



Christian Veterinary News



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Milestones

Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, Executive Director

2010

The turning of a new year may be a very important milestone for all of us and therefore a good time to reflect on why are we doing what we are doing.

Milestones: CVMCanada is 15 years old. 2010 is the second decade of the 20th century. Is it a key time in the end times? Is it my imagination or are the natural disasters more severe than ever? Think of the tsunami, the earthquake in Haiti, hurricane Katrina, the financial shaking of 2008!

To answer the why questions that follow the above list, we have to ask ourselves, "what is our faith based upon?"

Is it based on our agreement with God's Word, on what God can and will do, and what He wants us to do? Or is it based on **our** plans and ideas? As I get older I realize more and more that my destiny does not depend on my abilities but on God's plans and His destiny for me. I also realize that the more I line up my plans with God's plans, the more peace I have and the more things seem to work out.

I am learning that I need to go back to the basics of my faith. A summary of this is found in Matthew 22:37-40. "...**you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important. Love your neighbour as yourself...**"

I am understanding more and more that I must put my priority of loving God first. Only then can I truly love my neighbour. Extending love to my neighbour or extending the compassion of Jesus to the needy, the poor, the vulnerable, the orphans, widows, and whoever else God puts in our way is what the CVMCanada ministry is all based on!

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2010: A New Beginning

Dr. Conrad Van Dijk, Executive Director



CVMCanada finished 2009 strong, having carried out more mission trips overseas than ever before, over **37 trips by 34 individuals!** We moved to a **new office** on April 30, 2009. We are blessed with **more volunteer support** than ever. **We have been blessed** with many milestones, growths, and achievements. But we also ended the year with a **significant deficit** in our CVMCanada Fund.

In just a few years the organization has gone from receiving an income of around \$50,000, to between \$300,000 and \$400,000. This is exciting, and now it is time to review where we are and seek the Lord's will as to where He wants us to go. We are thankful for the strong support we are receiving from the volunteers who are dedicating their time and effort, the many people who are praying for CVMCanada and those who go on mission trips. This is all to show the compassion of Jesus, to help those in need and share the gospel.

On January 18th, 2010 our first board meeting of the year took place and we asked God for His wisdom to determine a new and strong direction, that our funds will be more balanced and especially prayed for support for the CVMCanada Fund. We will continue to solicit your support and prayers for this ministry.





VetNet in Mongolia

by Dr. Ed Neufeld



I arrived in Mongolia on Saturday morning October 24 to begin a 2 week stay working in the small animal clinic in Ulaanbaator. After dropping off my luggage at my apartment my Mongolian guide took me to the small animal clinic. Within an hour I was assisting a young Mongolian veterinarian in a difficult surgery with multiple enterotomies to retrieve a cloth bag the dog had eaten two days before. I was impressed with her surgical skills as she needed only minor assistance with the surgery

Much of Mongolia is an agricultural herding country that is bordered by Russia on the north and China on the south. The capital city, Ulaanbaator, has a population of over 1 million people. The remaining 1 ½ million people live in smaller cities or wander over large areas of the countryside living a semi-nomadic life herding cattle, horses, sheep, and goats as they have for hundreds of years. Mongolia became a communist country, aligning itself with the Soviet Union after breaking away from China in 1921. Then in 1992 it became a parliamentary republic with the introduction of perestroika and glasnost in the USSR.

In 1995 Dr. Gerald Mitchem and his wife Frances left their veterinary practice in North Carolina to move to Mongolia and began the ground work for V.E.T. Net. V.E.T. Net, a team of 75 Mongolian veterinarians and teachers, arose out of a Bible study for veterinary students. V.E.T. Net is making a tremendous difference in people's lives. Mitchem writes "home-groups and little churches are springing up in remote areas where we are working." V.E.T. Net provides continuing education for urban and rural veterinarians as well as literacy education for children of herder families in remote areas.

There are 8 small animal veterinarians at the clinic in Ulaanbaator including three recent graduates from the

veterinary college. My assignment was to work primarily with the new graduates and to assist the more experienced veterinarians with difficult surgeries such as orthopedic procedures.

The hospitality and organization for shuttle veterinarians was outstanding. When I arrived I was given a detailed daily schedule that outlined my clinic times as well as my supper companions. Each evening I had supper with one of the Mongolian veterinary staff or with one of the long term American staff.

