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The Reformation – a continuing mandate

On October 31, 1517 – exactly 500 years ago – a German Bible Professor by the name of “Martin Luder” posts 95 theses on the university billboard of Wittenberg

to start an academic debate on the evils of indulgences. On the same day, he sends his theses to the Archbishop of Mainz, asking him to stop the sales campaign of Johann Tetzel. For the first time, he signs a letter with “Martin Luther,” taking the “th” from the Greek word eleuTheria – freedom.

Luther had studied the Bible meticulously until the truth of God’s righteousness – i.e., his mercy and fidelity – overwhelmed him and overcame his deep-seated fear of the divine Judge. This liberating experience was the driving force of the 16th-century Reformation – and it still is at the heart of genuine spiritual reforms. It turns angst into assurance, fear into faith, conformity into courage.

Friedensau Adventist University – just 60 kms away from Wittenberg – is committed to uphold the core teachings of the Protestant Reformers: Scripture, grace, faith, Christ! Through academic programs and publications, by teaching and writing, we seek to realize this goal. Our students and alumni can bear witness to it. Learn more about it in this newsletter!

Prof. Rolf J. Pöhler, ThD
MTS Supervisor, IAS Director

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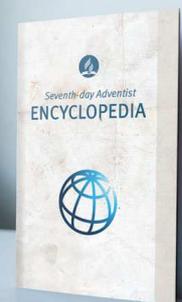
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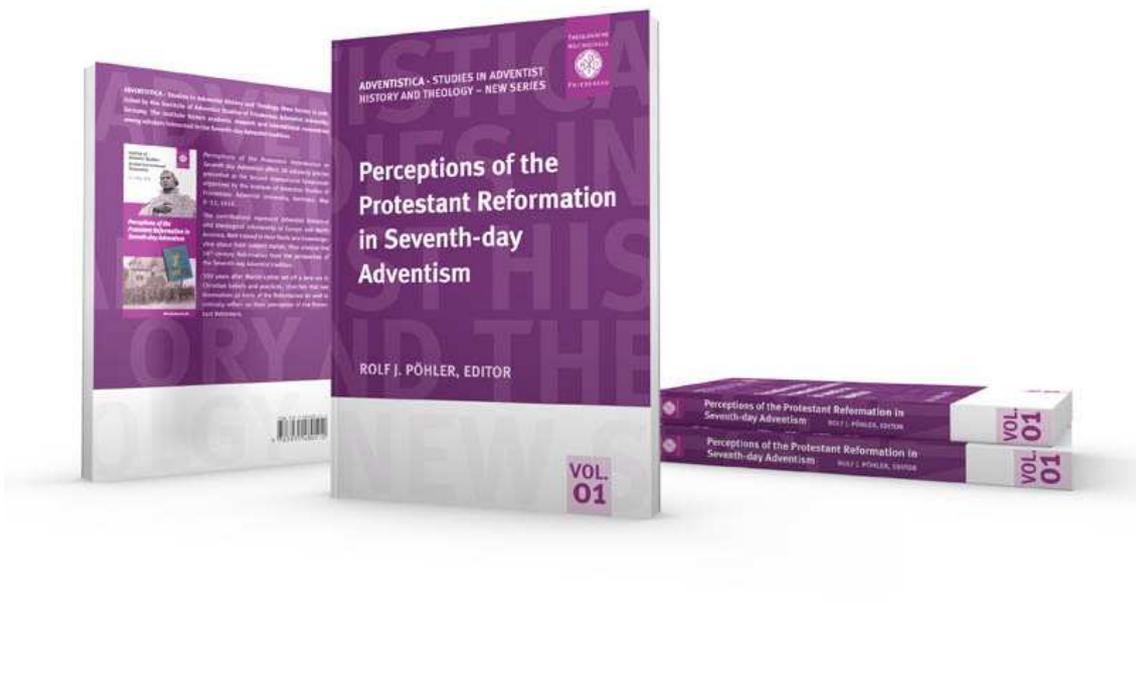
**WANT TO WRITE FOR THE
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ENCYCLOPEDIA?**





First volume of “Adventistica – New Series” about to be released

The release of the first volume of “Adventistica – Studies in Adventist History and Theology – New Series” is scheduled for November. The book is titled “Perceptions of the Protestant Reformation in Seventh-day Adventism” and offers 18 scholarly articles, originally presented at the Second International Symposium organized by the Institute of Adventist Studies of Friedensau Adventist University, May 9–12, 2016. The book will be available on amazon.com and amazon.de – or just contact ias@thh-friedensau.de.



