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International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



3rd Quarter 2006 International Teaching Ministry Update

This is the third quarterly update for the year 2006. If you'd like to receive any of the updates from 2005, 2004, or earlier, please let me know. The highlights are a new book, James, Peter, John, Jude; my travel journal from a recent round-the-world trip, with many observations and personal reflections; and an update on the International Teachers' Seminar.

Hello, and thanks for reading this bulletin from the international teaching ministry. The third quarter has been full to overflowing: a Teen and Campus Leaders' Conference in Los Angeles; a Biblical Manuscript Weekend, including viewing an ancient NT manuscript, in Dallas; the Florida Discipleship Conference in Daytona Beach; AIM in London (Holy Spirit and Apologetics); a Slavic conference in the Czech Republic; AIM in Georgia; a round-the-world trip to Russia, India, Singapore, the Philippines, and Japan; not to mention a number of local speaking engagements. *Adventures in Apologetics*, which includes 9 evidences lessons with text and teacher video, originally recorded in 2000, was *finally* released. And the old *Life to the Full* (1995) has now been rewritten - it needed to be! - and published under a new name and cover. On top of all this, we unpacked from our move to Marietta, took a family vacation, and sent our son off to college. Who said life in the 40s is mundane or boring? Thanks to Jesus Christ, life is not only interesting and challenging; it is also deeply meaningful.

But I didn't want this bulletin to be just a chronicle of events or a rehash of the usual busy travel schedule. I wanted rather to share something of my heart. This comes out, hopefully, in the following travelogue.

TRAVEL JOURNAL Jacoby round-the-world trip Sept. 2006

O—PREPARATION

11 September

Today is September 11th. Like all of you reading this journal, I remember clearly the morning of 9/11/01. I'd just landed in Washington DC, having changed from a later flight to an earlier one. Five years later, air passengers today are few. I fly tomorrow, when things are busier. The days immediately before and after trips are usually jam-packed with things to do. This year, with 40 cities on the itinerary, I seem to be in a constant state of preparation. I never get bored: partly because work is so interesting, partly because there's no time for boredom. Today I am finishing the latest audio series, recording the final two messages of *Anchored for Life: Faith without Compromise*, to be released in a few weeks.

In the mid-morning I receive a shipment of teaching materials that I will deliver to the various cities on this tour. 2/3 of my cargo are new materials—fresh lessons of special value to church leaders and older brothers and sisters entrusted with teaching in their congregations—and 1/3 are donated books. The FedEx man also brings my passport, with the necessary visas—none too soon! Final E-mail exchanges take place today with the various cities on the tour: St Petersburg, New Delhi, Singapore, Manila, Davao, and Osaka. All the pieces have fallen into place. I am pumped, and ready for action.

On this trip I'll be repeatedly reminded that I am only one person, from one nation, with his own language and culture and viewpoints. But those I feel called to serve are not. They are uniquely different from me, but equally cherished by God. In the visionary words of Revelation 7:9, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." What a stunning panorama! Or, as Peter put it, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right" (Acts 10:34-35). I mustn't confuse Christianity and culture. They don't need to become American or British or anything else before they become Christians. God accepts anyone who turns to him in faith, repentance, and baptism. This round-the-world trip will remind me of that profound fact.

On this journey I long to move people's hearts—new believers, older disciples, those who are leaders in churches, and outsiders as well. I know that by nature I'm not the most inspiring person, but as I point people to Christ and the Bible, they often grow in their faith and recapture their love for the word. Christ is inspiring. May we preach Him (2 Cor 4:2), not ourselves.



September 2006 Round-the-world trip

1. ATLANTA
2. ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
3. NEW DELHI, INDIA
4. SINGAPORE
5. MANILA
6. DAVAO
7. OSAKA

Teaching lessons: 30
Days of teaching: 9
Days in the air: 4
Total days of work: 28

