



Christian Veterinary News



Volume 10, Issue 4

Annual General Meeting Issue!

September 2006

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A Message from the Executive Director	1 Acts 1:8 is one of the verses CVMC uses as a directive for what the Lord Jesus is calling us to do. It tells us that we are to be His witnesses. But how? The following are some examples that I've experienced over time:
AGM Information	1 * <i>A turkey farmer came to my diagnostic lab with a sample of sick turkeys. He shared with me that he, himself had terminal cancer and only has a few months to live.</i>
Annual General Meeting	2 * <i>A feedmill manager sold me \$5,000 of specially prepared feed for a chicken drug trial we were conducting. There was one problem with the feed- it had a low level of penicillin in it that messed up our \$20,000 clinical trial. He wanted to be paid the \$5,000.</i>
Canadian Ministries of CVMC	2 * <i>A client of many years had a precious pet that needed to be euthanized.</i> * <i>My technician had a problem and shared it with me (financial, marital, health, relational).</i>
Financial Support for CVMC	2 * <i>I was in Sierra Leone and met a person selling souvenirs. We had a friendly discussion and I asked if he was a Christian. He was Muslim. We talked about life after death and where he will go. He listened carefully.</i>
Sierra Leone Project	2 "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you," Jesus promises that He will empower us. What a wonderful promise! ("You will receive power.") But <u>where</u> are we to be witnesses? The answer is "in Jerusalem, through Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." I have interpreted Jerusalem as being our hometown, Judea as our local region, Samaria as the rest of Canada, and the ends of the earth would mean...the whole world! I have heard Jerusalem is also our place of failure; this is where the disciples failed and abandoned Jesus to the cross. We may each have a place of failure and it is often where we live e.g. our family, church or business. Are we to witness here? The Samaritans were the enemies of the Jews. Are we to witness to our enemies? In summary, we are to witness wherever we are. Are we to travel to the ends of the earth? Not necessarily. I like the sign above the door as we're leaving church that says, "You are now entering the mission field." Our mission field is our home, community, practice, workplace, vacation place, professional conference... everywhere we go!

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AGM Banquet

OPEN TO ALL!

Saturday, September 30th
5:30-9:30pm
Harcourt Memorial United Church
87 Dean Ave.
Guelph, ON N1G 1L3

Enjoy presentations on Canadian CVMC Ministries by Dr. Len Carr, Sierra Leone by Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, and Mongolia by Dr. Fiona Tam.

Tickets are \$25 per person (\$10 for students). To register, please contact the CVMC office by email at cvandijk@cvmcanada.org or call (905) 304-6146.

CVMC's Annual General Meeting

Firming the Foundation
& Expanding the Ministry

September 29th-October 1st
Ontario Veterinary College
Guelph, Ontario

- ◆ **Friday 5-7pm:** the Board will meet with students for pizza and pop and Kelly Pasma will present on her mission trip to Uganda.
- ◆ **Friday 7-9pm:** Board Meeting (*All Board Meetings are open to anyone interested.)
- ◆ **Saturday 9-4pm:** Board Meeting
- ◆ **Saturday 5:30-9:30pm: AGM Banquet!**
- ◆ **Sunday 9-9:45am:** Worship Service
- ◆ **Sunday 10-12pm:** Board Meeting

**Annual General Meeting:
Firming the Foundation & Expanding the Ministry
Dr. Conrad Van Dijk**

God has a perfect plan for each one of us (Ephesians 2:10). When I was 12 years old, I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian. It wasn't until I was an adult and a veterinarian that I realized this was what the Lord had called me to do. CVMC is here for those in the veterinary profession, to assist them in fulfilling their calling. This issue of Christian Veterinary News is to inform our readers of issues that the CVMC Board is dealing with and praying about at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Interested in nominating someone to be a Board member? Contact Dirk Jol (djol@cvmcanada.org), Wally Kononoff (wkononoff@cvmcanada.org) or Conrad Van Dijk (cvandijk@cvmcanada.org).

Canadian Ministries of CVMC



CVMC wants to assist veterinarians, technicians, students and others working in the veterinary environment to function as effectively as possible as Christians and followers and witnesses for Christ. We know that this is the function of church and we definitely do not want to replace or compete with the church.

However, the veterinary profession is unique and the issues and problems related to this uniqueness are best understood by others in the profession. Therefore, getting together to discuss the challenges in our workplaces and how to deal with clients and co-workers can be extremely helpful, especially if we are struggling in these areas... thus, the need for fellowship groups.

We can also have unique opportunities to witness such as in service clubs, kennel clubs, 4H, and other places. We need to work together to help each other in the best way to share and witness.

Often people believe that CVMC's main function is overseas ministries. However, that is not true. Of course, overseas missions is important but mission is important anywhere. Our largest and closest mission field is right here in Canada. How CVMC can be more effective in Canada will be an important area of discussion at our upcoming Annual General Meeting.

*"Many people mistake our work for our vocation.
Our vocation is the love of Jesus."
-Mother Teresa*

**Financial Support
for CVMC**



Important subjects at our Annual General Meeting are our financial support and fiscal management. It is the responsibility of the Board to make sure a good accountability system is in place, that funds are spent according to the donors' designations, and that money is not wasted.

Raising funds for the different ministries of CVMC is usually a challenge. We'd rather spend our time in ministry than fundraising. It's not overly exciting for donors to give to overhead and administration expenses but it's still a vital part of CVMC ministry.

These are all issues that the Board and the Executive Director grapple with.

Breakdown of 2005 Expenses:

Overhead:	\$27,682
Sierra Leone Project:	\$82,343
Mongolia:	\$24,220
Short Term Missions:	\$14,194
Canadian Ministry:	\$15,910

Sierra Leone Project

In 2002, Conrad Van Dijk spent a week in Sierra Leone. It was 8 months after the end of very traumatic 11 years of civil war. Conrad was touched by the tremendous needs of Sierra Leone, especially when he saw Christian children in an orphanage going hungry and being in great need. He cried out to the Lord, "What do You want us to do as Your followers, You who never leave us or forsake us."

Since then, Conrad has been to Sierra Leone 9 times. Four containers of goods (educational materials, medical supplies, poultry equipment, agricultural tools, etc.) have been sent to help the bare schools and medical centers and help supply jobs for other needy people. A pilot poultry project was started to provide an income for poor farmers. Children in an orphanage are being sponsored and the orphanage is supported in other ways.

Sierra Leone has been the poorest country in the world for many years, according to the United Nations Human Development Index, and the people are trying to pull themselves out of the pit of despair. With the Lord's help and guidance, CVMC is trying to help. This will be a point of discussion at our annual meeting and hopefully the questions of what we can do and where do we go from here will be answered. Helping in a developing country is an overseas mission but we can also use this as a way to witness our love and obedience for Jesus in the areas where we live and work.