Greetings,

January and February have been awesome months at Christian Veterinary Mission! This time of year, we host nine regional retreats, known as Real Life Real Impact. These retreats began as a gathering of our student ministry groups, and they rotate from campus to campus so that each school has a turn to host. This year, my schools will attend events in Raleigh and Toronto, and I have the wonderful opportunity to spend time with our students, facilitate worship and speakers, and share a bit of my heart as well. For the Region Reps like myself, this is a highlight of our year.

Our event in Toronto has not happened as of the writing of this letter, but our event that was hosted by the students of North Carolina State happened at the end of January. They were joined by students from the Tennessee, Lincoln Memorial University, Ohio State, Virginia Tech, Penn, and even two students from Colorado State! Some of the speakers included Dr. Bob Hott, who was the first Region Rep 20+ years ago and served as a long term missionary in Nepal; Bliss Steele, a chaplain from Nutramax; Dr. Page Wages, one of our NC State student ministry advocates who leads 4 mission trips a year; and one of my favorite Bible teachers, James Michael Smith, who I’ve known since college. By having such diverse speakers, in and out of the veterinary profession, I really felt that the Kingdom of God was being built up, as we strengthened and encouraged one another.

A small group sharing, during Real Life Real Impact in Raleigh

One of the most powerful moments during the weekend was when Dr. Maria Garrett, a young veterinarian who lives near Philadelphia, traveled down to Raleigh with her young daughter to share with us. Her talk was entitled “Bankrupt but Blessed: What I Lost, and Gained, When Addiction Touched My Family.” She shared an incredibly powerful story of the challenges relationally and professionally that happened when addiction touched her family. And through it all, God has provided for her and guided her, bringing some blessing even in the midst of some of life’s greatest challenges. Needless to say, there were not many dry eyes left after hearing
her story. Students and professionals alike, we were all reminded of God’s faithfulness, the love He has for us, and that He will always be with us. It is opportunities like this, which remind me of why I love my opportunity to serve. To be able to facilitate a retreat that brings people from all over together, and places them in front of such wonderful leaders, is quite an honor. I am already excited about doing the same in the coming weekend in Toronto, with students from Canada as well as Cornell and Michigan State.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Shannon and me, as I continue on this journey of service and building support at Christian Veterinary Mission. Shannon may have the opportunity through her position at World Concern to attend the Asia team training in Thailand in March, so prayers for her would be welcomed.

- Pray for the students who have encountered Christ at Real Life Real Impact, and for those who will do so in the coming weeks. May this be a reminder to all of them of how God loves them, and of who they are in Christ.

Reach out - let’s connect! I love to visit friends and family as I travel. I would love to know what is going on in your life, and how I can pray for you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this, my second prayer letter! I hope 2019 will be a great year for you and yours!

Serving alongside you,

*Curtiss Gibbs*

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