

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

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MIRROR



**HAVE A
GOOD
JOURNEY!**

HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY!

by Eugene & Christina Kraybill

The day I was hired for the airline industry remains vivid in my mind.

Building hours to be an airline pilot was a strenuous goal that I'd been pursuing. But when I received an invitation to attend an airline industry event in the Washington, DC area, I wasn't sure I had enough money to attend. My suit didn't fit properly, and my resume was several hundred hours out-of-date.

After arriving at the hotel, I hurriedly crossed out my old numbers, penciled in the updated hours and made fifteen photocopies to hand out. I was laughed at by some recruiters, but one airline talked to me in earnest. The recruiter looked beyond my appearance and imperfect resume. He saw me as a person of value.

I'll never forget his words, "Our company is looking for people like you. Welcome to Air Midwest Airlines!" I have been with this company, for twenty-two years, now Mesa Airlines, currently flying in the United Express system.

I doubt the recruiter remembers me, but I'll never forget him. The encounter was an answer to prayer and a life-changing experience that has landed me where I am today at Washington Dulles International Airport as Senior Chaplain and Regional Chief Pilot for Mesa Airlines.

My time at Rosedale Bible College helped lay a strong foundation for my current roles. There have been many ups and downs, and at times a lack of



consistency on my part. I've struggled in classes to receive good grades, but God has shown me grace and mercy.

During my years at RBC and when serving in the short-term YES and REACH mission programs, I spent time trying to learn what faith consisted of and also how to share my faith. I'd never lived in a setting where faith was costly or challenging. My faith simply seemed to be a result of my cultural upbringing. I returned from a short-term cross-cultural experience

burned out and bitter. I was tired of living up to others' expectations and not knowing fully if it was "my faith."

Shortly after, I told Richard Showalter, president of RBC at the time, that I wanted to leave the Christian faith and seek an understanding of what it meant to have a childlike faith. He didn't appear concerned with my comment, but smiled and said, "Have a good journey!" In hindsight I sensed that he knew that I was in God's hands. This spoke volumes to me.

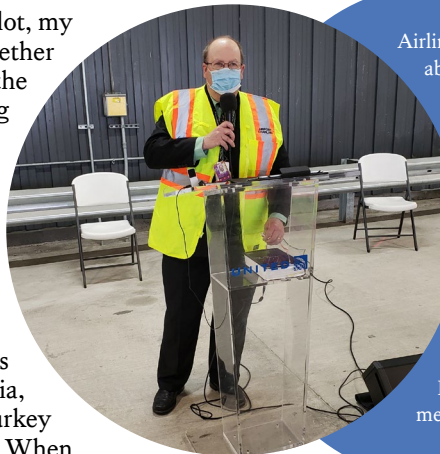
Several years later I began reading the book of Matthew and decided to visualize that Jesus was God when I read the red-lettered verses. All of a sudden the scriptures came alive and had a whole new sense of meaning. I rededicated my life to God. I had a fresh desire to live an authentic faith in Christ Jesus.

Now when questions and frustrations arise about Christianity, I affirm the employees and customers in their own journeys, welcoming their questions and needs. That comment from my Rosedale days still resonates. "Have a good journey!"

It is not uncommon for me to share a prayer with another pilot or to pray with airplane fuelers, gate agents, or rampers. Prayer is available for anyone who may share a personal tragedy or struggle. In my role as a Regional Chief Pilot, I spend much of my time communicating with the pilots and our company, making sure everyone has an opportunity to be heard. We have pilots from different religious backgrounds, but if there is a request for prayer, I'll never turn it down.

But in addition to my secular role as Chief Pilot, my wife Christina and I are also able to work together in the Chaplain's office. At first I didn't like the word "Chaplain". I didn't grasp its meaning or purpose, but in this role, we've come to see the unique opportunity we have to minister in a multi-faith setting. And we can't imagine a gathering place with wider diversity than what you'll find in a large international airport!

It feels a bit like the setting the Apostle Paul must have encountered in the seaport cities of his day. We don't need to travel to Tunisia, Morocco, Benin, Bangladesh, China, or Turkey to experience the hospitality of the people. When we respond to invitations to visit their homes, we enter their countries and experience their cultures.



Airlines that lose an employee are not able to attend funerals or memorial services because the work must go on and flights attended to. When such losses occur, I'll reach out to the airline and offer to hold a memorial service either in the chapel or in an unused boarding area for a half hour service in between the flight banks. This timing allows the employees to attend and grieve together for the loss of their friend and co-worker. I officiate an average of two such memorial services a year.



If you walk the hallways with me, you'll hear people call me -- Father, Pastor, Reverend, Chaplain, Captain, Eugene, or even Imam -- since I oversee the shared chapel space where Muslim prayers are also held.