1-2—TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE 12-13 September

This is going to be a long day. Up early, and I'm destined only to nap now and then, no solid sleep till I finish my work tomorrow evening. St. Petersburg, the first stop, is 8 hours ahead of ET (GMT +3 hrs). Even though the trip is so near, there's one last thing to complete: edits on the upcoming book *James, Peter, John, Jude*. This is a radical rewrite of my 1995 *Life to the Full*. This book really needed to be rewritten, in part because I have changed my mind on one or two things, but even more because the theology felt to me overly narrow and legalistic. And yet I felt at *that* time that I had learned much about grace and was being very progressive in the good sense of the word. A person changes in 10 or 11 years. Yet naturally this leads me to wonder, what may I still need to change? What in my teaching and writing in 2006 would make me shudder or regret that I taught it a decade for now? (Am I focused enough on grace? On obedience? Am I in more of a reactionary mode than I realize? Are there things I am only faintly aware of that hold me back? I have never minded speaking up, but am I communicating with wisdom and Christ-likeness?) We are all growing. As I am fond of saying, I reserve the right to change my mind.

I finish the book edits on the phone with Toney Mulhollan (IPI), my publisher and friend in Houston, and within 5 minutes my wife is taking me to the airport. En route we stop to buy shoes. My black dress shoes have worn out, falling apart two days ago right before I got up to preach in one of Atlanta nine sister congregations! Freshly shod, I check in for my Delta flight and begin a short biography of Mahatma Gandhi. I'm reading it not just for ideas and inspiration, but also because I try to coordinate reading with travel. Earlier in the summer I read a number of Tolstoy short stories, which is appropriate since I'm about to spend a couple of days in Russia, and the St. Petersburg of which he was so fond. The Gandhi book, the captivating and persuasive film *An Inconvenient Truth* (Al Gore on global warming), and a little sleep fill the first flight.

Layover in Milan, where I preached in 2004 and again this spring. Alitalia flight to Russia, during which I finalize my lessons. As we near our destination, I look out the window and see forests and farmland, very, very green. Landscapes like those of Scandinavia, where Vicki and I worked for over three years. Not surprising, because St. Petersburg, on the Gulf of Finland, is not far from Helsinki. As we near the city, I see magnificent palaces and other edifices, an impression confirmed later as we drive through magnificent St. Petersburg.

The flight is delayed. Suspecting this might happen, I'm prepared, and wearing my suit and stiff black shoes. (There'd have been no time to change clothes.) After questioning by the Russian authorities ("Why you have so much books?"), I slip through immigration and meet Zhenia (church administrator) and Sasha (my translator). We head into the St. Petersburg traffic, and eventually arrive at the central meeting place for the 620-strong congregation.

Reaching the meeting, I teach the church on the Holy Spirit, followed by a Q&A session. I don't feel very fresh physically—and have been in the same clothes more than a day—but mentally I'm okay, and no one seems to notice my slips and non sequiturs when I speak! (Fooled them all! Out of my weakness, his strength.) Dinner until midnight with Alexei (the church leader) and Sasha (my translator). I crawl into bed exhausted.

3—"SANKT PETERBURG" 14 September

Today I sleep in. After a light breakfast of bear meat, beluga caviar, and radioactive cabbage (just kidding!), I head to the gym. When I travel I try to keep up my normal routine, since this is one of the keys to beating jet lag. (Sufficient fluids and exposure to sunlight are two more.) I have lunch with Derik Vett, who planted the Leningrad/St. Petersburg church, and Fred and Alicia Haight (dentist and wife also from Dallas, the US church sponsoring this congregation) and their oldest son. Soon it is time for a church staff meeting.

Fifteen of us are seated around a table. My lesson is "Leadership in a New Day." The thrust of the lesson is that the best way to lead a church—to achieve maximum leverage—is through "ministry": every member using his spiritual gifts. This is the organic model of leadership (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12), as opposed to the secular model common in most human groups, businesses, and even churches. The staff are encouraged. A few minutes later we move into the main hall and address the married part members of the church. The Haight and I speak, and afterwards address just some of the many heartfelt questions from the crowd.

Church events are different in Russia. One difference is that when there is corporate prayer, everyone holds hands. This enhances the sense of connection. The singing of course is in Russian, which is hard for me (having never studied the language), except for the slow songs, when I can just barely read the Cyrillic script fast enough. Our translator tonight, Ghena, used to translate for Bill Bright (founder-leader of Campus Crusade, recently deceased). He is really good, and we have a lot of fun going back and forth, playing with the two languages. After the meeting I work on the new (October) material for the website. The spare moments are often taken to write and catch up on correspondence, though sometimes I am so "brain dead" that all I can do is vegetate. This, however, is my normal condition at the end of each trip, not at the beginning.

