

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2011 Issue 1 -- Synopsis of 2010, Covenant Eyes

"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, O.T. podcasts, and weekly podcasts on hot issues. That address is jacobypremium.com.

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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from snowy Georgia! Atlanta is not used to 6 inches (15 cm) of snow and ice, and the roads are as slick as they are empty of traffic. The schools have been closed for a week, commerce has slowed, many people are stuck in their homes. (But since I work from the home, the only difference is the splendid view from my office windows.) Before sharing with you a synopsis of the ministry, a few personal notes.

A Time to Mourn

Despite a number of triumphs, 2010 was a year of immense sadness. Our son James graduated with two degrees from the University of Florida (happy news!), but then a few weeks later his friend Michael died in his sleep, a brother in Christ whom he'd shared an apartment with. It's a lot to deal with when you're 21 years old. A few months later a family friend and sister in Christ, Katie also passed away at age 20 after two years of a devastating cancer. Vicki is very close to her mother -- she was a tremendous help in the final 6 months -- and Lily was close to Katie (such a joyful and caring sister). Both were adopted from China, and they had a lot in common. In fact she gave up her long struggle on her 5th spiritual birthday. We are very proud of Lily for how she handled things. Again, for a 16-year-old, it's a lot to process. (She turns 17 in four days.) Emma (turned 20 on the last day of 2010) has also faced many medical challenges of her own, and is on the road to recovery. Even my mother slipped and fell on Thanksgiving Day, breaking three bones.

Vicki and Doug

2010 was also full of health challenges for the parents. Vicki continues to make adjustments to her reduced capacity since she lost her 8th cranial nerve (controlling right-side hearing, balance, and other sensory functions) in 2008, but there is good news on another front. Ever since I've known her she's suffered from anemia. But in May she received four infusions of intravenous iron. This worked a treat! She climbed the 500 plus steps at St Paul's Cathedral with ease -- something that would have been very challenging a year ago. I have had my own challenges too, which I wrote about a few newsletters ago. Yet one positive result is that I read more fiction. Normally all I read is theology, history, and science. Instead of the usual one novel a year, I plowed through quite a few, including works by such writers as Agatha Christie, Suzanne Collins, and Leo Tolstoy. For years people have encouraged me to "lighten up." I consider this to be one way of doing that. As my good

friend Dr. Michael Shapiro puts it, "It isn't healthy to spend too much time in reality." Anyway, between Vicki's iron levels and my reduced back pain, we are poised for a more healthful, and less painful, 2011.

Time away

As usual, the year was dominated by writing, recording, teaching and preaching, and of course international travel. These are days when many complain about poor airline service, but when you fly as much as I do, they treat you pretty nicely! Lots of people ask me how much I travel, so here is the answer -- more or less a constant for the last 15 years or so: I log over 125,000 miles a year, and travel one day in three. I often take one or more family members with me (especially Vicki). Last year I took the kids to Vancouver and Halifax -- on the west and east ends of Canada, respectively. A lot of travel, yet on the bright side, that means I'm home two days out of three. Home is a haven from the craziness of the outside world, and my wife does a fabulous job making it a place of peace, love, and wonderful mealtimes.

The Word

I manage to pray outside on most days, usually walking to a nearby construction site, or to the cemetery, or to the Chattahoochee River. I finished the Bible again a few months ago, and am planning to complete it three or more times this year. I'm also reading through *The Word Biblical Commentary* (59 volumes). I'm about a third of the way through, but hope to finish all the volumes in the next few years. Ten or twelve years ago a friend challenged me to read not just easy books, but works that engage my mind, that push me. This is one of the ways I am trying to do that. I also set aside some time in November to attend four conferences for my own continuing education. We all need it, but I think teachers need it most, since they are judged more strictly. Not just once a year, but every day I aim to sharpen the sword. This I see as an integral part of my own spiritual growth. I know that if I slack off, many others are likely to excuse themselves from walking daily with the Lord. Yet if I can keep growing -- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 comes to mind -- my teaching will have conviction and the ministry will strengthen many.

Thank you

Before going on, I want to express heartfelt thanks to all of you who were part of this ministry, whether by attending events, bringing your friends, buying the books and CDs, sending notes of encouragement, supporting it financially, or (of course) by your prayers. This first newsletter of the new year is, until the last few sections, a summary of the 2010 International Bible Teaching Ministry. I hope you find something interesting and inspiring.

