

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



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"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

All newsletters available at the main website, douglasjacoby.com. This website contains over 8000 pages of (free) material. The second (subscription) website contains advanced N.T. studies as well as weekly O.T. podcasts. That address is jacobypremium.com.

Dear All,

Hello from **Seoul, South Korea**. This is the final leg of the round-the-world tour, before I return to Atlanta (North River), and here I'm teaching Korean church staff members on the topic of the Holy Spirit. Though I often pass through Korea, the last time I spoke to the church family was in 1993. It is truly good to be back. (And enjoy some of that tasty Korean cuisine!) Thanks to YoungJin and the other leaders who encouraged me to visit. *Gamsa hapnida!*

Yesterday I delivered two messages in **Singapore**. In the morning, I spoke on "The Bible and Archaeology: The Stones Tell a Story." Well over 1000 were present, including many seekers. At the end of the service, 6 were added to the number of the Singapore Central Christian Church. One of those being baptized brought 12 of her friends along! Wrote one sister, *"It was a great lesson, Doug, short and sharp, clear and concise. It greatly boosted our conviction in our beliefs. And it definitely came just in time before next week's churchwide evangelistic activity. It sure lends an air of conviction in our voices when we share our faith and are able to support it with archaeological evidences, esp. ones that don't rot away with time. Thanks for taking time to be with us..."*

In the afternoon, I spoke to a group of around 200 university and high school students on "Does God Exist? If so, Why Can't I See Him?" This was just fun -- so many inquisitive students and friends. Both sessions ended with extended *informal* Q&A. John and Karen, Wee Keong and Joyce, and others are doing a great job building family, and the atmosphere in the church was even more uplifting than when Vicki and I spoke there during our 2008 visit. I also enjoyed just sitting in the Louis' apartment, talking late into the night, reflecting on the past and dreaming about the future.

Although Sunday is the church meeting day in Singapore, as in most nations of the world, in **Bangladesh** (99% Muslim), *Friday* is the day Christians meet. For a long time I had wanted to visit this small but densely populated nation (150 million). Simon, the preacher and I had been in email contact for a couple of years. I'd also met Sujit, my translator, when he had a business trip to Atlanta. Since I'd never been to this nation, and also considering the strength of Islam, I was most

excited about this leg of the journey. The first night I led a class on marriage, in the apartment of Johnny, the only man in the church who has a car. Soon after we sat down, the electric power went out, but fortunately a generator gave us enough light to see. I taught on the Proverbs 31 Woman and Man, especially emphasizing the need for husbands to respect their wives. The sisters were definitely cheered by the lesson! Then we offered thanks for the dinner meal (chicken curry and dal). During this *short* prayer, the electric power came back on -- a reminder to me that there is always a lot more going on behind the scenes than we may think!

The next morning, well before sunrise, I heard the *muezzin* calling the faithful to prayer, the Arabic intonations greatly boosted through the p.a. system of the mosque. We headed out early to church. Minutes before entering the auditorium of the rented hall, I met a man who just happened to be in the building. (Remember, this is Friday morning -- the equivalent of Sunday.) He is a 48-year-old PhD and government worker, and I asked him if he'd like to join us for the service. He said yes. His name is **Muhammad**. He loved the singing, short dramatic production, and the message. The sermon was entitled "The Father's Call." During the singing, Muhammad sat on my right, and on my left was another gentleman, whose name was Muslim. (I mean that was his actual name.) So there I was, in a Muslim nation (where defection from Islam is apostasy is sometimes punishable by death), sitting between Muslim and Muhammad. (What was I thinking?) But the Lord was moving.

So many people turned out for the event! The congregation was thrilled beyond words, as **seekers outnumbered members more than 5 to 1!** In fact, many were turned away for lack of seats, so we don't really know how many tried to attend this special service. There are so many people who want to study the Bible and learn about God, including my guest. But it isn't just outsiders-- Muslims, Hindus, even former Christians--who were motivated to be there. The members themselves take church attendance seriously. For example, one brother could easily make a better income if he agreed to work on Fridays. But he refuses, preferring to work double-shifts (16 hours a day) at a lower salary. (He makes just \$11/week.) For most in the developing world, the 6-day work week is standard. I could not help but be moved by such determination. A number of members and visitors traveled 2 hours to attend the event--and some had to travel 6 hours each way just to make it to church! I was also touched by a sister who refused to convert back to Hinduism. Her grandmother tried to force her to drink water mixed with cow dung -- which would supposedly "make her a Hindu again." Last, I met a brother who'd left Islam in August, having been instructed from some of my materials. (Even though I played only a small part in his conversion, as you can imagine this is a source of joy for me--very rewarding.) Our new brother is happy and growing spiritually, and this shows that the gospel is for all people, all languages, for members of all religions. Jesus is the way.

