

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2008 Issue 06 Jesus & Jihad, New DVD sets, and more...

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

Past newsletters are available at the [website](#). Enjoying the updates and the website? Please spread the word. (If not, just click on REMOVE.) And if your email address has changed, please send us both new *and* old address. The website features new material every day. Look for Q&As, Articles, and daily Bible studies under "Through the N.T. in a year."

Dear Friends of the Teaching Ministry,

Greetings from Santiago de Chile! James (our son) and I are on a teaching trip in South America. It's his spring break from college, but down here *autumn* is about to begin (southern hemisphere). The Andes are beautiful, the sun is shining, and the Christians here all send you warm greetings! After Chile, I will head up to Bolivia. You can see both Santiago and La Paz (Bolivia) on the map. [Chile](#) is on the Pacific coast of South America, and [Bolivia](#), a landlocked nation, borders it on the north.



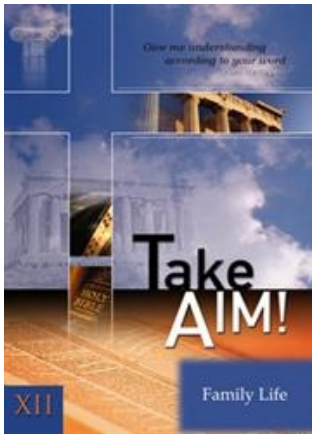
It is a privilege to meet so many brothers and sisters the world over. Sometimes I even meet them *before* I arrive at my destination. People walk down the airplane aisle and say hello; this has led to some great fellowship! Recently as I was passing through airport security, a uniformed security officer looked me straight in the eye and said, "Hey, I know you. I heard you speak in Boston -- in 1993!" You never know when you'll meet someone whose life you may have touched through a single conversation. When I was flying back from Florida last week (after my mother's cancer surgery), I sat next to a cargo pilot, a man who has flown large planes on every continent. (He showed me that mobile phones don't work over about 5000 ft [1600 m], since they cannot get any signal. He even demonstrated this for me!) We talked about travel, planes, politics, religion, and his faith. I promised him a free copy of this year's upcoming debate with [Shabir Ally](#) and [Shmuley Boteach](#) (June 7, Chicago). I believe the Lord puts *many* people in our paths. Therefore (to reword Galatians 6:9-10), let's not grow tired of reaching out. Let's start meaningful conversations with *all* people -- and especially with fellow believers.

So what's new?

1. New DVD Sets

IPI has released two new DVD sets, both of which I think will be helpful to Christians, regardless of which nation you live in. One is an 8-hour *Take AIM!* series on Worldviews. Without "pre-evangelism," most people will not appreciate the gospel. We need to enter their world of thinking and then bring them into a biblical worldview. Only after a foundation is laid will they be receptive to biblical truth. This series helps us to understand the truth, and error, of other belief systems (for example, the thinking of Hindus, Muslims, atheists, and various Christian sects). If you're struggling to present the gospel, and want to spend some time in careful preparation, [Worldviews](#) is for you.

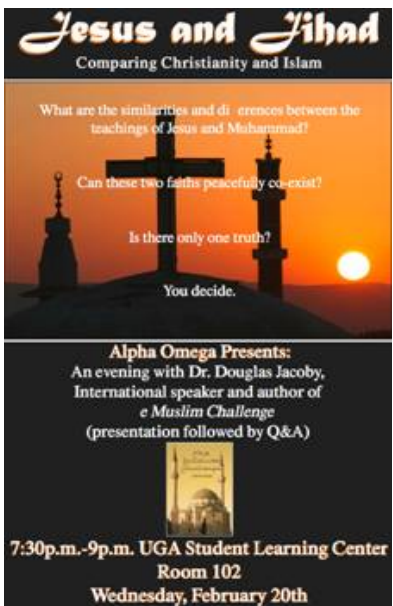
The second series, similar in length to the first, is on Family Life. You will watch challenging and inspiring classes on relationships, being single, dating, marriage, parenting, creating spiritual homes, and much more. Teachers in these series include Sam & Geri Laing, Joey Harris, and Douglas & Vicki Jacoby. These are certainly not your routine parenting and marriage classes, as you will see! Click on the image to order Family Life.



2. Campus & Teen Evangelism

Lately I have delivered several presentations in Georgia universities. First, were two Tuesday evenings on at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta) on "Counter-cultural Christianity." I also delivered a message on "Jesus and Jihad" at the University of Georgia (Athens). Well over 100 non-Christian visitors attended. Please see the report on this event written by Kevin & Elizabeth Thompson (below). Next, I was able to speak to a Sunday teen service on "Character & Personality" at one of the Atlanta area churches. To hear the message (addressed to teens), click [here](#). Finally, later this month I'm looking forward to a Saturday get-together with the teen group from The Charlotte Church (their actual name), who are driving down to Atlanta for lunch and an afternoon of teaching and Q&A! Our teens and campus students are precious; they *are* the leadership of the next generation. Many of us became Christians in our teens. (I myself was 18, a seeking and receptive freshman college student, when Douglas Arthur and Gary Knutson invited me to a group Bible study.)