4—RUSSIA TO INDIA 15 September

At 5 am Sasha (another Sasha—an extremely common name, the common diminutive form of Alexander or Alexandra) takes me to the airport. He speaks some German and a little English. We communicate slowly. He wants to tell me what helped him from the lesson on the Holy Spirit: that the Spirit is a mystery. Despite the doctrine of the Trinity, there is no “formula” that quite captures it. You can’t put God in a box. Even our best understandings fall woefully short, and this calls for humility. Sasha said that he’d *expected* a lesson on the Spirit that told disciples what they should be doing. Instead, he felt the transcendence of God, and was stimulated to live for Christ even more. This encourages me. Real change comes at the heart level.

At the airport I’m now reading the gospel of Mark over a cup of strong Russian coffee. Aboard the first flight of the day, St. Petersburg to Paris, I work on ITS emails, notifying speakers and workshop leaders of program details for our November seminar, *Who Is My Brother?* One of the other passengers reaches into his coat and pulls out a skinny, jittery cat! (Preoccupied, I forget all about the cat until we’ve landed.) Breakfast is served.

I also begin an excellent book on the history of India. It is *India*, by Stanley Wolpert. After a layover in Paris, I board a nearly empty Air France flight to Delhi, the capital of India. Watching a film, I soon drift off to sleep, waking up somewhere between Kabul and Kandahar. As we cross over Pakistan, descending to the plain of Delhi, I remember the previous visits to India, ever since 1985. That was the year of the London scouting visit. Mark Templer and Mohan Nanjundan (who currently live in Delhi), Douglas Arthur (Baltimore), John Louis (Singapore), and I were overwhelmed by the population and poverty of this nation, which is the world’s largest democracy, a land of “Hindus and Muslims, Sikhs and Farsis, Christians and Jews, atheists and animists” (Wolpert). The 1985 visit led to the genesis of HOPE worldwide, which to this day continues to do *the amazing* in its mission to serve the poor and needy of the world.

I am met at the airport by Albert Shane, preacher for the church in Delhi. We have a wonderful talk about India, the world, the teaching ministry, and family. I present the gift of teaching materials—the same items we gave to Russia, but even more. Tomorrow I will spend a day in fellowship with Mark Templer and Mohan Nanjundan, Indian church planters in 1988. I’ll also teach the staff (leadership) and the church (archaeology). It’s good to be back in India; the last visit was in September 2001.

5—NEW DELHI

16 September

After a solid sleep and an Indian breakfast (*pakora, idli, dosa, sambal*) and (indispensably) coffee, I’m ready for the day! After Bible study, out for a walk. It always hits me how many people live here. The Indian population count stands at over 1 billion—more than triple the population of the United States, and in a much smaller area. Everyone is so busy. It’s the pace of life that strikes you. People work six (or seven) days a week, 12 hours a day. Here people age faster. In my country, 47 is simply middle aged. Yet for many in this land, such an age augurs the final years of one’s life. “Life is hard” (Sam Laing).

Mark Templer and I know each other well. Really well. I was at his baptism in 1984. I’d invited his wife to church in 1983, and performed their wedding in 1986. This reunion is long overdue, as apart from the odd telephone call and email, we’d drifted out of touch in the past few years. It was a joy to catch up, talk, and enjoy an Indian meal with Mark and Nadine. And to see their four children! Reconnection... that seems to be one of my themes this year.

At Mark’s house, I connect to his wireless network and collect emails, nearly 200. (Sometimes I wonder, Why do I make myself so available to people? It must be something about communication, bringing hope by helping the body of Christ worldwide connect.) I’ll try to reply to them tomorrow during the next flight.

The biblical archaeology presentation went well, and a number of guests were present. Faith grew that day. After the Q&A session (the formal one as well as the informal one that always takes place after presentations), I share a lesson with the Delhi staff. Afterwards, I go to dinner with another old friend, Mohan Nanjundan. Douglas Arthur and I studied the Bible with him back in 1983, and it was he, along with Mark, who planted the church in Bangalore, South India. It’s always good to make new friends, but there’s nothing quite like the old ones.

