

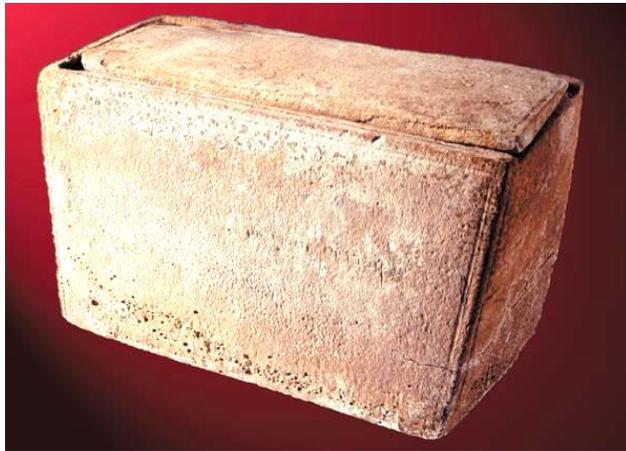
# Diakonos

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

August, 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

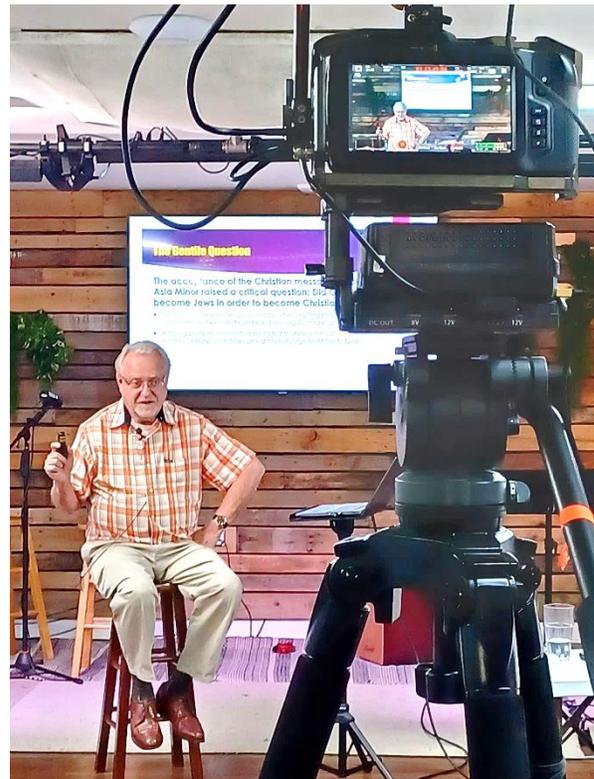
Here is hoping you all are well! The summer got off to a good start with a drive to Richmond, VA, where Peggy and I went to teach in the University of the Nations



*In my lectures, I address a variety of archaeological objects that are related to the biblical material, and this year I covered the famous James Ossuary, which has the intriguing inscription, **James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus**. Scholars are divided about whether or not this is authentic, but if so, it would be the earliest reference to Jesus outside the New Testament.*

ground. I had my usual range of students from different countries, including Germany, Chile, Brazil, and of course, the USA. This U. of N. campus has a focus on ESL (English as a second language), and because they specialize in Portuguese,

biblical studies school there. I covered the Book of Acts, James, Jude, 1 & 2 Peter, and Hebrews. This was more of a survey course, but in 15 hours of lecture, one can cover quite a lot of



