

Diakonos

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Winter mission travel began for me just before Christmas. I was privileged to lecture on Paul's letters and theology at a beautiful little Youth with A Mission



In my lecture on Ephesians, I am discussing p46, the earliest extant copy of Ephesians, which resides in the Hatcher Library at the University of Michigan. On the screen I have projected an image of this papyrus and an enlarged view of the first two lines of the letter. To the right is Hea Jounge, my Korean translator.

campus in the Seattle area. I'd not previously visited this site, and it has the distinction of being all-Korean, a bi-lingual student body of lovely people committed to mission work and the study of the Bible. Of course, because it was in a bi-lingual context, all my materials were sent ahead and translated in advance of my arrival, and in the lectures themselves I worked with a verbal translator, Hea Jounge. The campus setting was rural (somewhat to the

east of the city), the lodge-type structure surrounded by beautiful hills and majestic conifers. My lectures covered Paul as a person, the argumentation in his letters, and his theological distinctives, which is a fair amount of ground to cover in a week. The students were wonderful, and they included a missionary from Uganda, a South Korean pastor who works actively in assisting defectors from

North Korea to find their way in a new life, as well as a physician and his wife. While there, I preached on Tuesday evening in the campus chapel service. Hence, I made many new friends and may well get to see them again in the future.

One of the highlights for me while in Seattle was a moment of serendipity, when I discovered that one of my students was an accomplished cellist! Since, as many of you know, I am a guitarist, we worked together to produce three instrumental duets for Advent, which we performed on Wednesday evening as part of an end of the semester social event. It was a sheer joy to play with such a fine musician as Onyoo.



Here I am with Onyoo, and we played duet renditions of "O Holy Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Silent Night." I also did a guitar solo of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."



This is my biblical studies group at the Seattle campus. As you can see, they were mostly 20-somethings, though the gentleman seated next to me, a Presbyterian student, was closer to my age.

January took us to Toronto, and Peggy joined me for the second of the two weeks I was there. Because Toronto is only about five driving hours from Detroit, I took my car instead of flying. Once again, I was teaching an all-Korean group (Toronto has a rather large Korean community), this time covering Genesis, Exodus and the

Middle Bronze Age. As in Seattle, all my work was translated into Korean. I was especially privileged to have to graduates from the Ancient Near Eastern Studies Department of the University of Toronto, Christine Park and Rachel Kim. Christine translated all my Powerpoints (about 350 slides), and Rachel was my verbal translator for the lectures. Both had studied Biblical Hebrew, so this was especially helpful, given the subject matter.



It was definitely cold and snowy in Toronto in January. However, the apartment for guest lectures was toasty warm.

On one evening, I was honored to speak in the campus Tuesday “Gathering” in



Here, we get a look at Middle Bronze Age pottery, including cooking kraters and oil lamps from the time of Abraham.

the city, and on another day we took a field trip with the students to the Royal Ontario Museum for a tour of ancient Near Eastern artifacts, which included various assemblages of pottery, weaponry, tools, and best of all, a Babylon lion from the throne room of Nebuchadnezzar II. We

had a lovely dinner with one of the staff families one evening, Titus and Grace and their two children, with a delightful Korean dinner of pork belly wraps.



This lion, composed of glazed bricks, once graced the throne room of Nebuchadnezzar II, the Babylonian king who destroyed Solomon's temple. According to the book with his name, Daniel was in this very throne room when interpreting the king's dream and would have seen this lion.

In early February, Pastor Chad Lewis, our son, flew to England to do lectures in Leviticus at the King's Lodge in Nuneaton. This has become an annual pilgrimage for him, and both staff and students there love him (they frequently express this to me, since I teach there also). It is rare to find a deeply spiritual academic who is

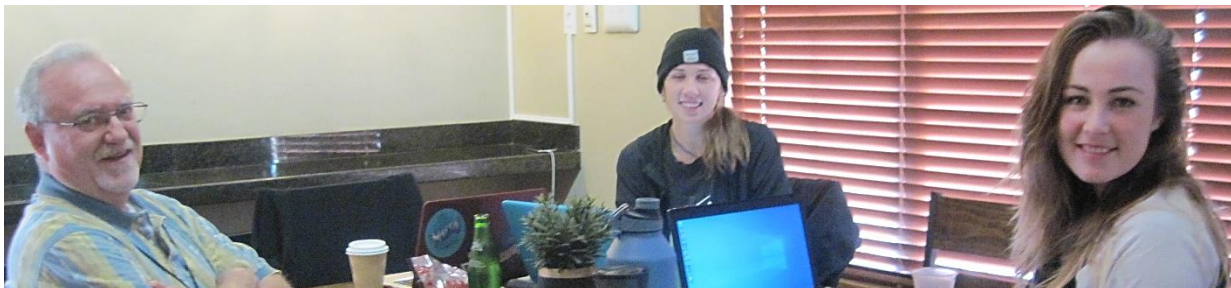


competent in biblical Hebrew and abreast of the theology and technical aspects of the sacrificial system of ancient Israel. Travel issues were a bit of a challenge for him on this trip, and Chad was stuck *en route* in Amsterdam for an extra day due to high winds, which prevented outbound flights. He finally made it, and with some adjustments in the schedule, he was able to get in all his teaching hours.



The campus at San Antonio del Mar, Mexico is truly lovely, situated on a hill overlooking the Pacific. Here you can see a bit of it as the sun sets in the West.

Later in February, I was back in Mexico to lecture on Malachi, intertestamental history and the Dead Sea Scrolls. I flew to San Diego, from which one of the staff members from the campus in the Baja drove me across the border into Mexico. I have taught several times previously in this department of biblical studies, and in addition to getting a week's reprieve from the Michigan snow belt, I reconnected with some of the same students I taught back in September of 2019. They were just finishing a six-month intensive study of the Old Testament. Last September, I guided them through Genesis and this time I helped them close out their Old Testament studies. As with Toronto and Seattle, this was a bi-lingual school



Interaction with students like Abbey and Casey is always fascinating, as I get to hear something of their goals in biblical studies and experiences in missions.

with translation. The Mexican students were from Sonora and Mexicali, other Latin American students from Costa Rica, Ecuador and Columbia, several Canadians, and several from the USA. One of the programs at this campus, in addition to their biblical studies department, is an ongoing commitment to providing housing for impoverished Mexicans. They regularly host building teams from the USA and Canada, and to date they have built more than 5000 small homes for Mexican families.

All in all, it's been a good winter! As I write this, I'm back home for two weeks before flying westward, this time to Vancouver, British Columbia, to lecture on Matthew's Gospel. Spring will see me in Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, and England, and Peggy will be accompanying me as well.

As always, Peggy and I thank you so very much for your support and interest!

In God's peace,

Dan and Peggy Lewis