

# International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



## International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2004 Issue 04

### "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."

### Jul-Aug 2004 Bulletin

#### I. PERSONAL UPDATE

The Jacobys are doing well. James (now 6' 2" and growing) has been volunteering at the Swamp (the Atlanta church camp) for four weeks this summer, and currently he is a fellow camper with the other teens attending this final week of camp. Emma and Lily have also enjoyed the Swamp this season. In addition, Emma is in her high school marching band, with demanding practices in the hot Georgia sun. This week she's on the field 8 am-5 pm daily. She is a natural musician, her primary instrument being the flute (though she has also taken up piano and guitar). Lily keeps up a busy social life, and is very excited about the new school year. (Down here that begins 6 August Lily is in 5th grade.) Vicki has been working as a volunteer in the Swamp (kitchen) and also painting the inside of our home. (She has a good eye and a steady hand.) As for me, lately I have been in a number of cities in North America and the South Pacific. I will share a little about my recent trip to Sydney & Brisbane, and the upcoming visit to Guam, in the September-October update. To put it simply, we are not bored!

#### II. NEW CD TEACHING SETS!

##### WISDOM LITERATURE SERIES

- If I committed my plans to the Lord and they did not succeed (Proverbs 16:3), what does this mean? Is my faith defective? (Can't I just "name it and claim it"?)
- Does the Lord plan to reward me materially on this earth? If things are not going well at work, does that mean the Lord is against me?
- Should a book like Ecclesiastes really even be in the Bible?
- Learn why one must be extremely careful when quoting the book of Job!
- What is a Christian to make of the love poetry of the Song of Solomon (!)?

A seven-lesson series on Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs has been recorded and is available in CD format at the website. The idea came from the adult education program of the Athens Church of Christ, where I often teach in Sunday School. Why would you be interested in acquiring this biblical resource? To begin with, these books are not easy to understand, and very easy to misinterpret. The rules for reading "wisdom" literature are quite different from the rules for reading other parts of the Bible, and many Christians are unfamiliar with them. The Wisdom literature comprises 8% of the Bible. Apart from personal devotional interest, the Wisdom series makes a good midweek or Sunday School series. Included on the first CD are study outlines for each lesson. Why not consider this for your own church educational program? Available immediately.

A second series has also been recorded, entitled FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH -- OLD TESTAMENT SERIES.

- How does the Old Testament fit with the New Testament? Are they talking about the same God?
- How can I grasp the history of the O.T.? (After all, there are so many persons, places, and dates...) What will make this easier?
- What happened "between the testaments" (during the 500 years between the end of OT history and the birth of John the Baptist)?
- How is a Christian to understand and apply the hundreds of O.T. laws? Are we still bound by them? (By any of them?)

Sixteen lessons are accompanied by a 96-page handbook, chock-full of information for anyone serious about getting the big picture of the Old Testament. This will be available by around 15 August. (A reminder notice will be sent out.)

### **III. ORLANDO CONFERENCE UPDATE**

(Note: this is similar to the report appearing at the website during the past week.)

Like so many recent conferences taking place around the world, the Orlando get-together was superb for several reasons. First, those who attended truly wanted to be there. I was present at the 2003 event, attended by around 500 persons. It was a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. The word spread about the excellent program in 2003, and this year's attendance saw nearly 1500 registered participants, and some 2400 present for the Sunday service! At the SEFBC, the buzz in the air was constant. There was a sense of, "We're all just sinners saved by grace, motivated by his love to do his will" (Titus 2:11 -14).

Moreover, I'm hearing great things about conferences all over the world (Seattle, Chicago, Columbus... Europe , Asia ...). But you didn't have to leave Orlando to get the international feel! By my count, there were brothers and sisters there from: Bolivia , Russia , Haiti , Chile , Venezuela , and Brazil ! U.S. participants came from: Miami , Orlando , Tampa , Fort Myers , Jacksonville , Tallahassee , Gainesville , Philadelphia , Chicago , New Orleans , Birmingham , Knoxville , Boston , Richmond , Atlanta , Macon , Savannah , and Athens !

One amazing thing about this conference is that it was planned and executed by younger Christians--in their teens and early 20s. They said they had been missing the excitement and relationship-building of Christianity, and were eager to design a conference to meet these needs amidst a time of transition. (It was very well done indeed!)

Second, while a good deal of biblical teaching and direction was given through the many classes--offered by a number of teachers from North & South America--this conference "breathed." All sessions were "optional." I know that may sound a bit strange, so let me explain. You attended the classes you wanted to attend. You weren't looked down on if you chose to fellowship or rest during some of the periods. (Still, most people seemed bent on attending everything!)

The third thing I loved about the SEFBC was the fellowship. Reconnecting with old friends and acquaintances, meeting new ones, and... "eating together with glad and sincere hearts"! (Something of which all true Christians apparently are eternally fond!) And speaking of fellowship, it was exhilarating to hear of new church plantings--scheduled, for example, for such U.S. cities as Sarasota , Florida , and secondary and tertiary plantings in such foreign nations as Bolivia and the Ivory Coast . We even learned of one brother recently baptized from Easter Island ! In other words, churches are not just becoming mutual admiration societies. There is an outward focus. Missions are not dead. Rethinking, regrouping, reorganizing--yes--but not reneging on our common Christian commitment.

Also in relation to fellowship, Roger Lamb presented [www.DisciplesToday.net](http://www.DisciplesToday.net) . (Check it out.) He stressed that we have a real need for connection (as opposed to direction). These words resonated with everyone.

Finally, the South East Family Bible Conference really was for families. We took our entire family of five to Orlando . (That's right, we gave Disney a miss. Plenty of fun in the hotel and with the conference people!) The older children enjoyed the "teen and campus track." (They didn't even mind getting up for the 7:15 am devotionals!) Our youngest enjoyed being with the family. We spent time with many dear friends. I must say, the hotel pool also brought a good deal of joy to the family. In fact, this WAS our family vacation for 2004. If you're looking ahead to 2005, may I suggest you plan to attend the 3rd annual SEFBC? You will not be disappointed.

### **IV. AIM SESSION III (August, 2004)**

The next session of the Athens Institute of Ministry will take place 23-28 August. The number of students continues to grow, both overseas and domestically. August topics include Apologetics, Holy Spirit, and Missionary Faith. Scott Green (Seattle, Washington) is our guest speaker.

### **V. WEBSITE FEEDBACK**

If you have any feedback on the website, especially suggestions for making it more user-friendly, we would like to hear from you. Please email the web manager and myself at [Dr.DJ@DouglasJacoby.com](mailto:Dr.DJ@DouglasJacoby.com) . ALSO if you are receiving double emails--which would have happened if I accidentally entered your email address twice--please let me know. Finally, if you no longer wish to receive this update, email me or remove yourself at the website (under Subscribe). Thank you.

### **VI. ROME Biblical Study Tour**

Already 110 brothers and sisters from 11 nations have signed up for the autumn conference in (ancient and) modern Rome. Yes--many have asked--there is still room! Visit the website for more information.

### **VII. In conclusion...**

It seems that, as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17), disciples are sharpening disciples all over the world. Ideas are being exchanged. New ways of dealing with old problems are being discovered. More and more people are enjoying their freedom "outside the box." There is a strong desire on the part of many to (1) remain connected, (2) dig deeper into the word, (3) take the saving message to the lost, and (4) become all that God intends us to be.

Thanks for your interest in the international teaching ministry. Your prayers are appreciated.

Your brother,  
Douglas Jacoby