



1st Quarter 2006 International Teaching Ministry Update

This is the first update for the year 2006. If you'd like to receive any of the six updates from 2005, 2004, or earlier, please let me know. This update highlights a new audio set: "What Happens After We Die?", an incredible seminar in Washington DC, and more...

I. PERSONAL

The first quarter of 2006 is going well for the Jacoby family. We're preparing for our June move to Marietta, Georgia, where we have been commuting to church for the past year. Also, our eldest is finishing high school—another transition, as the "nest" will soon start to empty.

II. NEW AUDIO SERIES

A new audio series has been produced: *What Happens After We Die? The Long-Neglected Biblical Doctrine about Everything that Happens After Death*. The long and short of it: the popular doctrine that upon death we proceed immediately to heaven contradicts the Bible (both testaments) and the witness of the early church writers. Warning: Traditional teachings and understandings will definitely be challenged!

Two more audio series are to be released before the 2nd Quarter update: *Revelation and the End of the World* (May), and *Thinking, Studying, and Teaching Biblically* (June).



III. AIM

The Athens/Atlanta Institute of Ministry begins operations in Great Britain next week, with students coming from Scandinavia, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. Then in April we will hold our promotional session (on Church History) in San Diego. Leaders from Phoenix, Mexico, and San Diego will join in for the session. My friends Gordon Ferguson and John Oakes will be teaching alongside me. In May the next Georgia session will take place, with guest speaker Ed Anton (author of *Repentance*) from Virginia Beach. The Filipino and West African programs continue to flourish. Though we still seek sponsors for students in the developing world, it has truly been heartening to see so many in the west decide to donate to this ministry. Thank you!

What encourages me is that more and more ministries are seeing the need for theology. Not that everybody agrees; far too many still view theological training as a "luxury item," something nice for teachers but not particularly practical for preachers and the congregation. And yet what could be more practical than theology? This sort of training:

- Enables us to help others sink their spiritual roots deeper into the word of God.
- Helps the Bible come to life, for the one being trained as well as for those he or she teaches.
- Secures followers of Christ in their faith, so that when the storms come, they will stand firm.
- Equips us to learn from history (biblical history and church history alike).
- Brings perspective and patience so that we can truly trust in the Lord to act.

IV. GREEK WEEK: 19-24 JUNE, ORLANDO

I am excited about the upcoming week of New Testament Greek instruction! Already participants have enrolled from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Italy, and China. The purpose is to introduce you to the language (beginners), and to firm up grammar and translation skills (all others). This will be of special interest to those who want to go deeper into the Word, including teachers and preachers. Men and women, younger Christians and older Christians, staff and non-staff—all are invited to take part. Come one, come all! To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

V. 2006 INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' SEMINAR

Who is my brother? Great question, and one everybody is asking. The 2006 ITS is open to anyone interested in the teaching ministry and the featured topics, regardless of teaching experience. Please click on the image:



VI. TRAVELS

So far this year I have been honored to visit Boston, Los Angeles, Singapore, Auckland, Sydney, Columbia SC, and Abilene. This weekend I head to Milan, to teach local Christians. I'll also have a chance to view Da Vinci's famous painting, *The Last Supper*, made even more famous through Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. (I teach on *The Qur'an & The Da Vinci Code* in Atlanta later in April.) Next week I'll be in London

(AIM), then head to Paris and Madrid for further preaching and teaching. Next month: Gainesville, Florida (campus ministry), San Diego (parenting and AIM), Mexicali and Tijuana, Mexico (Northern Mexican Leadership Conference and Tijuana Teaching Day). Never a dull moment!

FAREWELL

Please keep the teaching ministry in your prayers. Pray that it will lead to biblical literacy and reflection, and build unity among Christians worldwide. *Arrivederci, Cheerio, Au revoir, and Adios!*

—Your brother, Doug

DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEACHING MINISTRY? Your help is valued and needed. Here are several possibilities...

1. ATHENS INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total need: \$70,000

Received in 2006: \$28,900

The Athens Institute of Ministry was established in January 2004 to train preachers, teachers, and serious Bible students. Biblical education is a deep need, and it is also the area in which I feel most called to serve. Sessions take place in Georgia or at long distance by DVD. Please see the download document at the website for full details. We are eager to offer scholarships to worthy students in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and throughout the second and third worlds generally. Your donations help students to participate who otherwise would not be able to afford the tuition. We want to extend scholarship offers and assistance to as many students as possible. Currently AIM has some 80 scholarship students in 27 nations, and many of them need ongoing sponsorship. Our eventual hope is to support the principal AIM teachers on a part-time basis. **AIM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions you have made to AIM are tax-deductible.**

The Athens Institute of Ministry admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to students of A.I.M. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in admissions policies, scholarships, or other programs.

2. THIRD WORLD TRAVEL FUND

Total need: \$25,000

Received in 2006: \$6000

Currently I make teaching visits to at least 25 cities a year, half in the US and half outside. Funding is needed to cover airfare and reasonable speaking fees for third world visits, and in some cases accommodation and meals, when they are not provided by the local church. We are in the process of applying for tax-exempt status for IBTM (International Bible Teaching Ministry), so that any contributions to this fund will be deductible. Once 501(c)(3) status has been granted, any contributions, even before that date, will be allowed as tax deductions by the IRS. A notice will be placed at the website once 501(c)(3) status has been granted for IBTM.

3. GENERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Total need: \$35,000

Received in 2006: \$3730

General support donations help to compensate IBTM's international teachers for research, developing new materials, and speaking in the developing world. This is also the category to contribute to if you are not sure, or do not have a strong opinion, about how your donation should be spent. We are in the process of applying for tax-exempt status for IBTM (International Bible Teaching Ministry), so that any contributions to this fund will be deductible. Once 501(c)(3) status has been granted, any contributions, even before that date, will be allowed as tax deductions by the IRS.

4. THIRD WORLD BOOK FUND

Total need: \$10,000

Received in 2006: \$1000

In the majority of developing nations around the world, monthly salaries are in the range of \$30-\$300. Books, which typically cost \$10 or more, are an exorbitant expense for persons living in such economic situations. Helping Christians and churches through biblical education can make a tremendous difference, building faith and expanding the horizons of readers. The Third World Book Fund is not only for books, but also for audio messages. Free books and audio are distributed not only to individuals, but also to church libraries. We are in the process of applying for tax-exempt status for IBTM (International Bible Teaching Ministry), so that any contributions to this fund will be deductible. Once 501(c)(3) status has been granted, any contributions, even before that date, will be allowed as tax deductions by the IRS.