Former student couple serving in leadership positions in Africa

In 1986, Musa Gideon Mitekaro entered the pastoral ministry in Tanzania. He served as district pastor, college registrar, university affiliation coordinator, theology lecturer and university chaplain. In 2011 he moved from an academic setting to Tanzania Union Mission. Today he is Ministerial Secretary, Family Ministries Director, and Revival and Reformation Coordinator in the East-Central Africa Division (ECD).

Musa has a passion for the spiritual growth of pastors, for evangelism and visitation. He has trained many theology students and lay evangelists in public and personal evangelism.

Pastor Mitekaro writes: "Friedensau Adventist University has meant a lot to us. We greatly enjoyed the fellowship between students and teachers as well as the beautiful nature on and around the campus. As foreigners we felt at home. Friedensau fostered intellectual growth and leadership skills. Our lecturers taught us to be thinkers, not just learners." Mitekaro holds a Master of Theology degree from Friedensau and is currently working towards a PhD in Public Administration and Management at Kampala International University – Dar es Salaam. He is married to Winfrida Aneth Mitekaro; they have three grown-up sons.

Winfrida Mitekaro writes: "It was a wonderful experience for me and my family to join Friedensau Adventist University. When I look back 20 years, I have many pleasant memories I still cherish. Friedensau impressed me the most when I came to realize that the first Adventist missionaries to Tanzania came from the very school where I was now studying! Upon returning home, we were integrated in a university setting, where I taught many courses on psychology, sociology, health principles, and marriage and family. Later on, I was a Departmental Director for Sabbath School, Women and Children Ministries at the Union. By 2015, we had established a project called 'Women Center of Influence' in the central part of Tanzania. We plan to have a rehabilitation center for alcoholics, drug addicts and prostitutes, a refugee for abused women, and a vocation school for women. Today I am working with the Ministerial Association as Shepherdess, Pastors' Kids and Prayer Ministries Coordinator in the East-Central Africa Division."



Graduation in Friedensau: The future starts now

Graduates, guests, family and friends came to mark the annual graduation ceremony of Friedensau Adventist University on October 15. That day, the School of Christian Social Sciences and the School of Theology conferred degrees on Bachelor and Master students. Beams of smiles, cheers, hugs, handshakes, awards and countless photographs marked the event. While the sun was shining brightly on the radiant faces of the graduates, the fact that they come from twelve different countries added another hue to the beautiful colors of the occasion.

If a light was beamed on the School of Theology, graduating eight Bachelor and nine Master students, a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) student from Haiti, Eudritch Jean, won the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) prize for international students. It is awarded to students with excellent academic achievements and active involvement in community life. In his response, Eudritch Jean expressed his thankfulness for being the prize winner and committed to continue in personal development and service to the community.

Two of the MTS graduates, Róbert Bicskei and Simon Csaba from Hungary, are already in active ministry and mission in their Union, bringing academic theory to practical church leadership. A third graduate, Benjamin Bonilla from Puerto Rico, is already a DMiss student at Andrews University, trying to finish his studies there by 2018. Prof. Dr. Roland Fischer, the university Rector, wished the fresh graduates well as they enter a new phase in life.



New African student for the Master of Theological Studies

Kingsley Kwadwo Owusu Mensah, an ordained pastor from Ghana (West Africa), has started the MTS program at Friedensau. Before coming to Germany, he was working for about five years in the pastoral ministry as a district pastor in the South-Central Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During that time he won and baptized many people and contributed to the success of the Conference and the church at large.

Kingsley says he came to Friedensau “to get closer to God and to expand my horizon in the field of theology.” He appreciates the fact that Friedensau has been a place of training and scholarly education for pastors from Africa and around the globe for many years.

Describing his first impressions of Friedensau University he says that he appreciates the environment, infrastructure, and facilities for learning and achieving excellence and that the spirituality on campus is focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ. In his free time Kingsley likes to read the Bible, compose music and play the piano and the guitar.



Call for Papers

Friedensau will conduct a Symposium on “Contours of European Adventism: Issues in the History of the Denomination on the Old Continent” on April 23–26, 2018. You are welcome to submit an abstract (100 to 150 words) of a proposed 30-minute paper until November 20, 2017. Papers should address one of the themes listed below from a historical perspective. Case studies are welcome. Suggest an additional topic if you are an expert on it. All presenters are requested to consent to two avenues of publication: (1) the symposium proceedings, and (2) the new Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists.

For more information see <http://www.thh-friedensau.de/wp-content/uploads/Call-for-Papers-Contours-of-European-Adventism-April-23-26-2018-Symposium.pdf>

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