

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

- RBC's student center
- Rosedale goes to Kenya
- Campus news

Winter 2011 Vol. 38 No. 1



Catherine Waweru and Philip Mbatia of Regions Beyond Ministry in Kenya

KARIBU, ROSEDALE!
(WELCOME, ROSEDALE!)



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Investing in our students, investing in our future RBC plans new student center

By Andrew Sharp

It will be like the old days on campus at RBC. The college is making plans for something that hasn't been done in more than 30 years—constructing a new building. Administrators unveiled the plans for a new student center at CMC's 100th annual conference at the end of July, and the school is in the middle of an ambitious \$3.5 million campaign to fund the project. The building plans feature a student lounge, cafeteria and kitchen, coffee shop, game room, and library, bringing together many student services that are currently scattered all over campus.

There are many reasons the college needs a new building, President Dan Ziegler says. The institution has outgrown its current facilities as it has changed from a Bible institute into a college. "For the last three years, the majority of our students have been here for the entire year. That's new for Rosedale," Ziegler says. "As a college, one of the things that we need to provide is facilities that ...are comfortable enough to be home for these students for an entire year." At a higher education level, he maintains, RBC needs to provide facilities suitable for higher education.

The current cafeteria and gym building, which the new building project will replace, is one of the oldest buildings on campus, and it shows. Ziegler tactfully calls it an "aesthetically weak spot on campus," although a more direct term might be "ugly." It's also cramped; the cafeteria bulges at the seams during big events like banquets, and the basketball court is squeezed into a tight space. The gym is also not handicap accessible. "What we're hoping to do is replace one of the weaker

buildings on campus with a new building that is more spacious, has more room, more light, more beauty—just a building that meets the needs of our students better," Ziegler says.

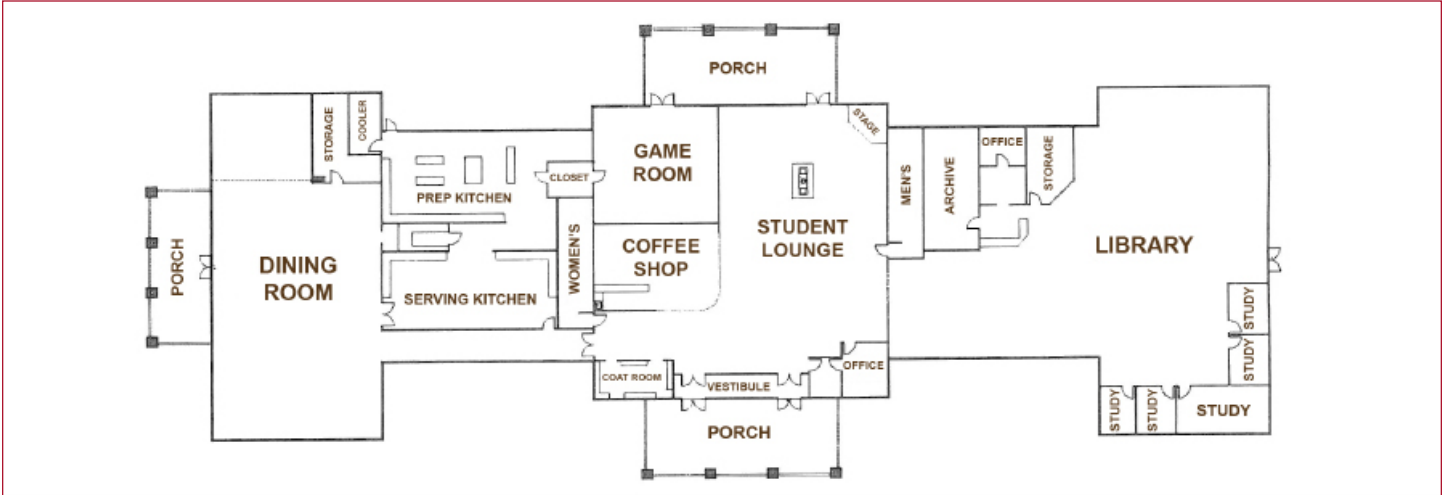
Meanwhile, student services like the student lounge and coffee shop are tucked away in another aging structure, the classroom building. The new student center will pull these areas away from daily class traffic and into a central, convenient location.

