

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2005 Issue 03

"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."

May-June 2005 TEACHING MINISTRY UPDATE

I. PERSONAL

Summer has already arrived for the Jacobys -- the kids have all finished the school year, which ends earlier here in the southeast than in many other parts of the country. James will spend the summer in a university mathematics program (his other passion, apart from video games), while the girls will attend the Atlanta camp ("the Swamp"). Though for me travel has not abated, writing and recording are increasing, and it's rewarding to hear back from so many readers (and listeners) saying they have been strengthened through the things Vicki and I have shared.

But by far, our most exciting news is that our middle child, Emma, is now a Christian. I baptized her just a few days ago. She is fourteen and a half years old. Emma's brother, James, was immersed in 2002, while Lily, the youngest (11 years of age) is still developing her faith. A photo of Emma's baptism will be posted at the website.

II. PREACHING

Since last update, I've preached and taught in Kingston, Jamaica (Old Testament), Los Angeles (evidences and eldership), London (church history), Dallas (Wisdom Literature, evidences), Detroit (archaeology), and Atlanta (evidences for the campus and arts ministries). In most cases, detailed reports have been posted at the website after each trip, and are still available in the website archives.

I personally have benefited so much from every visit. The warmth and faith of the Kingston church, despite economic recession and other hardships, was heartening. Jamaica is a country I had never visited, and to finally meet the Christians there was fantastic. Moreover, there is an abundance of mature Christians in Jamaica, and the leaders are eagerly deepening their own Bible knowledge while passing on what they are learning to others.

In Los Angeles the eldership symposium was stimulating in every way. All the speakers commended the L.A. church bringing in outside speakers to present sometimes disparate views on eldership in an atmosphere of respectful discussion. Doing an evidences lesson in Glendale (400 Christians and 50 guests) was fun, and everyone could feel the electricity in the air, even before the program started!

London is a city where I have lived for 8 years -- every return visit is a homecoming, replete with stirring memories and deep feelings. I am privileged to play a small part in the forward impetus of the UK Christians.

The Dallas visit came at a transition time in the life of the church: a leadership change and a special missions contribution were going on when I arrived in Texas. The embracing warmth of the elders and their wives has clearly made an enormous difference in Dallas, keeping the congregation together and focused. (I have easily a dozen relatives in Texas, though I doubt that makes me a bona fide Texan!)

In Georgia we held session VI of the Athens Institute of Ministry. The topics: Pastoral Counseling and Psychology. Guests lecturers were Drs. Michael and Mary Shapiro, whose teaching imparted information, perspective, and fresh heart for all the students. The next session will take place in August. The AIM Board also decided that in 2006 AIM will be available in a third mode. Besides the Georgia based program and the Distance program, you can purchase Series A and Series B lessons on DVD. More on this later!... In addition, the Filipino churches are also poised to join AIM (with 40 students) in the coming weeks.

In Detroit I preached from John's gospel: serious message, though I think we all had some good light-hearted fun. In the afternoon most of the church seemed to have returned for the biblical archaeology powerpoint. I really enjoy presenting faith-building evidence.

The Biblical Manuscripts Weekend took place the two days before my time with the Detroit church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, whose university houses the largest ancient papyrus collection in the western hemisphere! We were even able to view the

oldest surviving copies of Paul's letters (from the late 2nd century)! I am always excited to view ancient manuscripts, and to be reminded how extremely well the biblical text has been copied through the centuries. I delivered powerpoint presentations on the Dead Sea Scrolls, The Apocrypha & Da Vinci Code, Canonization, and more. 120 persons took part, attending from 7 US states. In addition, some 30 brothers and sisters came in from Ontario, Canada. This was a very unifying time, and as always it is great to reconnect with fellow disciples who share a common history and a common Lord. Special thanks to Roy Chow for doing the groundwork, and to Catherine Beam, Curator of the Papyrus Collection, for access to the ancient manuscripts.

In a few weeks my family will attend the 3rd Annual SEFBC, where I'll teach a dozen or so lessons on the Wisdom Literature, Revelation, Daniel, and Psalms, in addition to a staff workshop. Some other speakers include Mike Taliaferro, Dave McNulty, and Sam Powell. This is a super conference, and if you're looking for an encouraging, inspiring, challenging time, why not go to Orlando this year? This is also a superb conference for children: ours (the teens especially) love it.

In June and July I'll also be doing some preaching in secret. (Recording more audio series in the private studio -- our bedroom closet!)