6—INDIA-SINGAPORE-KOREA-PHILIPPINES

17-18 September

Today is insane! It’s really *two* days, one night, and three flights. At the end of it, around midnight tomorrow if all goes well, I’ll be in the Philippines.

Mukund picks me up at 5:30 am, eager to beat the traffic (the Delhi Marathon begins at 6 am). We talk about the Bible and practical ministry the whole way to the airport. I think we were the only car that stopped for the red lights (Christian integrity)! Eight hours later I’m in Singapore, for a fellowship visit with book minister Lionel and evangelist Pua Hee. We enjoy a chicken rice dinner and a visit to the Esplanade, a new performing arts complex I missed when I was here back in January. There are so many things going through my head (people, lessons, ideas for 2007, wondering how my family are doing, etc), and when I board the flight just after midnight, I am restless. So... I watch a funny movie, *Nacho Libre*, and work on my Old Testament lessons for Manila. Arriving in Seoul, I hit the hay for 5 hours, then back to work...

Late night arrival in Manila. Paris Murray (teacher and theology student) and Rolan Monje (student, evangelist and teacher) are there to meet me. These brothers, part of the Metro Manila Christian Church teaching committee, lead the AIM Filipino program. We have about 40 students, from Manila, 4 satellite churches (around Manila), and 15 other provincial churches (Cebu, Baguio, Davao, etc). After this week they will be 5/8 of the way through the 2-year AIM course. They are truly setting the pace in their advocacy of theological training for every church leader in a nation.

7—SMOG, SUN, STORMS

19 September

After a good sleep, I walk and pray in the streets of Manila. The sun is intense. I like that, though I’m less fond of the smog. The Philippines is similar in some ways to India, though not as impoverished. People are everywhere. Everyone is speaking Tagalog, apart from the foreigners (Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, and the occasional European). Later in the day, heavy downpours will cleanse the smoggy skies. Like the afternoon thunderstorms in the summers of my native Florida, these rains are a near daily feature of the Filipino skies.

This is the first day of AIM, our ministry school operating from two US cities as well as London, Lagos, and Manila. Four months earlier Glenn Giles, teacher from Denver, gave the church leaders 30 hours of OT instruction. Building on this foundation, and the advance reading the students have done, I teach 5 hours a day. We actually begin each day with a missions presentation, to help students feel connection with churches abroad and fellow AIM students in other nations. Today the opening presentation is on Russia and the Ukraine. Then the OT Survey classes follow, beginning with “The God of the Old Testament.” This addresses the perceived differences between the OT God and the NT God, which of course are immaterial, although at times they *feel* significant. Clearing the emotional ground, we are now able to dive into the history of God’s people in OT times. We finish the day with a class on the scriptures themselves, and an OT manuscript PowerPoint, highlighting the stunning discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which is the most convincing proof that (1) the OT scriptures have been accurately transmitted and (2) Jesus is the prophesied Christ. (No, the priests and monks did not write “prophecies” after the event!)

8—OT SURVEY CONCLUDES, OT INTERPRETATION BEGINS

20 September

Today we begin with a slide presentation on Africa. OT geography is next, and then we cover the 100 passages students have to learn how to use from the books of the OT. In AIM, there are around 350 passages in all that students must learn to use. (“*All* scripture is... useful,” 2 Tim 3:17). This includes 100 from the NT and 100 from the OT.

A delicious Filipino lunch is enjoyed with brothers from the Teaching Committee. We discuss the continuation of the AIM program and a 2007 visit. It is so good to see how these brothers have taken the teaching ministry seriously, and led the leaders of the 20 Filipino congregations to deepen their grasp of God’s word!

The next class is on the “Intertestamental” period—what exactly happened between the time of the final OT books (Malachi, 1-2 Chronicles) and the opening of the NT. Then we study Jesus in the OT (foreshadow, prophecy, and much more). At this point we have completed the OT Survey portion of this session. We now begin the OT Interpretation (OTI) part, with a practical lesson on Bible study on 4 levels.

9—AIM CONTINUES

21 September

Day 3 of AIM. The missions slideshow is on Asia/Pacific. The OTI classes are on interpreting Narrative, Law, Prophets, Poetry & Psalms and, last of all, the Primeval period (Genesis 1-11). Lunch today is with several leaders: Koko, Rolan, and Danny, the recently recognized evangelist in Cebu. Danny gets me to agree to visit his city on my next visit. These are solid brothers, eager to see the word spread, and equally eager not to go beyond what is written. After the day of teaching, Rolan Monje and his wife Weng take me out for dinner. *Sinigang na Baboy*, a kind of pork soup, is on the menu. I wash it down with *calimansa* juice (made from a miniature citrus fruit).