Another issue in the current campus is the library. Since RBC's accreditation, the library has been a point of focus for improvement and growth. According to library director Reuben Sairs, academic libraries have shifted quite a bit from the old "collection of books" model with a hushed atmosphere. Students use more digital sources and check out fewer books. They enjoy a more social and casual environment in the library. Classes emphasize group projects more instead of research papers. While newer libraries still have books, obviously, the model has changed to what Sairs calls an "information commons." In this kind of library, there are fewer books on display and many are in storage, available on request. This frees up space for many different study styles and the use of computers, copiers, scanners, and other tools, with comfortable seating and probably even coffee and donuts to grease the wheels of learning.

The current library can't practically be expanded, and even if it were it might end up costing more than a new one to bring it up to date. Sairs says he is looking forward to the new one. "There will be space for everybody, from the quiet to the noisy and everybody



Our campaign goal – \$3.5 million!



in between...a place we can put them and keep them happy. Whereas now we have a place to put everybody but not keep them happy. Their interests collide.”

Another benefit to moving the library out of the current location is that it will free up space for other uses. In the office wing, all the available space is in use, and some faculty and staff are even sharing a room. Other uses might include practice space for the music department.

Building the student center is phase one of a broader expansion plan that calls for the construction of a gym connecting to the student center. This second phase of the project, at a projected cost of \$1.5 million, will begin as the student center is being completed. The total cost of phase one and two will be about \$5 million, but it will be broken into more manageable chunks.

Despite the need for a new building, a \$3.5 million campaign might raise a few eyebrows in the current economy. This is a legitimate concern, Ziegler says, but a recession doesn't seem like a compelling enough reason to put the future of the college on hold. “We need to keep investing in these students for the future health of the college and for the present effectiveness of the college. You can't just sit on the same facility indefinitely.” Potential students, he says, are going to be looking to see if the institution is healthy and if the community behind it is investing in it. They are trying to imagine if they can actually live in a place for a year or two.

Despite the economy, Ziegler says the campaign is more or less on track, although he would like to be farther

along. “The economy has definitely played into people's ability to give...we're finding that we're having to talk to a few more people than we had hoped we would have at this point.” While it's hard to come up with an exact figure, they have raised about \$1 million in cash and in-kind commitments—already the largest such campaign in RBC's history.

The board wants to have 80% of the total raised before they break ground. The target date to begin work is the spring of 2012, with the hope being that students could start using the building in the fall of 2013.

Before breaking ground, though, the shop, wastewater system, and propane tank will need to be moved out to the edge of campus property in what is now cornfield. Once the college has \$500,000 of the campaign money, they will move ahead with this project. The goal is to complete this part of the project sometime in 2011. 🐄



Foundations for the Future

With your help, we're taking the next step for RBC and our students by providing a new student center. This building will serve as the nexus of the RBC campus community, providing an inviting and well designed common area where students can gather to eat meals, study and socialize.

- A student lounge and coffee shop
- A new game room
- A new library/information commons
- A spacious cafeteria and kitchen

BWANA ASIFIWE! (PRAISE THE LORD!) ROSEDALE STUDENTS WILL STUDY IN KENYA

By Andrew Sharp

A handful of students are looking to escape the Ohio winter's vicious bite in the upcoming term, as they study world missions and the African church in an appropriate setting—Africa. Thirteen students are enrolled in the six-week classes, many of them taking advantage of a cross-cultural grant available to second-year students. They will study at Regions Beyond Ministry Bible College in Kenya, which has a long-standing partnership with RBC.

Philip Mbatia and Abraham Ndungu, both of whom have taught at RBC, will be teaching the classes. Mbatia will teach “Introduction to Missions,” a class also offered at RBC, and Ndungu will teach a new class called “African Church in the 21st Century.” Students will learn about the history of the African church, the culture, and the challenges facing the rapidly growing church there: poorly trained leadership, occultism and false religions, syncretism, poverty and development issues, and addressing HIV/AIDS.

The African church is growing more than the Western church, Ndungu said, but he explained that this is not the whole picture. “Sometimes we get excited just by mere growth in numbers, and we don’t appreciate the challenges that come with that growth.” Discipling the new believers is one of those. “People are coming to Christ and yet there’s no leadership or the leadership that is there is not really trained to help these people grow spiritually,” Ndungu said, adding that he hoped as the students interact informally in the homes of African Christians, they will be able to see the dynamics that shape the church there.

