
RCA GLOBAL MISSION DEAR FRIENDS UPDATE

from Rowland and Jane Van Es in Kenya
February 2019

A Month of (Re)Adjustments

Coming back to the field after home service is always an adjustment. We were on home service from August-December last year and had a good time visiting 19 of our 23 supporting churches. We enjoyed a lot of quality time with friends, family, and other supporters. We also had a white Christmas in Michigan.

Coming back to Kenya just in time for the second semester at St Paul's University was an adjustment; some easy, some hard. The moderate climate was easy to get used to again after fall & winter in the US. Driving on the left side of the road (and on the right side of the car) took a few days to get used to again.

Sorting out which classes to teach and on which day of the week they were offered to fit most student's schedules took a few weeks due to the many different groups and several modes of study offered here. We have now finally settled down to our normal full load of teaching four classes each.

Rowland is teaching pastoral care, and Christian ethics again as well as two new ones for him, pastoral counselling and New Testament themes (theology). Jane is teaching Introduction to Sociology to the Theology students, and Gender Psychology, Health Psychology and Research for counselling students.

In addition to teaching, Rowland has already had three opportunities to preach in Jan: once in church on Sunday, once for Monday chapel, and once for the longer Wednesday chapel (with Communion). Jane met with the leadership team of her Women@10 Bible study group and for some Thursday meetings.

We miss the good times we had with our two daughters in Holland and our time with Jane's mother and brothers as well as one full week with Rowland's family. We thank God for skype and for the cheap phone calls from Kenya to the US which keep us informed (though it is not the same as being there).

We take comfort in the fact that we do have many friends and neighbors here that we can talk to and share experiences with. We have many colleagues at work and good friends at church and other people we can socialize with over a meal, on the tennis court, or while walking our dog in the tea fields nearby.

We also realize we have many opportunities to impact our students and other Kenyan's lives just by being here. Preaching, teaching, praying, Bible study, mentoring, and just having good conversations about life and work and our common Christian faith cannot be taken for granted.

Many other missionaries and pastors pray for the kinds of opportunities we have so readily available here in our setting.



Members of the Kitengela congregation welcome us home



Rowland back in the classroom

Training future leaders of the church and society is an important job and we don't do it alone but are doing it together with other qualified staff and all of us only do it with God's daily help.

Pray for us as we continue to readjust to our normal field assignment of living and teaching here. Keep praying also for Jane's mother and for our two daughters back in Holland, Michigan. Pray for Rev. Collins who was ordained while we were away and is serving at a church and his wife Winnie (SPU alumni) who teaches at a college while finishing her Masters in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations here. Pray for Jeremiah (another SPU alumni) who is helping Rowland with the Pastoral counselling class. Pray for several other missionaries who are going through tough times and have faced some personal tragedies. Finally pray for peace and security in Kenya that just suffered another terrorist incident in January.

Thanks for your support that allows us to continue to serve with RCA global missions at St Paul's Univ. God give us courage for the facing of each hour and each new day as we all live and work for God's glory.



Jane and Rowland enjoying the sunshine in the tea fields

Jane and Rowland Van Es's ministry

At St. Paul's University, an ecumenical school that has trained people for ministry since 1903, Rowland teaches Old Testament introduction and interpretation and business ethics, and Jane teaches psychology and sociology to bachelor of divinity students and a master's level course in caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Learn more at www.rca.org/vanes.