10—MANILA TO DAVAO

22 September

The final day of AIM. Opening missions presentation: Europe, the Caribbean, and Mexico. OT Interpretation classes are on the Wisdom Literature, Apocalyptic, and the Old Covenant. Then we conclude with a practical study of Jonah on four levels and a sharing time. It is very obvious that most of the students do not take their participation in the teaching program lightly. Some share about how their preaching and teaching have changed. Some share with tears. Even though the program is evolving and its final form may not be clear, I am assured that many practical needs are being met. One brother (from Bacolod) writes: “... *I am very grateful for to God for giving me an opportunity to study his Word. Thank you for helping me to fall in love with the Old Testament. I’ve never enjoyed so much spending time studying the OT these past days! I am praying for you and AIM, for God to use you in spreading his Word, changing lives in all nations.*”

Joey (preacher in Cagayan) and Edgar (General Santos) take me to the domestic airport. We will fly to Davao, called “the most livable city in the Philippines,” about a 100 minutes’ flight south, on the island of Mindanao, home of the notorious Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. (We will have no trouble from them this week.) We enjoy a lunch of *Sinigang na Baboy* and *Kare-Kare*, and then board our Cebu Pacific Airlines. I do not know what to expect, but am encouraged by the experience. This is a new fleet. Water is everywhere beneath us, as well as the 7000 plus islands of the Philippine Archipelago! After a snack of garlic cracked corn, Joey and Edgar drift off to sleep. I drift off into my computer, editing my evening PowerPoint.

In no time we are in Davao’s brand new airport. Kuloi, the church leader in Davao City, drives us into town. After a quick sushi dinner, I teach on the Existence of God, a faith-building PowerPoint for the church. Apart from the original Davao planting in 1994 with Preston Shepherd, and a follow-up visit from John Lusk (then of Manila) a few years later, no outside speaker has ever spoken in Davao. (Most of the Christians have never met an American Christian. And certainly not one a foot taller than most of the members!) The appreciation of the church, their evident warmth and expressiveness, are overwhelming. The church also knows how to show honor to its older members. For example, when Kuloi’s father speaks in the welcome, he is called “Daddy Kuloi.” Daddy is a term of endearment and respect.

11—AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

23 September

It’s the first day of autumn. At the autumnal equinox (Sept. 23, 2006, 12:03 A.M. EDT), the sun appears to cross the celestial equator, from north to south, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. We are 7 degrees above the equator. In the tropics, “autumn” is not a particularly meaningful concept. There’s a wet season and a dry season, and the length of the day varies only slightly between winter and summer. (At the equator, there are 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night year round.) It’s hot and muggy. No need for a forecast, and chances are it have to be revised anyway. Little do we know, a typhoon is about to hit the Philippine Archipelago—but fortunately it will miss Manila, and Davao is not in a part of the islands that gets typhoons.

The Davao teaching day falls into three parts: Leadership, Dating, and Parenting. During the lunch break at long last I eat durian, the famous (infamous?) fruit of southeast Asia. I was first warned of it during my first visit to this part of the world, in 1983. I have managed to avoid it ever since. But like green eggs and ham, this was more from prejudice than from experience. Although they say “it smells like hell and tastes like heaven,” I do not find the aroma of durian offensive. It tastes smooth and creamy, like a custard. The taste reminds me somewhat of beef (!). Not bad at all! The fruit costs a couple of dollars a kilo, though ten times as much up in Manila, and *far* more in other parts of Asia. Since it’s such a curiosity for an outsider to eat this famous (and expensive) fruit, I end up eating bite after bite, as everyone wants a photograph of me (with them) eating durian!

After the flight back to Manila, I enjoy an amazing Chinese dinner with friends Koko and Farida Enrile and their children. They invite me home for a pit stop (quick shower and change of clothes). I know that once I land in Japan I will not have time to change, proceeding instead directly to church.

