"Where we live there was no electricity and no running water for years. A local church in Michigan provided the funds for us to dig a well and once we got a generator, another provided a pump. It is the only way for us to get fresh water. Up until then we consumed the village's water which comes from a mountain on a gravity system. It is very dirty, and sometimes there are water blockages because large snakes—boas—get caught in the ducts." That is how Rick Lampen—class of 1986—describes the almost primitive conditions of the village of Yotau, on the edge of the Bolivian jungle, where he serves as a medical missionary. Yotau, south of the Amazon basin, has but a few red dirt streets and a population slightly over 100.
Thanks to the caring hearts of many people—and to email technology—many of you are already aware of Gloria and my son Nick’s encounter with tragedy. As a Marine serving in Fallujah, Iraq, his Humvee was blown apart on February 7, killing two Marines and leaving Nick wounded. Our phone rang at 10:00 that night, and our world changed in a dramatic way. We knew Nick was alive, but we had no clue as to the extent or nature of his injuries. We began making plans to travel. We also made phone calls. That action set a chain of events in motion that astounded us.

That "chain of events" is best described as the awesome impact of the grace of God and grace expressed through people—many of them. The blessing of God’s presence, the prayers of friends, and also from people whom we did not know, the words of encouragement and the acts of kindness were all realities that left us astounded and deeply, deeply touched. We were able to tap into and be covered by a grace-filled spiritual reality that, we believe, was active before, during and after Nick’s incident. Such is the faith and confidence, peace and joy, and love and fellowship that are ours through Christ Jesus and the body of believers.

With this introduction, let me underscore to you that the grace that became so real in our family is the very truth that our students speak to and demonstrate every day. Indeed, these students are at Kuyper College because they care for sinners in need of salvation, injustices that need redressing, the hopeless who need hope, the lonely who need a friend and, especially, about bringing God’s grace into today’s culture. And so, as you read the stories that follow, be encouraged to see how God continues to raise up people who are striving to extend that wonderful grace of Jesus. Praise God for all of you who likewise extend that grace wherever it is needed. It is a thrill to be part of Christ’s body with you!

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroeze
President

**Editor’s Note:** After stays in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany—where he underwent extensive surgery, and at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, Nick Kroeze, Jr. is recuperating at home in Grand Rapids. He recently underwent additional surgery to repair injuries to his foot.

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**The Heritage Wall**

Kuyper College was founded in 1939 as Reformed Bible Institute (RBI). RBI had a very clear focus—appropriately defined in scope—with a three-year curriculum that offered a practical, focused and expedient track into foreign and domestic missions.

In 1970, the Department of Education of the State of Michigan gave the School the right to confer a four-year Bachelor degree. As a result, RBI changed its name to RBC—Reformed Bible College.

Today, as a ministry-focused Christian leadership school, Kuyper College continues to build on the strong foundation established first as RBI, and later as RBC.

Therefore, now is the appropriate time to announce the development of *The Heritage Wall*, honoring and teaching about the past, present and future. *The Heritage Wall* will recognize and uphold the rich and unfolding history of the College at a central site within the School. The continuing biblical and Reformed legacy of the institution will be viewed by present and future generations.

*The Heritage Wall* will feature items from the vaults and archives of the school including photos, yearbooks, diplomas, certificates, seals, clothing, catalogs, literature, course curriculums and more. These materials will be assembled and arranged to clearly and concisely describe the College’s history. The materials will be displayed in specially designed and constructed, high-end display cases. In addition, large, flat-panel, computer-controlled screens will show presentations of the College. By combining museum style and computerized audio/visual displays, both the history and future of the school will have center stage.
Youth Ministry Internship Program

Brian Telzerow is an assistant professor of Youth Ministry at Kuyper College.

There are many ways that Kuyper College students are trained to work with adolescents. However, no one experience is as powerful and informative of a student’s strengths and growth areas than the Youth Ministry Internship Program.

The Youth Internship Program continues to be one of the most significant aspects of the preparation process for soon-to-be Youth Ministry graduates. After three years of theological study—including a strong emphasis on practical application—along with field work throughout their educational experience, students apply to the Internship Program—a major portion of their education. Once accepted, students and faculty work closely to find a good match for the year-long internship experience.

