Dear,

I hope this letter finds you all well. Shannon and I find ourselves in the South as I write this letter. One of the better reasons we are here was the opportunity to officiate a wedding for some dear, dear loved ones – Laura Moeller and Jay Griffin. Like many things during Covid-19, they had to pivot. They have moved their reception and fellowship time to next year.

When I asked them about what they wished to do for the wedding, they didn’t hesitate – they wanted to be married as planned. And so, it was – they held a smaller ceremony in Jay’s parent’s backyard. It turned out beautifully (and I was able to participate in this event with some of you!)

There is something special about gathering together and celebrating how God has brought two people, special people, together. The Griffins were able to visit with so many that they love in a more relaxed way – the bride sat down and had dinner with us, uninterrupted – when does that ever happen at a wedding! I was honored to be a part.

The extended season of disruption continues to provide some challenges but also some opportunities for us at Christian Veterinary Mission. Most of my responsibilities can be carried out remotely anyway, and we are trying to be innovative to meet some needs that have arisen.

I’m sad to see some of the professional conferences that I attend be put on hold (though it is the wise call). I miss connecting with people that I love to see in South Carolina, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. I also love connecting new people to the work of CVM, maintaining relationships with our current constituents, and hosting events to tell the story of what God is doing through missions or the daily life of those who are living out their calling as followers of Christ who happen to be in veterinary medicine.

Yet, opportunities to be responsive arise. We have hosted online webinars earlier during the season of disruption of Covid-19, allowing our community to share on how to manage businesses during this and how to maintain a strong spiritual walk of faith with the challenges of our days. Our eLearning
team is leading the way in hosting ‘Fireside Chats’ with missionaries who have served in the field. And, we are currently in our second webinar series of the season, where our speakers discuss a topic related to free eLearning courses online. Our topics include ‘How to find work/life balance,’ ‘identifying and overcoming ethical fatigue,’ and ‘singleness and vet med.’ We are also growing as a team through an online Ephesians Bible study – and one of my favorite seminary professors, Dr. Rich Erickson, led us in week 1!

We are, not just as a nation, but as humanity on a global scale, at a time when being a follower of Jesus is what the world needs now. How would Jesus have us respond to Covid-19? How would Jesus have us respond to racism? How would Jesus have us respond to those with whom we agree – and to those with whom we disagree? Those who are like us – and those who are not?

I think Jesus’s example IS the one to follow. We as people can easily get swept up in real and fake news, opinions and truth, fear, chaos, and dislike. But, for those of us who do intend to follow Jesus, then we should start, and end, with this attempt – to follow the example of Christ and do likewise.

Let us recommit to that, and this is my aim as well. I fall short for sure, but I will keep trying in the grace of Jesus, and serve as a Region Rep to point that direction for those I serve.

**Prayer Requests**

- Pray for CVM students – as graduates begin new jobs and schools plan for next year.
- Pray for the CVM professionals – for their safety and operations during Covid-19.
- Pray for – each other. We, as humanity, have the chance to learn, grow, and love better.

Serving alongside you,

-Curtiss Gibbs

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