

# CANADA FEATURE

## Learning Patience, Planting Seeds

by Dr. Jana Benade – UCVM Class of 2026

This was my third year participating in the Maskwacis outreach clinic, and every year the Lord has encouraged me in different ways through this mission. I first took part as a second-year student in 2024, and it was my very first missions trip. That weekend ended up being one of the highlights of vet school for me. It was so encouraging to see how the skills I was learning could be used to share the love of Christ in real, practical ways. I'm always struck by how willing the veterinarians are to teach and mentor students, and by how many assistants and local community members come together to make the clinic possible.

This year, I served as the student planning lead, which gave me a whole new appreciation for what goes on behind the scenes. Leading up to the weekend, there were definitely ups and downs—times when everything seemed to be falling into place, and times when it felt like everything was falling apart. I'm so thankful for the team I worked with. Whenever an issue came up, people jumped in to help without hesitation, eager to serve however they could. While dealing with some equipment issues, I joked with a few volunteers about how I often ask God for patience, but secretly wish He'd just give it to me instead of putting me in situations where I actually have to practice it. However, Scripture reminds us to actively choose patience and perseverance – to “rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12).



In my own experience, the call to not become impatient and discouraged is sometimes one of the hardest of all. I expect to see results now, I want to see the fruits of my labour immediately. If it were up to me alone, I would never be able to fulfill the calling that God has for me to be patient. But praise be to God, because if we are in Christ, His Spirit works powerfully within us! For “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23a). He is faithful to develop these qualities in us if we walk with Him.

This kind of patience matters not just in the moment, but long-term too. As this clinic reaches its fifth year, it’s natural to wonder about its impact. The local missionaries who we partner with have encouraged us that the yearly clinic is generally seen in a positive light by community members. In conversation with one missionary, he encouraged me that we must be patient. We need to have a long-term mindset - generational shifts in attitudes towards followers of Jesus and the church take time. It’s possible that the work that we do now plants seeds that produce fruit many years down the road.

Being part of this clinic again near the end of my vet schooling was really meaningful. I’m so grateful for God’s provision and for the CVM community, where we’ve been able to watch each other grow over the years. I’m excited to see what the Lord continues to do in His good and perfect plan.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” – 1 Corinthians 15:58

