Standing on Hope

October 2019

My current view looking out my little airplane window at 30,000 feet is one of peaceful green farmland. It is school visit season, and I am flying to Omaha, Nebraska to visit Christian Veterinary Fellowship students at the University of Nebraska and Iowa State University this week. God has been revealing His Glory to me this past month as my travel schedule has been grueling at times.

The serene green fields below allow me to breathe deeply for a moment and rest while remembering this verse from Psalm 8:1 “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.” There is a hymn with similar words that we used to sing when I was a child.

Several weeks ago, I took an 1800 mile road trip! I drove from my home in East Tennessee to Columbia and Kansas City, Missouri and then on out to Manhattan and Geuda Springs, Kansas. I saw lots of CVM family along the way.

In Kansas City, I met up with Emily Arndt. She is a CVM long term field worker who has just returned to Wisconsin after serving in Uganda for the last 5 years. Together, we represented CVM at the Fetch Veterinary Conference. This is the largest vet meeting in our region with over 3500 professionals, exhibitors, and family attendees. We hosted two fellowship events for professionals as well as talked to many people in the exhibit hall at our booth. We also had a great time bonding over Waffle House scattered and smothered hash browns. Emily recounted one night in Uganda when her own cat developed a life-threatening urinary blockage. Right there on her kitchen table, she and the missionary vet from England performed the life-saving surgery. He is doing great and came back to Wisconsin on the airplane too!

After leaving Kansas City, it was on to Geuda Springs, KS. The 2010 Census reports a population of 185 people for this town. I traveled there to meet some dear CVM friends Dr. Steve and Marj Swaim at their home on the “Bar-Reverse S-Bar Ranch.” Dr. Swaim warned me not to follow GPS directions to his house as I would likely end up in the middle of a pasture. That sounds highly exciting! But, I decided I should take his word for it so that I could be on time for dinner. Marj fixed us fried chicken, fresh salad and dessert. We also enjoyed the company of 2 other local veterinarians and family members. I felt so welcomed! The next morning I got a tour of the old farmhouse and pastures. I even got to meet the pasture bull, he was very handsome. It was a wonderful
few hours of peace and great conversation before I headed back out on the road.

The last stop of my trek took me to Kansas State University in Manhattan. There, I stayed with Dr. Chuck and Lisa Dodd, also former CVM field workers in Rwanda who have returned and now serve international students on campus. We had a good talk about the importance of our campus ministries reaching fellow students for Christ. Social events and general outreach are awesome but we also have to encourage students to go and sit in the trenches with their classmates who are hurting, depressed, or lost. Exam schedules and study demands will always be present. We have to be intentional about reaching out to our neighbor who is hurting. When I spoke to the KSU students, I challenged them to be leaders within their sphere of influence. God calls all of us to GO, share what Christ has done for us and take others along with us on our journey of faith.

While at KSU, God did a miracle that I would love to tell you about. We had 62 students sign up, praise the Lord. But guess what? He brought 82 people to the meeting! It definitely made my heart start beating quickly when I realized how many people were coming in. Would we have enough food? Sure enough, the Lord provided!

I realized at lunch that the more I lean into the Lord and actively look for what He is doing all around me the more I see His glorious hand in it all. Sometimes things seem “status quo,” but they are not! God is always at work.

Please pray for our CVF groups to stay closely connected to students on campus and be intentional about reaching out to their classmates. Also, please pray for our whole region rep team as we are in full swing with our school visits. Hurricane Dorian altered some travel plans. We cherish our time with the students but it is often short. Coordinating all of our school visits is like an intricate puzzle but in ministry, we always have to be ready to change our plans. Thank you so much for the support and prayers during this extremely busy but wonderful time during our calendar year! I am so excited to see what God will do next!

In His service,
Dr. Elizabeth and the Mendoza Family

Elizabeth Mendoza
206-945-5799
emendoza@cvmusa.org

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