

Dan & Peggy Lewis

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Dear Friends,

Peggy and I just returned from Toronto, Canada for the final leg of our Winter 2017 lectures for University of the Nations. It's been a very good trip, but we are glad to be home for about a month before we begin our next overseas series. At the very least, it will give me a chance to do some needed yard work for the new season, file my taxes and a few other "house-keeping" items that beg attention. One of the exciting prospects with being home for most of April is to be able to baptize T.J., one of my grandsons, on Easter at Troy Christian Chapel. Of course, since many of you reading this mission letter are from TCC, it will be a joy to see you as well!

Here is what has been happening in my Diakonos ministry. I left for "Down Under" just after the first of the year, spending three weeks in Australia. The first stop was Perth in Western Australia, where I lectured in the Discipleship Bible School for two weeks on Origins and World View and the Pentateuch. Unlike Michigan, which was cold, Western Australia was hot—very hot (middle of summer)! Perth is a very sizable city, and the campus is within walking distance of the downtown area. The staff and students were wonderful, and two staff couples, especially, I now count as good friends. One couple, Mick and June, was a



Mick and June and “yours truly” at a game preserve, where we got a “close-up” of a koala!

retired attorney and his wife from Texas, who were the administrators of the department. The other couple, Bill and Carol, was a retired physician and his wife from here in Michigan. Both had decided to use their retirement years doing missions work. In addition to my classroom work, I saw my first kangaroo, first koala (by the way, they aren’t “bears”), first kookaburra, first wombat and a few other interesting creatures, including some pretty serious snakes!

From the west, I flew back to the east coast to Brisbane, where staff picked me up and we drove about an hour or so northward to the Sunshine Coast. Here, I lectured for the next week on the Book of Genesis in the School of Biblical Studies. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting two Ethiopian students, both

young ladies in their early 20s, who had been orphaned in Ethiopia when just small girls. At the orphanage, both had become best friends. However, they were separated when they were about 10 years old, for both were adopted into American families, one in Chicago, Illinois and the other in Fairbanks, Alaska. Though they had no contact with each other whatsoever after their respective adoptions, by the providence of God both were reunited in this same school in Eastern Australia a decade or so later—and what a reunion it was!



Staff members of the college in Eastern Australia, including Dave and Donna (on the left), with whom I stayed. Because it is summer with temps rising to about 100 every day, everyone wears shorts—and I was no exception! It's a nice way to spend a Michigan winter!



In this classroom shot, you can see one of my Ethiopian girls in the right center.

It's a loooong flight from Australia to Detroit—13 times zones by way of the Pacific. It seemed strange to fly out on a Saturday, fly into Friday (over the international date line) and fly back into Saturday!

In February, it was back to Switzerland, where once more I lectured on the Book of Genesis for a week to an all-Korean group. All my work had been sent ahead of time, so it could be translated into Korean, and all my lectures were translated



live as they were given. Switzerland was beautiful, most of the snow had melted, but the Alps, which rise up just at the edge of Lake Geneva, were breath-taking!

My class was sizeable—about 50 students—and to my delight one young Korean girl decided to “adopt” me as her grandfather! What an honor!

Ernest, one of the department administrators, stands with me by the side of Lake Geneva on a cold, somewhat misty morning. The Alps are barely visible in the background.

I arrived back in Michigan on a Saturday evening

and even made it to church the following morning! However, a two-week respite at home was welcome, for by this time, I was getting tired.

In March, I spent three weeks in Canada, the first in Vancouver B.C. (lectures on Matthew’s Gospel and Intertestamental History) and the next two in Toronto (lectures on Luke and Acts, plus a four-hour seminar for Toronto Pastors on the transition of the early church from Judaism to Christianity).



Once again, this was an all-Korean group and I was back to lecturing with live translation. However, having done this in Holland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Western Samoa and Quebec Province, I'm becoming pretty comfortable with doing translated lectures. It makes classroom discussion more challenging, of course. Mark and LeeAnn Kim, the leaders of this school, have also become very good friends. Because Toronto is so close, instead of flying we are able to drive, which in turn means I can even take my guitar with me! The Koreans love the old hymns of the church, and because their background is more closely linked with

the traditional churches, they actually know the older music.

So, that's a summary of January through March. It's been busy but good! After a month at home, Peggy and I will begin our spring lecture series at the end of April, first in England, then Germany, then Oregon, then Hawaii and wrapping up in New Zealand. That will take us through June.

Oh, and one more thing... The on-line university of U. of N., which is administrated in England, will be opening up my course in New Testament Greek grammar in mid-April for students across the English-speaking world, so I'll be doing distance language learning for interested students in their graduate programs. My deep thanks to those from TCC, like David Glad and Dennis Darch, who are just now finishing the Advanced Greek section of the course. They have been very helpful in pointing out my typos and offering other constructive suggestions, so they, also, have a stake in what I'll be doing on-line.

Blessings to you all!

Dan and Peggy Lewis