Our goal at Kuyper is to connect our students with experienced youth ministry veterans so they can receive practical training in the "true world" of youth ministry. We rely heavily on the veteran/intern relationship to provide hands-on training and communication during this time. At the end of this long process, our students should be prepared to assume a full-time ministry position. Each internship entails a total of 400 hours of on-the-job training segmented into periods of supervised youth ministry work.

Interns are expected to spend time each week in planning, organizational and administrative responsibilities. The remaining time is spent in meetings with youth group leaders and building relationships while ministering to young people.

Currently, the ministries represented in our Youth Ministry Internship Program are broad and varied. Some of the interns are working in RCA churches, while others are in CRC churches—all in a traditional youth group setting. Some are working in new church start ministries, yet others are in para-church ministries such as Young Life, Youth for Christ and Youth Unlimited. One of our interns is using her gift in dance while she interns at a Baptist church.

Praise God for the vision given to the Apostle Paul to become all things to all people so that by all possible means some might be saved. By its very nature, youth ministry work can be very demanding, and at times what is expected from youth workers can be daunting. Therefore, no graduate can be fully prepared to enter a ministry and immediately meet all of its needs. However, it is our hope that by providing our students with a sound theological education combined with hands-on, practical experience they will have a real understanding, and be prepared to meet the challenges and demands of this life-long ministry profession.

“In My Words” is a feature of The Kuyper College News highlighting first-person stories by Kuyper College faculty.

One of the most important issues facing college students is the cost of education. As a ministry-focused Christian leadership college, we strive to keep tuition and room and board fees approximately 30 percent less than comparable Christian colleges. At Kuyper, as part of our Cost Reduction Program, we offer all of our students what we like to call the “Silent Scholarship,” which in essence is another name for the Annual Fund which benefits every Kuyper student.

Your gifts to the Annual Fund enable our graduates to pursue their calling with as little college-related debt as possible. Your gifts to the Annual Fund are supporting students who will go on to serve as pastors, social workers, teachers, youth pastors, and in many other professional ministry-oriented positions. Over the years, this “Silent Scholarship” has empowered our graduates to follow God’s call to service in the U.S., Canada and in more than 50 other countries around the world.

A Kuyper College education is very special. Kuyper students share an extraordinary experience as they prepare for and then follow God’s call for their lives. Your support makes this possible.

Will you consider a gift to the Annual Fund today? Please use the attached envelope or contact Todd Sytsma at 616.988.3653 or Ken Capisciolto at 616.988.3676 in the Kuyper College Advancement Office to discuss your gift to the Annual Fund or other options for giving.
Father and son wait for medical care

Street continued from cover
the gospel every Saturday night.

Rain storms and even blizzards have not been able to keep away this band of witness-minded warriors—members of the Kuyper College Street Team. They begin showing up around 7:30 PM. They set up tables with coffee, donuts and Bibles. They hang around until 11:00 or so. By then all of the coffee and three-to-four dozen donuts and the 40 or so Bibles they give away every Saturday are gone. "It is," as Camren DeWaard, a Kuyper sophomore puts it, "our opportunity to serve Christ in a tangible way." Often they are asked by passers-by what they are selling. "We always answer, 'we're not selling anything, but if you like donuts, coffee or Bibles we have them, and they are free—no strings attached,'" said junior, Dylan Pahman.

According to the Street Team members, their objective is to build relationships with the folks in the neighborhood. They have been able to do this by consistently showing up no matter what the weather and by not pushing the Bible. "Usually folks just come by and take a donut and a cup of coffee and keep-on going. At other times, we get to engage in surface conversations," said Brad Jones, a Kuyper sophomore. "However, at times the topic turns to God. It is then that we take the opportunity to share what the Word has to say. After doing this week after week, we have been able to develop some relationships with folks in the neighborhood who come out to see us every week. Some even stay with us all night drinking coffee and talking."

