Standing on Hope

It’s officially school visit and fall conference season for us Region Reps at CVM! Between mid-August and early October, I will visit seven veterinary schools and represent CVM at four conferences. This is a very exciting time of year for me as I look forward to meeting with lots of students. New first-year students are so eager and nervous to start their vet school journey. The senior students are thrilled to be entering their clinical year and have the goal of graduation on the horizon. The cool part is that the Lord has given me the opportunity to walk with them on each part of this road. And boy am I thankful for the army of help I have on the home-front to make my travel possible!

Before I head off on all these trips, I want to take some time to reflect and remember what the Lord has done through CVM and my family’s life this summer:

**CVM Summer 2019:**

- Vets, techs, and students from around the country participated in over 20 Short Term trips around the globe, spreading the Good News of the Gospel and telling the story of why we have Hope in Christ. They traveled to places like Mongolia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Kenya, and several locations on the Navajo Reservation in AZ.

- Our Region Rep team hosted a summer online discussion series for New Graduate Vets. We talked about work-life balance, managing student debt, and wellness. It was such a joy to be able to lift up and encourage this new group of colleagues who will lead our profession in the coming years. Being a veterinarian carries some pretty heavy burdens. Our hope is to equip and empower our new grads to let the light of Christ shine through them in their practices and communities.

- We also hosted online, interactive training meetings for our incoming Christian Veterinary Student Fellowship group leaders. It was awesome to have cells with leaders from all over the country and Canada in attendance. It also gave us an opportunity to connect with them before we go to their respective campuses to visit. Technology is awesome! (well...usually)
The Mendoza Family Summer 2019:

- We celebrated the birthdays of all 5 of us! We are praising and thanking the Lord for another year that He has given us as a family. Our littlest guy, Ruben, turned “The Big ONE” at the end of July.

- My mom, Jean, had her second hip surgery in just two short years BUT God brought her through it, held her hand and she is healing much better this time around. We are so thankful for my dad, Bob, and her wonderful friends who have helped to take care of her.

It is so important to pause and remember these things that the Lord has done for us. As God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, we too can boldly walk forward into the task set before us because we remember the promises that He has fulfilled in the past.

Our country has seen its share of heartbreak this summer. The violence in Gilroy, CA and El Paso, TX hit me especially hard. My family and I enjoyed a visit to Gilroy Gardens with cousins in June as my husband’s family lives in this part of CA. El Paso is just over the border from Juarez, Mexico. Those of you who know my story, know that this is where I met the Lord. So I have gotten to spend some time in El Paso, and my heart mourns for all of these people. I pray that God will use these situations to bring us closer to Him. I am thankful that the Lord orders our days here on this Earth. This is such an important reminder that we are all part of His story for eternity. We must be intentionally passionate to make the most of every day and opportunity that God gives us. As 1 Peter 3:15 tells us: Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Please join me in prayer that our country will turn to Jesus. Pray for our students and teachers as they return to a new school year (anywhere from preschool to veterinary school). Also, thank a police officer next time you pass one! The included picture is of my Uncle Alan. He is my life hero and a 30-year veteran of the police force. He, along with so many others, serve tirelessly to keep us safe. He and Jeremiah are El Paso Strong!

Step by Step in Faith,
Elizabeth and the Mendoza Family

El Paso Strong!

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