

# Diakonos

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August, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Are we back to normal yet? A better question is whether or not we will ever get back to normal. Probably like most of you, a “new normal” is not what I wish for, but God’s people have been coping with “new normals” since ancient times. Though we hear the word “unprecedented” with regularity, in the larger perspective of history, our present pandemic is not nearly so devastating as the Plague of Athens in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Antonine Plague in the 160s AD, the Plague of Cyprian in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, the Plague of Justinian in the 6<sup>th</sup> century—and all of these preceded the Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in which the mortality rate was somewhat over 50% and the population of Europe dropped nearly 100,000,000 and would take two centuries to come back to its pre-pandemic level. So, with God’s grace and help, we soldier on!

This summer, since travel has been restricted, I’ve been conducting more Zoom lectures as well as Loom lectures. Zoom, of course, are live on-line lectures, while Loom, with which you may be unfamiliar, are video-recorded lectures.



**One of Paul’s converts was Erastus, the Aedile of Corinth (= administrator of financial matters concerning streets, markets, games and public buildings). This pavement in his honor was laid in about AD 50, about the time Paul arrived (cf. Ro. 16:23). It reads, “Erastus, in return for his aedileship laid [this pavement] at his own expense.”**







*Here is one slide from the 263 slides in my Loom lectures on the Book of Acts. It is rare to find an artifact with a biblical name, but this artifact was discovered in ancient Corinth.*

Like Zoom, Loom can be done from home using my desktop computer. So far this summer, I've done Loom video-recorded lectures on the New Pauline Perspective, the Gospel of Luke, the Gospel of John, the Book of Acts, and the Letters of John. Phil Leage, the Director for the on-line services for University of the Nations in England, emailed me back in late May to say that their department had decided to make the lectures publicly available in service to the larger body of Christ in the world. In just 28 days, they had 2,246 views! Should you be interested, you can find these U. of N. video-recorded lectures along with many others on our Diakonos website at [www.dkonos.org](http://www.dkonos.org). Click on "U of N YWAM" and scroll down.

Zoom lectures are on-going as well. In early June, I did Zoom lectures on the Book of Acts with students in Honolulu. I am currently doing two lectures series with students in Lausanne, Switzerland, one on the Post-Exilic Literature (Ezra-Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) and the other on the Book of Isaiah.



*By now, most people in business are familiar with Zoom, the “go to” platform for meetings in our Covid-19 affected world. My “Zoom classroom” is a block of students on the screen who can see me along with my teaching materials using the “share” feature. This not quite like being there, but it works in the present situation.*

			
Jeremy Bruce [Student] New Zealand / Switzerland	Katie Fish [ Student] United States of America	Magali Maeder [Student] Switzerland	Thomas Hoevelaken [Student] Netherlands
			
Goalt Limson Samraj [Staff] India	Monika Espeland Loh [Staff / Student] Norway	Ernest Loh [Staff] Australia	Eunna Lee Hoevelaken [Staff] Korea

*Here are a few of my students from Lausanne, Switzerland in the Department of Biblical Studies.*

In addition to the Loom and Zoom lectures, I have been keeping up with my language students in biblical Hebrew and biblical Greek. Some students are just finishing up, others are in the middle of things, and three are just getting started. One student, Charlotte Bowden in England, has just completed Advanced Greek, in which she translated from the Greek text the letters of 2 John and Philippians, along with several chapters in Matthew, Mark, John, and 1 Peter. I asked if I could share some things about her mission work, and she was kind to allow me to do so. Here is a short sketch of what she has been doing.



*I served as staff in the School of Biblical Studies (SBS), and then moved on-line. I completed a Biblical Teaching and Preaching School (BPTS) years ago, so I am now editing footage filmed from Penang, South Africa, and Montana BPTS to create this on-line course on Moodle (I used to be an editor years ago). I lead the school, create assignments, and have several students going through the first four modules which are complete. I also teach biblical courses in the SBS and DBS at The King's Lodge, where I am based,*

*and I also teach abroad in various other mission schools. It is so good to now have a grasp of Greek -- it's been something I've been wanting to learn even before I came to YWAM. Now I can 'slowly' read a book of the Bible through in Greek before I teach, and when I teach about the meaning of Greek words in*



*the text, I have understanding. It excites me to read the Bible in Greek and I look forward to using it in my teaching to give more understanding of the text to students I teach.*

One stellar event this summer which I should not fail to mention is that Peggy and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (July 24, 1970). We met in college, married just

prior to my senior year of undergrad, and have been in active Christian ministry since that time. Instead of the typical cruise or party, we elected to join a ranch in southeastern Oregon and herd cattle in the Steen's



Mountains. What a great time we had! Now, we are back in Michigan, (“back in the saddle” if you’ll pardon the pun), and ready to continue the work to which God has called us.

Here’s what things look like for the fall. In late September, I’ll fly to Mexico to teach in two schools, a School of Biblical Studies and a Discipleship Bible School, both on the campus in San Antonio del Mar. Here, I will cover the Book of Exodus in one school and the Books of Joshua and Judges in the other. In late October, I’m scheduled for two weeks in England to teach the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, but it remains to be seen whether I can do this in person or will be relegated to Zoom. In early November, I will be doing Zoom lectures for students in Cape Town, South Africa, covering the History of the English Bible and Translation Theory. In late November, I’m scheduled to be in Wiler, Switzerland (the German side of the country) for lectures in Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah, though here, also, it still remains to be seen whether I can be there in person. In

early December, Peggy and I will drive to Richmond, Virginia, where I have lectures in the Letters and Theology of Paul.

A number of teaching trips are on the calendar for 2021, including lectures in Nepal, Mexico, Toronto, Kona, several countries in Europe, and Quebec. Your support and prayers are deeply appreciated! We simply could not do this without you!

In God's grace and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan and Peggy Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P" that are connected to the rest of the names.

Dan and Peggy Lewis