One of these folks is Isaac, "He always asks one of us to read the Bible to him," said sophomore Bob Burch. "At times when we stop reading, he will look at us and say 'Why are you stopping? Keep reading.' And we do keep reading, sometimes for up to two hours." According to Jessie Timmer, a Kuyper freshman, Isaac comes back every week with questions regarding the subject of the last week's reading. "He never takes notes. But every week before we start reading some new passages to him, he comes up with questions regarding what we read the previous Saturday. It is obvious to us that Isaac has had a rough life. But he

Medical Ministry continued from cover
Rick traveled to Haiti on a short-term mission trip. He worked in a local hospital—cleaning and painting. During his time off, Rick started going to the TB ward to minister to the patients. "I would take them cookies that I had saved from my dessert. And although we couldn't communicate, we would attempt to talk through sign language and gestures. It was one of my highlights from the trip."

As Rick cleaned and helped paint the hospital during the day, he began to notice the nurses caring for the patients—sitting on the bedside of the ill and ministering to them. "They had a busy schedule and were understaffed," said Rick, "but they still took time to listen, touch and minister. It was during that time that the Lord spoke to my heart about that profession as well as missions."

Upon his return home from the trip, Rick felt the need to attend a college that provided Bible training but also had an emphasis on missions. "As a Wesleyan, my pastor recommended other colleges but he also recommended RBC. The Lord opened up the door—RBC had exactly what I was looking for. I graduated with a Bachelor in Religious Education."

According to Rick, the professors at the College encouraged all the students to own their faith. "Most of the other students were either RCA or CRC—I was the only Wesleyan," said Rick. "Yet, that was never a problem. I was always encouraged to seek and understand why I believed as I did. Instead of just accepting everything that was taught to me in Sunday school, I now wanted to know why. It was there that I was able to develop the skills and abilities that prepared me for the mission field. All of that and the prayer groups on campus helped us become more aware of the needs around the world."

The Lord really used my time at the College to change my life, sanctifying it to His kingdom work. It prepared me for what I needed in missions."

After graduation, Rick attended Indiana Wesleyan University where he received a Bachelor in Nursing. During his time at nursing school he met Lori, also a nursing student. They graduated together and got married knowing they were being called into missions. Through a set of circumstances, Rick and Lori spent three
Students selected by the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus

The Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus features more than 100 voices performing major choral works with the Symphony. Founded in 1930, the Grand Rapids Symphony is considered one of the finest regional orchestras in the country. So it was with pride that the Kuyper College family welcomed the news of the selection of Sarah Main and Kyle Los, both Kuyper students, to be members of the Symphony Chorus. Sarah, a Music and Worship major and Kyle, a Pre-Seminary major, are both juniors at the College.

Sarah and Kyle are dedicated musicians who have been involved in many theater musical productions. In addition, Sarah has over 10 years experience on the piano and was a member of the well-known St. Cecilia Youth Chorale. Kyle plays the piano and the French horn.

Sarah and Kyle will make their debut at DeVos Performance Hall singing Carmina Burana, one of the most exciting classical cantatas of the 20th century.

"Many who are not willing to listen to the gospel when healthy have a different level of need when sick or dying."

—Rick Lampen

years working in Bolivia alongside Dr. Nina Kunkle in a variety of jungle villages with mobile clinics. In these clinics, people were presented with the gospel as well as being cared for medically. After a short time back in the States—to receive his Master as Nurse Practitioner—Rick, Lori and their daughter Kaylinn returned to Bolivia.

Today, on the average, Rick sees between 200-250 patients monthly. Patients come not only from Yotau, but from neighboring villages. "Medical ministries give an interesting aspect to the gospel. Many who are not willing to listen to the gospel when healthy have a different level of need when sick or dying."

Rick remembers one man, Daniel, who had contracted a potentially fatal skin disease from several jungle fly bites. Daniel had no money for his condition and treatment. That did not stop Rick, who started daily visits with Daniel, washing his wounds, giving him injections and instructions on care. A friendship soon developed. "Day after day we talked," said Rick. "I asked Daniel if he had ever thought of becoming a Christian. He described how, due to the severe ulceration on his skin after he was bitten, it took him days to crawl out of the jungle. He had a carved idol, and he’d throw it ahead of him on the trail. He would drag himself up to it and then, he’d throw it farther ahead—giving himself a goal each time. He believed the idol had helped him." Rick and Daniel talked a lot about what an idol couldn’t do versus what God could do in his life. After several days, Rick placed Daniel on bed rest. He left him with several tracts to read, returning each day to talk about them.

