

Diakonos

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Summer arrived, and with it, a new set of destinations and lectures! June started off with a new course in biblical studies offered by University of the Nations here in Detroit—virtually in my backyard! I was contacted by Donna Briggs, the administrator, to see if I would be willing to teach for one of their lecture weeks,



The Detroit YWAM center is a house in an eastside neighborhood, where for the past several years they have been working with families in the neighborhood. They converted the upstairs to a classroom.

and I was happy to do so, covering the Letter to the Hebrews. The course was being offered on the east side of the city, where Youth With a Mission has a small center and has been doing neighborhood charity work for the past several years.

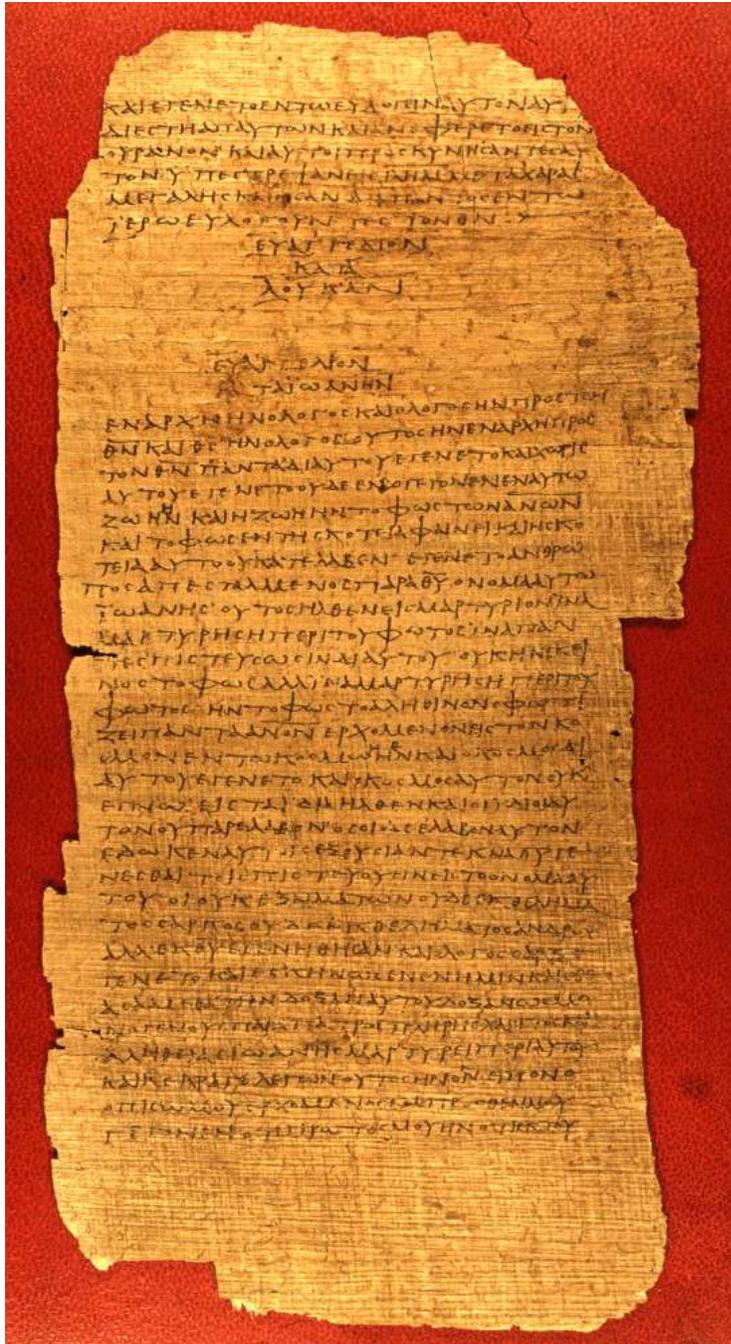


Ashley, Allie, & Donna share a light moment before lectures begin.

