

Diakonos

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Fall 2022

Greetings to you one and all! The summer seems to have fled, fall is here, and winter is knocking at the door. It has been a good fall, however, and Peggy and I were privileged to do several mission trips, even though one in Seattle had to be cancelled due to a change in their programming. On the plus side, we were able to share our work with the members of Troy Christian Chapel, the parish where I was formerly the Senior Pastor prior to retirement, and it was good to see long-time friends.

Now that the Covid panic is subsiding, travel is once more possible, and Peggy and I flew to England for two weeks. We were delighted that my niece, Susan Paynter, could accompany us. She is a nurse and works in medical missions in Haiti.

Once again, we found ourselves at The King's Lodge, the University of the Nations campus in the Midlands. The



With a history going back into the last century, the King's Lodge (formerly, the Lindley Lodge) has served as a school for many decades, though the last few have been as a U of N campus.

students were all new, but most of the staff were long-time friends, since I have taught on this campus many





My students came from England, America, Germany, Korea, Australia, and India.

times previously. My subjects were the writings of Luke, which comprise about a quarter of the New Testament, and the students were a very engaged group which I found to be delightful. They had lots of questions, and in addition to the three hour-lectures each morning, I was invited to conduct an evening of Q/A that lasted until after 10:00 PM (pretty late for an old duffer like me).

Besides the lectures on the New Testament books of Luke and Acts, I also took a group of Norwegian biblical studies students on a tour of the

biblical artifacts in the British Museum in London. They flew in from Skien, Norway, and we covered a wide variety of Mesopotamian, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian artifacts, among them, cuneiform texts that directly mention biblical characters, like King Jehu and King Ahab from the northern nation of Israel, and excavated artifacts like the Amarna Letters between the Canaanite city-states and Pharaoh Akhenaten along with the famous Lachish Letters from the Babylonian



Here are my Norwegian students from Skien.

attack upon Jerusalem and the Cyrus Cylinder that documents the decree to allow displaced peoples like the Jews to return to their homelands and rebuild their temples.

With only a week home to manage my jet-lag, I then flew to Honolulu, six time zones in the other direction, for lectures in 1 Corinthians, one of St. Paul's longer letters. Here, I had a great bunch of students from America

and Europe. 1 Corinthians, as you may know, has a good many topics upon which Corinthian culture bears heavily, not least of which were the biennial Isthmian Games in AD 51. Working through these Greco-Roman cultural mores and exploring how Paul continually pulls his Christian readers back to the gospel is eye-opening. We had a LOT of Q/A with some great questions from the students.



One of the artifacts in the British Museum on which I lectured concerned Pharaoh Tirhakah, usually depicted with a ram sphinx as here. This pharaoh was a supporter of Hezekiah's revolt against Assyria, and he is mentioned directly in Isaiah 37:9.



The large "BCC" on the wall stands for Biblical Core Course, which is the course in which I lectured on 1 Corinthians. I had students from Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Indonesia, and the USA.

Taking the "red eye" home at the end of my week, I hurriedly finished my preps for Zoom lectures, which started first thing on Monday morning in Wiler and Lausanne, Switzerland. Now that the Covid pandemic is subsiding, I am not doing so many Zoom lectures but traveling in person to the various campuses. However, having just returned from England and then Hawaii, I wasn't up to another European trip quite so fast, so Zoom was the order of the day. This is the second



Here are some of the Wiler folk.

time I've done Zoom lectures for the School of Biblical studies in Wiler, and I've done both in-person and Zoom lectures for the school in Lausanne. This time the subject was the Book of Ezekiel.

Unlike in Hawaii and England, these lectures required a translator (Wiler is German-speaking and Lausanne is French-speaking). This, of course, adds another layer to the lecture process, but I think it went well. I very much admire the translators,

since I think their task is more difficult than my own. I find that one discovers a rhythm with a translator, and this makes the process easier.

Jolien, one of my on-line Greek students, just completed Basic New Testament Greek (a truly excellent student, and already the master of several languages), and I have a couple of others just starting Greek. While Jolien was working her way through my Greek course through the on-line university headquartered in England, she was serving as a missionary in Africa during most of this time. However, due to visa issues (Jolien is Dutch), she had to relocate from Africa and ended up serving at the University of the Nations campus in Kona, Hawaii. When I went there to lecture at the end of November, I was able to meet with her personally as well as several other of my Greek students who are also in Kona.

I was able to stay home for the Thanksgiving holidays, but immediately after I flew to Kona, Hawaii to lecture on Paul's Letter to the Romans for their School of Biblical Studies. The Letter to the Romans is widely considered to be Paul's *magnum opus*, and I would agree. It sets forth his understanding of the Christian message in great detail, and I had a wonderful class of some 58 drawn from the

continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Down Under. While there, I chanced to have breakfast one morning with a fellow Anglican, a priest from Florida who was also on campus doing lectures in a Korean SBS.



My class of 58 at the U. of N. campus in Kona was bigger than usual, but they were a very engaged group and preparing to serve the kingdom of God in many nations of the world. Mt. Mauna Loa erupted while I was there, but fortunately, all the red spouting lava was on the other side of the mountain from the campus. Still, the campus was designated a “safe place” had anyone been forced to evacuate.



The Kona trip wrapped up my missions work for 2022, and I’ll be home for the Christmas holidays. 2023 is shaping up to be a full year. Upcoming lecture trips will include Pennsylvania (January), Mexico (February), South Africa (March), Florida (April), the Netherlands (May), Virginia (May), and Minneapolis (June).

Blessings to all,

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

Dan and Peggy Lewis