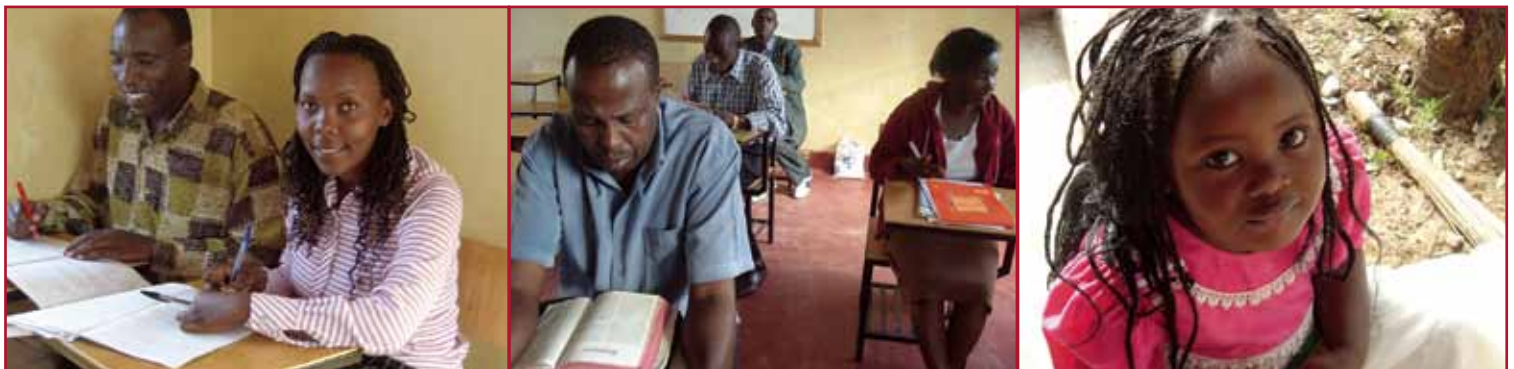


A sign points the way to Regions Beyond Ministry Bible College near Thika, Kenya.

In addition to learning about the church, RBC students will get a taste of the broader secular culture, interacting with Kenyans in a variety of settings.

RBC faculty member Reuben Sairs, who has taught at RBM, listed some benefits he sees for RBC students on this trip. “I think it frees them from their parochial reading of the Bible and understanding of church and how faith is practiced,” he said. They will have a chance to see how the Africans live and believe. In particular, Sairs said, some of the people there practice their faith in the face of tremendous hardship, and the students at RBM have an admirable dedication to their studies. After traveling hundreds of miles, sometimes hitchhiking, “very few of them are goofing around.”

“I really think highly of Abraham and Philip Mbatia and what they are doing with RBM...I think it’s something special,” Sairs said. “They will be able to open up the door to show African Christianity and translate it well.”



Students listed a variety of reasons for wanting to go, with stepping outside their culture being one of the most common. “I like getting different cultural experiences, and I think it’s really neat to see how the body of Christ functions in different places,” Cassie Elliott, a second-year student from Maine, said. “I’m really excited about that class, because I’ve always pictured the church in Africa as being really vibrant...there might be a lot of really exciting spiritual things that we can learn from those people.”

Rebecca Diller, a second-year student from Pennsylvania, said, “I’m definitely excited about seeing different cultures, something other than American culture, seeing a landscape that’s different, experiencing something out of the normal.”

Amber Swartzentruber, from Delaware, said she had been out of the country several times on missions trips and was looking forward to traveling with a different focus. Mission work is a good thing, she said, but she liked the idea of just living in the culture in a normal classroom setting and observing and learning.

Students will stay on campus at RBM, and on the weekends they will travel, sightsee, visit different churches (Mennonite and non-Mennonite), and stay with host families. Swartzentruber said she hopes to broaden her view of worship and church life. She knows what Mennonite churches are like here in the States and wants to see how people express worship in Kenya.

RBC students will also get to interact with the African students at RBM and get a feel for education and how it happens there. Several students talked about how they were encouraged to write papers by hand, instead of bringing laptops (which might seem like flaunting American wealth). “It will be interesting to live in the same place with them and see how they are used to doing work and studying and stuff, because I’m sure they have totally different ways of doing things,” Swartzentruber said.

“It might be stretching at times,” Stephen Yoder, of Alabama, said. “But is that always a bad thing?”

Of course, there are the usual travel concerns. “I’m afraid of getting sick,” Elliott said. She knows from past experience that her body doesn’t always react well to drinking water in other countries. Swartzentruber mentioned the eight shots for various diseases and expressed some concern about wildlife of the serpent variety.

“I’m a little worried about the heat,” northerner Elliott said.

