It is with great pleasure that we send you the first newsletter of the Theology Department of Friedensau Adventist University in Germany. Others will follow, and we invite you to join our journey of research, teaching, learning, listening and sharing the good news! Our institution has been an intercultural community for more than 100 years, and we want to continue serving the global Seventh-day Adventist Church with the talents God has given to us. Foremost among them are our 50 wonderful theology students and a bilingual campus (English and German) with many other social science majors. We are also happy that various institutes doing cutting-edge research serve the church worldwide. Please read on, and become part of our community.

Stefan Höschele, Dean

Symposium in Friedensau Commemorates 500 Years of Reformation

In 2017, the Christian world will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther, the great 16th-century reformer, nailed the 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. Adventists consider themselves heirs of the Reformation by upholding its foundational principles and by maintaining an ecclesia semper reformanda perspective.

From May 9-12, 2016, Friedensau University will host the 2nd International Symposium of the Institute of Adventist Studies (IAS). This year’s conference will focus on “Perceptions of the Protestant Reformation in Seventh-day Adventism”.

How did/do Adventists perceive the 16th century Reformation? How strongly are they grounded in it? What do they see as its essential contribution? Do Adventists agree with Luther’s sola scriptura principle? What is the Lutheran, Reformed and Anabaptist rootedness in and impact on Adventist life(style) and teaching, respectively? How did and do Adventist historians interpret the Protestant Reformation?

Theological Master’s Program Attracts Students from Five Continents

In 2008, Friedensau University began its Master of Theological Studies program. This two-year full-time (or four-year part-time) program has since attracted students from five continents—Europe, Africa, Asia as well as North and Latin America. It offers two areas of concentration: Adventist Studies (focusing on history, theology, and hermeneutics) and Mission Studies (focusing on Christian mission, intercultural relations, and world religions).

Several excursions supplement and deepen the regular teaching. For example, the historic places of the Protestant Reformation—like Lutherstadt Wittenberg and the Wartburg—are visited.

For more information on the M.T.S. program, go to www.thh-friedensau.de or write an e-mail to rolf.poehler@thh-friedensau.de.

Several M.T.S. graduates are currently pursuing doctoral studies at European universities and beyond.

SEASON’S GREETINGS and BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of them is charity.”

1. Cor. 13:13