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“Strong in the Lord and in His Mighty Power” Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, Executive Director

We gain some insight into the relationship that God had planned for humans and animals from Genesis 1:26 which says, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over the creatures that move along the earth.” Of course, this relationship became distorted along with everything else when sin entered the world.

“We are a small organization, but God uses even the small and the weak to fulfill His purpose.”



In the veterinary profession, we are directly involved in this relationship. As gleaned from 1 Corinthians 10:31, we’re called to glorify God in all that we do— in small or large animal practice or as we work in government, industry, or university settings. We may have churches, Bible studies, and small groups outside of our professional circles but the unique challenges we face are more easily understood by our peers in the veterinary profession. **It is important to come together with other Christians in our field in order to encourage one another.** CVMC has Fellowship Groups for this very purpose, as well as meetings and conferences to help us become “strong in the Lord and in His mighty power” (Eph. 6:10). Our mission field is our own workplace, our clients, people we reach out to through our profession, or it may be on a mission trip overseas.

At CVMC we want to encourage, empower, and create opportunities for you to minister at home or overseas. We need to pray to discern God’s plan for us, and then seek the support that He is able to provide. This is what CVMC is all about. We are a small organization but God uses even the small and the weak to fulfill His purpose.

Fellowship Groups involve food, fun, sharing, support, and prayer. There are also opportunities to participate in CVMC projects. If this sounds like something you are interested in and would like to become part of a CVMC Fellowship Group, please feel free to contact us.

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Interested in Short Term Missions?

Here’s how it all works:

- 1) Call or email us for an STM Application.
- 2) Fill it out and send it to CVMC with your \$50 application fee. (\$25 for students)
- 3) Have an telephone interview with Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, Executive Director.
- 4) Find the right trip to match your skills and area of interest.
- 5) We’ll send you a STM Manual which includes tips on spiritual preparation, fund-raising, and crossing cultural barriers.



Short Term Missions
Information will soon be
available online!
Upcoming Trip Opportunities!
STM Application!
Tips on Foreign Travel!
www.cvmcanada.org

Filming the Future of Sierra Leone - Dr. Conrad Van Dijk



On January 16th, I arrived in Sierra Leone for the eighth time since 2002. It was late and dark in Freetown with small kerosene wicks flickering, as **only the few rich people can afford to run their generators to light up their houses.** I arrived at the YMCA Hostel at 12:30 am, thirty minutes after they had shut off their own generator and I found my room and bed by flashlight and kerosene lamps.

In the morning, I met with our management group of Alpha, Joseph and Moses; then we headed to the villages. It took us close to 1½ hours to get out of town and to the villages where we saw 10 or more different **farmers who were proud of their small flocks and happy for the opportunity to earn some money.** On this trip, I gained better insight into the importance of chicken manure, and how carefully they use it in vegetable plots. They cannot afford fertilizer and the manure is essential for growing vegetables. We saw thriving crops of peppers, cassava, cucumbers, corn and other plants.

Three days after my arrival, our film crew arrived. **CVMC cannot afford a film crew, but God certainly can!** My nephew, Chris, is a videographer and he brought along his wife Lisa as his assistant, and his younger brother Micah, a musician, as the soundman.

Their objective was two-fold: **first, to create a documentary on Sierra Leone showing the reality of the country from a positive perspective.** They sought to answer the question of what Sierra Leone could build its future upon, including people, agriculture, the mining of gold and diamonds, and tourism. **Second, they wanted to film the work that CVMC is doing with the Poultry Project** to show to our supporters.

The filming was quite successful. Their footage captured different aspects of Freetown and surrounding areas, our Poultry Project and the Wellington Orphanage, a local market, beaches, and Parliament. They also filmed gold and silver mines, rural communities, an agricultural university being rebuilt and so many beautiful people.

According to the UN Human Development Index 2005, **Sierra Leone is now the second poorest country in the world.** Since 1981, Canada has been the top country ten times, the last time in 2000. Sierra Leone has had the opposite experience,

being at or near the bottom for 15 years!

People ask me if my most recent trip has been a success and I say yes, because we are touching people's lives and seeing God's handiwork in situations and places we don't expect. But there is so much more that needs to be done to help the people make an income, put food on the table, and obtain adequate health care. The average life expectancy in Sierra Leone is 35 years. The literacy rate is only 37%. This country has so far to go before they will be self-sufficient. **Please continue to pray for and support the work in Sierra Leone.**

Animal Loveline A Way to Make a Difference



Veterinary clinics and practices sometimes struggle with how they can combine their work with being a witness for the Lord. CVMC can help you combine your work and witnessing, while promoting your business. It's called **Animal Loveline.** This program provides a way to support your clients and share the love of Christ with them at a time of great need, when they lose a loved pet.

Through the Animal Loveline Program, veterinarians are invited to contribute all or part of the fee normally charged for the euthanasia of a pet to purchase Loveline cards from CVMC. **The funds go to help people in developing countries who depend on animals for survival.** The cards, featuring animal artwork by Rachel Bourgon (AHT), are then sent by your clinic to the clients who have lost a pet, to tell them of the memorial contribution that was made to CVMC in honour of their pet. The card insert explains how the contribution furthers the work of those sharing God's love through veterinary medicine at home, and in developing countries.

Cards are sold in packages of 5 or 10 and come in 6 colourful designs, including dogs, cats, a bird, and a horse. Cards can be purchased for \$10 per card. This could be a business expense or a donation receipt can be given for \$8 for each card.

Order forms and card samples will soon be available on our website. So check out www.cvmcanada.org, send us an email, or call us to place your order!

