



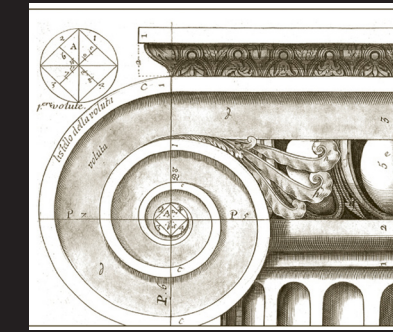
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Lord,
Give me
Indonesia!*

- YOHANNA GULTOM

- Nov. 3-5, 8-9 CTP-4 Testing, grades 2-9
- Nov. 4 "Choosing Rockbridge Academy for High School" for 6th-8th grade parents @ 7:30AM; GIBC
- Nov. 8 Basketball Begins
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day Program @ 9AM; main campus
- Nov. 12 3rd grade Field Trip to Annearrundell Free School
- Nov. 15 Daytime Open House @ 8:30AM - 2:00PM; both campuses
- Nov. 16 Bagels with the Headmaster;
Topic: "Educationg the Heart" @ 8:30AM; main campus
- Nov. 18 College Night @ 7:30pm at the GIBC Campus
- Nov. 19 End of the 1st Trimester
Individual Picture Makeup Day @ the Main Campus
4th Grade Field Trip to Medieval Times
- Nov. 22 SCHOOL CLOSED – Teacher Workday
- Nov. 23-26 SCHOOL CLOSED for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 2 5th Grade Field Trip to Mt. Vernon
- Dec. 4 Debate Tournament @ Summit School, Virginia
- Dec. 7 Suzuki Strings Christmas Concert @ 11:30AM; GIBC
- Dec. 8 TST Gift Wrapping Event
- Dec. 9 10th Grade Biology Field Trip
Kindergarten to see *The Nutcracker*



ROCKBRIDGE REPORTER

A Newsletter for Rockbridge Academy

November 2010

TO IMPACT THE NATIONS

by Heidi Stevens



The morning prayer for Indonesian Muslims starts when the sun is 20 degrees beneath the horizon. That's just after 4:30 a.m., I learned, when I was awoken by the call to prayer on my first morning in the country. I opened the door of the small balcony of my guestroom on the 28th floor of a high rise building, thinking I might possibly be able to see the mosque that was broadcasting the call. I spied a dome and minaret and then, just as I'd decided that this was the source of my unwelcome wake-up call, I caught sight of another. And another. I scanned the landscape that was slowly emerging before me in the pre-dawn light and counted at least a dozen mosques in the space of the few square miles that I could see from my high vantage point.

Not a church was in sight. Fully awake, I sat looking over the landscape reflecting on the amazing courage and vision of the people I was here to serve.

I'd been sent by Rockbridge Academy to spend ten days training teachers for a brand new classical and Christian school called Quantum Change Academy. Located in Tangerang, a suburb of Jakarta, QCA is the latest addition to a growing number of international classical and Christian schools. Tangerang is fairly wealthy, by Indonesian standards, but it has been the sight of some

significant conflict between Muslims and Christians in recent years. Churches have been burned and congregations have been threatened. Tensions have eased in recent months and I never felt unsafe during my visit, yet the boldness of QCA's beginnings here is, from our comfortable American vantage point, hard to underestimate.

Indonesia, the fourth most populous country in the world, is composed of some 13,500 islands, divided into 27 provinces. There are over 240 million Muslims in Indonesia, more than in any other country in the world. Many rural areas of the country are 100% Muslim and currently have no Christian witness, but rapid urbanization in recent years means that nearly 40% of the total population of this country is crowded into major cities such as Jakarta and suburbs such as Tangerang. In these densely populated areas, the Christian church is growing and having increasing impact.

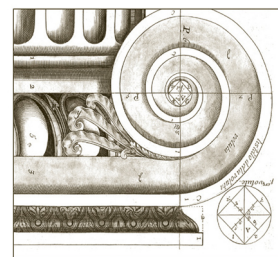
Quantum Change Academy was born of the vision of Pastor Steven Agustinus, the leader of Breakthrough City Church in Tangerang. One need only spend a few hours with Pastor Steven in order to see how deeply he loves his congregation and how passionately he is committed to their continued growth and maturity in Christ. Quantum Change

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TO IMPACT THE NATIONS ... *continued*

Academy (QCA) is just one outgrowth of his deep desire to serve and equip his congregants. Yet this shepherd has a vision that reaches far beyond the nourishment of his own flock, and when he speaks of these hopes, he seems to be a man transformed. His gentle voice becomes bold and his eyes shine with excitement as he speaks with tremendous faith about what he believes God will do with the seeds planted at QCA. Pastor Steven, you see, believes that the godly generation that he is working to raise up will do nothing less than transform the very nation of Indonesia. "To influence the cities... to impact the nations!" is printed on nearly every piece of literature at this fledgling school.

But why would a school on the other side of the world embrace classical Christian education, with its unapologetic emphasis on the history and literature of Western culture? What is so attractive to them that they would sacrifice so much to begin this sort of difficult work?

The answers to those questions forever changed my view of both the importance of my own calling as a teacher in a classical Christian school and my understanding of the waiting, ripe harvest for Christ's kingdom in Indonesia.

The people I encountered are longing for what we have in a way that should both humble and energize us. It humbled me, as I saw eyes shine with excitement and emotion when I spoke to teachers and parents about things I'd nearly come to take for granted. Things like seeking to reach the hearts of students, not just manage classroom behavior. Privileges like teaching students that all knowledge and beauty falls under the authority of Christ and points to the glory of God. Blessings like participating in the orderly methodology of the Trivium.

