

# International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



## International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2005 Issue 04

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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### JULY-AUGUST 2005 INTERNATIONAL TEACHING MINISTRY UPDATE

#### I. PERSONAL

Since the last update, summer has come! Daily temperatures in the mid-90s (about 35 C) and regular late afternoon thunderstorms are common. In fact, thunder is rumbling through the Georgia sky even as I type these words. The thunder is a sonorous reminder for me that God is in the heavens, and he is Lord. We are only servants. As usual, I have been preaching and teaching in a number of places. Since the May-June update I've been working in San Diego, London, Orlando, and Atlanta.

The Old Testament series was enthusiastically received in San Diego. The trip included a chance to speak to the staff and other leaders, about 35 in all, on Emotionally Healthy Leadership. I stayed in the home of John and Jan Oakes. John is a fellow teacher and friend who also is willing to travel the globe and help build faith through his ministry of teaching and writing. If you want an interesting weekend--John's specialty is science, though he also has a load of material on the Old Testament--invite brother Oakes to your church. You will not be disappointed! Special thanks to Jeff Chacon for organizing the San Diego weekend.

One of the most encouraging things about the London trip (the third of 2005) was the chance to preach to the congregation. The London church meets only two or three times a year. London is an enormous city, and you can easily spend two to three hours traversing it! One (erroneous) email I received informed me that the congregation no longer even existed. Well, I have been there, and it has a pulse! It was fabulous being able to worship with all the British disciples, and people said the sermon on the Great Commission Reconsidered gave them a new way to look at evangelism. In the East Region, I was able to teach on church history 1906-2005, and also address the leadership groups of the various London regions in a workshop on unity, communication, etc. Please keep the British brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Orlando was the site of the South East Family Bible Conference. It was great to teach on Daniel, Revelation, the Wisdom Literature, and also on Psalms (in a special post-seminar workshop). At the end of my last Revelation class I wanted to fellowship all the people below--so many Bible questions! The easiest way down from the stage seemed to jump down. Well, the angels did not lift me up, and my heels were not too thrilled to be landed on so hard. Of course as a good male I denied the pain and took the Bible questions, but it was difficult even to walk afterwards! The fall was only about four feet. Actually, the leap was well engineered -- the problem was only a "timing" issue. Yeah--I jumped about 20 years too late!

In Atlanta I have been teaching on leadership: teamwork, elders, and evangelists. I've also preached a couple of sermons and even a class on one of my favorite books of the Bible, Philemon. I was told that that lesson will be available at the Atlanta church website. In fact, Atlanta is where I've attended church most of this year. More on this in Section II, below.

Upcoming trips include London (Vicki and I will return to teach on marriage and family the last weekend in July), Houston, and Seattle. Finally, Vicki and I celebrated our 20th anniversary this summer. Life is good!

#### II. OF RUMOR AND TRUTH

In May the Jacobys placed membership in the North River Church of Christ. Just as Athens formally and amicably separated from Atlanta in 2003, so the Atlanta church will separate this month (July) into five interdependent congregations, of which ours, meeting in Marietta, is one. What is the nature of my relationship to Marietta, and why am I now worshipping there? People are speculating and there have been a lot of rumors flying around, so I thought that in this update it might be good to answer them. Let me address the rumors. Some of them are pretty wild!

1. First of all, it isn't true that we have moved to Marietta. This may be a possibility in a year's time, but we are still living in our home between Athens and Atlanta.
2. It is not true that Sam Laing, preacher in the Athens church, and I had a big fight. In fact, we didn't even have a little fight! We are still partners in AIM. We are now, and always will be, good friends. The truth is, I have been

teaching and preaching in Marietta since last summer, with the full blessing of Sam Laing and the Athens leadership group.

3. Nor does the transition to Atlanta spell "the end of AIM"! The sessions of AIM do meet in Athens, and most of the board members live in the Athens area, but our shift to Atlanta has no immediate impact. It may even strengthen the program, since we're bound to benefit from the wisdom and perspective of the Marietta group, many of whom are very mature Christians.
4. .It isn't true that my leaving the Athens church means I am taking something away from the church. AIM never was a program of the Athens Church. There is no official connection -- AIM is independent of the Athens Church of Christ. As such, it could theoretically meet anywhere.
5. .It is not true that I wrote "a book against discipleship," as a result of which I was "fired." I was not an employee of the Athens church anyway. When our funding ran out in 2003, we had a decision to make: aim to work for the church, or go in a more independent direction. Even then, we were not fired. After we moved to the United States (Cincinnati, Mary 2003), I opted not to work full time for the church. At any rate, you can't be fired if the guy isn't your boss! To keep the whole family together, we feel it is best for us to drive to Atlanta for Sundays and midweeks. (Just as the entire Athens church did for many years in the past, when they first became part of the Atlanta Church!) The extra time on the road is good family time. It is true, however, that a lot of people apparently have a lot of time on their hands. Time to gossip, spread negative feeling, and embellish the truth. As the Proverbs say, "A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends" (16:28). See also Proverbs 18:8, 20:19, and 26:20. If you hear rumors or gossip, please urge the one spreading it to follow biblical counsel. Speak to the person you need to speak to, not about him. Give the benefit of the doubt. Remember that there are two sides to every story (Proverbs 18:17). That is the truth. Feel free to spread it!

### **III. AIM UPDATE**

The ministry school continues to flourish, and is now expanding into the Philippines. In September I will teach over 30 new students in Manila (New Testament Survey and New Testament Interpretation). This brings the number of international or long distance students to over 60. Later in the year we will begin work in Nigeria. The upcoming local (Georgia) session in August will cover World Religions, Church History, Denominational Doctrines, and Campus Ministry. If you know anyone who would be interested in providing a scholarship for a third world student, please contact us at [athensinstitute@bellsouth.net](mailto:athensinstitute@bellsouth.net). As always, your prayers are greatly appreciated.

### **IV. PUBLISHING**

Recording sessions in our secret studio (bedroom closet) are finished for the moment. The new 4-CD set, How We Got the Bible, was released in mid-July. The lessons answer your questions about how the Bible came together, how carefully the manuscripts were copied, the Dead Sea Scrolls the "missing books" of the Bible, The Da Vinci Code, and more.

Our upcoming book, The Quiver: Christian Parenting in a non-Christian World, has been completely written and edited, and will be available August 31st. Before the year is up I will also be recording an audio series on Revelation and the End of the World and What Happens After We Die?, a series on Leadership and the Pastoral Epistles, and Psalms--from the workshop in Orlando three weeks ago.

### **V. ATHENS 2005**

Over 90 persons have signed up for the International Teachers' Seminar and/or Athens & Corinth Biblical Study Tour. What are you doing in early November? Yes, there is still room. Full details at the 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 October. We will also let you know once the new parenting book is ready. --DJ