2010 INTERNATIONAL BIBLE TEACHING MINISTRY: SYNOPSIS

Countries visited: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Romania, Ukraine, Israel, Trinidad, United States, Haiti.

U.S. cities visited: Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Austin, Abilene, Dallas, Gainesville, New York, Chicago, Bloomington IL, Nashville, Columbus, Malibu, Los Angeles, Irvine, Boston, San Diego, Atlanta, Marietta, Lilburn, Roswell, St John & St Thomas, Eugene, Portland.

University lectures: St Mary's University (Halifax, Nova Scotia), Concordia University (California), University of Florida, University of Geneva (Switzerland), Atlanta area: Kennesaw State University, Southern Polytechnic, Georgia Institute of Technology.

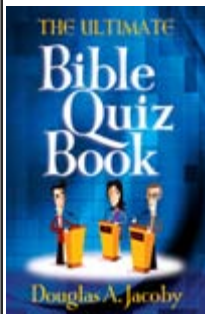
Free teaching materials given: Nigeria, Lebanon, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Haiti, Trinidad, Romania, Ukraine, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Honduras, South Africa, India, Bahrain, Kuwait, Colombia, Guyana, Suriname, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, Malawi, Lesotho, Zambia, Saudi Arabia. Materials include books, audio, and premium subscriptions. For example,

every disciple in India is able to use the premium site at no charge, thanks to the donation of a generous brother.

Athens Institute: The US program continues at the rate of four sessions annually. We are also beginning to partner with new initiatives based in Boston and Miami. Guy Hammond of [Strength in Weakness Ministries](#) led a fabulous weekend in Marietta on helping Christians understand homosexuality, with 300 in attendance for the main event. This led to the production of *Beyond Controversy and Fear: Helping Christians Deal with Homosexuality*, an excellent 5-lesson series. (Order it [here](#).)

After three years of labor, the AIM Russian language program has come to a conclusion, and I was able to present diplomas to the proud brothers and sisters last month in Kiev. Another 50 Ukrainians, Russians, and others in the area are expected to graduate in the next few months. The West African program will see nearly 40 graduates this year, God willing. Special thanks to Steve Kinnard (NYC) for teaching in Lagos last year.

Teaching materials produced: Books published in 2010 included [Compelling Evidence](#) (Harvest House), an evangelistic resource which incorporates the old *True & Reasonable*, though with 80% new material. It is being sold all over the English-speaking world, from Scotland to the Caribbean to Australia. [Verdadero y Razonable](#) (IPI), the Spanish translation of *True & Reasonable*, was also published, and is being put to good use especially in Latin America. *Today* sees the release of [The Ultimate Bible Quiz Book](#) (Harvest House). In March the next translation will appear, *El Espiritu* (IPI), the Spanish version of *The Spirit* (1987, 1989, 1998, 2005). Last, in August [Your Bible Questions Answered](#) (Harvest House) will hit the shelves.



A new audio series on [Hebrews](#) was also released (IPI), a 10-part study expanded from my personal study and teaching at North River. In addition, 50 podcasts were recorded last year at the [premium site](#), on such subjects as Rapture & Tribulation, 2012 & the End of the World, Speaking in Tongues, Tattoos & Body Piercings, The Shack, Avatar, Demon Possession & Exorcism, Slavery and the Bible, Illegal Immigration, the Sabbath, and many more. Guest speakers included Aziz Sarah (Prejudice), Aaron Taylor (Alone with a Jihadist), Homosexuality (Guy Hammond), Joey Harris (Biblical Books), Ed Anton (Take Up the Cross), David Bercot (Lessons I've Learned from God), and Tom Jones (The Lord's Prayer).

The 2011 series will include more guest podcasts, a 10-part series on Amos, a 10-part NT study, 12 short talks on the origins of Easter, Christmas, and other special days, and a dozen more hot issues podcasts. (For example, last week I recorded a lesson on Abortion.) Sign up [here](#).

Other memorable things in 2010:

- The 13th annual Biblical Study Tour: London, Oxford, and Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Spoke twice at Habitat for Humanity (Atlanta), thanks to David Malutinok.
- Co-taught with fellow teacher Steve Kinnard on the Sermon on the Mount at the Javits Center, NYC.

