



2023 Year in Review



Rowland and Jane Van Es - Kenya

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

Alberto came to St Paul's from Angola, where education is in Portuguese, so studying in English in Kenya was a third (or even fourth) language for him. To get his Masters, he had to write a thesis and publish two papers. He asked Rowland to check his spelling and grammar and this led to a relationship and a friendship that resulted in presenting and publishing a paper together.

Jozi was a student of Jane's who graduated a few years ago. Jane kept up with Jozi after they grew closer than most students. When Jozi's mother died during final exam week, it raised many questions that she discussed with Jane as her teacher/mentor. This year, Jozi started a counseling service, giving advice and assistance to other people going through tough times.

The strong support we have received from churches over the past 20 years has allowed us to make and maintain strong connections with many students and several staff members at St Paul's University. There are no shortcuts to building relationships, and your support allows us the time to make them with students like Alberto and Jozi. Some of our students have even become teachers here themselves



Alberto and Jane with Jozi.

Our challenges of 2023

Due to rising external debt and pressure on the Kenyan currency, the government has reduced the number of student scholarships it gives to students at private universities like St. Paul's. This has reduced the number of

students enrolled and forced the school to lay off many part-time lecturers. As a result, full-time teachers, like our colleagues and us, have to teach more than a full load (five classes). Some are experiencing burnout and/or spending less time mentoring students.

You can help us provide scholarships for students by giving via the Student Scholarship designated line here: www.rca.org/vanes

Please Pray

- Pray for the Kenyan economy that makes it harder for the government to sponsor students, harder for students and families to raise support, and harder to pay back their loans.
- Pray for us as we return to Kenya after completing four months of home service that began in the Fall of 2023. Pray that we are refreshed and ready to make new relationships with our students.
- Pray for the family we leave behind: Rowland's parents in their mid-80s, our two adult daughters living together in Holland, MI, and our siblings and their families scattered across the country.