The flight to Seoul departs at midnight. By noon I am walking out of Kansai airport in Osaka, the final stop of the journey. I see Tadashi, my friend in Osaka who took me to see the Samurai Museum and the ancient Buddhist manuscripts during my first visit here.

12—JAPAN

24 September

At the airport, Tadashi is not alone. Takashi is here (our driver and one of the Osaka leaders), as well as Mark and Jennifer. He’s my Australian translator (from Queensland), while she is his American wife. Both have lived in here for many years and speak flawless Japanese. As requested, I convey warm greetings from the Davao church. Amazingly, there is a couple from Davao here in Osaka! The fellowship includes people from several nations (South Africa, China, Romania, Australia, etc), though most are native Japanese.

The communion is given by Mr. Tomura, a brother from the “mainline” church of Christ, who has preached for many years and has a heart for those who have gone through difficult transitions in the “international” wing of the Restoration Movement. He has spoken in both Tokyo and Osaka, even though he’s

drawing heat from many for being connected with the ICOC group. Mr. Tomura shares with a depth of emotion that rivets the congregation. (Wish I were more like that!) Next, I preach on Luke 9:49-50, as passage I've *never* spoken on in all my years as a preacher. After a short break, I give a parenting lesson and Q&A session.

Before I know it, we exit the building and it is time for dinner: Indian! What a small culinary world it seems. After flying in from Chinese Singapore, I enjoyed a Chinese meal in the Philippines. In Davao (southern Philippines), we eat Japanese. In Osaka, we are dining in an Indian restaurant. Cuisines overlap, cultures collide. Reminders of the diversity that characterize the people of God here and in eternity.

13—AND THE SUN STOOD STILL

25-24-25 September

The day begins at 5:15 am. For breakfast, "east meets west": miso soup, seaweed, pickled vegetables, bacon & eggs, and coffee!

My first fellowship appointment is at 7:30, with Tadashi, my friend and for me the point man in this city. We talk and pray in the park. Heartfelt prayers, tears of concern and hope for the Osaka church. At 8:30 I meet Nori (who has an Australian girlfriend in the Osaka congregation), Haruka (a sister of 5 years in the Lord), and Florentin (a Romanian with a Japanese wife). We talk about many things, especially about how to function in a small church situation without a church leader. After N and H leave, F and I talk about Romania. (We had met in Bucharest a few years ago.)

Osaka is a small church. How does a small congregation without staff keep going? (There are so many churches in this position around the world.) They try to stay connected with people in other congregations. They're willing to pay to bring in outside speakers. They are open to being taught by anyone who loves the Lord and knows the Bible. And they are patient. Next week there is a Jubilee conference in Tokyo. Half the church will make the trip to Tokyo to take part.

By the way, the heading of this section is not a typo. I am thinking of the "long day" of Joshua 10! That's because a few hours after we cross the International Dateline, around dinnertime back in Japan, the day will become the 24th again, for a few hours. Then we'll land in Detroit, on the afternoon of the 25th, after the 11 hour time change. For frequent flyers, this may be "old hat," but for most folks, this is a mind-boggling concept. Put simply, you cannot cross 24 time zones without eventually "paying back" the day you incrementally stole.

Anyway, my work here is now done. I miss my family and wish it took less than 24 hours to get home. I board the express train to Osaka's Kansai Airport (airport code KIX), and fly home via Detroit on Northwest Airlines. From 5 am Japanese time till 10 pm Atlanta time, it's been a long day, indeed! I enter a semi-vegetative state. I am not unfriendly, just much quieter than normal. I have paced myself so that the emotional energy would last till the final segment of the journey. And there isn't much left. I arrive at Atlanta the evening of the 25th (for me, the second 25th).