*My lectures are usually video-recorded, as you can see here.*

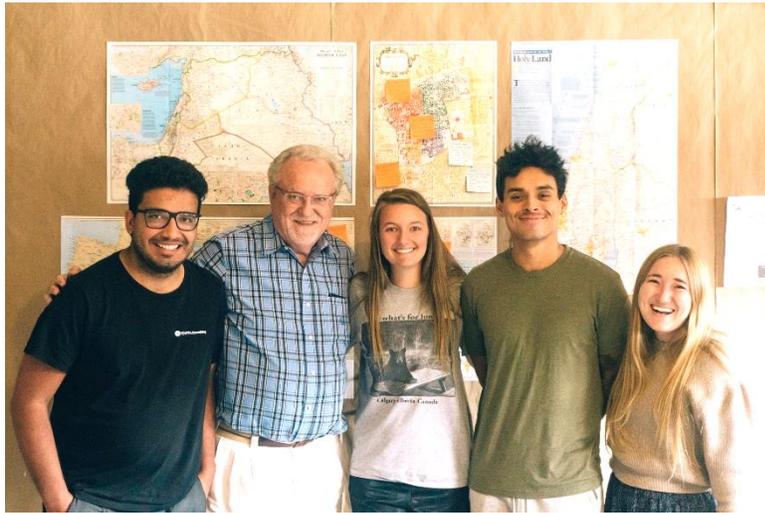
they get quite a few students from Brazil who come to do the language course and then register for biblical studies courses afterwards. However, all my lectures were in English, and no translation was necessary. All the Latin American students were fluent in English.

If you remember my mission letter from a year or so ago, my lectures in Virginia were all video-recorded for use elsewhere in the world. I discovered that my last year's lectures are now being used in China, and this year they video-recorded my lectures as well for the same purpose. One of the professors, formerly from Liberty University who specializes in on-line course work, is working with the department in their effort to create these on-line classes in biblical studies as well as other subjects, also.

In late June, I traveled to Niagara Falls, Canada to a new U. of N. school just starting out. This one was close enough so that I could drive to it from Detroit, which made it nice, since I had a vehicle while there. Most of the time when I fly, I am locked on a campus, so to speak, and can only go outside the campus where my feet can carry me, with public transportation if available, or if someone is willing to take me somewhere.



*The site in Niagara Falls is small but serviceable. Everyone stays in the same home, eats together in the same kitchen, and works together in the same study areas. On a couple of the days, the weather was sufficiently hot that we set up a classroom in the basement, where it was cooler.*



Here, I lectured to a small but eager group of students on the Book of Ezra and the history of the Intertestamental Period. These subjects are not very well known to most Christians, but they are quite important for understanding the New Testament. We covered, among other things,

the Dead Sea Scrolls and the important early translations of the Bible, such as, the Septuagint (Greek) and the Targums (Aramaic). I also addressed important developments in the Intertestamental Period, including the emergence of the



Samaritans, the developments of synagogues, and the various sects of Judaism that one meets in the New Testament, such as, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Zealots. My students were Canadians, as expected, but I also had one young man from the Netherlands and one young woman from Germany. Also, I had a chance to meet one of my on-line Hebrew students face-to-face while there.

This group planned an educational field trip to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and I was able to assist them with a guide to the various artifacts related to the Bible, even though they would take this field trip

after I left. They sent me a “selfie” of some of the group in front of the Babylonian lion, an artifact from the German excavations of Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon from the time of Daniel and the exile. The young woman in the very middle of the

group, Joanna, is my Hebrew student, and she was able to read some of the inscriptions in Hebrew, which was exciting for them all.

The remainder of the summer while at home has been given to preparations for another Teachers Seminar upcoming in January in Cartagena, Colombia. There, I will give a two-week lecture to Bible teachers from around the Latin American world. This will be a Part II of what I began last January in Mexico (Part I), with about 50 teachers in attendance. I'm anticipating about the same number this coming January in Cartagena. All my lectures and Powerpoints must be prepared well in advance so translators can set to work on putting them into Spanish and Portuguese. Altogether, I've prepared about 500 slides on the Kings and Prophets of Israel (plus the Intertestamental Period), so even when not traveling, I am staying quite busy.

Upcoming this fall are lectures in Mexico (September, Genesis and Canon), Colorado Springs (October, Post-exilic Literature), Kona, Hawaii (November, 1 Corinthians), and Seattle (December, Paul and His Letters).

Our deepest gratitude for those who continue to support this ministry! It truly reaches around the globe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan and Peggy Lewis', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and 'P'.

Dan and Peggy Lewis