"After a couple of weeks, Daniel told me that he understood the need for Christ in his life and wanted to accept him as his savior," said Rick. "A new life began. Since then, Daniel’s wife and their six children have all come to the Lord. Today, after receiving Bible training, both Daniel and his wife minister as missionaries in their village."

Besides running their clinic, Rick and Lori are involved in youth ministries and teaching new believers’ classes in their small church. Yet, according to them, not all times are filled with joy. "In our village, there are several witches and medicine men. They are very opposed to our outreach and make it difficult for us. But in the end, the Lord does provide victory. In Psalm 32:8 the Lord says—‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.’ We have seen him work miracles in our lives here in Bolivia. He is always true to his promises."
Internships—from West Michigan to New York to Romania

"As a pre-sentencing investigator, I have to care and pray because I am dealing with people’s lives. I’m there in the courtroom when sentencing is handed down. I have been able to see how, without Christ, we can all be so close to hitting rock-bottom—how drug addiction, for example, does not differentiate between rich or poor, educated or uneducated."

Half a country away, in Staten Island, New York, Gretchen Boeskool, a Cross-Cultural Studies major, works for Project Hospitality, an interfaith ministry that shelters the homeless, feeds the hungry, and cares for people with HIV/AIDS. She manages a soup kitchen and food pantry—overseeing volunteers and supervising the daily workings of the food and nutrition department site. When time allows, she also works for the Communications and Resource Development department.

According to Gretchen, during her one-year internship, she has learned that life is not black and white and that there are more grey areas than she ever thought possible. "Yet, that doesn’t make it permissible for any one of us to stop asking questions and searching for answers." She credits her professors at Kuyper for helping her to be open-minded. "This internship," she said, "the people I’ve met, the things I’ve done have opened my eyes and given me a new and broader perspective. I’ve learned there is more to life than Grandville, Michigan."

Across the world, another Kuyper student also found life to be quite different. Cross-Cultural Studies major Elizabeth Wierengo served with Veritas, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children, the elderly and disadvantaged in Romania. There she put her TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) Certificate training to good use. Teaching and supervising a program to teach English to adults.

"Romania is a very poor country," said Elizabeth. "They are now barely coming out from under years of communism. To know English, allows adults to get better jobs and earn better pay."

Elizabeth also was involved in caring for senior citizens.

As they come to the end of their Kuyper College career, Bryan Creeger summarized for his classmates what they have received from the College. "At Kuyper, I received a great foundation not only in academic knowledge, but life knowledge. I gained a holistic education that has developed me into a life-long learner—which in my opinion is the most valuable thing a college can do. The professors invested in me as a student but also as a person. They helped me with my studies, with my ministry, and most importantly, with my life and spiritual development."
Street
told us that we are making a difference in his life. Like Denari, another friend we’ve made on Franklin and Eastern—Isaac says—’I love you guys so much because you come every week.’"

The members of the Kuyper College Street Team will be the first to tell you that they cannot make it alone. Every Saturday, a Prayer Team relay made up of Kuyper students prays through every hour during the time their classmates are out on the street. In addition, the Team keeps a "notebook" with prayer requests they receive from the folks they meet every Saturday. Those requests are also prayed for. "The Holy Spirit and prayer are what give us the strength to be out there—to feel safe and have perfect peace about what we are doing," said freshman Megan Boer.

 Asked if there have been times when she has feared for her safety, Megan sheepishly grins and says, "There was this time..." Asked to explain, she continues: "An SUV stopped by and the driver, a woman, rolled down the window and asked us what we were doing. After we explained, she left. An hour later the same SUV came back filled with people. All these folks jumped out and rushed towards us. They must have seen our frightened faces because they yelled, 'We're not a gang; we're here to pray with you.' And pray they did, for several hours. We all had such a great time." However, the story does not end there. Weeks later, the Street Team members learned that the driver's husband, who is a recovering addict, was to have surgery at a local hospital, so they decided to visit him. Armed only with the date of the surgery and a first name they arrived at Saint Mary's Health Care information desk. "After a bit of detective work, they directed us to the right room," said Megan. Since then, the Team has become part of this family's family. They have been invited to their home on several occasions and even to their wedding anniversary party.