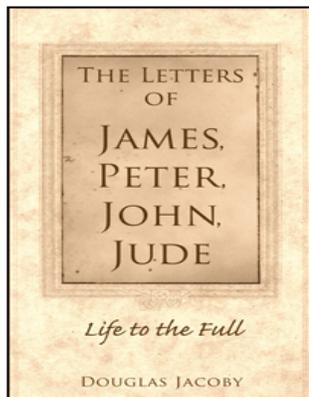
SUMMARY—HIS GLORY, HIS GRANDEUR

On this round-the-world trip, I've flown 28,000 miles, been with Christians in 6 cities, delivered 30 messages, and derived deep encouragement and satisfaction from doing what I can to teach the Bible, stimulate thinking, and promote worldwide unity. That feels good. At the same time, there is so much work to do in every city, in every land. Many Christians do not realize, or have perhaps forgotten, how much the Lord will use them if only they would throw themselves into the ministry. As I commented in a recent bulletin, worldwide it seems that confidence is on the rebound. It would be nice to see change take place more quickly, but if there is anything I have learned during the past ten years, it's that you can't make people do anything. Fortunately, thousands of good-hearted brothers and sisters deeply want to make a difference, to bring Christ to their world. Sure, we have to be careful not to fall into humanistic performance theology with a spiritual veneer. But I know that if we don't try to figure out for ourselves the practical steps we can take to best serve the Lord, there are consequences. We'll drift spiritually; worse, we will miss out on the wonder and adventure of following Christ—and his grandeur.

I hope (and pray) that this travelogue has spoken to you; that somehow it will give you encouragement and a desire to remember fellow disciples in prayer, even if they are on the other side of the world.

NEW BOOK RELEASED BY IPI

A radically revised version of my 1995 *Life to the Full* is now available. This is a practical commentary on seven New Testament letters: James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude. If you need encouragement in your personal Bible study, or are studying any of these 7 books and would like to approach them from a fresh perspective, this may be the book for you.



What's different? Not the material, apart from a few places where I found that I had changed positions. What's new is the tone, the feel. Rereading the original, I was taken aback at the terminology, imbalance, and dogmatism in parts of the book. If you have read the first version, you will certainly notice the change.

You can order it at the website.

“WHO IS MY BROTHER?”

12th Annual International Teachers' Seminar
16-18 November, Jurys Hotel, Washington, DC

Previous locations: London, Jerusalem, Paris, Berlin, Athens, Chicago, Rome

The schedule for the International Teachers' Seminar (November 16-19, Washington DC) has been finalized. Note: anyone reading this email is welcome to attend. (You do not have to be an "international teacher.")

WHO IS MY BROTHER? This is the theme of the 12th annual ITS. It is also what tens of thousands of Christians worldwide are asking—in one form or another. This year's conference directly addresses that very question as a matter of searching the Scriptures in prayer. The 2006 International Teachers' Seminar will take place in Washington DC, starting with dinner on Thursday 16 November, and ending Saturday the 19th. Most will want to stay over for a special church service for Christians in Washington DC, Northern Virginia, Baltimore, and Montgomery County, Maryland. The more people I talk with, the more appropriate, relevant, timely, and needed the theme WHO IS MY BROTHER? appears to be. I appreciate your prayers for this event. I cannot tell you how enthusiastic I am about this event. The KEYNOTE SPEAKER is F. LaGard Smith, a man whose writing and speaking have stimulated thousands to engage heart, soul, and mind in their faith. Please read Smith's book, *WHO IS MY BROTHER?: FACING A CRISIS OF IDENTITY AND FELLOWSHIP* (Nashville: Cotswold Publishers, 1997), ISBN 0-9660060-0-3. 21st Century Christian has over 1300 copies available. Order at www.21stcc.com, or phone 800-251-2477.

WORKSHOPS: Human thinking and human movements have deeply affected us all, the church included. With this in mind, this day we will also study a number of these movements (1) the Civil Rights Movement, (2) the Women's Movement, (3) Big Business & Corporate America, (4) Sexual Liberation and the Gay Rights Movement, (5) the Culture of Sports & Entertainment, and (6) American Politics & Its Influence on church governance and policy.

Participants (so far) are coming from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington; Canada, England, Germany, the Philippines, Scotland, and Switzerland. Currently nearly 70 have signed up. For full details, click on the WHO IS MY BROTHER? banner at the top of <http://www.douglasjacoby.com>.

