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School of Theology NEWSLETTER

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Are You Still On Track?

For many people the beginning of a new year has been a good time to start with some new intentions: to reduce weight, to do more sports, to live a healthier life. For some it may have been a good plan

to devote more time to prayer, to study the Bible more diligently, or to engage in mission projects. Are you still on track?

Would it also be a good plan to do more theology? Sounds strange? As a recipient of this newsletter you may be a theologian or a person interested in theology. So why not using some more time this year to dig deeper into theology?

One way is to read books or magazines. You may want to choose the new book by the Institute of Adventist Studies on Adventism and the Reformation, which is going to be published in a few weeks.

Another opportunity is to participate in a theological convention or symposium. Academic debate and fellowship with colleagues from different countries and continents is an inspiring experience. Friedensau will host an exciting symposium on Contours of European Adventism in April. Plan to attend?

Still another way is to take some courses of a continuing educational program, or to enroll in some classes in a theological institution.

Friedensau University is happy to serve you in as many ways as possible to help you grow in your theological expertise. Are you still on track?

Prof. Dr. Roland E. Fischer, Rector

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Symposium “Contours of European Adventism”

On April 23–26, Friedensau University will conduct its third International Theological Symposium on “Contours of European Adventism: Issues in the History of the Denomination on the Old Continent.” For more information see <http://www.thh-friedensau.de/wp-content/uploads/Invitation-IAS-Symposium-April-23-26-2018.pdf> or contact: esda@thh-friedensau.de.



New Lecturer in Old Testament

Dr Jan Åge Sigvartsen, PhD, is the new Old Testament lecturer who has joined our faculty this year. Jan specializes in Old Testament, Early Judaism, Second Temple Period Literature, and Biblical Archaeology. His extended doctoral studies were completed at Andrews University with an additional two years as a Visiting Research Fellow at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he studied under some of the leading scholars in his field. While living in Israel, Jan had the opportunity to travel extensively within the Middle East including Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel to study these ancient civilizations in their historical, cultural and geographical context. He also participated in the Madaba Plains Project, an archeological excavation at Tel Hisban in Jordan. For a detailed professional profile and his scholarly publication list, see www.jansigvartsen.com.

Jan was born in Norway and – because of his Viking heritage – enjoys traveling and would like to build a functioning Viking Ship one day. His doctoral dissertation explored the multiple death and resurrection beliefs in the Second Temple Period. Given those Viking ancestors, that may explain his research interest area; however, it also filled a significant gap in current scholarship.

Like his great-grandfather, Jan undertook his Bachelor of Theology at Newbold College in England. His great-grandfather, Vaino Bernard Kohtanen, an Adventist pioneer in Europe, was an evangelist, college president and, later, a conference president in Finland during a career which spanned from 1912 to 1954. Interestingly, he was also the college roommate of Arthur Maxwell (of Uncle Arthur's Bible Stories fame).

Jan worked as a minister in Lillehammer and surrounding areas in Norway before he went to Andrews University for his Master in Religion. While being a doctoral student, he taught at the SDA Theological Seminary and in the Religion and Biblical Languages Department. He also worked as an academic editor and assisted a number of leading Adventist scholars in preparing their manuscripts for publication. For the past five years he has been a primary researcher in the Beyond Beliefs Project, a major research study which explores what Millennial young adults really think of the 28 Beliefs of the Adventist church. He is in the process of replicating this study globally and with

other demographic groups, including the Silent Generation (those born between 1920 and 1945).

