



Christian
Veterinary
Mission

cvm.org

19303 Fremont Ave N
Seattle WA 98133
206.546.7569

April 2021

Serving in His Love

Bill and Gloria Gaither recorded their version of this song written by Stuart Hamblin in 1953. It is based on Isaiah 40:31:

***“Teach me Lord to wait down on my knees,
till in your own good time you answer my pleas.
Teach me not to rely on what others do,
but to wait in prayer for an answer from You.*”**

***“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their
strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles.
They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and
not faint. Teach me, Lord, teach me Lord to wait.*”**

***“Teach me Lord to wait while hearts are aflame. Let me
humble my pride and call on your name. Keep my faith
renewed, my eyes on Thee. Let me be on this
earth what You want me to be.*”**

***“There’s a time and a season for all things.
You promised in Your word to answer my pleas.
I’m crying to You Lord to grant sweet relief.
Oh, Lord remove all my unbelief.*”**

***“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their
strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles.
They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and
not faint. Teach me, Lord, teach me Lord to wait.
Teach me, Lord, teach me Lord to wait.”*”**

I have done a lot of waiting on the Lord since I first felt called to serve as a veterinary medical missionary. That was in 1979. I thought that within three to five years of graduation from vet school that my two children and I would be in a developing country doing what I was called to do.

That time frame was my own conjecture, not from the Lord. Growing up as a military dependent, I was used to moving every few years. So, it seemed right to move to another country in that time frame. God had other plans for me.

I have never felt called to a particular ethnic group or country. So, as I waited on God to open a door for me to do long-term veterinary medical mission work, I took short-term mission trips to several countries. It wasn't until thirty-five years after graduating from vet school that I found myself in Tanzania long term with Christian Veterinary Mission as my sending organization.

During those thirty-five intervening years I was often frustrated, and sometimes quite angry at God. Scripture passages like, “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ,” (Phil. 1:6b), Is. 40:31, the above-quoted song, and the knowledge that Moses waited forty years in the wilderness before God called him to confront Pharaoh helped me to endure the waiting.

Since early 2019 I have again been in a waiting mode. In 2018 the Parliament of Tanzania made sweeping changes to the country's immigration and labor laws. Confusion and uncertainty were rampant as attorneys and people seeking work and residence permits tried to understand the new legislation. Now, about two and a half years since the new legislation became law, people are still trying to figure things out. Many expatriates have not had their permits renewed despite their having served the people of Tanzania for many years.

Over, please!

I spent a lot of time in 2019 in dialogue with national leaders in the Africa Inland Church of Tanzania about working with that denomination in the northwest part of Tanzania. That did not work out.

A few months later I applied for a work permit under the registration of a non-government organization (NGO) started by American missionary friends of mine. Now, 15 months later, I still do not have a ruling by the Tanzanian Labor Department. Though I submitted that work permit application through a reputable law firm, the attorney with whom I worked has not responded to my emails asking for a status report.

A Tanzanian friend, Tizo, is now helping me apply for a work permit through a different NGO. As I write this prayer letter in early March, Tizo is in Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania, to submit my work permit application and my supporting documents.

I desire to return to Tanzania to resume long-term work. But even if I do not get the work and residence permits needed for long term work, I will still have the option to continue to minister in Tanzania through short-term trips. Short-term trips can certainly result in building relationships that open hearts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give opportunities for discipline and capacity building. But those goals may take

longer to achieve than if I were in Tanzania long term.

If I end up ministering through short-term trips, I hope to be able to return to Tanzania two to three times a year until the farmers and students that I hope to work with can take over the outreach.

I am hearing from friends in Tanzania that many people are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms. The status of the pandemic in Tanzania will have some influence on when and how often I might return there.

I covet your continued prayers for

- God to clearly open or close opportunities for me to minister in Tanzania.
- For an end to this pandemic
- For wisdom and discernment of how I can best serve God during this season of continuing to wait

Thank you for blessing me with your partnership even as I wait!!

Margaret

PS. An important announcement is coming next month! Be sure to be looking for our next prayer letter coming soon!