

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2011 Issue 3—Apocalypse, Latin America, Osama

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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Dear Friends,

Well, the world didn't end this past weekend. Another crazy prediction gone wrong. (Whew!) The self-styled prophet had revised his earlier guess from 1994 to 2011. His newest estimate: 21 October 2011. However much time remains before doomsday (*doom* is old English for judgment), as God's people we're called to live urgently, responsibly, and spiritually. Life goes on, and the work of the international teaching ministry continues, thanks to people like you.



The recent months have been a whirlwind. Since the last newsletter, I've been privileged to speak in Paraguay, Argentina, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the U.S. (Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, California, Georgia), including several universities (Pepperdine, Cincinnati Christian, and Princeton--more about these visits in newsletter 4). I've also published a few new podcasts, in particular the talk on the death of Osama bin Laden. So many of you wrote with your thoughts -- thank you -- in a time when many Bible-believers were bringing disgrace to Christ by gloating in the fall of their enemy, violating the scriptures (Proverbs 24:17-18; Romans 12:19-21; Matthew 5:43-48).

Other recent activity: AIM V (Old Testament) and AIM VI (Counseling and Psychology: speakers included Drs. Mike and Mary Shapiro, Steve Brand, Joey Harris, Sam Laing, Dana Hawkins, and Steven Staten). An earlier version--15 hours of DVDs--is accessible [here](#). And we've just concluded a week-long campus internship at North River, with 135 college students from the southeast converging on Atlanta for instruction, prayer, outreach, and inspiration. The theme: *II Die IV*, based on John 12:24. Now please permit me to share about my time in Latin

America.

CENTRAL AMERICA

San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Following adventures in Egypt (during the January protests, [newsletter 2](#)), in February I visited Honduras and Nicaragua. As you can see in the map below, both these nations lie in Central America. After Haiti, Honduras ranks among the poorest countries in the western hemisphere, along with Ecuador, Bolivia, and Nicaragua. My first stop: San Pedro Sula. Teaching topics: *Family* and *Evidences*. Hundreds of books were distributed, and the fellowship was superb--with brothers like Omar, Lenin, Hector Cruz (evangelist), and Hector Cardona (perhaps the most skilled translator in Latin America). The church has 450 members, and after advertising the events in the nation's main paper, saw a substantial turnout. The brothers took excellent care of me, and the camaraderie in the leadership group is admirable.



Nicaragua, Managua

From San Pedro I flew to Managua. Nicaragua is in some ways still recovering from the civil war back in the late '70s, when the Marxist Sandinistas came to power. As we visited a nearby volcano, I asked our driver about his hand (deeply scarred). He explained that he'd suffered this injury when a grenade exploded. He wasn't bitter, though the war had clearly shaped his life. When we reached the volcano, we were informed that a few weeks earlier a desperate youth had leapt into the crater. The next week a cousin came to retrieve the body--it could not be found--but when he sat down for a rest he was struck by lightning and killed. (Symbolic of the tragedies that have beset Nicaragua?) The day I left, there was a public outcry against rate hikes in public transport--jacked up to 50 US cents each way, or a dollar round trip--too high for people who only make a few dollars a day. Riot police, heavily armed and marching down the main street, were prepared for any eventuality. Hardship after hardship: you have to admire the resilience of a country used to enduring adversity on such a scale.

The spirits of the Christians were far from dampened. For example, at my hotel the chef, a brother in the church, is reaching out to a large number of his employees. Many attended the talks. The teaching went swimmingly, dinner with the church leaders was extremely encouraging, and in our follow-up communications I learned that there are as many personal Bible studies with non-Christians as there are members. Two of the leaders even signed up for AIM (our Bible training program). This Bible-loving, mission-minded congregation is certainly an upward call to us all. (Am I distracted from *my* mission? What am *I* complaining about?)

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

I then returned to the capital city of Honduras, Tegucigalpa. I shared a colorful Spanish PowerPoint on *The Apocalypse*--ever a popular topic in our world, so it seems. My translator from San Pedro drove to meet me, and again did a superb job. I keep trying to improve my language skills--maybe one day no translator will be required--and everywhere ask people to correct me when I misspeak. (It's the only way I'll ever learn. Obviously opportunities for humor are never lacking!) Yet it helps having a friend like Hector at my side. The visit to

Tegucigalpa was shorter than I would have liked, but unforgettable and effective all the same. On the whole, I'd say Honduras is a nation beautiful but dangerous; spiritually hungry yet eager to learn.