- Served on the Teaching Committee (ministry education), chairman: Steve Kinnard. Several new additions are Arturo Elizarraras (Mexico City), Rolan Monje (Manila), Valdur Koha (Boston), and Joey Harris (Augusta).
- Delivered a series on *Post Mortem* at Pepperdine University. (In 2009 I spoke on evidences, and this year I'll teach on *Christianity & Islam*.)
- Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Shmuley Boteach & family. Last week the rabbi and I agreed to collaborate in 2011.
- Skeptics Society meeting with Scientific American's Michael Shermer at Cal Tech.
- Hit 2.3 million on Tetris. (What's this doing in a ministry newsletter?)
- Beabylie Lakoussan -- your donations saved her leg in 2007 -- married Stanislas Zocli, in Cotonou, Benin. My eyes welled up when I saw their [wedding picture](#).
- Visited C. S. Lewis's house. My respect for this man continues to grow.
- Taught a group of recovering addicts and prostitutes. Humbling!
- Helped set up a dental clinic in Les Cayes, Haiti, with friend Fred Haight, and taught in Port-au-Prince. ([Issue 7](#) of the 2010 newsletters was devoted to Haiti, including favorite scriptures of the members, passages that have helped them get through the trauma.)
- Co-taught Sharpening the Sword series at North River with elder Bob Keen. We are producing a curriculum of over 50 substantial classes for all members to go through. This will become a handbook and teacher's manual after 2011, once all the classes are completed.
- As part of my own continuing education, took part in four seminars (Biblical Archaeology Seminar, Society of Biblical Literature, Mercer University seminar on John, and the Apologetics Conference of the Evangelical Philosophical Society).
- Was accepted as an adjunct professor for Lincoln Christian University, M.A. program in Biblical Studies. All of my teaching is to be done online. I begin next year.
- Spent time with several eminent scholars, including Craig Evans (N.T.), Peter Williams (Tyndale House), Everett Ferguson (patristics), and Michael Licona (apologist and expert on the resurrection). Iron sharpens iron...

Making a difference

All in all, 2010 was a productive and fruitful year. While it was far from easy--there was a lot of sadness--there were many rewards along the way. Let me mention two from the last trip. Before teaching in Tel Aviv (and spending time with Aziz Sarah, with whom Steve Kinnard and I will lead the Israel Study Tour in October), I was in Eastern Europe. In both L'viv (western Ukraine) and Bucharest (Romania) significant numbers of seekers came to our evening meetings. One night, there was a guest for every two members. Another night, visitors outnumbered the members completely. So many had burning questions, and were clearly looking for answers. This is as it should be. The world is as lost in the 21st century as it was in the 1st, and every day the Lord gives us opportunities to make a difference. This is what the teaching ministry is all about.



VISIT ISRAEL!

Have you been to the Holy Land? Would you like to pray in Gethsemane, stroll on the Temple Mount, swim in the Dead Sea, walk where Jesus walked? The annual 14th *Biblical Study Tour* will take place in October in the Middle East. [CLICK](#) for details.

1ST QUARTER SCHEDULE

- Jan 16, Auburn AL
- Jan 19-29, Dubai, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt
- Feb 7-9, Los Angeles
- Feb 18-23, Nicaragua, Honduras
- Mar 11-14, AIM OT Survey/Interpretation, Marietta GA
- Mar 18-25, Argentina, Paraguay

COVENANT EYES

As followers of Christ we long to live holy lives (1 John 2:15-17), and are well aware of the pollution of the world (James 1:27). There are millions of alluring images on the worldwide web. How are you doing in resisting the temptations of the world? Do you use an internet filter? Covenant Eyes (the allusion is to Job 31:1) is effective because it sends a weekly report of the websites (suspicious ones) you visit to designated friends. Accountability is good, and no matter how you think about this area, we need each other's help if we are to be victorious. It's easy to use, cheap, and effective. You can sign up [HERE](#). (A portion of the proceeds comes back to the teaching ministry.) Thanks.



PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Miss a newsletter? You can find previous bulletins (a total of about 20 pages in 2010) by clicking [HERE](#). This bulletin doubles as the "newsletter 8" of 2010, promised but never delivered. Yet since most of it is the 2010 review, I hope you'll forgive me.

Farewell

That's all for now. Next week I'm heading to the Middle East, for a speaking tour in Dubai, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Egypt. *As-Salamu alaykum!* And thanks for those prayers!

Yours in Him,

Douglas Jacoby
International Bible Teaching Ministry

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