V.E.T. Net has been very successful in training Mongolian veterinarians and equally successful in developing a literacy program for the children of herder families. I believe the reason that V.E.T. Net is so successful is that it has developed a Christian community where teams of young professionals work towards a common goal—sharing the love Christ through veterinary medicine.

I would highly recommend this shuttle opportunity.

Help for Haiti: What Can We Do?

For the last three years our CVMCanada group in PEI has organized an annual mission trip to Haiti to work with the Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF) and last year also with the Foundation for International Development Assistance (FIDA) productive cooperatives Haiti.

This year we are in the planning stages of sending a team to Haiti to work with HAFF and FIDA again. We are seeking the input of these organizations as to how we can best assist in the recovery efforts after this catastrophic earthquake.

Your prayers and financial support will further help the people of Haiti. Please donate to the Haiti Fund to support upcoming mission work there.

The Missions Journal

Short Term Missions Email Newsletter!

This is especially designed for anyone who has ever thought about participating in a short term shuttle. It includes current mission trip opportunities, short term mission resources, and stories from past missionaries.

To sign up, please email shortterm@cvmcanada.org.



HAVE A LAUGH

An effusive lady brought a litter of golden retriever puppies to a veterinary clinic for inoculations.

She loved them so much, she couldn't stop remarking about their cute habits. As the look-alike pups squirmed over and under one another in their box, the vet realized it would be difficult to tell the treated ones from the rest. So he turned on the faucet and moistened each dog's head when he had finished.

After the fourth puppy, he noticed his hitherto talkative client had grown silent. As he sprinkled the last pup's head, the woman leaned forward and whispered, "I never realized they had to be baptized."

- John Veltkamp (The Banner, Dec. 2009)





Poverty and World Hunger

Dr. Conrad Van Dijk

Last week's earthquake in Haiti has brought scenes of disaster, death and poverty right into our living rooms again. It raises many questions in my mind. What should our response be? What does the Lord want me to do?

We are blessed in Canada. We live in a country that is considered Utopia for most citizens in the poorest third world countries. According to the 2009 UN Human Development Index, which measures per capita income, health, and education, Haiti is considered to be the poorest country in the western hemisphere. It is ranked 149 out of 182 measured countries. (Sierra Leone is currently 180th after being last on the index for quite a few years.) Canada, on the other hand, is 4th out of 182, but in the last 20 years it has been ranked first more than any other country.

Evidently there are over 2000 passages in the Bible about the poor so there is a large source of direction and compassion from the Lord. In Isaiah 58: 6-12 the Lord says the right way of fasting is seen in how we deal with the poor and the disadvantaged. Fasting is denying ourselves food and other pleasures and thus honouring or glorifying God in our weakness, through which He can strengthen us.

The African continent is home to most of the world's poorest populations, however, the growth of Christianity has been phenomenal in the 19th and 20th century, from 10 million Christians in 1900, to 360 million in 2000. If Christianity is growing so rapidly in Africa, why are the people still so poor? How can we best help them?

Poverty and hunger are generally due to lack of income. Being unable to buy food results in malnutrition, thus making people weak and susceptible to diseases which often lead to worsened problems like pneumonia and malaria, often ultimately resulting in debilitation or death.

Providing a sustainable and adequate income helps the family to buy food, pay medical bills, and educate their children for a better future. Many areas of Africa are rich in natural resources but the people are still poor. I read

an article by a renowned economist who showed that during the first and second world wars, the poor colonies thrived since they were creating jobs and supplying goods for the powers at war. As soon as the wars were over, this reversed. Independence after World War II did not provide any more jobs or manufactured goods in most third world countries.

Another great obstacle in helping the poor countries is that people from the rich nations desiring to help do not fully understand the problems or the culture of the nation they are trying to help. Thus their help is very limited and temporary. There is a mindset held by many in the West exemplified by sending in a huge army with planes and weapons to clean up the problems in six months and, then the people would live happily ever after. Unfortunately, this is how many westerners have attacked problems in third world countries. We know the solution, throw money and goods at it and think the problem is solved. But it's not that simple.

We need God's wisdom, guidance, and direction. There is the western way of doing things, the African way, the "insert-any-country-name-here" way, and then there is God's way. If we could only figure out what part of our way is God's way, and then follow this as the key to helping successfully. Isaiah 55:8 says "My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could image."

