

Diakonos

danlewis@dkonos.org

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Coming out the Pandemic has been an exercise in returning to some semblance of normalcy, though it is unlikely that we will ever be back to where we were before March 2020. This is true for my mission service as well, since it seems almost certain that Zoom lectures will now be a constituent part of what I do. I invariably prefer to teach in person, of course, and the lessening of the lockdowns means that once more I am able to travel. However, interspersed with travel will be Zoom lectures as well.

That being said, the summer began with Zoom lectures in June to a School of Biblical Studies in Norway with a group of wonderful students—and all English-speaking, which made things easier for me, since I know not a word of Norwegian. In two separate lecture series, I covered the Book of Zechariah and the Gospel of Matthew. Here are some of my students in Norway.





*4 from Norway
2 from Sweden
1 from Finland
1 from
Mongolia
1 from India*

KATARINA ANNE KARIN HELENE ELINA

The day after completing my Matthew lectures for the Norway group, I flew to Kona, Hawaii, where I have taught numerous times before. Hawaii state protocols required a negative covid test within 72 hours of my connecting flight from Los Angeles in order to avoid quarantine. In Kona, I spent the first week in a School of Biblical studies lecturing on the Gospel of John.



This was a super bunch of students, and the leader of this school, Christer Bergus, was one of my Greek students a few years ago. His final project was translating the Gospel of John, the same book I was teaching during this week.



The Kona campus is beautiful, if anything! It lies about a 10-minute walk from the ocean, and the Department of Biblical Studies, shown here, is where I taught for both weeks.

The second week I was with a Discipleship Bible School covering all the Johannine literature (Gospel, letters, Revelation). It is always interesting to see what students make of the Book of Revelation and the various ways Christians have



read it over the centuries. As missionaries working with a full range of Christian denominations, they are bound to run into a variety of

Here are some of my DBS students. I find it curious and fascinating that I'm old enough to be a grandfather to almost any of them.



UPPER: *This is the women's dorm housing where we stayed.*

LOWER: *Here, I am asking the baptismal questions from the Apostles' Creed before baptizing Laura in the swimming pool on the campus.*

interpretations on this book, so part of my task is to help them understand the logic of the major approaches.

In July, Peggy and I flew to South America, our first trip to this continent. Here, I taught for two weeks in a University of the Nations course in Medellin, Colombia, covering the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. We stayed in dorm housing with eight young women plus the dorm "mom." Most of the students were from Colombia, though we also had one from Venezuela, another from Cuba, and one from Germany.

On the weekend, I preached in the Caribbean Evangelical Church as well as one evening in the campus community meeting. Peggy, also, had a special session with all the young women, discussing life, relationships, discipleship and marriage. A very special highlight for me was one day after my morning lectures on the baptism of John and Jesus' baptism, one of the university students asked to speak with me privately. She was a new

Christian, had never been baptized, and asked if I would do the honors. I was more than happy to oblige!



Here, Nohemi, my translator, and Yalian, one of my students, address some theological questions.

Discussion is always a two-step process when one does not speak the language.

My lectures were all translated into Spanish, of course, as well as my Powerpoints (some 400 slides—a big project of translation!). What a very-engaged group of 20-somethings, with lots of discussion, plus a whole evening of Q/A! And, I must say, riding in a Medellin taxi put the Cedar Point roller-coasters to shame. You don't ride with your arm out the window, that's for sure, not if you want to keep your arm. Motorcycles, taxis, bicycles, pedestrians, not to mention trucks and buses, all moving at speed only inches apart—and I do mean inches.

Once home in August, I did two Zoom lectures, one for the African HUB in Tanzania, Africa, a semi-annual meeting of African Bible teachers in the various Schools of

Biblical Studies, where I lectured on Bible translation theory and examined some of the contemporary translations available and how they “stack up” against the Hebrew and Greek texts. A good group participated in this HUB, including teachers from Mali, Togo, Camerons, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Madagascar.

The other Zoom was to a School of Biblical Studies in Kyiv, Ukraine, where I covered the Book of Daniel and the various theories about how to read it. Daniel, of course, has more than its share of interpretive challenges, both historically and theologically. In the Hebrew Bible, it does not appear among the prophets but the later writings, though of course Jesus called Daniel a “prophet” even if he is not called one in the Old Testament. There are various theological slants on the book and its interaction with the history of the ancient empire builders, and especially,

the intertestamental oppression of the Jews by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who tried to wipe out the Jewish religion.



Here is my class in Kyiv. Everything in these lectures, including my Powerpoints, were translated into Russian. My translator was excellent and a pleasure to work with. We had some internet technical difficulties from time to time, but it all went well just the same.

So, it's been a full summer—Norway, Hawaii, Colombia, Tanzania, and the Ukraine. The Fall will be busy as well, where I have lectures in Russia, Minnesota, Canada, Switzerland, Hawaii, Mexico and Pennsylvania. Also, Pastor Chad Lewis will be lecturing in Honolulu as well.

May I offer special gratitude to those who support this ministry. Your gifts make possible these trips, many to mission schools that do not have the resources to bring in good teachers from the outside. And to all the rest who follow our mission travels, we extend our love and appreciation.

In God's grace,

Dan and Peggy Lewis