Abounding

One of the many regular pandemic topics of conversation over the past couple of months is Education. I have felt very fortunate to already be homeschooling our littles before all this began. I do not envy the parents with decisions about what to do with their kids for this Fall. And I feel for the educators working so hard to create a whole new system of educating.

When I was in Bolivia teaching classes at the veterinary university, I remember how straightforward each class would be after the first year. That initial class takes a lot of work to prepare, but after you’ve done the prep work and even taught the material a time or two, it flows smoothly and easily.

That’s how I feel about this season of ministry for our CVM Region Rep team. We’ve worked out the kinks in our veterinary conference and school visits processes, and for the most part, they run almost automatically. I wouldn’t have said we were getting complacent—as each season brings different events in our ministry, we stay on our toes to connect with vets and students in new ways. But even in our stretching to grow and expand how we minister, we were comfortable. Now, it’s as if we are teaching a whole new course this semester. And I’ll admit we were not well equipped before we were handed this assignment. No one trained us in how to adjust to a virtual world before we were launched into training our CVF student leaders or encouraging our vet professionals. We are the blind leading the blind in many ways, and as I told my student officers in an email earlier today, I don’t think our model was broken, but we sure are being forced to modify it this year.

We are working hard to learn the steps for each new virtual vet conference as well as brainstorm ideas for our student ministry to implement in their virtual clubs. It’s not looking like we’ll get to reap the benefits of hugs and in-person fellowship that we would usually enjoy. But although change is hard, I recognize that we’ve been drawn out of our comfort zones, and that’s one of the best places to find God. Where we were capable ourselves in the past model, we are in over our heads now and need to rely on Him for direction and strength. As our beloved events have continued to cancel beyond when I thought possible, I’ve grown weary. Even as I type this I am The precious ones who keep me from getting lonely but do not keep me from going crazy this year.

Jon, Lauren, Angie, Isaiah, Paul, and Aphia Charles
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spendyourselves.blogspot.com

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I’m also so thankful for each of you and your continued prayer and support even in this rocky economy. Since lockdowns began in March, the CVM Region Reps and I have had 511 connections through webinars with our students and vets. We couldn’t continue to support this profession without you. Thank you!

With Hope only in Christ,
Lauren for Jon, Angie, Isaiah, Paul, and Aphia

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