

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 11 December 2007 To Africa!, Israel 2008

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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Dear All,

The year is nearly over. The final 2007 newsletter of the International Teaching Ministry will go out a couple of days before Christmas. In the meantime, please let me share some personal news. After my letter, some details about the finances and also about the 2008 Biblical Study Tour -- to the Middle East!

At a recent conference a South American brother brought me some fantastic news. He'd given his father one of my books, in efforts to bring him to a biblical faith. 17 years later (!), his father got around to reading the book. (I know we are all tempted to procrastinate, but!) Convinced about the truth, a few months ago he repented and was baptized. Exhilarating to hear, and encouraging to the nth degree for me personally! "Cast your bread upon the waters..." Interesting how the Lord moves....

A few weeks ago I was returning from a west coast trip, and the fellow in the seat next to me was an impressive man in his 70s. A Jewish atheist biophysicist, he was eager to talk about life, about all he had seen and been through, and about his faith (or lack of it). We discussed morality, meaning, the problem of suffering (If there's a God, why does he allow ____?), and our personal lives. Although usually I try to be discreet on airplanes, I suspect several of our fellow passengers were listening in to the discussion (debate?) with interest. At the end of the flight I asked about how he was spending his retirement. "Oh, no, I'm still working. My new line is pretty engaging; I'm working in counter-terrorism." Please pray that I may continue to reach out to all the people the Lord puts in my path.

Next year, thanks to the Apologetics Research Society, who arranged my 2007 debate with Michael Shermer (historian of science, skeptic, agnostic, and *Scientific American* columnist), I will be able to represent Christianity in a three-way debate/dialog/discussion with a Jewish rabbi and a Muslim imam. This will take place in June, in Chicago. What a great opportunity!

In 2008 we are launching a leadership/Bible training program in Russian. I will make four week-long visits to Kiev, the capital city of the Ukraine, which will serve as the center. Christian men and women will converge from Russia, Belarus, Moldova, the Ukraine, and anywhere else where Russian is commonly spoken. (Thank you, Shawn Wooten and the Ukrainian brothers who are making this possible!)

Last, in an hour or so I leave for West Africa with my colleague in teaching, Joey Harris. We will minister in Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Ghana. Your prayers for a safe, successful, and spiritual trip are much appreciated. (Thanks, Cornerstone, North River, Stone Mountain, and other congregations who are making this possible!) Please pray that through this ministry believers will be built up, the lost will be reached, and God glorified.

Your brother,
Douglas

(PS: Scroll down for p.2 of this newsletter.)

