## International: Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



1 November 2011 Damascus Gate **International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2011 Issue 6 -- Israel Tour, Baltic Trip** 

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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## Hello from Jerusalem!

This morning I walked completely around the massive city walls. I was inspired by Psalm 48:12-13: "Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation." The 90-minute stroll reminded me of all the incredible things we've experienced here in the Holy Land during this year's tour. We prayed in Gethsemane, swam in the Dead Sea, and inspected the Dead Sea Scrolls, proof that the Bible has been well preserved through the millennia. We ate hummus in Bethlehem, explored Armageddon, and sat at the feet of those (on both sides) whose lives have been ravished by the Palestinian conflict. The Bible came alive as we walked on the Temple Mount and in the synagogue in Capernaum. We even saw the ossuary (bone box) of the high priest who plotted Jesus' crucifixion, as well as the monument of Pontius Pilate, who authorized it. You'll find dozens of fascinating photos from the trip here. Please take a peek!

The 2011 Biblical Study Tour (Israel and Jordan) has been both exciting and unifying, with participants from all corners of the Restoration Movement (Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, International Churches of Christ, and International Christian Church). Nor were we alone. Coteacher Steve Kinnard and I were able to preach to disciples from Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. Perhaps you'll join us for the next tour in 2013 in Ephesus. (No tour in 2012 -- San Antonio World Discipleship Summit.)

## Baltic Trip

Moving from Asia to Europe, our recent Baltic trip included Tartu, Tallinn, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Oslo (plus Amsterdam). Sometimes friends tag along, and this time we were accompanied by a faith-filled Christian couple from Auburn, Alabama. You will want to read their report.

While Vicki inspired the sisters in Amsterdam, I was teaching at Estonia's University of Tartu

on "Is the Bible Outdated?" We both joined up in the capital city of Tallinn for an evangelistic event, "Don't All Roads Lead to God?" After this, Vicki spoke at the Estonian women's day. Crossing the Baltic by ferry, we next came to Helsinki. I taught on evangelism in the early church, preached at their 20th anniversary service, and debated Finnish atheist Robert Brotherus. Listen to the lively debate and Q&A session <a href="here">here</a>. In fact, I'd love to hear from you how this presentation may be helping your friends. Next, at Stockholm University I defended the faith with a PowerPoint lecture where seekers outnumbered believers. On our last night in Sweden (our old home) Vicki and I shared about parenting. Then she returned to Atlanta, while I continued to Norway, a nation still reeling from the bombing / massacre of Anders Breivik. In Oslo, again there were far more seekers than believers. Most were first-time visitors, the majority atheists. Nearly all indicated that they wanted to learn more, and many agreed to study the Bible with a disciple of Christ. I *love* doing presentations that generate interest in the gospel. My next such talk will be at North Carolina State University (in a week).

But before North Carolina (where I was led to Christ) there's much more to be done. This weekend is AIM VIII: Family Life. If you can't come to Atlanta, perhaps you can watch the classes live through your computer (click here). Then a consulting trip to Boston, plus another class in a series I'm doing for the middle schoolers at North River. I just had my final radio interview for the new book (45 states and 5 nations). Then Raleigh, and at month-end, Japan. The work is rewarding, but with the responsibility and pressure, your prayers are especially needed.

All for now. Thank you and shalom aleichem!

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