

# Dan & Peggy Lewis

[danlewis@dkonos.org](mailto:danlewis@dkonos.org)

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We completed two mission trips this winter, one to Mexico in February and the other to Dunham, Canada in March. A third trip, which had been planned to western Australia for January, was cancelled due to some scheduling complications at their end of things.



Part of the campus of University of the Nations at San Antonio del Mar, Baja, Mexico. All this sunshine was a nice reprieve from the Michigan snow belt in February!

I always enjoy coming to the university at San Antonio del Mar, Mexico in the Baja! It's a beautiful little campus, and this year I had a wide range of students with, surprisingly, more Europeans than usual. Of course, there were students from Mexico and some other Latin American countries, but this time I also had students from France, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Spain, not to mention one Aussie from Down Under. They were a great bunch, and I'll probably also pick up a couple of them as on-line students in Greek and/or Hebrew. My lectures were on the end of the Old Testament (Chronicles and Malachi) and the Intertestamental Period, where

we covered the history, institutions, texts and developments in Jewish theology prior to the time of Jesus. I also gave a short introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Three times the staff took me out for street tacos, which are always marvelous, and I had several interactions with students privately to field questions and assist them with their studies in the Bible!



Here, I'm pointing out the geographical areas of the Diaspora in Mesopotamia, and the gentleman standing with me is one of my translators.

As a bi-lingual campus, of course, all my lectures were translated into Spanish, and all my written materials, which I had sent ahead weeks earlier, had been translated into Spanish as well. It's always enjoyable to interact with students from a rather wide spectrum of Christian backgrounds, and within this group, the ranges were from Lutheran to Anglican to Evangelical to Catholic to Pentecostal—

quite a spread! I'll be headed back to this campus in September.

In March, Peggy and I flew to Montreal, where we were picked up by staff and driven to the campus in Dunham, Quebec, just a few miles from the Vermont border. This was our third visit in the past four years to this School of Biblical Studies, and here I lectured on Joshua, Judges and Ruth and the archaeology of the Late Bronze Age. I had an excellent group of French students from Quebec Province, France, the French-speaking sector of Switzerland, one French-speaking Mexican who studied in Paris, and one student from New Caledonia in the South Pacific, an island that has been linked to France for the past couple of centuries and remains French-speaking. As is usual, all my presentations were translated into French long before I arrived, and during my lectures, I was privileged to have Katrien Daelman as my verbal translator (she also translated my written materials), a young Belgian attorney who works for the United Nations in Paris but also serves voluntarily at the School of Biblical Studies in Quebec.

My connection to this Canadian school, oddly enough, was in England, where several years ago Sandrine Bellanger studied under me. Some years later, she became the Department Head of this school in Quebec, and she has been kind enough to invite me to teach there several times. It's a lovely rural community, and while my French is minimal (I took a couple years of French back in 1964-65 but have rarely used it since), I was able to muddle my way through a menu one evening at a local restaurant. On a Tuesday evening the week I was there, they held a biblical Q&A, where students could pose any questions they wished about the Bible, and it was a very interesting two hours. I fielded questions about everything from the age of the universe to the cultural background of some of Jesus' parables to those sticky passages about women in 1 Timothy and 1 Corinthians to some delicate questions about Roman Catholic theology (some of the students came from the Roman Church). Great fun!



Here I am in the classroom with Katrien, my French translator, who is engaged to be married later this year (which probably means that if I am able to go back to Quebec, I will lose her as my translator.)



Here are some of my "French connections", left to right: Michael Leal (from Paris), Jacob Ainsworth (staff member and graduate of Gordon-Conwell in Boston), David Le Veo (also from France) and me.



In addition to my lecture trips each year since retiring in 2015, I also have been working on four big ancillary projects: **a)** completing a grammar of New Testament Greek, which now is up and running as an on-line graduate course from the University of Nations in England, **b)** writing a full grammar for the Hebrew Bible, also to be offered through U. of N., **c)** updating my guide to the biblical artifacts in the British Museum, which I finished this past fall, and **d)** writing a commentary on the Hebrew text of the Book of Job. I was able to finish the work on the Job commentary while in Quebec, and soon it will be added to my website of biblical resource materials ([www.dkonos.org](http://www.dkonos.org)).

On the horizon for the spring are more lecture trips, this time to the Netherlands, England, Honolulu, and Kona, Hawaii. In the coming summer, I'm scheduled once again for two weeks in Cape Town, South Africa. In the fall and early winter, it will Mexico, Panama and Kansas City.

I should state frankly that these mission letters are intended as informative, not solicitations. Still, I do need assistance with funding, especially when I lecture in the Two-thirds World, where resources can be extremely limited, and where I often go at my own expense. To those of you who are gracious to provide support, I am deeply grateful, and I firmly believe that God keeps good accounts. May you be richly rewarded!

I remain your servant in the gospel of God's grace and the kingdom of God,

Dan Lewis



This is the interior of the Anglican Church next to the U. of N. campus in Dunham, Quebec. We were there during Ash Wednesday, but only Peggy, my wife, was able to attend the 10:00 AM morning service, since it fell in the middle of my lecture hours.