Abounding

October 2019

As 2020 quickly approaches, CVM is already looking ahead to 2025 for visioning and planning. One of the terms being added to our vision is “Longitudinal Relationships.” When I first saw this in the notes I thought it was a typo. Maybe long-term relationships... I even googled it and none of the definitions seemed to make sense in this setting. But, it turns out, longitudinal wasn’t a typo. What CVM hopes to have are relationships with our folks over the life of their careers. As I tell my students, this is not just a campus ministry; we want to partner with you for as long as you’ll let us. We strive to minister to, and through, the veterinary profession in this way.

Having been on staff with CVM for 10 years now, and serving in this role as a Region Rep for 7 years, I’ve been able to experience some of this longitudinalness, and I love it. I’ve walked alongside students as they graduate and jump into the real world. Young veterinary professionals as they buy practices, start families, and seek balance. And more mature vets as they sell clinics, retire, and find more time to serve in missions. Each stage has its challenges and rewards, and watching from the outside, the beauty is in the picture of growth through the seasons. Observing how God uses each life and story to impact others for His Kingdom.

![Image of students waving](Image)

Lincoln Memorial’s CVF group in their 6th year since the vet school started and 6th year since their CVF started!

This time of year, you probably remember, I’m visiting my vet schools and meeting many of these future vets on the beginning of their journeys. In late August, I went to Lincoln Memorial University. There was one 4th year student present who I’ve known since she started vet school, and who I hope to know long after she graduates next May. I met one 1st year student, whose relationship with CVM started years ago as she led her pre-vet Christian Veterinary Fellowship group at Cedarville University in Ohio. And while there, my family and I enjoyed an awesome guitar set by the son of Dr. Kim and David Carney who now serve as Lincoln Memorial’s faculty advisors. Our friendship extends so far back, that they supported me while I served in Bolivia and then they served in Bolivia for years themselves!
Ministry happens through relationships, and relationships take time. I’m so drawn to long-term missions and adoption for this reason. It’s tempting to visit a different country and culture annually on short-term mission trips or dabble in different ministries for variety. But the real difference is made through the work of longitudinal relationships.

Most of you know, because we’re almost halfway there, that we’re expecting a new addition to our family in February! We look forward to walking alongside her and training her up in ministry as we learn more about God from her as well. I wonder who will learn more… 😊

Thank you all for partnering with us for the long-haul and making my ministry possible. I love both raising the kiddos and serving with CVM, what a blessing to be able to do both.

Grateful for all these relationships, Lauren for Jon, Angie, Isaiah, Paul, and Baby Girl!

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