Serving Canada & Beyond
CVM Canada Director’s Office

“We have not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble and be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

We are starting a new fiscal year and a new season at CVM Canada. This new fiscal year gives us time for reflection and for looking forward. At CVM Canada, we follow CVM USA in much of the yearly and operational planning. I was blessed to have been able to attend Short Course in September and the training/planning week in November where we spent time in prayer, discussion, and planning. An important part of the planning process is determining an annual theme and verse. This theme is used throughout our work during the year and becomes the basis for many of our writings and thoughts. This year our theme is “Strong and Courageous,” and the theme verse is Joshua 1:9.

The theme of “Strong and Courageous” and this key verse leads us to reflect on God’s faithfulness to the Israelites and to us. We consider Joshua’s dependence upon God to be strong and courageous and step up into a role that he likely felt totally unprepared for. It makes us ask, where in my life will I be strong and courageous? Our family has just finished a rough month and looking back, I could have either folded under the pressures or depended on God and been “Strong and Courageous.”

Within the past 40 days, Stephen had a climbing accident and broke/dislocated his foot and is going to be non-weight bearing and not able to drive for 8-12 weeks. We moved twice - from our sabbatical rental house to a house sitting house. My father was seriously ill, and I made an emergency trip to Ontario while traveling. Zach and I were doing the 5-day drive from Kelowna, BC to Ontario, and he hit a deer on Day 3, so we were delayed in Saskatchewan. Without the presence of God in my life, I don’t feel that I could have been “Strong and Courageous” during this stressful time. I am so thankful that we have His strength to rely on.

I am looking forward to exploring more about what it means to be “Strong and Courageous” throughout this year. As Executive Director for CVM Canada and acting as Regional Rep as well, I am excited about all that God has in store for CVM Canada this year. We will be encouraging students to be “Strong and Courageous” during the year at their CVF meetings, through the annual devotionals, and at events like Real Life Real Impact. We will be facilitating veterinary professionals to live out their faith in their workplace and abroad and support them along their journey. Professional conferences and Real Life Real impacts are areas where we can connect with you in person. We will also be encouraging professional CVF groups to start where vet professionals can mentor each other.
As we explore the theme of “Strong and Courageous,” consider areas of your life where you need to be strong? Have you been going through a particularly difficult time where you need the strength that comes from dependence on God? Maybe you have been putting off some work that you feel He has called you to because you don’t feel qualified or that you are the best person for the job. God uses those who may seem unqualified or inexperienced – consider Joshua, David, Gideon. I would love to hear where your next steps take you when you approach them with strength and courage.

**Praise notes**

- I am so thankful for each of you and your prayers over the past few months with all that we have been through with family accidents, illness, and travel.
- Grateful for your friendship and support as I take on this new role as CVM Canada Executive Director

**Prayer Requests**

- Please be in prayer for CVM Canada as we move into this new year and are planning student ministry, professional events, and how we can be involved in short term and long term mission
- We will be attending the CVMA/WSAVA conference in Toronto July 16 – 19. This is an international conference with up to 3000 delegates. Pray for great connections to be made with delegates there.
- Continued prayer for Stephen as he is healing from his foot injury and traveling is appreciated, as well as for Zach and Jacob as they are both starting full-time summer jobs.

Dr. Debbie Hoffele
P.O Box 16056
Sumas Mountain PO
Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 0C6
dhoffele@cvm.org
www.cvmcanada.org
Cell: 905-348-6596

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