Javier Mata, a Kuyper freshman and the only Spanish-speaking member of the team, often interacts with the Latinos that frequent "the corner." "This guy came by one day," said Javier. "In poor English he asked who we were and what we were doing. I answered him in Spanish and the floodgates opened. He told me he lived and where the love of Jesus is the only thing that makes sense." Pressed for a more definitive answer, he laughed. "When we were scouting the area, we kept asking God to show us exactly where he wanted us to minister. When we got to the corner of Franklin and Eastern, we looked up. There, high on a telephone pole someone had stapled a sign that read, ‘The only Hope is Jesus.’ Right then and there we knew we had found the place that God had prepared for us."

KUYPER COLLEGE EVENTS

Spring Celebration Gala

Thursday, April 19, promises to be a wonderful evening as we gather to enjoy Kuyper College’s Annual Spring Celebration Gala. The much-anticipated event will take place at DeVos Place.

We would be very pleased if you could join us to listen to Rev. Kevin Harney, author of Seismic Shifts, who will be our keynote speaker for the evening. He will share how sometimes a major upheaval can change the landscape of our lives in a moment. But most of the time, it’s the small, positive changes that make a difference—seemingly minor adjustments that produce surprisingly big results.

Like the first domino in a domino chain, Kevin will show us how a single wisely considered action can set in motion an entire life-changing sequence—small changes in our everyday lives that can improve our relationships with others and God. These "seismic shifts" can take place almost anywhere: in our spiritual and personal lives, in a family, a church, a community, or in a business. Powerful changes, that, though small, can set in motion shifts that will increase our joy, expand our faith and help us impact our community and the world.

We look forward to having you join us as we share plans for the continued growth of the College, and celebrate the rich blessings we’ve received from God.
Located between China and India, the two most populous countries in the world, Nepal, a country slightly larger than Arkansas, is but a small speck on a map of the globe. To its south lie the Ganges plains. To its north rise the formidable Great Himalaya range—home to eight of the world’s 10 tallest peaks, including Mount Everest. Nepal’s population is 80 percent Hindu and 11 percent Buddhist. Less than one percent of the population is Christian.

Prasha Maharjan, a junior at Kuyper College, was born into a Hindu family in Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital city. "Growing up, I remember seeing my mother, a very religious woman, worshiping idols in Hindu temples," says Prasha. "I first learned about Jesus from my aunt who had become a believer and who would periodically come over to our house and pray for my mother. My two brothers and my sister would ignore her, but I was attracted to what she was saying because I saw a peace in her life that I did not have." However, it was not until she came to the United States to study journalism at the University of Oklahoma that Prasha came to know the Lord.

"I met several Christian students while at Oklahoma," said Prasha. "They were very kind to me and helped me a lot. I knew they loved Jesus. They were honest and loved going to church—I would always try to join them. It was one day after services that I said to myself ‘I think I want to be a Christian.’"

As time passed, Prasha’s faith deepened. For a while, she lived with a Christian family which, according to her, helped her see the reality of Christian action up-close. In the meantime, back in Nepal, Prasha’s sister had become very ill. "I became burdened because my sister did not know the Lord," said Prasha. "I began to tell her about Jesus in my letters. As time passed, her health continued to fail. By the time I was able to get back to Nepal, she had died." However, while going over her sister Jyoti’s journal, Prasha found that she had written a letter to Jesus inviting Him to be Lord of her life. "Finding that letter and knowing that my sister was in heaven gave me tremendous peace and joy," said Prasha. Since then, Prasha’s mother has also come to know the Lord and is no longer worshiping idols.

Back in Nepal, and looking to worship among Christians, Prasha met Arbin Pokharel, a graduate of the College who now pastors a church in Kathmandu. "He encouraged me to study the Bible, to come here [Kuyper], rather than go back to Oklahoma. That advice has made all the difference in the world."

Through International Student and other Kuyper College scholarships, Prasha is now able to look to the day when she can bring back to Nepal what she is learning at Kuyper. "I love my professors," she says. "They are approachable and always available. I not only find my courses academically challenging, but I am learning that everything I know and everything that I am, can be and should be integrated with Scripture."

When asked if she misses the University of Oklahoma, Prasha responded, "I’m loving my classes, my classmates and my professors at Kuyper. I’m looking to the future, not to the past. I am looking forward to the day when I can take God’s goodness back to Nepal."