

# Dan & Peggy Lewis

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

I completed three mission trips this winter, two to warm places and one to a cold place. In January, I flew to Mexico (one of the warm places), where I lectured in the School of Biblical Studies at the University of the Nations in San Antonio del Mar, a campus located in the Baja near Ensenada. I've taught there several times previously, and as usual I flew into San Diego, where they picked me up and drove me across the border through Tijuana and southward. Here, I lectured on the

Book of Isaiah, helping the students through this 8<sup>th</sup> century prophet's oracles to the Judahite kings Ahaz and Hezekiah, plus the wonderful "Songs of the Servant" that climax with Isaiah 53. I also explored



U. of N., San Antonio del Mar (in the right photo, my Spanish translator is looking up a technical term on his smart phone to be able to convey it in Spanish)

with them some of the important archaeological materials of this period from



the British Museum (London), the Oriental Institute (Chicago) and the Louvre (Paris). I've taken good photos in all these museums, and though they are a long way from Mexico, it is important that students know some of the historical underpinnings of the biblical narratives. In our postmodern period, where history is decidedly neglected, Christians need to be aware that the God of the Bible is also the Lord of history, and the long history of his dealings with ancient Israel is not merely beside the point. Mexico itself is always enjoyable, of course (and street tacos are fabulous)!

From Mexico, I flew to Geneva, Switzerland where I was picked up and driven to Lausanne (the cold place). Actually, it wasn't all that cold, even though Lausanne



Suree, my translator in Switzerland, was the best! She is a graduate of the University of London with an advanced degree in archaeology.

is located right at the foot of the Alps. Most of their snow had melted, as you can see in the right-side photo. France is directly across Lake Geneva, and the French Alps, which rise immediately on the other side of the lake, were full of snow. Along the lake, however, a light jacket was sufficient to stay warm.

The classroom building where I lecture in Lausanne, Switzerland

As with Mexico, I've been to this campus several times previously, and also like Mexico, all my materials were sent ahead for translation. One of the delights was that one of my Swiss students, who is near to completing my on-line course in New Testament Greek, is from this area, where his parents keep bees! They shared with me two jars of their own Swiss honey! In Lausanne, I lectured on John's Gospel, the seven signs and their accompanying discourses, and what scholars call the "Book of Glory", John's account of Jesus' trial, execution and resurrection. I also spent time with some of the faculty, assisting them in preparing materials for their own upcoming lectures.

The other warm place was Western Australia—Perth, to be precise. Here, I lectured on Paul's theology and letters. As you can see, I'm "all over the map" in my lectures, ranging from Isaiah to John to Paul. One of the things I hope to offer to students is a combination of good scholarship as well as a firm commitment to



University of the Nations campus, Perth, Australia

the historical faith of the church. Often, scholars can be skeptical about the Bible, while pastors and laypersons may be quite committed to the faith, but they don't know the scholarly connections to their faith in history and archaeology. For these missionaries

and pastoral students, making this connection is important, and this is what I try to offer. Good theology should not be divorced from good history and responsible translations from the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible.

While in Perth, I was pleased to attend St. Albans Anglican Church, a delightful congregation of believers who are very committed to missions (several staff and students from University of the Nations, Perth attend there). I also attended a commissioning service on campus, and some among those commissioned were



students I had been teaching (I was there at the end of their college quarter). They came from the Schools of Medicine, Primary Health Care, Biblical Studies, Evangelism and Sports, altogether some 150 missionaries in 16 teams headed for Myanmar, Mozambique, Malaysia, China, India, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal and the Outback in Australia. The campus in Perth has been instrumental in translating the dialogues of the “Jesus Film” into other languages, and it is presently available in 150 of them. I remember when this film was first produced back in the late 1970s, in what was then called the “Genesis Project”; I was still a college professor and had not yet become a pastor. The producers brought the film to our campus in Jackson College of Ministries, and we served as one of the previewers. Who would have thought that so many years later this same film (based on the Gospel of Luke) would be dubbed in over in 150



languages and used for missions! I'm pleased that one of my Greek students has been

working diligently this translation project for people in the Solomon Islands and Papua, New Guinea. Speaking of translation work, I finally have finished my lessons for Advanced Biblical Hebrew on-line, and I have two students who have almost completed their course in basic biblical Hebrew and will be starting the advanced lessons soon.

Lectures proceed as usual. The large picture to the right is the computer lab at U. of N. Perth.

Also at the campus in Perth, I was privileged to have breakfast several times with Paul, a teacher like myself, who comes from Nigeria. He said that so far they have reclaimed some 1500 young guerilla fighters from the tribal wars who now have become Christians and are serving the church! He also indicated that the Anglican Bishop of Nigeria is sending all his younger leaders to be trained in the Discipleship Training Schools of Youth with a Mission.

For the spring, I have three trips upcoming, and I'm very pleased that Peggy will be able to accompany me on all of them, one to Cape Town, South Africa (mid-April), one to Birmingham, England (mid-May), and one to Richmond, Virginia (mid-June). The trips are two-weeks each plus travel time, and I'll be lecturing on the period of the Tribal League and the Early Israelite Monarchy in Cape Town, the Early Writing Prophets and Jeremiah in England, and the Letters of St. Paul and St. John in Richmond.

Your prayers are appreciated! I'm finding that travel is becoming more and more of a challenge as I get older, especially the trips half-way around the world, which can be quite exhausting.

May God's blessing be with you all!

*Christos anesti!* Christ is risen!

Dan Lewis