

# Dan & Peggy Lewis

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Greetings to you all. We trust you are well! After returning from Quebec in February, Peggy and I flew to the Netherlands at the end of April, where I lectured on 1 and 2 Kings in a Bible for Life program, a relatively new biblical studies program in Europe. After landing in Schipol airport, Amsterdam, we took the train to Zwolle in the east central area of the Netherlands and thence to Heidebeek, a



This quaint building on the University of the Nations campus housed both the School of Biblical Studies as well as the Corrie ten Boom Library. Corrie, as some of you may know, was the Dutch lady who, along with her sister, were incarcerated in the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in WWII for shielding Jews.

lovely little campus set in a more rural area of beautiful trees, canals, villages and heather fields. When we checked into our guest quarters, we were given a key to our room and keys to our assigned bicycles. EVERYONE rides bicycles, and we were no exception. Indeed, there are more bicycles in the Netherlands than humans.

Lectures went very well to a group of mostly

Dutch students from the Reformed tradition, though we had a couple of students from Africa as well. However, since the students all spoke English, it was convenient to be able to teach in English without a translator. Some of the ladies

took Peggy out for coffee as well as to see the dikes, which was fascinating (while I, of course, was “working”). Incidentally, we discovered that to get coffee one does not go to a coffee shop—one must go to a cafe. (Coffee shops in the Netherlands are places where one buys drugs, not merely coffee, and they go by such enchanting names as “Energy Coffee Shop” and “Feels Good Coffee Shop.”) Europe is a different world!



Coffee and tea are the order of the day, and here in the student coffee bar I share a friendly discussion with a student between lecture hours.

On the way to England, our next stop, we were privilege to spend an extra day in Amsterdam with some missionaries who minister in the Red Light District for which Amsterdam is famous. Human trafficking is a sad reality, and these ambassadors for Christ are doing a real and effective work there. (We also had a chance to visit the Rijks Museum to see some of the works of Vermeer, Rembrandt and Van Gogh.)



My long-time friend Johannes Woudstra is the administrator of the Bible for Life program in the Netherlands and also teaches in the School of Biblical Studies in England.

In England, we spent the first there week lecturing in the School of Biblical Studies on Ezekiel and Obadiah to a group of international students. As might be expected, a number of students were from England (the Anglican Church), several from Korea (mostly Presbyterians), several from India (evangelicals), and one Ukrainian (Ukrainian Orthodox), plus a student from Italy, one from northern Ireland, and a handful from the United States and Canada (one of which was from Auburn Hills here in Michigan). One of the students, a young man from India named Peter, was facing a distressing situation, since his father, a pastor in India, had recently been arrested and imprisoned for

baptizing a Hindu. Her Hindu family had accused the pastor of coercing her conversion, and his bail was set at 2500 British pounds. At the time of my lectures, the father was still in prison.



This, by the way, is not London Bridge (though many tourists seem to think so). It is Tower Bridge, near the Tower of London and “Traitors Gate,” where prisoners were brought by barge for execution.

We had the weekend free, so Peggy and I took the train to London, where we attended a concert featuring Bach and Mozart at the famous St. Martin in the Fields Anglican Church. We attended worship on Sunday morning at St. Paul's Cathedral, paid our respects at the grave of John Bunyan, took a tour of Winston Churchill's "war rooms," and went to see John Wesley's Chapel.

Back in the midlands for our second week in England, I was scheduled to do video lectures for the on-line university. Phil Leage, the director of the University of the Nations on-line program in England, works together with the on-line directors of



Lecturing in a studio with lights is hot work! I'm sweating after just a few minutes, and a three-hour lecture is a long time to face the camera!

similar programs at Gordon-Conwell University in Boston and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. In the video lectures, I worked directly with David Nessem, who teaches video-editing at the University of Stockholm in Sweden. David is an extraordinarily

competent technician and a joy to work with. I confess, I do find lecturing to a camera to be a bit more difficult than lecturing to a group of live students. One must stand in one place rather than walk around, as in a classroom, and there is no feedback from an audience, since there is no audience. All went well, however, and I completed lectures on Colossians, Ephesians and Ezekiel, which occupied my mornings and afternoons of the second week.

On Wednesday evening, there was a Q/A with the biblical studies students, and they presented a wide range of stimulating questions ranging from Harvey Cox (the famous secular theologian) to Artificial Intelligence and its impact on Christian faith. Of course, there also were a variety of topics raised on various aspects of the Bible itself, including issues concerning the afterlife, social justice, and eschatology. By the time the week was over, I was pretty much "out of gas" and ready to head for home.



One more student coffee bar shot: Vicki, the lady to my right, is one of the staff members with whom I work.

I have a couple weeks at home before my next lecture trip (this time to Honolulu and Kona in June). At the end of July, Peggy will accompany me to Cape Town, South Africa for a two-week lecture at the campus in Muisenberg, and after that it is Mexico, back to England, and then Panama.

St. Paul always ends his letters with a reference to grace, and I will do the same.

Grace to you,

Dan and Peggy Lewis