His Vets

February 2019

CVM Affiliates: Christ-following veterinarians in other countries, who have an interest in missions. We pray for them, encourage them and try to help them start their own national Christian veterinary mission groups. What a joy to come to know and love them as dear brothers and sisters! Last November, I got to meet with many of them in Nigeria.

Meet Dr. Josiah Mandieka. Missions pastor in his church. He and several other believing vets formed Vets With Mission Programme in Kenya. They have 25 registered members, all volunteers, and they have started a Christian vet fellowship student group at the university—they go out on mission trips themselves and fund Christian vet students on mission trips too!

They share the Gospel first, then treat animals—usually about 30,000 sheep and goats on each 3-4 day outreach. At night, they show the Jesus video, share their faith and many come to Christ!

Josiah loves to sing. He led our Africa affiliate meetings in November and kept us on track. Sometimes he’d just burst out in a song for us to all join. He’s often got a twinkle in his eye, loves to laugh, but knows how to be very compassionate too. I love him like a brother.

Meet Dr. Andrew Quarcoopome. With Josiah, he also helped lead our affiliate meetings in Nigeria last November. I think he has about the best vet practice in Ghana! It has grown to 4 clinicians, and he hosts the senior vet students for some of their training too. He has a big smile, humor that takes you off-guard, and speaks so quietly (like most Ghanaians) you have to listen carefully to catch what he says—but his words are always well-considered and pithy. I don’t think I’ve ever heard him make a remark “off the cuff”; even when his eyes are laughing, he’ll pause, consider, then respond with better vocabulary than I could assemble. I love him like a brother, too.

He and several others helped form the Ghana Christian Veterinary Mission group—beginning with prayer at their national vet association meetings and now doing several mission outreaches per year—again, many come to Christ.

He and his wife Jeanette came to our annual CVM Shorticourse this past fall. It was so fun to host them, take
them around to see a few of the beautiful places in the Pacific Northwest, and just fellowship around the dining table. And give him a WSU tee-shirt!

In 2016, we helped start a network of our affiliates called the Christian Veterinary Africa Network (CVAN). This November, we met in Abuja, elected new officers, drafted a vision and purpose statement—and watched the Lord make us all enthusiastic about how He was moving among us! Together we treated cattle and goats in a Fulani camp—tell you more next letter!

Valentine’s Day is this month. My #1 Valentine is Vicki. Sounds good, right? But what if I started to tell you about my #2 and #3 valentines… Not good.

Vicki is not just my #1; she is my one and only.

That’s how it should be with Jesus too! Sounds good to say Jesus is #1 in my life. But do we have other qualifications too? Jesus can be my #1 as long as I stay healthy. Or safe. Or have my retirement fund. I’ll follow Jesus as long as it’s convenient and comfortable?

If this is the case in our hearts, He is one of many! But He died to pay our debt; He rose to give us eternal life. He deserves to be the One and only on the throne of our hearts.

Back to my valentine Vicki. I love her friendship, her humor, her idiosyncrasies, her servanthood, her compassion for others, her daily example of prayer and “coffee with Jesus” as she reads through the Bible each year. I love the way she patiently endures her husband, like her expression when I make a bad pun. She’s my one and only.

The Lord has brought to us some hurting people: several families battling cancer, several who struggle in their marriages, several grappling with their faith. Please pray we’ll have His grace and wisdom to know how to encourage them. God’s way is SO good!

Please pray for me as I preach and teach here, mobilize and mentor missionaries for Africa—that the Lord will give me the words to say and the ability to say them well, and that He’ll work through it all for His glory and Kingdom. Pray for more people willing to go!

Together in His service,

Fred and his Valentine

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