A solution is only found when helper and recipient can together seek the answer and be led by the Lord. We, the helpers, have to set aside our pride and our superior attitude, and the recipient has to set aside fear and subservient attitudes. Both of these are idols in our hearts and block clear thinking and inspiration from the Lord. There is no easy answer and no easy solution. However, our Lord is patient, has great love and wants to use us for His purposes. Much prayer is needed in helping the poor. We need to move forward hand in hand with the people we are helping and ask the Lord to guide us.

Sierra Leone Snippets

- Our Chickens for Christmas campaign raised **\$68,000** putting us significantly on our way to reaching our goal of \$165,000 for this part of the project. Keep checking our website **www.chickensforchristmas.com** and remind your friends to support us to reach our goal in helping these farmers in need!
- The Container of donated goods should arrive in Sierra Leone early February!
- Dr. Conrad Van Dijk will be in Sierra Leone to plan the setting up of 3 large chicken barns with 1000 layers each and 25 barns for 100 layers each. This is to help at least 70 farmers.
- Our first village barn is designated to help the Wellington Orphanage Village become self sustainable as they seek to provide care for up to 200 orphaned children.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

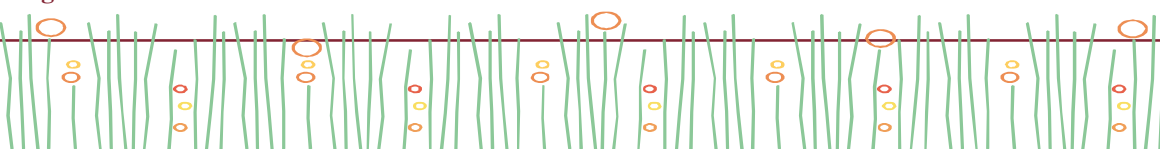


Prayer & Praise

- Workers & champions for CVMCanada ministries.
- Finances for the CVMCanada Fund (as it is currently in a deficit) and other projects.
- Direction for Dr. Joe & the Moses Project.
- Students and leaders of ministries at the vet colleges.
- Long term projects in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Haiti as well as the Moses Project. Pray for funding and management for the gospel to be spread.
- CVMCanada board as they direct the ministry.
- CVMCanada staff as they carry out the admin tasks of the ministry.



DATE (2010)	EVENT/LOCATION	NAME /CONTACT
Saturdays Bi-Monthly 6-9 pm Potluck Dinner March 6	CVMCanada Fellowship Group Burlington, ON	<u>Dr. Corrine Loh</u> (905) 331-0238 cloh@cvmcanada.org
Saturdays Bi-Monthly 6-9 pm Potluck Dinner	Toronto East Fellowship Group Markham/Stouffville, ON	<u>Dr. Eva Lee</u> evaleedvm@yahoo.ca OR <u>Dr. Sal Rocha</u> salefrocha1125@rogers.com
Every Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm	OVC Staff Bible Study University of Guelph	<u>Dr. Bonnie Mallard</u> bmallard@ovc.uoguelph.ca
Every other Tuesday 7:30 am Breakfast	CVMCanada Fellowship Group Edmonton, AB	<u>Dr. Louis Kwantes</u> (780) 417-1119 drvetmed@aol.com
Periodic	CVMCanada Fellowship Group Coquitlam, BC	<u>Mr. Dirk Jol</u> (604) 936-9885 djol@cvmcanada.org
Periodic	CVMCanada Fellowship Group Saskatoon, SK	<u>Dr. Mark Wickstrom</u> (306) 966-7446 mwickstrom@cvmcanada.org
January 30-February 19	Trip to Sierra Leone	<u>Dr. Conrad Van Dijk</u> (905)627-3857 cvandijk@cvmcanada.org
January 28-30, 2010 Westin Harbour Castle	OVMA Toronto, ON	<u>Dr. Conrad Van Dijk</u> (905)627-3857 cvandijk@cvmcanada.org
January 30	Fellowship Breakfast Meeting 7-8am, Dockside II	
February 19-March 2	Trip to Nigeria	<u>Dr. Conrad Van Dijk</u> (905)627-3857 and <u>Charles Goossen</u>
June 11-13 Guelph Bible Conference Centre 485 Waterloo Ave. Guelph, ON N1H 3K4	CVMCanada's AGM	<u>Dr. Conrad Van Dijk</u> (905)627-3857 cvandijk@cvmcanada.org
August 25-28	CVM US Annual Shortcourse	



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