This spring, however, they offered the first of their

biblical studies courses, so it was a delight to be able to join them on this pilot adventure. I had a small group of students, some in attendance in person and two who were linked to us by Zoom from Brazil and Chile. Students in attendance

included Rachel, a grad from Oakland University, Daniel, who initially is from the Philippines and whose parents are Wycliff Bible Translators, Ashley, who comes from the Roman Catholic Church, plus others from Pennsylvania and Michigan. As



One of the very earliest manuscripts of John's Gospel, p75 here shows the end of Luke and the beginning of John. Dating to ca. 175-225, it resides in the Vatican Library in Rome.

soon as Daniel finishes this course, he will travel to the Ukraine, where he will join a team working in Kyiv in the ongoing trauma of the current war. It was a delightful week, and Allie Kiss and Julia Ligowski, the staff who serve in this new beginning, were a joy to work with!

Kona, Hawaii was next. I get to the Kona campus usually once or twice each year (this year it will be twice), and here I handled a week's lectures on the writings of John—the gospel, the three letters, and the Revelation. There were 29 in the class, so it was a bit larger than usual, and among the students, nine nations were represented. The class was very engaged and engaging, and in addition to the various college-aged students, I had some who were a bit older as well. One Norwegian gentleman, in particular, was very insightful, and I had the opportunity to engage with him several times outside of the classroom as well as in the lecture periods.

While there are University of the Nations Campuses around the world (about a 100 of them altogether), the one in Kona is what I would categorize as the flagship campus. Given that, perhaps I should describe it in more detail. Most U. of N. campuses are relatively small, but the one in Kona is larger, usually running about a thousand students, more or less. As the vision of Loren Cunningham, the founder, this campus pulls students from around the world, but especially, students from Asia and the Americas. (The fact that it is on the Big Island in Hawaii is an added attraction, I'm sure.)



At the center of the campus is the flags court, where flags from the nations of all the current international students are flown daily.

While it has a number of departments, I teach in the Biblical Studies section, usually in English (though I have taught all-Korean classes with translation as well). Classes vary in size. I've taught classes with as many as 75 students, though most are smaller. Several of my language students in Hebrew and Greek have come from this campus, and a number of students that I've taught in the past are now serving as missionaries in various countries. On



Here, in the John lectures, I am covering the trial of Jesus.

this trip, I had the opportunity to have dinner with two couples, all former students, who are serving in Malaysia, for instance. So, it was a good week! The “red eye” home was taxing, but usually I’m back to normal in three or four days.

The final trip this summer was back to Colombia, South America, where I covered the Book of Revelation for students in Medellin. This was my second trip to this Latin American country, and as before, I had a delightful group! To say the least, we had lively discussions, since in Latin America the two largest groups of Christians come from either the Roman Catholic Church or the Pentecostal



Here's my class of Colombian students. (I'm the "old guy" in the middle.)

Churches, and though I had a couple of Lutherans as well, most of the students were from backgrounds in those two larger bodies. Neither of them knew much about the apocalyptic genre, but at least for the Pentecostals, they already had a decided viewpoint on the end of the world. Hence, my exploration of how

Christians have grappled with the Book of Revelation from the post-apostolic church through the Middle



Ages, the Reformation, and up into the development of dispensationalism in the early 1800s was plowing new ground for them all. So, we had LOTS of discussion, and indeed, a good deal of fun! I did my best to broaden their perspective.

In the fall season I have lectures scheduled in England (Luke and Acts), Honolulu (1 Corinthians), Switzerland (Ezekiel), and Kona (Romans), and 2023 is about half full already as well. As always, we are very grateful for those of you who support this mission, and we wish you all God's very best!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan and Peggy Lewis'.

Dan and Peggy Lewis



*To the **left** is a classroom shot, and to the **right** is a view of Medellin rising behind another university campus near the University of the Nations.*