Thursday evening Nov 16

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

CHURCH UPDATES:

- Bob Kurka, Lincoln Christian College & Seminary, CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
- Gary Holloway, David Lipscomb, A CAPPELLA CHURCHES OF CHRIST
- Gordon Ferguson, Phoenix AZ, ICOC

Friday morning Nov 17

CHURCH HISTORY: SHIFTING BOUNDARIES OF FELLOWSHIP – Douglas Jacoby

THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT: WILL WE EVER GET THERE? – Steve Staten

THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT: BROADER IMPLICATIONS – Scott Green

Afternoon seminar: Douglas Jacoby / Steve Staten / Joey Harris / Steve Kinnard / Gordon Ferguson

Friday evening

- * Our Southern Neighbor: A Canadian Perspective on the US – Andrew Lewis
- * Global Unity: A European Perspective –TBA
- * What Little I Know About the ICOC – LaGard Smith
- * The View from the other Fork in the Road – Mark Green
- * “Who Is My Sister?”—Women's Fellowship (open) and HEARTS Tournament (optional)

Saturday morning Nov 18

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES (LaGard Smith), responses by Scott Green, Joey Harris, Malcolm Cox

- The Civil Rights Movement – Joey Harris (Augusta, Georgia)
- Sexual Liberation and the Gay Rights Movement – Guy Hammond (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- The Women's Movement – Malcolm Cox (London)
- Big Business & Corporate America – John Oakes (San Diego)
- Culture of Sports & Entertainment – Daren Overstreet (Seattle)
- American Politics & Influence on church governance & policy – Andy Blocker (Washington DC)

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Synopsis, Prayer, singing, sharing -- Andy Fleming et al.

Late Night With LaGard (Bible questions & everything else)

Sunday Nov 19—with Northern Virginia, Baltimore, and Montgomery County MD. The Sunday fellowship service, November 19, 2006, will take place at Oakton High School in Vienna, Virginia at 10:30 Fellowship. This will be the first such joint service since 2002. Sermon on Luke 9:49-50 – Douglas Jacoby and

Communion on Brotherhood – LaGard Smith

MINISTRY SUPPORT

ATHENS INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total need: \$70,000

Received in 2006: \$30,900

The Athens Institute of Ministry was established in January 2004 to train preachers, teachers, and serious Bible students. Biblical education is a deep need, and it is also the area in which I feel most called to serve. Sessions take place in Georgia or at long distance by DVD. Please see the download document at the website for full details. We are eager to offer scholarships to worthy students in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Your donations help students to participate who otherwise would not be able to afford the tuition. We want to extend scholarship offers and assistance to as many students as possible. Currently AIM has some 80 scholarship students in 27 nations, and many of them need ongoing sponsorship. Our eventual hope is to support the principal AIM teachers on a part-time basis, although at present AIM is severely underfunded. For more on the details of AIM, read the download document at this website, or click on <http://www.athensinstitute.org/>. AIM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions you have made to AIM are tax-deductible.

THIRD WORLD TRAVEL FUND

Total need: \$25,000

Received in 2006: \$21652

Currently I make teaching visits to at least 25 cities a year, half in the US and half outside. Funding is needed to cover airfare and reasonable speaking fees for third world visits, and in some cases accommodation and meals, when they are not provided by the local church. IBTM seeks to raise funding to send a woman to teach in the Caribbean (Barbados and Trinidad) this October. IBTM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions you have made to IBTM are tax-deductible.

I am currently attempting to raise funding for a visit to Haiti in summer 2007. If you, or anyone you know, may be in a position to help, please know that your donation will be well spent. Funding for Haiti would send me and also Joey Harris, a colleague who is a fellow teacher and also fluent in French. (Funds for the trip to Quito have now been found. Thank you!) --DJ

TOTAL RAISED FOR PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI: \$600.

GENERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Total need: \$35,000

Received in 2006: \$22830

General support donations help to compensate IBTM's international teachers for research, developing new materials, and speaking in the developing world. This is also the category to contribute to if you are not sure, or do not have a strong opinion, about how your donation should be spent. IBTM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions you have made to IBTM are tax-deductible.

THIRD WORLD BOOK FUND

Total need: \$10,000

Received in 2006: \$5876

In the majority of developing nations around the world, monthly salaries are in the range of \$30-\$300. Books, which typically cost \$10 or more, are an exorbitant expense for persons living in such economic situations. Helping Christians and churches through biblical education can make a tremendous difference, building faith and expanding the horizons of readers. The Third World Book Fund is not only for books, but also for audio messages. Free books and audio are distributed not only to individuals, but also to church libraries. IBTM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions you have made to IBTM are tax-deductible.

FAREWELL

Let's stay connected.

--DJ

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