Standing on Hope

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December 2019

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!” Merry Christmas to this beloved network of friends and family who are praying for and supporting the Lord’s North Central ministry through Christian Veterinary Mission. It is hard to believe that it has been one full year since I wrote my first prayer letter and began sharing my life and journey with you.

It is difficult to classify ministry as a job since it does not start and stop at certain hours of the day. I am sure you have experienced this too. Whether it’s our regular grocery store clerk (my kids love seeing Miss Heather at Kroger), local barista, or the stranger sitting next to us on the airplane, God places people in our path each day to whom we can show His love. That’s ministry!

This fall has been so rich with these moments and I want to share a few of them with you. I have visited each of my veterinary schools at least twice now and am so thankful to be forming closer relationships with students and faculty advisors.

I had the joy and honor to pray with several different students after school visits this year about test anxiety, a problem that is fairly universal among the vet school population. I met Amanda, an Illinois student, whose dream is to serve in Alaska in vet missions. I got to introduce her to a veterinarian from North Carolina who leads these trips! Most recently, I met Brooke from Wisconsin who supports a new campus missionary serving with Athletes in Action.

We were able to connect this new missionary with the farmers and ranchers of STEER (I wrote about them last month) and now she is going to be able to raise more support for her ministry because the Lord worked to join all these people and points. It is so exciting to be part of this!

When I started my position as a region rep with CVM, I was worried that I didn’t know enough people to even begin connecting or have the Bible knowledge to be a “missionary.” I have determined that serving and giving can be simple. The lyrics to the song “Dream Small” by Josh Wilson speak to this:
Dream small
Don’t bother like you’ve gotta do it all
Just let Jesus use you where you are
One day at a time
Live well
Loving God and others as yourself
Find little ways where only you can help
With His great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
Dream small

Merry Christmas from the Mendoza Family! Thank you, friends!

As we celebrate the humble birth of our Savior this Christmas season, I pray that we remember that His simple message is for ALL people. So, by making a difference in just one person’s life through forgiveness, showing mercy, or offering a listening ear that points them to Christ, we are proclaiming “Emmanuel,” that God is truly with us. When we inconveniently set aside the 10 things on our daily holiday “to-do” list and, instead, serve one another and give selflessly, we can be such a sweet example of Christ’s love to those immediately around us. May Jesus, the name above every other name, fill your hearts this season. God bless you and thank you so very much for your giving and prayers that continue to make this ministry possible. The Lord is using veterinarians, technicians, and students to reach people from our local communities to the ends of the earth!

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