Dear friends,

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”  

Joshua 1:9

God spoke these words to Joshua. He is also speaking these words to each of us. God has commanded each of us to be strong and courageous. As we are obedient to His call to be strong and courageous, there should also be an outcome of our not trembling or being dismayed. There is also a wonderful promise to each of us that His presence is with us wherever we go.

As we have begun to reflect on the new CVM theme to be strong and courageous, I have been amazed at how real-time this charge is needed in our day to day lives. Each of us can make a quick list of specific areas in our lives where He is speaking these words to us. We can also quickly call to mind where this charge is so desperately needed by other people we know. A charge of faith and focus, a charge to continue to stay on the course in strength and courage. A charge to not waver in fear or unbelief. A charge and a reminder that He is with us wherever we go.

As I write this prayer letter, I think of a number of friends who are walking through very serious health challenges. Couples with one member who is very ill and the other standing in support and encouragement, yet both very much in a place where these words from the Lord are so important. His presence is real. However, we have to believe in and trust Him each day. I pray these words for each of these friends.

I think of others in the CVM family who are feeling a stir to be obedient to serve in a short-term or a long-term mission, and yet fears and concerns multiply. His word to be strong and courageous is so important. Knowing His presence in the midst of these steps of faith and obedience are very important. We have a great opportunity to charge them with these words for His word.
I also think of others who have heard testimonies from members of the CVM family who have taken a step of faith to pray for a client during the practice of veterinary medicine. These individuals are feeling His prompting to also pray with their clients. They encounter a multitude of excuses and interruptions as they are prompted to pray. Be strong and courageous. There is not a need to tremble or be dismayed. God is with you. This is our message.

I personally need these words each day. Often it is in the small things, the need to speak to someone about an issue. It might be the challenge to redirect my thoughts when I have a multitude of thoughts about a struggle or conflict. Or it could be when there is the need to step into a task when it seems more than I have the energy for. His charge to Joshua is a charge to me. Be strong and courageous.

We have a great opportunity in the work of the Lord through CVM to offer this challenge through all of the programs we are involved in. Pray with me for each CVM staff member and volunteer as we live in the truths of this verse in our own individual lives and then that we can be used of Him to share these truths and this charge and promise with others.

We thank you for your part in prayer and financial support as Jan and I continue to serve His kingdom work through CVM. You are an important part!

Be Strong and Courageous,
Kit and Jan Flowers