Mission to Mongolia
-Dr. Rodney and Heather Gale



CVMC at the OVMA
January 26-28, 2006

We are back in Canada and have done the necessary cultural and emotional readjusting and are actually really here. **After living in a different culture, especially one where we felt so at home, it's hard to come back into our "home" culture and it does take a while.** We are thankful for the prayers covering us as we re-entered and God's grace, as always, is sufficient.



Our teams made it so hard for us to leave Mongolia. We had an amazing going away party with gifts and very kind words from each division of the VETNet gang. What a time of receiving love and heart-rending amazement at how we were allowed to touch so many lives in Mongolia! We cried many tears the last couple of weeks but we know that our time there was fruitful for us and for others.

Thank you all for the prayers, financial support and allowing us the opportunity to have a part in God's work in Mongolia. It was a truly amazing privilege. As CVMC continues to support the work in Mongolia, the veterinarians will continue to be trained and encouraged. Each group that came in for the CE week spoke of how encouraging and helpful it had been and looked forward to the 2006 trainings. Rod and his team worked with over 340 veterinarians from many of the provinces in the June to December time-frame. It is a great project and Rod felt honoured to be there to help with setting up, building modules, training his team to be trainers, and meeting all the veterinarians that came into Ulaanbaatar for the CE.

Heather's team continues to expand the remote school project and have taken on two new areas for 2006. They will have another 4 school sites to set up and staff this summer. Please pray for the teams as they go out into the communities to build relationships and bring varied training to the people.

We do not have any plans to return to Mongolia at the present time as we are out of money and also feel that now is a good opportunity for them to take what they have learned and grow into the fullness of their abilities. We are helping via internet and will continue to do so and hope to see them face to face again! **Thanks again for being a part of the work in Mongolia!**

CVMC is generally represented at two conventions throughout the year: the CVMA, which was held last year in Victoria, BC, and the **OVMA** (Ontario Veterinary Medical Association) which was held recently at the Westin Harbor Castle Convention Centre in downtown Toronto. The OVMA is the biggest veterinary convention in Canada so it is important that CVMC be represented there. As Conrad Van Dijk was in Sierra Leone at the time, visitors were welcomed to the booth by Anna Van Dijk and Dirk Jol.

The exhibition hall was open for three days, from January 26-28 and there were approximately 150 booths representing everything from insurance companies to surgical equipment suppliers. It was a busy but wonderful three days of meeting CVMC supporters and promoting CVMC to other veterinarians. **There are many who have not heard about CVMC and who are curious to find out what we do.** Our booth display showed pictures of CVMC projects and featured the work of our unique organization. Brochures were available as well as a sign-up sheet for those interested in being on our newsletter mailing list.

Always a highlight, the CVMC Fellowship Breakfast was held on Saturday, January 28 at 7:30 am. It's encouraging how many people still attend at such an early hour! **The Fellowship Breakfast serves as a time for supporters to catch up on the latest happenings at CVMC and a time to worship and pray.** Drs. Alvin & Corrine Loh led us in an inspirational worship time, discussion, and prayer and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Keep an eye out for our booth at the **CVMA** or other provincial conventions and make sure to stop by and say hello! We hope to be present at the **CVMA** in St. John's, Newfoundland from July 5-8th, 2006.

Animal Health Week 2006



October 1st - 7th!

It's time to start thinking about how you can share the love of Jesus Christ during this nationally designated week promoting Animal Health. Consider using CVMC to facilitate sharing Jesus through the Veterinary Profession during your Animal Health Week festivities! We can provide informational materials about CVMC (brochures, newsletters, pictures, display board, etc.) to help you! Contact us!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please take the opportunity to look at our **webpage!**

www.cvmcanada.org

webmaster
Jim Fairles
jim@skyvet.com

For Prayer or Praise, contact:

cvandijk@cvmcanada.org

If your practice or Fellowship group has any upcoming events, jokes, announcements, or information to be added to the next CVMC Newsletter, please email Jamie Hamilton at cvandijk@cvmcanada.org.



| DATE (2006) | EVENT/LOCATION | NAME /CONTACT |
|---|--|--|
| Saturday, April 15 6-9 p.m. Potluck Dinner | CVMC Fellowship Group Burlington, ON | Contact: Corrine Loh corrine_loh@hotmail.com (905) 331-0238 |
| Saturday April 8 (tentative) 6-9 p.m. Potluck Dinner | Toronto East Fellowship Group Scarborough, ON | Contact: Eva Lee or Sal Rocha evaleedvm@yahoo.ca salefrocha1125@rogers.com |
| Every other Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Breakfast | CVMC Fellowship Group Edmonton, AB | Contact: Ed Neufeld (780) 434-7802 or eneufeld@shawbiz.ca |
| Every Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m. | OVC Staff Bible Study University of Guelph | Contact: Bonnie Mallard bmallard@ovc.uoguelph.ca |
| July 5th-8th | CVMA St. John's, NF | Contact: Conrad Van Dijk cvandijk@cvmcanada.org |
| September ??? | Annual General Meeting PEI or Guelph, ON | Contact: Conrad Van Dijk cvandijk@cvmcanada.org |



Toronto East Fellowship Group - Dr. Eva Lee

We had a great time of fellowship Saturday February 4th, at Dr. Peter Weidelich's house. Many thanks to Peter and Gisela for their hospitality! We had a great turnout including ten adults and two children.

Dr. Sue McLaughlin shared about her mission trip to the hurricane-stricken area of Biloxi, Mississippi. Seeing and hearing about the many struggles that the area locals are still going through now three months after Hurricane Katrina reminded us of the many things that we have to be thankful for here in Canada.

We plan to continue to meet every two months and our next meeting is tentatively set for Saturday April 8th at Dr. Sandra Won's home in Scarborough. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for future meetings or if you are interested in joining our Fellowship Group! We'd love to see you in April! Email me at evaleedvm@yahoo.ca.

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