Not a problem for the southern sensibilities of Yoder. “I’m guessing it will be warmer in Kenya than it will be here in Ohio,” he noted hopefully. 🐘

CROSS-CULTURAL TEAM LEADER



Abraham Ndungu

Abraham Ndungu grew up in Kenya, near the town of Thika and Regions Beyond Ministry (about 1 ½ hours north of Nairobi). He has degrees from several different universities and schools. He studied sociology and

economics, regional planning, urban planning and design, Bible, air pollution management, and ecological sanitation. He has traveled the world for his education, from the University of Nairobi to Tongji University in China, Regions Beyond Ministry and RBC, Linköping University in Sweden, and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.

Abraham and his wife Naomi have three children—Danny, Grace, and Shepherd. Before coming to the United States with his family in December 2009, he taught in the environmental planning and management department at Kenyatta University near Nairobi. He pastored at Hunter’s Community Mennonite church, and was a dean and teacher at Regions Beyond Ministry. This year, he is planning to teach an urban planning class at Ohio State University in the spring quarter, as well as a class at a branch of Ohio Christian University and a class at Rosedale Bible College.

Abraham has a passion for missions and the church, and hopes to take seminary studies in the States. He wants to promote integration of church growth, missions and development in developing countries, and help with training church leadership in Africa. 🐘

Rosedale Bible College is going online!



In the fall of 2011, students may begin earning credits online. Online classes will be offered in the fall and spring semesters only, and are designed especially to accommodate nontraditional students. Up to one-half of the credits required to complete a program may be earned online; the balance must be earned in the traditional residential program. To learn more about current online offerings or to enroll in the courses offered, visit our website at rosedale.edu and look for the RBC Online link.

2011 Phon-A-Thon goal is surpassed!

Fourteen Rosedale Bible College students spent 165 hours on the phone over a period of three weeks this fall. They made 3,223 calls, asking alumni to donate money to help keep costs down for students. Our goal was \$25,000, and as of December 15, our total was \$26,145. Thank you, amazing alumni!

(Please detach and mail in)

In 2008, RBC created endowed chairs to honor the life and ministry of Elmer Jantzi and Willard Mayer.

How to Give...

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ toward:

- The Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology
- The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible
- Either chair as needed

As God provides, I promise to give the following amounts toward:

The Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology:
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2011
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2012

The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible:
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2011
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2012

Either chair as needed:
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2011
 \$ _____ by December 31, 2012

If you choose to donate yearly, a reminder will be sent each November.

Thank you for partnering with us!



Recent RBC enrollment statistics

	2009/10			2010/11		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Freshmen	37	36	73	46	37	83
Sophomores	15	9	24	16	13	29
			97			112

More students are coming to RBC this year and we're delighted! Please pray that this trend continues and that we would know how best to serve our students and the conference. 🐛

Alumni news

Brad Maust (80S, 82, 83S) of Salisbury, Pennsylvania, and **Twila Snider (85, 00-11S)** of Rosedale, Ohio, announce their engagement. The wedding is planned for March 26 at Cherry Glade Mennonite Church in Accident, Maryland.

Jeff (99, 00, 04) and **Angela (Zehr) Heatwole (98, 99S)**, are in Plain City,



Twila Snider

Jenell Shrock

Changing of the guard at RBC

Receptionist Twila Snider is moving on after 10 years at RBC. She has answered phones and welcomed students and visitors with her cheery voice and smile since 2000. "She has added lots of conviviality; it's not unusual to see students gathered around her desk laughing and talking," Academic Dean Phil Weber said. Twila is getting married in March 2011 and moving to Pennsylvania. We wish her the best and welcome Jenell Shrock of Rosedale, Ohio, as her able replacement!

Ohio. Angela says, "I love homeschooling our two girls, Julia (6) and Elise (4), teaching music classes, directing plays, & building my home business."

Andy (07, 08) and **Debbie (Freed) Sommers (07)** reside in Pottstown, PA. Andy writes, "Debbie is working at Liberty Thrift. Its purpose is to fund a prison ministry that gives ex-cons the chance to start over. I am working at Chick-fil-A as a team leader."

Alumni news continues – with babies and children!

Dan (71, 72, 74) and Phyllis (Good) Miller (72, 73, 74) are living in McComb, Mississippi. Dan writes, “In 1994 we moved to McComb to be part of a home group fellowship church plant and have been here for the past 16 years.”

Dorothy (Marnier) Miller (94) of Iowa City, Iowa, says: “Lowell and I are still living in the cold blustery midwest. We are parents to four amazing surprises: Kali, 4; Hunter, 3; Alexia, 1; and Abby, 6 weeks. I get to stay home with our very energetic brood while Lowell works as warehouse manager at Kalona Post and Frame.”



