

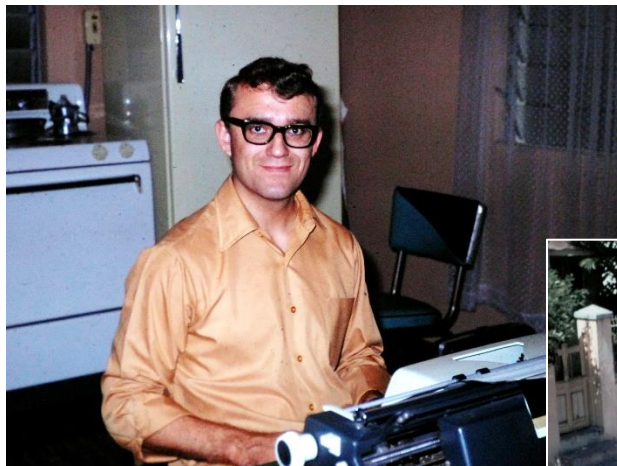
Diakonos

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been an eventful spring, to say the least! The Covid19 pandemic has disrupted all our lives more than we probably thought possible, and Peggy and I are no exception. I was forced to cancel lecture trips to Wiler, Switzerland; Cambridge, England; Kristiansand, Norway; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Nuneaton, England; and Honolulu and Kona, Hawaii. On the other hand, I was able to do some video-streamed lectures, but more on that later.



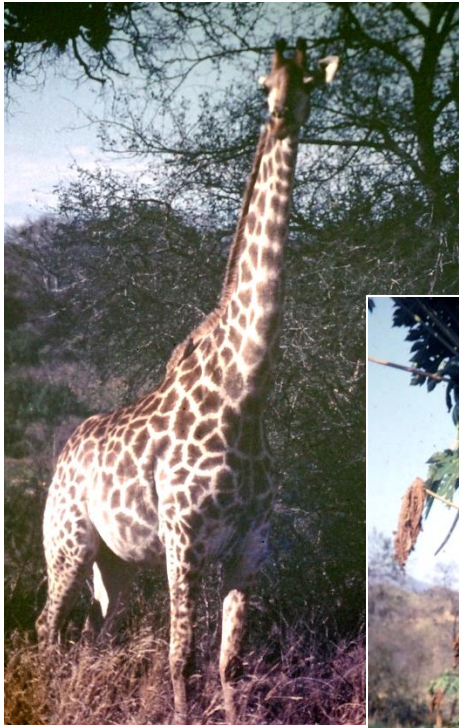
ABOVE: At 22 years old and fresh out of college, Peggy and I lived in an upstairs flat in Kingston, Jamaica where we spent a school year. Yep, that machine is a typewriter!

RIGHT: Every morning, a wagon came by selling coconuts, and I took this photo from our kitchen window.



Consequently, I thought I'd take a brief look at the past, or as Scrooge said to old Marley when he asked, "Long past?" He replied, "No, your past." For Peggy and me, mission work has long been a deeply

seated passion. Half a century ago, when we were fresh out of college, we had the opportunity to go to Jamaica for a school year, where I taught in a Bible institute. We were young, inexperienced, but full of energy, and it was our first cross-cultural experience.



ABOVE: In Africa, we took photos of lots of animals, like this reticulated giraffe.

RIGHT: James, our oldest, was only five months old when we went to Africa. Here, Peggy gives him a close-up of a papaya tree.



Subsequently, we had an invitation to teach for a year at South African Bible Institute in Pretoria, South Africa, and we jumped at the chance. Over the years, we've done our best to support Christian missions, introducing a mission program when first we came to Troy Christian Chapel in Michigan as

the new Senior Pastor in 1981. Now, several decades later, after a long and fulfilling pastoral ministry, serving as an Assistant Professor of Christian Studies at William Tyndale College, and eventually retiring, we find ourselves plugged right back into this same area of mission and ministry. We wouldn't have it otherwise!

Back to the present... In March, before the travel restrictions, I lectured for the University of the Nations branch in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. As is typical for this international institution, I had a wide range of students, coming from Canada, of course, but also from the Brazil, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, and the USA. Here, I covered the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman periods for the Jews between the Old and New Testaments, plus an added lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls. I finished up my lectures with an exploration of Matthew, the most Jewish of the four canonical gospels. Vancouver, of course, is one of the more beautiful



Here, in Vancouver B. C., Canada, I enjoy a light moment with two students, Josh from Australia and Sheila from Brazil.

places in the world, lying as it does at the foot of the Cascade Mountains. Alas, I did not see the former royal couple, Harry and Megan, but then I suppose it is fair to say that we move in different circles.

While I was in Vancouver, the Covid-19 pandemic began to set in around the world. I was able to get home, but my contacts with missionaries around the world indicated some incredible challenges. Mission trips



We had time for a group photo in Vancouver. I'm definitely the "old guy" in the group!

cancelled, groups of students in quarantine, forced staffing absences, and for me personally, the cancellation of my April, May and June lecture trips. However, all was not lost. My April lectures in Europe were conducted by video-streaming, so I spent two weeks in front of my computer using the Zoom platform for three hours



Here I am lecturing in the sanctuary of my bedroom to 29 students stretching from Berlin, Germany (where the host of the Zoom meeting was located) to Alberta, Canada—covering 10 time zones, all at the same time. I started lectures each day at 12:30 PM Michigan time, which was 10:30 AM for my Canadian student and 6:30 PM for my German and Norwegian students. It's definitely a long sea mile from a typewriter! You can see the video "blocks" of my students on the computer screen.

May. This set of lectures was designed for the various teachers of biblical studies around Europe, and there were 62 teachers/staff in this Zoom series (Greece, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, Germany, England, Ukraine, Ireland, Holland, Spain, Latvia, and Romania). The subject was the New Pauline Perspective, a relatively new and definitely controversial way of understanding both the person and the writings of St. Paul. Since this so-called "new perspective" significantly affects the theology of justification by faith and the nature of the

each day, covering Genesis, Exodus, Job, and World View for the first week and Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy for the second week. I had 29 students on-line from Norway, Germany, Switzerland, England, Slovenia, Portugal, Finland, Canada and the USA. A highlight was on my birthday, which occurred in the middle of the first lecture week, when the students sang happy birthday to me on-line in German, Norwegian, Spanish and English. What a treat!

Working with Phil Leage, who heads the on-line department for U of N in England, I also began learning a new computer platform called Loom. Using Loom, I video-recorded eight hours of lectures in the Gospel of Luke.

I also was able to conduct my lectures for the Kristiansand, Norway Consultation using Zoom, initially scheduled for

church, it was of special interest to teachers in biblical studies in such an interdenominational mission institution like University of the Nations. Theologians and scholars across the board are wrestling with this new perspective, both pro and con, and my task was to help the European teachers understand what this theory is, what are its underpinnings, and what risks it might pose for the church going forward if embraced. (Should any of you wish to have a copy of my Powerpoint for these lectures, send me an email, and I'll forward it to you.)

On another front, I received some very good news from one of my New Testament Greek students in Australia. Chris Adams, who completed his New Testament Greek course and currently is studying with me now in Advanced Greek, is working with a team on translating portions of the New Testament into the Kimberley Kriol language in the Northwest Territory, which is an aboriginal language developed from pigeon English.

All in all, pandemic notwithstanding, we are soldiering on! You have been in our prayers as well, and by God's grace, we will get through this together.

In God's redeeming love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan and Peggy Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and "P".

Dan and Peggy Lewis