



RCA Missionary Update

from the Van Eses

St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, is an international and ecumenical institution that prepares men and women for ministry in the Christian church and in society. Founded in 1903 as a divinity school, St. Paul's recently expanded to become a Christian university. In addition to doing theological studies, students can now earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. Rowland Van Es Jr., who has training in economics and theology, teaches in both departments. Jane Van Es teaches sociology and psychology at the bachelor's level and assists with the master's-level program in pastoral care and HIV/AIDS. Rowland and Jane served previously in Sierra Leone, Malawi, and the Gambia. They have two daughters, Jenna and Michelle.

Kenya facts:

- Population: 33,829,600
- Size: 582,646 square kilometers (slightly smaller than Texas)
- Major religions: 70 percent Christian, 20 percent Muslim, 10 percent indigenous and other beliefs



MINISTRY

Theological Education

LOCATION

Limuru, Kenya

PARTNER

St. Paul's University

CONTACT

Rowland and Jane Van Es Jr.

St. Paul's University

P.O. Private Bag 00217

Limuru, Kenya

Email: vanesjr@wananchi.com

LEARN MORE AT www.rca.org/vanes

Dear Friends,

July 2011

One of my best students, Jeremiah, was not in the exam room when the Introduction to Psychology final exam was scheduled to begin. I decided I should call him and see what the problem was. I was sorry to hear that he had been unable to finish paying his tuition and exam fees. This meant that he would not be allowed to take any exams for that semester and would receive no credit for those courses.



Jeremiah leading Sunday school in song

When Jeremiah joined St. Paul's in order to study theology he immediately stood out. He was friendly, outgoing and obviously very bright. As we got to know Jeremiah more, his strong desire to serve Christ was clear and it was easy to see the fruits of his relationship with Christ. He was always concerned for the needs of others. Whenever someone had a problem, it was Jeremiah who would be there to pray for the person, to give a helping hand or organize others to help if the needs were beyond his individual abilities. Because of his spiritual gifts and caring attitude, Jeremiah was elected to serve as student Chaplain.

It is always a shame when someone like Jeremiah cannot continue with their studies. Jeremiah had waited a long time to come to seminary. For years he had served as a lay leader in the church. He had been serving in his church's Sunday school program. During his time there he built up the program so that not only church members' children were reached but hundreds of children from the surrounding slum. Clearly the Lord will use Jeremiah with or without a

theological degree. However, wouldn't it be wonderful if Jeremiah could be more fully prepared for his role as a leader in the church?

Jeremiah's situation is not unique. Most students at St. Paul's struggle to pay for their education. Through the support of local denominations, including Jeremiah's—the Reformed Church of East Africa, St. Paul's University has been able to keep tuition low (around \$2000 per year). Through your partnership, the Reformed Church in America is also helping to keep St. Paul's costs down—by providing both ourselves and Peter and Patty Ford as staff.

Unfortunately, \$2000 is still a huge sum for most of our students. Nearly 50% of Kenyans live on a dollar a day or less. This means that when someone comes to St. Paul's they have to find funding from their church, their community, and their extended family. For some, like Jeremiah, this is still not enough. That is why the Reformed Church in America has established a scholarship fund for these needy students.



RCEA Students with Rowland and Jane

We are grateful for our opportunity to serve here—helping to prepare future Christian leaders. We are also grateful for your financial support which makes it possible for us to be here. Unfortunately, rising costs mean that our current financial support is not enough to cover all our expenses. If you or your congregation are currently supporting us through Partners-in-Mission shares, we want to remind you that the “cost” of these shares has increased to \$6,100. Please consider taking out a full mission share if your current pledge is less than that amount.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute to

our support or to one of our programs, please choose one of the following:

To take a Partner-In-Mission share for personal missionary support, please contact Karen Bogerd (kbogerd@rca.org) or call the Grand Rapids office at 1-800-968-3943.

To send a gift to assist in a program, please send to the Reformed Church in America,

Finance Office, 4500 60th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 and indicate in the memo portion of the check one of the following:

- St. Paul's Scholarship Fund
- St. Paul's Resource Fund

Donations can also be made online at www.rca.org/vanes.

For additional information, please contact Derrick Jones (djones@rca.org), Supervisor of Missions in Africa, and Sharon Schramel (sschramel@rca.org), Admn. Asst. – or simply call 1-800-228-3813 at the RCA Chicago office.

To access extensive information about the Van Eses, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/vanes.

Did you know that you can receive Dear Friendsletters directly to your own email and that by doing so you are helping RCA Global Mission be a good steward of your gifts? To sign up, contact Eva Fennema at (800) 968-3943 or efennema@rca.org.