Serving Canada & Beyond
CVM Canada Director’s Office

“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” - Ephesians 3:17-18 (NIV)

July brings a new season and theme to CVM. We schedule our year to flow with the school year for the universities, so July brings a time to look back and to look forward. Who could have imagined last July or even last January how our lives would change due to this global pandemic? Fortunately, I was able to complete school visits, conferences and two Real Life Real Impact retreat weekends before the shutdown. Despite being at home for the last four months, there has still been lots to do, and keeping a regular schedule of work, exercise, and home life have made the time go quickly. Together with the other Region Reps, we organized a Bible study series for students based on Psalm 23 (7 weeks), a webinar series for professionals as they negotiated the first few weeks of the pandemic (4 weeks). Now we are in the middle of a Summer Series for veterinarians (7 weeks). We planned an online Baccalaureate Service for graduating vet students and have summer leader training webinars for students (4). I have helped host a 3-week webinar series for veterinarians from India and lost count of the number of other meetings and webinars I’ve attended on Zoom. Thankfully, this time has also made it easier to connect with friends (they are always at home!) and

I’ve enjoyed times of conversation with friends on Zoom that we would often not schedule as regularly before this time. This time at home has also given me time for some extra continuing education – a course on Emergency Preparedness for Foot and Mouth Disease, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, and other online webinars.

Looking forward to this year, we are investigating what will be our “new normal.” School visits to veterinary schools will certainly look different if the students are not back in classes. Conferences are slowly making announcements about whether they will cancel, switch to virtual platforms, or meet in person with social distancing protocols. Short term mission trips will gradually open again as travel resumes, but it will likely take a period until we can get back to our regular schedule of trips. Many of our long-term workers stayed in place during the

Birthday – broke the rules and celebrated with one friend – May 1, 2020.

Excited by new reports of local believers in India, more to come on this soon.
pandemic and we continue to support and encourage them. We must keep trusting in God for wisdom, health, and safety as we negotiate work and travel during these times. This has been a difficult time for CVM – there have been budget cuts and some staff has lost their jobs or have decreased hours. There have been over 45 short term trips that have had to be canceled. Some of our long-term workers have returned to the US, but others have remained in countries with less robust healthcare systems than ours.

Our new theme this year is “Rooted” based on Ephesians 3: 17:18, “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” I have written a devotion to the theme of Rooted and you can find it here (link) with the other CVM staff members’ devotions.

Despite all the bad news we hear each day, I try to watch and listen for examples of people sharing the love. I have friends who are working at food shelters, church friends delivering groceries and prescriptions, friends gathering by Zoom to encourage each other. So many that are trying to teach their children and take care of elderly parents. We need to continue to be rooted in Christ so that we can share the love of Christ Jesus with others.

How are you doing? Are you discouraged from all this time at home? Has your work been affected, your health? Have you lost a loved one during this time and are feeling the sadness of not being able to share that time with others as we usually would? I am praying for you – that you will be encouraged by knowing that Jesus is faithful, he never fails. I am praying that jobs are restored, health is restored and that you are comforted. I would love to hear from you and how you are doing. Please let me know how I can pray for you or encourage you.

Debbie

Praise notes

- I am thankful to be able to continue working from home and connecting with students, technicians, and veterinarians from across Canada.

- I am so thankful that we can depend on our faith in Jesus to help us through these uncertain times.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the students who will not be going back to school as normal in the fall, who will be negotiating on-line classes and limited “hands-on” time.

- Please pray for clarity for CVM staff as we decide how and when it will be safe to travel to school visits, conferences, and other meetings. We are anxious to go and help our short-term hosts, but some locations have been very hard hit by COVID-19 (Navajo region in the US, countries in Central America, Mexico).

- As our society continues to open, let us continue to pray for our frontline workers and politicians. That people will continue to make safe decisions to help prevent a second wave of infection in the fall.

Dr. Debbie Hoffele
C/O T9941
PO Box 9900 STN A
TORONTO, ON M5W 2J2
dhoffele@cvm.org
www.cvmcanada.org
Cell: 905-348-6596

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