Luca Bella Bontrager

Luca Bella Bontrager was born August

Sherri (Stoll) (94) and Kevin Bontrager of Spencerville, Indiana,

announce the birth and adoption of their third child, a daughter.

19, 2009, and welcomed home by brother Caedmon (5) and Kaiya (3).



Elizabeth Anne Landis

David (91, 93, 95-97S) and Mary Landis of Atmore, Alabama, welcomed Elizabeth Anne Landis on February 23, 2010. She joins Abigail, Joshua, and Benjamin.

Matt and Dianna (Gingerich) Conrad (99) of Adair, Oklahoma, finalized the adoption of their two oldest children, Nisha Anne and Zay Matthew on September 24, 2009.



The Conrads with Nisha Anne & Zay Matthew

Keith (04) and Oleda Miller (01, 02, 04) of New Paris, Indiana, welcomed their first child, Coral Marie, on Dec. 16, 2009.



Blake Kerwin King

Maria (Stoltzfus, 02, 04-05S) and Kerwin King (04), of Chochranville, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of their second child, Blake Kerwin King, on April 7, 2010.

Steven (05, 06) and Hannah (Mast) Goss (06), of Greenwood, Delaware, had a second child, Avery Steven, on October 14, 2010.

Philip ('95) and Alicia (Yoder) Yoder ('99) of Blountstown, Florida, announce the birth of their daughter Shiloh Grace, on Dec. 23, 2009.



Shiloh Grace Yoder

Thank you for remembering us

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can include RBC in your estate planning, please contact President Dan Ziegler at 740-857-1311 or email him at dziegler@rosedale.edu.

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

The *MIRROR* is a newsletter of Rosedale Bible College published twice a year.

The mission of Rosedale Bible College is to provide an evangelical junior Bible college education in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition, equipping students to grow spiritually and academically and to serve effectively in the church and society.

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Vicki Sairs: Editor

Andrew Sharp: Assistant Editor

Alumni News Form

Send us your news! The birth of a future alumnus, a career change, marriage, notable accomplishments or service assignments – we want to know about it.

Name: _____

Year(s) attended RBC: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Address? _____ (If so, please list old address here):

News: _____

Visit the online alumni reunion at RBC's website, www.rosedale.edu, and find out more about what your classmates are doing!

May we put this in the online reunion? _____

I am enclosing a gift to RBC in the amount of \$ _____

Laying a sure foundation



By Dan Ziegler

Germination is a fascinating thing. God has designed seeds to spend time in the dark and warmth of the soil before they begin to grow. For some seeds, such as radishes, this process only takes a few days. But for others, like parsnips, germination may take up to a month. Why the

President Dan Ziegler

difference in timing? Ultimately, only God knows. What is clear, however, is that if a seed is given the right soil and climate conditions, it will emerge at the right time and eventually provide a harvest.

In the ministry world, the seed of an idea may be planted at some point by a visionary, but if it is going to bear fruit, it will need time to germinate. Like seeds, not all ideas germinate at the same pace. Some are ready to sprout quickly, while others may need an extended period of quiescence. When an idea is forced to emerge before its 'appointed time,' the results can be disastrous, for both the idea's future and even for the ministry's effectiveness. But when conditions are right, in the Lord's good time, the seed of an idea will flourish into a fruitful reality for the glory of God! One of the prime callings of ministry boards and administrators is to prayerfully

discern God's timing for the advancement of a vision.

There was already a vision for a new student center at RBC, in the early 90s. Former President Richard Showalter discussed the need for an all-purpose building that would enrich our student's experience by addressing some of the gaps in our facility. The seed had been planted. In 2003 his successor, President Leon Zimmerman, along with the Board of Trustees, moved this vision a step further by developing a long-range facility plan. The plan included a student center to replace the aging gym-cafeteria building and enhance student services. Finally, after much prayer and discernment, including internal assessment and an external feasibility study, the seed for a new student center on the campus of Rosedale Bible College has germinated!

Last year the Board of Trustees commissioned a \$3.5 million capital campaign to bring this vision to reality; to date, about \$1 million has been committed to the project. The seed of a vision has begun to sprout; in the next months we will invite our friends and alumni to help bring this vision to maturity. With the blessing of God and the help of our friends, we're confident that this major step will bring about much fruit in the lives of future students and in the long-term effectiveness of this ministry. 🐘

Parents—if this is addressed to a son or daughter who has established a different address, please give us the new address. Call 740.857.1311 or e-mail info@rosedale.edu. Thanks!

**REQUESTED
CHANGE SERVICE**

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