The Central American trip was possible because of funding from a single family in the United States. You know who you are, and not only I, but your brothers and sisters in Nicaragua and Honduras thank you heartily.

SOUTH AMERICA

Buenos Aires, Argentina

The next month my son (James, 22) and I headed to Argentina. Buenos Aires is a 10-hour flight from Atlanta, and perhaps the most European of all the cities in Latin America. A family took us in (Pancho and Ceci--thank you!) for our week in this nation. We stayed in an apartment across the street from the Israeli embassy bombed (and leveled) in 1992 in a terrorist attack. We taught, walked the streets of this beautiful city, and indulged in numerous delicious empanadas. I preached, attended a birthday party, and witnessed mass demonstrations recalling the atrocities committed under the military dictatorship in the '70s and '80s. I did my best to impart teaching and vision to a church with a long and challenging history. The Buenos Aires church had seen a decline since the tumultuous year 2003, and is now on the rebound. People are becoming Christians regularly, and disciples are outward focused. I have every confidence its best days are ahead. I was thrilled to be able to return to this great country (my third visit).



Asuncion, Paraguay

In the middle of my time in Argentina I flew to Paraguay. But I'd forgotten to get a visa, a mistake I'd made the last time I tried to visit this country--yikes! At the airport I had to grab a taxi back to town, to the Paraguayan embassy, wait for the paperwork, and then catch a later flight. Fortunately nothing was lost (but my pride and a little money).

I taught two evenings. The exuberance and sincerity of the church were amazing. One morning a large part of the church took off time from work in order to attend Bible exposition. Especially touching was meeting a brother who'd been converted in part by reading one of my books. His son had given him a copy over 20 years ago. It lay

unread for 17 years, but then he read it and was quickly baptized. To finally embrace him--my "older younger" brother (85 years old though only a few years in the Lord), was truly heart-warming. I'm so happy I could visit spiritual family in Paraguay.

After this I returned to Buenos Aires for more teaching, and even a free outdoor concert with Placido Domingo--120,000 were present for the great tenor's performance. The crowds definitely come out when they believe there's something worth hearing. May it be the same with the gospel, a message only faintly grasped by most Argentinians. May enormous numbers be reached for Christ!

You can see the brothers in sisters in Christ I met during my first quarter teaching trips (ten countries) at the [photo gallery](#).

VISIT ISRAEL!

There are still spots open for the 2011 tour of 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 14th annual Biblical Study Tour will take place in October. [CLICK](#) for details.



ANTICHRIST, OSAMA BIN LADEN, AND MORE...

A number of new podcasts are now available at the second website, jacobypremium.com. Here's a sampling:

- *Rejoicing in the Death of Osama bin Laden(?)* At a time when many hosted parties in celebration of the death of an enemy of freedom, others mourned. How should Christians react? [Find out](#).
- *Pentecost*. This year we focus on one special day each month. So far: New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. Do you know the biblical significance of Pentecost?
- *The Kingdom of God* (by guest lecturer John Oakes, of ARS). This is a 2-part series.
- *The Antichrist*. This is one of 8 podcasts in a series on Last Things. Others include *2012 & the End of the World*, *Thoughts on Heaven & Hell*, and *Those Who've Never Heard the Word*. Hint: Antichrist is not a person!

UPCOMING

This weekend I'll speak in my hometown of Jacksonville FL; the following in Hickory NC; then Toronto; and the fourth weekend aboard the Queen Mary (ARS conference on [Christianity and the Paranormal](#)). I'll also have the honor of attending the Christian Scholars' Conference at Pepperdine University, where first-rate scientists like Francis Collins, head of the Human Genome Project, will lecture. This is part of my own continuing education, and I am excited to rub shoulders with giants.

Please keep the ministry in your prayers, visit the websites frequently, and do your part to point God's people to his word, just as we direct outsiders to the life-giving scriptures we have come to love.

Yours in Him,

Douglas Jacoby

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