, this young man felt led to pray more about what exactly God was calling him to do in life and continued to feel God calling him to be a mission vet and even began to give him a heart for specific people groups. Not knowing how all this would come together they searched the web and found Christian Veterinary Mission. The mother wanted to encourage her young son in his calling and signed him up to start getting CVM magazine. This January, almost 30 years after he told his mom he wanted to be a missionary vet, this young man and his family are leaving for full-time service with CVM among the people group God placed on his heart as an early teenager.

Patricia grew up with a fascination for people of other cultures. She had over a dozen pen pals with people from around the globe. In the early 90’s she and her husband felt led to be Bible translators but due to some sickness that her husband had this dream did not develop at that time. Patricia’s family saw her love for animals and encouraged Patricia to be a veterinarian. About that time her husband got a job in the same building with Christian Veterinary Mission, and Patricia’s vision of being a mission vet began to develop. She went to Vet school and as a student and now as a vet has participated in over 21 short-term mission trips. After her husband turned from his faith and divorced Patricia, she began to pursue long-term mission service with CVM. Next year she hopes to move to Haiti. It has been over 20 years since she started pursuing her interest in missions.

This year I began working with a second-year veterinary student named Kelly who feels called to be a vet missionary. At the age of 10, she heard a missionary talk at church and felt God calling her to do the same. In responding to God’s leading, she has gone to Bible school for a year, taken the “Perspectives on World Missions” training course, completed over ten short-term missions and started veterinary school. During this time God has given her a heart for Muslim cultures, and she is taking Arabic and helping to host International Students on campus. Fifteen years of responding to God’s call on her life and still a few more to go before she completes veterinary school.

Over the last 20 years, I have been blessed to help mentor, encourage, send, support and see return home CVM mission vets from around the globe. Not all of them were called as children to missions like the stories above, but often God begins that work of ordering their steps at a young age. As they respond to His prompting, spend time in the Word, and participate in fellowship, He begins to draw and mold them. In addition to His Word, God uses many people like parents, family, friends, pastors, teacher and even strangers to mold and direct them. As they seek God and draw near to Him, they develop a life of serving Him and others. Ps 37:23 “The steps of a
man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way.” When they delight in God’s way outlined in the Bible, then the Word of God becomes a Light to their path in this road to missions. This journey is not short or easy, but what amazes and encourages me is how faithful, resilient and committed a person led and rooted in God can be.

Can you pray for our CVM team, and me in January? To encourage and support our CVM missionaries serving around the globe, we have retreats about every other year where our long-term missionaries are gathered regionally for encouragement, training and to learn from each other. January 12-18th I will be in Haiti to meet with the staff from around Latin America and the Caribbean. Please pray that our time will encourage and equip them for better service. Most of all, pray that we will have time of refreshing in the word and worship.

Serving as Sender,

Brad

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