III. PUBLISHING

At last the New Testament Survey, The Faith Unfurled, has been released. 16 audio lessons are accompanied by a 104-page handbook. The series has been designed for beginners as well as for older Christians, and contains 8 chapters of interesting supplementary material, particularly material to help us get the most out of the N.T. In October 2004 the O.T. series was released (Foundations for Faith: Old Testament Survey), and the two series complement one another. The Faith Unfurled: New Testament Survey is available from IPI. The price for the handbook and 8 CDs is \$35 until June 15th only -- thereafter, \$40. Please visit my website and go to "Books and Audio." The next publication will be a 4-CD set on How We Got the Bible, to be released by the end of June. Finally, our upcoming book, The Quiver: Christian Parenting in a non-Christian World, should be available in the summer.

IV. ATHENS 2005 -- ITS & BST PROGRAMS

If you're contemplating coming to Athens for the 11th annual International Teachers' Seminar (2-4 November) and/or the Athens & Corinth Biblical Study Tour (4-8 November), please register at the website now . If you are not familiar with the programs, the ITS is for teachers, preachers, Bible students and other interested parties; the BST is the more "open" track, for anyone who wants to learn about the Bible in the setting of Athens and Corinth. We will walk in the footsteps of Paul, explore classical Greece, and witness the pages of the Bible coming to life before our eyes. Preparatory reading includes Acts 17-18 and 1-2 Corinthians. The ITS ends on the afternoon of November 4th; the BST begins that same evening.

Some BST features:

- Daily visits to classical and biblical sites.
- Two fact-filled and faith-building lectures each day: "Alexander the Great, Greece, and New Testament Christianity," "The Biblical Record vs. the Da Vinci Code," and " A Tour Through Three Centuries" (Church History powerpoint, 30-325 AD), for example.
- Good cuisine (all meals included)
- Fellowship with Christians from around the world. (Most years participants come from 10-20 nations.)
- Bible Question sessions
- International teachers will host discussion groups for BST members on issues of relevance in their churches. Speakers, teachers, & discussion group leaders include (but are not limited to): Andy Fleming (Los Angeles), Gordon Ferguson (Phoenix), James Greig (Oxford, England), Joseph Harris (Augusta, Georgia), Douglas Jacoby (Athens, not Greece), John Oakes (San Diego). Kelly Petre (Zurich), Steve Kinnard (New York), and Steve Staten (Chicago).

Some ITS features:

- Workshops on recognizing and refuting false teaching.
- Discussion of direction of the churches worldwide (ICOC, ICC, mCOC, pCOC)
- Hot issues: medical ethics, euthanasia, abortion, homosexuality
- Discussion groups of 6 -- will meet 3x during ITS
- Bible Quiz (Acts 17-18, 1-2 Corinthians) and Hearts tournament

Delphi Excursion: After the BST (this requires an extra hotel night 8th/9th November) all interested persons will travel to Delphi, site of the ancient oracle of Apollo, in a dramatic mountainous setting. Just as last year's trek to Vesuvius was an excellent time for building new relationships and learning, this year's visit to Delphi promises to be a fellowship feast, and a time of visual (and academic) stimulation. You will not be disappointed!

The official deadline for the ITS and the BST is 15 June. After that time, it will still be possible to join the program, though the price rises (per schedule). At any rate, I will have to adjust our predicted attendance for my Greek agents, either upwards or downwards. Last year at the BST in Rome we had 155 participants -- this year anywhere from 100 to 200 are expected. A real-time estimate will have to be provided, so if possible, please register now if you do plan to attend. Those who have registered will begin receiving monthly Athens updates beginning in July.

V. WEBSITE MATTERS

Whether you are a newcomer to the website or one who visits it frequently, please take a look at the following points:

- To find previously posted material, click on "search."
- Questions submitted should be sent through the website: click on "contact."

- Receiving multiple emails? Please let me know and I will correct that.
- Has your email address changed? Please send the new address as well as the old one, so that automatic emails are no longer sent to the old account.
- To be added or removed , click on subscribe/unsubscribe at website.
- For nearly two years now, there has been new material every day of the week. Tell your friends!
- All feedback is welcome. Please write to me by clicking on "contact" at website.

FAREWELL FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS!

That's all for now! I deeply appreciate your keeping the teaching ministry in your prayers. The next regular update will be around the beginning of August. --DJ