I'm not a Father or an Imam, but I seek to meet people where they are and draw them closer to Jesus. Most people welcome prayer although occasionally someone says, "Oh, no, you don't need to pray for me; just pray for world peace." I honor those requests while praying in my spirit.

One recent morning as I was getting out of bed, I pondered the thoughts and questions I'd been struggling with. How should I have responded or not responded to the twelve conversations of the previous day? Did I speak the correct words to a person grieving the death of a loved one? And what about the heated conversation with the angry pilot? I'd forgotten to follow through with a call I should have made. I was reeling from self-condemnation and guilt.

Then a song floated into my mind, "All to Jesus, I surrender, all to him I freely give... I surrender all..."

There on the side of my bed, I spoke out loud. "Jesus, I surrender all these concerns to you." The cloud of confusion and negativity dissipated, and comfort flooded my soul.

Jesus came into this world to draw people to God's Kingdom, and he will show us the way. We, his modern day disciples, are guided by the Holy Spirit's counsel into this same purpose.

"Have a good journey!" 



One day I was in my office as Chief Pilot when I received a call from a father whose daughter was on one of our flights from a Midwestern city. He asked me to meet his daughter, pull her aside, and stay with her until her fiancé arrived. I didn't know the young woman and had to find her without raising fearful suspicions. She arrived and stayed with me for about three hours in a public setting. When her fiancé arrived, her father called to share the heartbreaking news that her beloved brother had been killed in a car accident. The whole airport heard her inconsolable wailing as I stepped away to arrange return transportation for her and her fiancé with United Airlines. That day was an example of both my roles at the airport, Chief Pilot and Chaplain.

RBC NEWS

TWO KEY STAFF APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR



Clay, Nava, Matt, Colleen, Kenna, Isaac, and Josh Showalter

Matt Showalter, Irwin, Ohio, has been appointed as the new academic dean of Rosedale Bible College. Before stepping into this role Showalter served as dean of students at the college for 10 years. Showalter is an alumnus of RBC ('94,'95) and earned a BA from Eastern Mennonite University and an MA from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has also worked as a church planter with Rosedale International, a youth pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church (Sarasota, FL), and as a high school Bible teacher at Sarasota Christian School. Currently he serves on the pastoral team at Agape Community Fellowship of Hilliard. Showalter and his wife **Colleen ('93-'95)** have five children.

Dion Gingerich, Otterburne, MB, Canada, has been appointed as the new dean of students at Rosedale Bible College. After studies at RBC, ('04,'05) Gingerich earned an MA in Counseling from Providence Theological Seminary where he plans to complete an MA in Systematic Theology this year. Gingerich also served with Living Hope Native Ministries in pastoring, youth ministry, and leadership of short-term, cross-cultural experiences. Prior to the pandemic he worked in private practice as a Counseling Therapist and as a Counseling Psychology Teaching Assistant at Providence Theological Seminary. Gingerich and his wife **Krista ('03,'04)** have four children.



David, Ben, Dion, Rebecca, Krista, Anna Gingerich

ALUMNI NEWS

In May 2020 **Delton ('97,'98)** and Fernie **Hochstedler**, missionaries in Sao Paulo, Brazil, lost their 11-year-old son Kaleb, after a two-year battle with cancer. Sadly, because of pandemic restrictions, his grandparents **Bill ('73,'74,'75)** and **Susan ('74) Hochstedler** of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Canada, could not travel to be with the family and attend the memorial service. In the year following Kaleb's death, Fernie asked if Susan and her daughters-in-law who also lived in Sioux Lookout, Heidi, married to **Evan Hochstedler ('03,'04)**, and **Debbie ('03,'04,'06,'09)** married to **Collin ('00,'01,'02) Hochstedler**, could create memory pieces from Kaleb's clothing. The three women rose to the challenge and collaborated to design and create memorials from Kaleb's clothing: a Lego quilt, an underwear comforter, an egg-gathering apron, and stuffed sock animals. Susan says the project was "challenging, fun, healing, surprising, therapeutic, touching, calming, and comforting."



Susan used Kaleb's t-shirts to construct a Lego quilt with a design Joshua & Kaleb created during one of the hospital stays.

Check out "[International Experiences](#)" for the full story and more on our blog at [rosedale.edu/blog!](https://rosedale.edu/blog/)



Rita, left, with coworkers Hattie and Jessica.

Rita (Mullet) Erne ('82), Fort Wayne, Indiana, married John in 1986 and worked as Director of Food and Nutrition Services at the Cedars Retirement Center for 30 years. Rita lost her husband to cancer in 2016, but continued working. Then in 2020 she contracted a serious case of COVID-19. On the way to the ICU Rita's heart stopped, and she had to be resuscitated. She was placed on a ventilator and was in a coma for two weeks. During that time a blood clot in her groin had to be surgically removed, but not before her right foot went septic and had to be amputated. After 29 days in the hospital and rehab, she recouped with her parents for another month before finally moving home, adjusting to life as an amputee, and learning to walk on a prosthetic foot. Rita had been off work for more than six months.