The following report, *Jesus & Jihad*, is by Kevin & Elizabeth Thompson.



Jihad. Islam. Muhammad. Few words evoke more intense emotions in our world today. People around the nation—and on our campuses—have countless questions about Islam and how it relates to Christianity: What are the similarities and differences between the teachings of Jesus and Muhammad? Can Islam and Christianity peacefully co-exist? Is there only one truth?

On Wednesday, February 20th, Dr. Douglas Jacoby answered these controversial questions for a crowd of more than 200 college students in UGA's Student Learning Center. In a room filled with more than 100 visitors, including a number of Muslim students, Dr. Jacoby presented the differences between the teachings of Muhammad and those of Jesus.

One of the greatest aspects of the event was the spirit of evangelism it inspired in our campus ministry. In anticipation of the event, students shared with dozens of people, even inviting entire classrooms to attend. On the day of the event, we set up camp on the Student Center walkway and invited more than 2000 students to the presentation!

Doug's speech was followed by a question-and-answer period in which students talked about the issues he had addressed. This portion of the night sparked passionate responses from Muslims and Christians alike. While it would have been easy for arguments to get out of hand, the questions and remarks were presented with a respectful tone. But when the Q & A session ended, the night had only just begun - discussion and debate lasted for hours into the night! It was inspiring to see Christian students, Bibles in hand, defending and sharing their faith in a way that they had never done before.

We were encouraged to know the solid reasons behind what we believe as Christians. Our eyes were opened to the needs of others who have only a shallow faith in Christ. And we were challenged to learn about other religions, so that we can reach out to those who do not know our Lord. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15 (TNIV)
-- Kevin & Elizabeth Thompson (Athens, Georgia)

3. Mexico City Webcast

In April I will deliver the first of three webcasts in 2008. Technology is opening avenues for biblical training that were simply not there even 5 or 10 years ago! Hundreds can tune in and watch the lessons. All are in Spanish. These webcasts are:

1. Revelation & the End of the World (April 19th)
2. Hebrews: Anchored for Faith (August 20th)
3. Staff training (TBA)

By the way, in the near future IPI (Illumination Publishers International) will release four of my books in *Spanish*. We'll keep you posted.

4. Daily Bible Studies

How's your personal Bible study? Throughout 2008 you will find a new Bible study every morning at the website. (Many of you have said they are helping you to know God's word better, get out of a rut, or have fresh perspective on the New Testament. Thanks for your feedback.) Feel free to post any responses to these studies at my blogspot, www.jacobyblogs.com. For today's study, click [here](#).

5. Financial Support

If you feel moved to donate to the international teaching ministry, please scroll down.

Farewell!

Thanks for reading this newsletter. And much gratitude to those of you who support me financially. Without you, most of what I do would simply not be possible. Special thanks to those who underwrote the teaching trip to Chile and Bolivia.

God bless, and look for another newsletter later in the month.

Your brother,
Douglas

BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER

The international Bible teaching ministry is still a fledgling effort, highly dependent on donations in order to operate. We are far from being in a strong financial position, and especially rely upon those who can donate on a regular basis. You can make a difference. If you believe in this ministry and would like to become a monthly supporter, please click above and send an email. Be sure to indicate how much support you are able to provide each month: for example, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, etc. Any amount is fine, and no amount is too small. Once we establish contact, you will provide the relevant financial information. (For US residents, a tax receipt will be sent annually.)

ATHENS INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total need: \$100,000
Received in 2008: \$25,020

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, San Diego, London, Manila, and Lagos, 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 Eastern Europe. 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 150 scholarship students in 25 nations, and most of them need ongoing sponsorship. Our eventual hope is to support the principal AIM teachers on a part-time basis. For more on the details of AIM, read the download document at this website, or click on <http://www.athensinstitute.org/>. **AIM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions 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.

THIRD WORLD TRAVEL FUND

Total need: \$32,000

Received in 2008: \$6250

In 2008 I will make teaching visits to 27 cities around the globe, the majority outside the US. Other teachers are also sent to areas of special need. Funding is needed to cover airfare and speaking fees for third world visits, and usually also for meals and accommodation, when not provided by the local church. **IBTM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions made to IBTM are tax-deductible.**

GENERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Total need: \$40,000

Received in 2008: \$19,239.50

General support donations help to compensate IBTM's international teachers for research, developing new materials, and speaking in the developing world. Part of this category also assists with urgent medical needs. 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.

WEBSITE SUPPORT

Total need: \$12,000

Received in 2008: \$200.00

Are you getting a lot out of the website? New material is added daily. In addition, new functionality is added regularly. This costs the ministry, and most are happy to derive the benefit without contributing anything to the cause. Paying our part-time web manager is another area to which you may donate. Thanks!

THIRD WORLD BOOK FUND

Total need: \$13,500

Received in 2008: \$2000

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 in 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. It is always a pleasure to give away teaching materials to persons visiting the US from Third World countries. I present boxes of books on faith that a donor will rise to meet the occasion. Outstanding needs at present include: **\$524 (Bahamas), \$93 (Ghana), \$350 (Kenya), \$1815 (Chile & Bolivia)** .