



Faith and the Lord's Prayer: An Interview with Dennis Lindsay

In October this year, the Institute and EES- together with the Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich- will be hosting an international symposium on the Lord's Prayer in Tübingen. One of the speakers at the symposium will be Dennis R. Lindsay, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Biblical Studies, at Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon. We are very pleased to welcome Dennis back to Tübingen; Dennis, Karen and Mia (photo) spent a month here at the Institute last summer.

This interview was conducted by email in May 2018

BETH LANGSTAFF: *A conference here in Tübingen is virtually a home game for you: you lived here for a number of years, pastored the Gemeinde, served as Fellow here at the Institut, and were awarded your Doctor of Theology degree from the University of Tübingen. What do you particularly remember about your Tübingen years? What was enjoyable and/or challenging about your time here?*

DENNIS LINDSAY: Karen and I spent seven of the most formative years of our lives in Tübingen, and every time we return it feels like we have come home. Perhaps the most challenging moment of our time in Tübingen was when I learned, after having spent years to complete my doctoral dissertation, that the theology faculty would no longer accept dissertations submitted in English, and I had to translate the entire work into German! But far outweighing any of the challenges we faced was the sustaining and enduring joy of the relationships we were able to build with the people of Tübingen. From the mentorship of my Doktorvater, Prof. Dr. Otto Betz, to the love, support, and genuine friendship of the circle of believers in the Christliche Gemeinde, it is the people of Tübingen that we remember most dearly.

BETH LANGSTAFF: *What you have been doing in the years since you left Germany? Can you tell us about life in Eugene, Oregon, and about your multiple roles at Northwest Christian University?*

DENNIS LINDSAY: In 1992 we moved from Tübingen to Birmingham in the UK, where I served as Principal of Springdale College until 2000. I wore many hats in that

leadership role, including administrative oversight for the college, teaching close to a full-time load, preaching on weekends, and making regular fundraising trips to the States. During this time Karen also taught at Springdale while completing her PhD in Theology at the University of Birmingham. In 2000 we moved from Springdale College to Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon where I took up a faculty position in Biblical Studies. For the past 13 years my primary role at NCU has been as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. Alongside the heavy administrative demands of this position, I still manage to teach a course here and there, as I continue to pursue my research interest in a biblical-theological understanding of the faith language of the New Testament . a passion that was sparked by my time, studies, and relationships in Tübingen.

BETH LANGSTAFF: *You will be reading a paper at the Symposium on faith and prayer in the New Testament. In the Lutheran Church here in Germany, the Lord's Prayer is an all-too-familiar text recited towards the close of the Sunday service. How might an understanding of faith in the New Testament help us to look at and listen to the Lord's Prayer in new and fresh ways?*

DENNIS LINDSAY: Although we do not see the traditional faith language of the New Testament in the immediate narratives of the Lord's Prayer, there are some important theological trajectories that are common both to the concept of prayer and to the concept of faith which, I contend, intersect in the "Our Father" prayer. In my research on a biblical theology of faith, I continually return to the concept of engaging with God as a basic component of the faith terminology in both Hebrew and Greek scriptures. Arguably, the language of engaging with God could be appropriately applied to the concept of prayer. Among the intersecting points of this engagement with respect to faith and prayer is a recurring connection with forgiveness of sins, as we find in the Lord's Prayer. This is one of the important connections that I will be exploring in my paper.

Our warm thanks to Dennis for taking time for this interview!