



School of Theology NEWSLETTER



On my Favourite Book of the Bible

When I was a teenager, I first read the book of Ecclesiastes. Ever since, it has remained my favourite book in the Bible. This may be uncommon: as Christians, we typically prefer the Gospel of John; as Protestants, we love meditating on the epistle to the Romans; and as Adventists, we emphasize the message of Revelation. Nevertheless, the fascination that gripped me when I first read the timeless wisdom of Solomon has never faded, even as I started teaching theology. There are several insights of importance for everyone in this book – including those of us whose profession and call is reflecting on divine things and steering God's people.

- **Cheerful Wisdom:** "There is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work" (Eccl. 3:22). As we cooperate with the Lord in his ministry, let us remind ourselves that this work, like other callings, is a gift for us as well as for others. Enjoying is part of pastoral work and of doing theology – there is an aesthetic of working for God.
- **Serene Scepticism:** "Who knows what is good for a man in life?" (6:12) It is good to remember that whatever projects we pursue, whatever research we do, we are limited in our perspective. Nevertheless, the Lord is always greater than our limited ambitions.
- **A Moderate Mindset:** "Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise" (7:16). We theologians are extremely clever folks. We can interpret and explain almost everything between heaven and earth. What we need is also being able to admit where our knowledge and wisdom ends.
- **A Practical Attitude:** "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (9:10). Often we do not know what will come out of our actions. This should not stop us from trying hard. God certainly smiles when he sees that we are doing things in the very best way we can.

Blessings & greetings from Friedensau
Stefan Höschele, Ph.D.,
Dean, School of Theology

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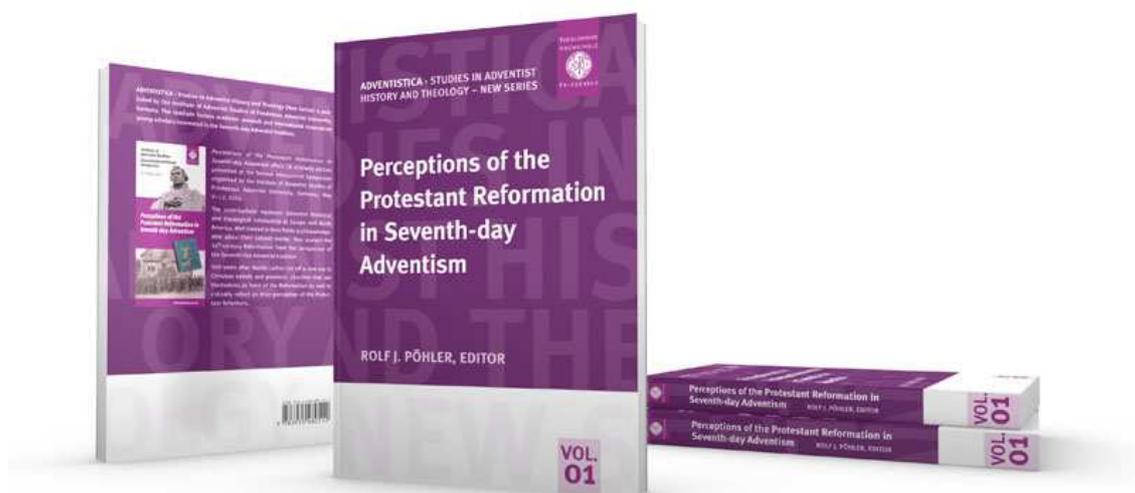
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MTS Scholarships Available

Friedensau Adventist University is offering 12 scholarships for students with superior grades (GPA 3.5 or better). Half of the tuition fees are waived, the other half are due only (within a few years) after graduation. The Arthur Daniells Scholarship covers students in the Mission Studies emphasis, the Joseph Bates

Scholarship is earmarked for the Adventist Studies emphasis. Four of the scholarships are reserved for women. If you believe you qualify, write to zulassungsamt@thh-friedensau.de and apply.



New Book Series Launched

The first volume of the new book series published by the Institute of Adventist Studies has appeared in print. Entitled *Perceptions of the Protestant Reformation in Seventh-day Adventism* (320 pp.), it contains the papers presented at the Second International Symposium of the IAS organized in 2016 in Friedensau. It is also available as E-pub.

To order, write to ias@thh-friedensau.de (€27.00 incl. international shipping), go to <https://www.bod.de/buchshop> (GER), or go to Amazon (GB USA CAN AUS).
ISBN Print: 978-3-935480-51-2 (€19.90 | for prices in £ and \$, check amazon)
ISBN E-book: 978-3-935480-52-9 (€11.99 | for prices in £ and \$, check amazon)

Fourth International Symposium, Institute of Adventist Studies

“The Kingdom of God is at Hand” – Adventist Interpretations of Biblical Apocalyptic.” This will be the theme of the fourth symposium organized by the Institute of Adventist Studies. It will take place from April 20 to 23, 2020, at ThH Friedensau. Like earlier symposia on SDA and World War I (2014), Adventist Perceptions of the Reformation (2016), and Contours of European Adventism (2018), this conference will feature leading Adventist theologians and historians in the quest for understanding both the development and the unique emphases of Adventists in this field that is so significant for the denomination’s existence. Watch out for further information and the Call for Papers in our next newsletters. If you want to contribute or attend, you can contact us at ias@thh-friedensau.de.

MTS Graduate volunteers in Friedensau

At the graduation ceremony in October, Eudritch Jean received his M.T.S. degree. Originally from Haiti, he is the second student from this Pacific State to graduate in Friedensau. His Master's thesis investigated "The Role of Experience in Early Adventism." Eudritch is planning to pursue doctoral studies in ethics. Currently, he is working as volunteer for the Institute of Adventist Studies, assisting in the preparation of articles for the new encyclopedia project of the worldwide Adventist church.



James Mayunga Ajuok – Reflection on life in Friedensau

James Mayunga Ajuok entered the pastoral ministry in Tanzania in 1994. He served as chaplain, got a BA in Theology, and served as district pastor. In 2008 he joined Friedensau Adventist University to pursue graduate studies. Two years later, he became the first graduate of the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program with emphasis in Adventist Studies. After returning to Tanzania, he worked as chaplain and lecturer at the University of Arusha. In 2013 he began doctoral studies at the Adventist University of Africa, where, in 2017, he graduated with a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership. He joined North Tanzania Union Conference as the first editor of Home Health Education Service. Dr. Ajuok has a zeal for empowering pastors, theology students and lay evangelists in pastoral work.

Looking back at his experience at Friedensau Adventist University, Dr. Ajuok writes: "Friedensau Adventist University did an outstanding work in shaping my critical thinking, research skills, and methodology. This training enabled me to develop a dissertation on Discipleship. The fellowship and companionship I enjoyed in Friedensau was exceptional. Faculty and staff members were so gracious, humble, and concerned about my welfare. Fellow students were friends, brothers and sisters to me. As a foreigner, Friedensau became my comfortable home. I learnt to be more humble as I serve people, drawing them to the heavenly family. I recommend Friedensau to all who wish to attain an excellent and outstanding education."

Dr. Ajuok is married to Jane; they are blessed with two lovely daughters, Rebecca and Rachel.



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