Standing on Hope

“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, the LORD reigns...Oh give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his steadfast loves endures forever!”

1 Chronicles 16:31 and 34

I am so thankful to see this beautiful set of verses manifested in my life recently and hope they encourage you as well. Summer travel, veterinary conferences, and short term mission trips are in full swing here in the North Central region. I recently drove to Chicago to attend the Chicago Vet Show. It was CVM’s first time to have a booth and fellowship breakfast at this conference. I consider myself a fairly adventurous driver, having braved the freeways of Southern California for almost ten years; but let me tell you that driving in Chicago is a whole new ballgame! The conference went well, and the Lord used it as a time for me to connect with many veterinary technicians. As veterinarians, we would be lost without our techs! One afternoon, a group of women walked up to the booth. I introduced myself as the region rep for CVM. One woman heard my name and said, “Wait. Elizabeth!? What’s your last name?” I replied, “Mendoza!” She practically jumped over the table to give me a huge hug. My booth visitor was a vet tech named Deneen with whom I had been speaking, via email, for several months. She has such a heart for short term missions as well as education, and we have been trying to get her connected with CVM ministries. That day, I felt the overwhelming joy of knowing that the Lord surely orchestrated this divine appointment.

God also continues to show His sovereign hand over our short term mission trips. As many of you know, our region has been plagued by historic floods and snow this past winter and spring. Many farmers have lost significant percentages of their crops and livestock. Continued rain and snow in the Dakotas have made life on the prairie exceptionally hard. Recently, we had a short term team led by longtime CVM friend, Dr. Bill Rishel, travel to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In March, a large blizzard came, followed by a quick warm-up which led to major flooding. Many residents could not even get out of their driveways to get to food
or clean water. This disaster hit the poorest county in all of the United States and our Lakota brothers and sisters. Dr. Rishel and the team still went despite knowing travel and tasks would be difficult. They had planned three days of vet clinics at local churches and some work building a new cattle corral system to facilitate working the herds more efficiently. Due to even more flooding and snow, Dr. Rishel reported that the team only got to do about 1/3 of the normal work. The lack of feasible work created a beautiful space for deeper relationships to be built both with the residents of the reservation as well as between team members. Dr. Rishel explained that this trip was more impactful than others, and he knows that the Lord used this big change in expected plans to direct the focus back onto Him. Please pray for our friends in the North Central region during this time of extreme weather, loss, and uncertainty.

Lastly, on a personal note, our family trip to California reminded me of the goodness of our Lord and His steadfast love for me. I got to return to my old church, where I was introduced to a life of ministry. I was so blessed to be welcomed home by my old friends. I had breakfast with my dear friend, Erinlynn, who listened to my struggles with exhaustion, spoke truth into my life, and encouraged me. And my sweet daughter Elena told me that when she grew up, she wanted to be “a missionary and a mommy” just like me. Small moments like this are huge in reminding us of the sweetest steadfast, enduring love of our Father. Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support!

Blessings,
Elizabeth
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From the CVM Home Office: 2019 Prayer Cards have been mailed! This year we changed our approach to a postcard-style piece. Due to post office processing, you may have received a blemished item that we feel does not represent our best efforts. If you would like to view an unblemished version of the prayer card, you can view it here https://cvm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Mendoza-2019-PC.pdf

If you prefer to receive an unblemished prayer card, we would love to send another to you! Please make that note on the detachable portion of the return slip, place it in the enclosed envelope and place it in the mail. Thank you for your continued support for the work and ministry of Elizabeth

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the donee organization has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.