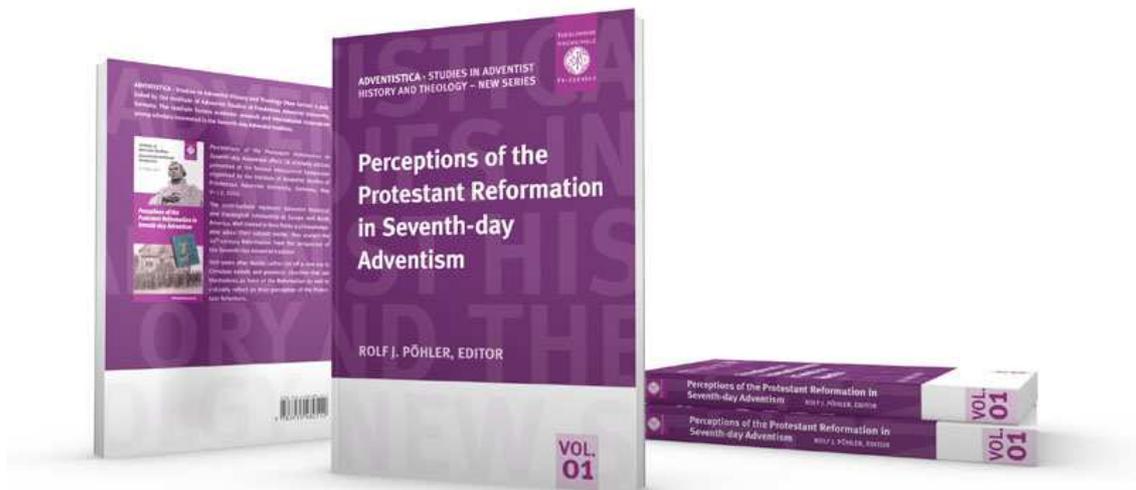
Jan has lived in Norway, the United Kingdom, Israel, Australia and the USA and is looking forward to being a part of the vibrant, multicultural academic community at Friedensau University. He and his Australian wife, Leanne, have two young sons, Leif and Thor. Leif was named after the Viking explorer Leif Erikson and Thor has been a name in Jan's family since the time of the Vikings.

Jan's goals for his students is to have them become thinkers and problem solvers, not just rote learners. He is particularly interested in teaching the research methodology of exegesis and has developed the website www.ExegesisPaper.com for this purpose. Originally created for his students at Andrews, by now over 80,000 students from more than 180 countries have started using it too. Jan has a strong interest in academic editing and publishing, as well as the emerging market of distance education and is very excited that Friedensau wishes to expand into these two areas.



“Adventistica – New Series” Ready for Launch

In April, the first volume of “Adventistica – Studies in Adventist History and Theology – New Series” will appear in print. 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 University in 2016. Go to amazon.com and amazon.de – or just contact ias@thh-friedensau.de.



Samuel Ndikumana's Journey of Service

Samuel Ndikumana's church services began in 1999 as a high school teacher and assistant church pastor in his native country, Burundi (East Africa). After his undergraduate studies in Tanzania, he served as high school chaplain and church pastor before becoming Stewardship and Communication Departmental Director at West Burundi Field and Burundi Union Mission, a position he occupied until he joined Friedensau Adventist University in 2008. He completed his Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in 2011 and his Master of Arts in International Social Sciences (ISS) in 2012.

Samuel writes: "Joining Friedensau became an unprecedented blessing in my life which has enabled me to grasp better God's profound love and his compassion. At Friedensau, I have learned the values of rigorous research, service to humanity, and above all God's unfailing love and his grace for all. These are values that keep me going whenever I am invited to serve. For the last six years, I have been engaged in humanitarian and developmental work across three continents, providing relief aid and development assistance to natural disaster victims in Haiti and Nepal, to civil war refugees in Niger and South Sudan, and to internally displaced persons in the war-torn Somalia. Only trust in God gives me peace of mind while working in some of the most insecure places."

Ndikumana is a staunch believer in education and its power to orient young people as they seek meaning and purpose for their lives. He has founded East Africa Star University (Burundi), an institution of higher learning, currently training about 300 undergraduate students in public health, human nutrition, economics and rural development, and early childhood education. The second graduation is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2018. He is also the Founding President of Saron Academy (Burundi), a nursery and primary school currently providing education to 95 kids. Through these institutions, Samuel is able to influence and prepare young people for service.

Ndikumana's passion for global affairs has led him to pursuing his doctoral studies in Diplomacy

and International Affairs at Euclid University. His research interests include development cooperation, regional integration, and peace operations.



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