

Diakonos

danlewis@dkonos.org

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

In September, I had the privilege of doing a public on-line Zoom lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls sponsored by Mariners' Church in Detroit. In addition to people here locally in the Detroit area (about 70 or so), a number of internationals also logged on from Canada, Europe, and all the way eastward to Istanbul.



Should you wish to view/hear these lectures, they are accessible on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0m71mW9jzM>

For the first time since March I was able to travel to teach. Of course, through the spring and summer I taught a number of live Zoom classes using the internet for students in England, Norway, Germany, Hawaii, and Switzerland. However, face-to-face teaching is invariably better, and I was glad to be able to engage once again in person. The campus in San Antonio del Mar is one of my favorites, a delightful setting overlooking the Pacific Ocean and blessed with lots of sunshine and sea breezes. One of the ministries of this campus is their service to the

northern Baja community in building homes for those who cannot afford them. To date, they have constructed more than 8000 homes in this part of Mexico. Indeed, some of the staff for building these homes ended up attending my lectures in the Torah, the Canon, and the Israelite Tribal Period literature.



(ABOVE) Sunset over the University of the Nations campus at San Antonio del Mar

(RIGHT) Esli, a young woman from Columbia and already a graduate from a university in her home country, was full of insightful questions.

As a teacher, the wide variety of character within the student groups I teach is always fascinating. In my two weeks in Mexico, there was a marked contrast. The first week, I taught a relatively small class in the School of Biblical Studies. The students were older, quieter, and more reflective. The second week, I taught a large class in another department (about 35 or so), and they were eager, persistently questioning, and energetic. Each class, in its own way, made the trip a joy. As usual, all the lectures were translated, both orally in the classroom along

with my written materials, which had been sent on in advance for translation. The heads of these schools, Cinthya Clement, Carmen Mondragon, and Jonathan Whitten, were a delight to work beside.

In late October, I was scheduled for two weeks lecture in Nuneaton, England at The King's Lodge, but Covid restrictions being what they are (10-day quarantine immediately after deplaning), I was compelled to do the lectures by Zoom. Here is a classroom shot taken by one of the staff members, and you can see my



My Zoom lectures in England addressed the writings of Luke in the New Testament, the first week covering the Gospel and the second week the Book of Acts. One of my favorite quotations about Luke's writing, who composed just over a quarter of the New Testament, is by C. S. Lewis, who said, "...it is a perpetual puzzle to me how New Testament Greek got the reputation of being easy. ...St. Luke I find particularly difficult."

elongated face on the screen. In addition to the students on campus, I also had half a dozen students from other locations, including India, Bangladesh, and France. One thing about Zoom, however much one would prefer to teach in person, it does allow for people in other locations or even other countries to participate! This year is the first since 1991 that I have not been able to travel to

England to lecture, and I must say, Peggy and I deeply miss visiting not only the “old country,” which is lovely in itself, but also all our long-time friends there.



This page is from the late 14th century John Wyclif Version. The Gospel of John begins with the large blue capital “I,” and even though it is in Middle English, you may be able to make out some of the wording.

November brought more Zoom lectures, first for Cape Town, South Africa and then for Wiler, Switzerland. In Cape Town, I conducted Zoom lectures on the history of the English Bible, going back all the way to the 7th century, as well as Bible translation theory for modern translators. It was a wonderful group of about 25 internationals, not only from South Africa, but also from Mali, Camerons, Madagascar, France, and Holland. I find lecturing on such subjects to people of varying nationalities and geographies is always invigorating, and frequently they offer observations and pose questions that reflect the changes in the world. For instance, one African student observed that the early English Versions of the Bible were being produced at the same time as

colonization, which raises the question of cultural bias in the renderings. One young woman from France wanted to know whether there were any people of color or any women in the translation committees of the ESV or other contemporary versions. I sincerely hope

that some of these students will go on to learn the original languages and become involved in Bible translation (currently I have a couple former language students working as translators in Australia for an Aboriginal group and in New Mexico for a Native American group). My group in Wiler, Switzerland consisted of 15 students with whom I covered the books of Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah in 21 hours of lecture. Since this group was in the German-speaking area of Switzerland (the country is bi-lingual, speaking German and French), I worked with translators, and all my materials were sent several weeks in advance so that they also could be translated into German.

(Incidentally, if any of you might like a Powerpoint on Ezekiel or Daniel in German, I now have them in my archive. Send me an email.) Initially, I was supposed to



The U. of N. campus in Wiler, Switzerland: alas, I was not able to visit in person, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but perhaps I may be able to do so in the future.

travel to Switzerland in person to teach and already had purchased an air ticket, but due to the lockdowns, we had to revise our plans and teach by computer video. Hopefully, the ticket cost will be refunded (so far, Delta/KLM has been good to refund such flight cancellations, though Air Canada has not).

So, in spite of the current craziness in the world, our work is ongoing. Do I enjoy teaching by computer video? Certainly not as much as I enjoy interacting and teaching in person, but this technology does make possible what a few years ago was quite impossible. I will finish out the year 2020 with one trip to Richmond, Virginia in December to teach on Paul's letters and a week of Zoom lectures with U. of N. Department of Biblical Studies in Cambridge, England, where I will handle the Song of Songs. The year 2021 already has several lecture weeks scheduled, though we will have to wait and see if they will involve travel or will need to be conducted using Zoom.

Our deep gratitude is extended to you all for your prayers and support.

In the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Dan and Peggy Lewis

P.S. – If you have contributions to make to Diakonos, please send them to 3760 Samuel Ave., Rochester Hills, MI 48309. Checks should be made out to Diakonos, Inc.