To the Christians I met, all of these things are worth the sacrifice of lives and fortunes. Do we remember what a treasure we have? When we feel cramped in our small classrooms or long for better lacrosse fields or feel worn out by math facts, Latin vocabulary, or thesis research, do we remember the gift in which we're privileged participants?

Perhaps more than anything else, Pastor Steven and the teachers at QCA are intrigued by one thing: our graduates. A video of Anna Kitchin, winner of last year's Rhetoric competition, plays at nearly every open house and public event QCA holds. "This is what Indonesia needs," I heard again and again, in response to that video.

They long for such students – students who will graduate not only able to speak from a Christian worldview, but also to speak beautifully and persuasively. Do we esteem the "whole package" of education here at Rockbridge so highly, remembering the tremendous worth of pressing on to the end in order to graduate students who can lead with beauty, truth, and goodness, such that the world takes notice and listens?

"Regardless of how large, your vision is too small," said the great Scottish churchman, Thomas Chalmers. I came home from Indonesia amazed at how little we understood where the vision behind the founding of Rockbridge Academy would lead. On my journey, I carried with me the work of my colleagues – everything from phonics lessons to thesis manuals. How many of us as teachers, during long evenings of writing lesson

plans, thought that those plans might bless a generation of Indonesian children? How many of us as parents realize that we set a daily example for a watching world, simply by seeking to educate our children to love God with their whole hearts? Our vision is too small, but God's plans are never limited by our range of sight.

A few days before Quantum Change Academy opened its doors for the first time this October, they suffered a tremendous blow. The husband of Yohanna Gultom, the head of school, suffered a sudden heart attack and died. I had gotten to know this man, Pepi, a respected leader in his country (he held a high position at the Bank of Indonesia) and a bold Christian who had a tremendous vision for the reform of his nation. I wept for the pain rippling through the QCA community. But, as tragic as his death was, the report that came after the funeral amazed and humbled me again. At the end of her husband's funeral, Yohanna stood and thanked all those who had come. Then she said to the crowd that she believed that even as one great reformer like her husband passed away, God would raise up a thousand reformers with the same heart and passion for the nation. She ended her address with this cry: "Lord, give me Indonesia!"

Let us gratefully and excitedly press on with this work of education when the days get long. And let us expand our vision for what God is doing both here and in the far reaches of his Kingdom, for His glory and to the praise of His great name.

How many of us as parents realize that we set a daily example for a watching world, simply by seeking to educate our children to love God with their whole hearts?



CALLING ALL VETERANS!

Rockbridge Academy is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its Annual Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 9:00AM in the Main Auditorium at Rockbridge Academy.

The purpose of this event is to honor those who have served our nation in peace and war. The event includes student recitations, a keynote speaker, and a special presentation of a memorial wreath at the tomb of a World War II veteran. All parents, grandparents and friends of Rockbridge Academy are invited to attend, especially those who have served in uniform. For those who are currently serving or have served, please feel free to wear your uniform at this important event.

Please join us on November 11th at 9:00AM as we honor those who have served our nation.

MEET THE NEW FACULTY

When most students graduate from high school, they usually never dream of coming back. However, this is gladly not the case with Rockbridge Academy. Liz Cawley, Rockbridge graduate of 2010, has come back to Rockbridge, not as a student, but as a student aid.

"Mr. Janikowsky offered me the opportunity last year after I decided to take a year off before I head to college, and I've really been enjoying working here," says Liz. In addition to working at Rockbridge, Liz also takes an Art History course at Anne Arundel Community College.

When Liz Cawley is not being a student aid or studying for school, she lives at home with her mother, Rockbridge sixth grade teacher, Christina Cawley, and their dog Diesel. Her brother, Noah Cawley, is also a Rockbridge Academy graduate ('09). She also enjoys drawing, biking, and hanging out at City Dock in downtown Annapolis with her friends.

Though this may not be the regular experience of a recent graduate, there are definitely some perks that come with the job. Liz says, "The best part of my job has definitely been opening everyday with prayer and the praise of God during morning worship. Also, it is amazing to be working with these godly and loving people."

Liz Cawley
by Madison Marmen,
10th grade



Seamus McKenna by Emma Marmen, senior

As one of the newest members to be added to the Rockbridge Staff, Seamus McKenna, says that the opportunity to work on the Rockbridge campus was "the chance of a lifetime."

Seamus is the oldest boy in his family of seven. As the children have gotten older and started working, it has become harder for all of the McKennas to sit down to dinner together every night of the week. But when they do get to, Seamus says their time is filled with drollery.

"The McKenna's have their own humor, and that is one thing that I love most about our family."

Now Seamus is working over at the Rock as a third grade student aid, in addition to taking night classes at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. Seamus, who was originally planning on taking a job at Starbucks, says that the decision to work at Rockbridge instead is not one that he will regret.

"Now I have a job that might end up being the best job I will ever have."

Seamus even claims that Rockbridge is a possibility for his future career.

"I graduated way too early to be able to say I'd had enough, which is why I think I might want to come back to teach at Rockbridge. We'll see what God's plan for me is."

When Seamus isn't at the Rock, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Some of his favorite spots to hang out are Storm Brothers Ice Cream and the harbor in downtown Annapolis. His other hobbies include reading, listening to music, and singing.

When asked what his favorite part about working at Rockbridge is, Seamus said, "My real favorite thing about working at Rockbridge is that I didn't have to leave this year. I love being near my old teachers, this great community of godly people (young and old), and the ingenious curriculum, from which I am still learning, even in third grade."