During this time she did a lot of soul-searching, seeking God's will for her next season.

"I kept wondering why God had spared my life," Rita said. "After prayer and consultation, I decided to resign my job of 30 years, and trust God for my future." Last February Rita joined the staff of Redemption House, a faith-based transitional home for women with addictions and coming out of jail/prison.

"I feel now like I am where I am supposed to be," Rita says. "God is opening doors for me to minister to women in all walks of life. Seeds were planted in my heart at RBC – seeds that gave me a desire to serve God out of my comfort zone. Now 40 years later that dream has come to fruition. I am learning that if we give all to him and fully trust him, he will give us joy unmeasurable and lasting peace."

Donna Kurylak ('78,'79), Newark, Delaware, used pandemic shut-down times to develop a new multi-age curriculum for good group learning experiences. She's used the lessons at home as well as at her home church, The Barn Vineyard in Kemblesville, Pa. The curriculum can be used remotely or in person. Email her at servewithjoy@thebarnvineyard.com for more information.

When **Armstrong Cheggeh, ('83), Nicholasville, Kentucky**, needed to cancel Africa ministry trips because of travel complications, he used the time to raise \$10,000 to build a church in the village of Korogwe, Tanzania. He said, "It was my way of getting back at this Coronavirus!"

Queena Mast ('02, '04) Greenwood, Delaware, spent the first year of the pandemic painting one picture a month, reviving a long-time interest in art. COVID influenced her themes – daffodils for frontline medical workers, a family board game, drive-in church, hand washing, and scenes from nature. One pictured an old familiar tree in front of the COVID unit where she sat with the dying, witnessing the isolation, pain, and struggle of these unusual farewells.

Janine Leaman ('03,'05), Philadelphia, Pa., teaches ESL at Temple University, and was forced to make the awkward pivot to online teaching during the pandemic. At first things did not go well, but eventually she grew to love it. Her current class includes students who join from Mexico, Germany, Saudi Arabia, China, Korea, and Philadelphia. Many wouldn't have been able to come for in-person classes.

Loren Stoner ('03), a chicken grower in **Fredericksburg, Pa.**, stepped in to help run a chicken processing plant that threatened to close down during the pandemic. The mature chickens did not need to be disposed of and a supply chain crisis was averted.

Daneila Starkey ('12), Seward, Neb., became part of the first drive-through testing site in Nebraska. She and a small team of employees worked through many obstacles, changes in weather, and changes in COVID information to provide safe testing to many patients. She also had a new baby during the first COVID year, enjoying the hope and blessing of new life.



"Handwashing" by Queena Mast

MIRROR

Our Mission: We exist to prepare Kingdom workers through collegiate biblical education in the context of authentic community, experiential learning opportunities and skill development, Spirit-led prayer, worship and devotional Bible reading.

Alumni Updates: Please go to rosedale.edu/alumni-resources » "[Update your Contact Information](#)". High-res photos are always welcome. We'd love to be in touch!

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A NEW GENERATION READS THE BIBLE

President
JEREMY MILLER

In a recent Discipleship Group, we read an excerpt from Psalm 7. David calls out in v. 6, “Arise, LORD, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies.” I wondered how students were hearing this.

I’ve listened to older people in their 50’s and 60’s who’d grown up hearing a lot about the wrath and anger of God. One older man commented that the steady drum beat of divine anger drove him to fear and self-loathing.

In reaction to that focus on the wrath of God, my own generation emphasized a loving and accommodating God who opposes boundaries. Many of us adopted a more laissez-faire approach to faith and an aversion to verses like Psalm 7:6. “God angry with people?!” We quickly jump to v. 10. “My shield is God most high, who saves the upright in heart.”

So I’m watching with interest the ways in which the current crop of 20-year-olds (Gen Z) are understanding their faith. Each generation brings its own baggage to Jesus and the scriptures.

According to the Pew Research Center, one of Gen Z’s defining challenges is dealing with increased anxiety and depression. Seventy percent say that anxiety

and depression are significant problems among their peers. This is substantially higher than previous generations. This battle with anxiety will have a profound effect on how they read the Bible, relate to the Father, and understand the Gospel.

Gen Zers need good news and the power of Jesus to lead them into healthy ways of living. It would not be shocking to see them rediscover a more structured faith concerned with practical details of life. Many are embracing a God who invites his people into thoughtful boundaries of screen time, social media intake, political (un)engagement, and other restrictions that make my “anti-legalist” generation squirm.

In this profound season of change a new generation is desiring wisdom and help with navigating a very difficult world filled with uncertainty and anger. They will need our encouragement and prayers to overcome their anxiety, but as their deep sadness opens their eyes to the good news of Jesus in fresh ways, they can discover new beauty in the Gospel.