In the afternoon I led a workshop on **Islam**--so many questions, such gratitude--and in the evening had tea with the preacher and his wife. Around midnight Johnny returned to collect me, accompanied by Sujit. I had urged Johnny to sleep (I could take a taxi to the airport), and I was sure Sujit would be resting, especially after the mental fatigue of translating me into Bangla. But Sujit explained that Johnny, had he driven back *alone* from the airport, could easily have become a target for armed robbers, or carjackers. I did not object.

For some reason, the Bangladeshi Embassy in Washington gave me a 5-year multiple entry visa. (I expected a single-entry visa.) Am I meant to return to Dhaka, perhaps during my next visit to South Asia? Nothing is scheduled at present, though I must remain open.

Earlier in the week I visited **India**, preaching the gospel in Delhi. (Yes, I realize this report is going through the cities in reverse.) I was met at the airport by a brother, Himanshu, who drove me to the YMCA and the evening meeting. As in Bangladesh (and Kiev), first I delivered the books and audio I'd been carrying. The message was "Jesus Christ: Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?", and incorporated some of the new material from my forthcoming book *Compelling Evidence*. This was also reunion with friends (Mark and Nadine Templer, Albert and Rita Shane--also great to see how

their children are all maturing).

As in Bangladesh, in India there are few preachers and teachers "just passing through." In most of these countries, my teaching trips are supported by your **donations**. With this in mind, the Indian and Bangladeshi brothers and sisters asked me to convey their deep gratitude.

It's been an amazing year in so many ways. The Lord has been moving and this ministry has seen many people come to him. I'll send one final newsletter in December. In the meantime, keep praying.

Yours in Him,
Douglas

Update: No one in the church in Dhaka has internet--which tends to hinder communication. The cost of \$15/month is prohibitive. Also, the congregation has been saving up for a projector, to be used to show AIM lessons. I was mentioning the need to a sister in one of the Middle Eastern nations. It did not take her 5 minutes to reply with her decision to commit to meet the need. God is good!

[Repeated from previous newsletter]

2010 BIBLICAL STUDY TOUR

May 28-31, 2010

LONDON

MAIN TOUR: CHRISTIANITY & THE BIBLE (LONDON)

- Day 1 Fri 28 ***London in Christian History***
Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Big Ben, Thames River Cruise...
Presentation: "**The Significance of London in Christian History**"
- Day 2 Sat 29 ***The British Museum & Biblical History***
Guided Tour of the British Museum: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. The world's top museum for the background of biblical history. Firm up your Old Testament history! Get answers to your questions.
Presentation: "**Timeline of the Bible**"
- Day 3 Sun 30 ***The British Library & the Biblical Manuscripts***
Ancient Bibles in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, plus many other famous works.
Presentation: "**How the Bible Came Together**"
- Day 4 Mon 31 ***The British Isles & Christian History***
Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral....
Presentation: "**Christianity in the British Isles**" (first century, St. Patrick, Augustine, Bede, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Henry VIII, the Restoration Movement)

POST-TOUR: THE BIBLE & LITERATURE (OXFORD & STRATFORD-UPON-AVON)

Day 1 Tue 1 June **Oxford** (a beautiful network of colleges, and oldest surviving university in the English-speaking world –12th century) – which has many ancient biblical manuscripts amongst its renowned museums. Amazing medieval town!

Day 2 Wed 2

C. S. Lewis Walking Tour – his college, home, the pub where he and Tolkien met, and more. Learn more about my favorite Christian writer.

Stratford-upon-Avon – Shakespeare and the Bible. After Greco-Roman mythology, the Bible is the most important source Shakespeare drew on in constructing his plays, narrative poems, and sonnets. This is hardly surprising, as the world in which the playwright lived was a culture immersed in the Scriptures.

Attend one of Shakespeare's plays: *The Winter's Tale*.

Accommodation

I am thinking it will be best to look for group discounts but leave the bookings to each participant. We would locate 4-star hotels, 2- or 3-star hotels, and also see how many friends in London would be willing to put up a BST participant. The more centrally you stay, the better. But commuting in on the extensive London Underground, bus system, or British Rail is also a viable option.

Meals

For those staying at hotels or B&Bs, of course breakfast will be included in the nightly price. The BST would not be providing meals this year.

Lectures

I will look for a central location for the talks on the various subjects.

Cost

- * For the main tour, the registration fee is US\$200. This is for registration only; there will be some extra costs (dinner cruise, admissions to some sites, and post-tour.
 - * UK residents: £50. If you're hosting another participant from outside the UK, £25.
 - * Europeans (outside UK): €50. Combinable with discounts above.
 - * If you are coming from any other continent than North America: US\$75.
 - * Spouses or other family members of participants, as well as full-time students: 50%.
 - * Early registration (before 1 Jan 2010): 25% off.
- (All costs provisional and subject to change.)

International Teachers' Seminar

The 2010 I.T.S. may well take place in the UK. If so, expect it immediately before the B.S.T. program. Cambridge comes to mind as an appropriate venue for the event.

Interested? Please send an email to dj@douglasjacoby.com

If you have previously indicated interest, no need to send another email. I will write soon to everybody who replied, with more details about the BST.