



Christian Veterinary News



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Draw Near to God and He will Draw Near to You

Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, Executive Director



A Message from the Executive Director

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Due to a change in staff, our fall newsletter was delayed but nevertheless, we have decided to send out a shortened version of our final newsletter of 2005 in order to **wish you a blessed Christmas and God's blessings for the year 2006**. The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on where we as individuals or as an organization are going. In this newsletter, I would like to share my personal reflections on drawing closer to God, to review the work of Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada in 2005 and our dreams for 2006.

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It has been my desire for many years now to live my life fully for my Lord, but to fulfill it has often been a challenge. Thirty-seven years ago, when I was still a new graduate in a large animal practice, I had what I felt was truly an encounter with God while working in a cattle barn with a fairly wild herd of cattle. This encounter made me realize that God was indeed very real. In the last ten years especially, I have been seeking to commune with God continually throughout my daily activities. I believe that if I can do that, He will continually give me wisdom and guidance, and will empower me with His Holy Spirit. To keep this line of communication open between the Lord and myself has often been difficult, but I persevere because I believe we are to follow Jesus' example. That is how Christ lived and in John 15:5 He says **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."** However, my listening ear doesn't always seem to be tuned in to hearing God's voice or I am in need of some sort of spiritual hearing aid!



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I just read the wonderful little classic by A. W. Tozer called the "Pursuit of God." What helped me tremendously were the chapters in which Tozer describes three points to help us in our pursuit of a close relationship with Him. These points are: first, God fills the world (or universe) with His speaking voice; second, he describes faith as the gaze of a soul upon a saving God; third, man needs to set his heart to exalt God above all. There is not enough space to explain this further and I cannot do the topic justice, but the concept is so very simple: **God is everywhere and He can speak to us anywhere.** Faith is believing this, and that we need to direct our all to Him, all the time. We need to praise and exalt God for who He is, as the most loving and perfect Being in this universe. I believe if we can practice this, we will be filled with indescribable joy! I encourage you to seek Him with all your heart!



Chickens?? For Christmas?!

Yes, you heard right! This year, through CVMC, donations are being accepted in the names of loved ones in to provide much needed chicks, feed & supplies to the **Sierra Leone Poultry Project!** The response has been heartwarming!

Thank You!



All of us at CVMC would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!" ~Luke 2:10-11





**CVMC: A Year in Review,
A Year in Anticipation**

The year is quickly coming to an end and it's hard to believe how fast the time went by. The Lord has been very busy working through CVMC and we are thankful for His blessings!

This past year, we have encouraged CVMC Fellowship Groups at three Veterinary Colleges and other groups of veterinarians in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. We have supported Rodney and Heather Gale as long-term missionaries in Mongolia and are currently welcoming them home. The Poultry Project in Sierra Leone is still growing, despite many hardships and continues to equip farmers with the much needed chicks, feed, and supplies. CVMC has been present with either a booth and/or a breakfast meeting at both the CVMA and OVMA and we held our Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon in September. Six newsletters have been distributed, as well as prayer requests and update letters for our missionaries. Our mission trips this year included three students and veterinarians traveling to Haiti, Uganda, and two trips to Sierra Leone.

In 2006, we hope to have similar events and activities as the Lord leads us. Our mission work in Mongolia will cease for a time, until others feel called to go there again, and the other projects will hopefully continue to expand with the Lord's help. We also pray that the incorporation of CVMC and certification by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities will be approved.

The Lord has blessed CVMC greatly in 2005 but there are two very important aspects that our members and supporters are responsible for: one is prayer for guidance, empowerment, blessing and protection; secondly, that as the Lord touches hearts, people will come forth in faith to do His work and also to support the ministry financially. Therefore, please continue to pray for the work of CVMC and seek ways you can be involved.



**Bringing it Home
Long Term Mission in Mongolia**

Our first long-term missionaries, Dr. Rodney and Heather Gale, will be home from Mongolia by the time you receive this newsletter. They have been in Mongolia since April 2004, with a break last Christmas.

They have done wonderful work in VETNet, which is a Mongolian mission organization set up by CVM US. Both Rodney and Heather have made many contributions through their professional work but have also made an impact as missionaries and mentoring new Christians. Rodney, who is an equine practitioner worked very hard in setting up a continuing education program for veterinarians in VETNet who do a lot of mission work for veterinarians in Mongolia. Heather was very busy overseeing the rural school program, also a VETNet project. Progress has been made in the last two years in both of these two areas, with many thanks to the Gales for their faithfulness in ministering in the name of the Lord.

**Perseverance in Poultry
Sierra Leone Update**



The work of the Poultry Project in Sierra Leone continues, but nothing is easy there. Lack of infrastructure, education, poor healthcare, and no capital makes life very difficult for the people, especially as 80% are unemployed or under-employed.

The Poultry Project faces many challenges but perseveres in the name of Jesus, under the leadership of Alpha Abu, the Program Manager. We continue to work with farmers to set up small flocks and thus help them earn an income. In January, Conrad Van Dijk hopes to make another trip to Sierra Leone to encourage the farmers and to help further the progress that has been made in 2005. Please keep praying for this worthwhile work!



Welcome!

We Continue to Encourage CVMC Membership

The heart and soul of CVMC comes from the support of our members. Our strength is in numbers, in our relationships with each other and with the Lord. The choice of membership is yours— we are happy to support you through newsletters and facilitating your participation as you are led. However, if you feel that you have a heart for the ministry of CVMC, no matter how great your level of participation, the act of committing to membership strengthens us here on earth and in the heavenlies, where much spiritual warfare takes place (Eph 6:10-12). We will continue to make membership forms available for those interested.