

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



APR-MAY 2007 International Teaching Ministry Update

Peru, Ecuador, Albania, Hungary; Ephesus; **Free downloads**; Béabylie; The Quiver in audio; Counseling Course

This is the fourth monthly update of '07, after the changeover to the new format. Past updates are available at the website, where you will also find 15-20 pp of new material weekly. Enjoying the updates and website? Please spread the word. (If not, just click on REMOVE.) If your email address has changed, please send the new and the old address (for deletion). If you didn't sign up, a friend probably gave us your address. Hope you enjoy them. (Sorry to the 15% of you who received 2 emails this month, due to a system error.)

What a year 2007 is turning out to be! It seems the Lord is answering many prayers. People are becoming Christians, churches are growing stronger, wanderers are coming back to the fold. To date there have been a dozen ministry visits in seven nations, half a dozen new audio sets, with more books and audio sets under construction, and over two thousand new subscribers to the newsletter. We even received a surprise donation from a church library that was reorganizing. One day we came home to find the door into our house literally blocked, as FedEx had deposited 21 boxes of donated books -- 600-700 in all -- on the doorstep! You have sent us many encouraging emails, and your warm fellowship in a number of conferences has also been very welcome. Thank you so much for all your support: moral, financial, and spiritual (prayer)!

In addition, Vicki and I went through the excellent Dynamic Marriage series, learning a lot about how to be better husbands and wives, along with our two dozen fellow students. In fact this weekend we will hear the series designer, Joe Beam, as he speaks in the Atlanta area. For more on this ministry that has helped tens of thousands, click [HERE](#). I feel very excited about all I'm learning this year. Not just in marriage, and in history and science (which I love to study), but in theology and especially the Bible itself. I've recently fallen in love with the Word Biblical Commentary, which includes translations from the Hebrew and Greek by the commentators themselves. (Right now I'm in the 600 page volume on Leviticus, and know there are many treasures inside.)

One last development: my interest in evidences -- this is what really brought me to faith in the mid-1970s -- has been piquing. Last week I had the opportunity to meet William Lane Craig. He holds doctorates in philosophy and theology, and is a well respected world class apologist for the faith. I am so glad I met Dr. Craig and can benefit from his expertise, as next month, at the international apologetics conference being organized by John Oakes in Irvine, California, I will have the chance to debate the famous skeptic Michael Shermer. Please pray that good will come out of this interaction, and Jesus Christ will be lifted up.

EPHESUS DEADLINE

Nearly 20 centuries ago the apostle Paul brought the faith to this major world city (4th largest in the Roman Empire). Now you too can visit Ephesus, learn, and grow! Yet just as Paul encouraged the Ephesians to be "making the most of every opportunity," or "redeeming the time," now is the time to register!

The registration deadline for the Biblical Study Tour, as well as for the International Teachers' Seminar, is June 1st. Although signing up for the Biblical Study Tour and/or International Teachers' Seminar after the deadline is possible, each addition will have to be confirmed with our agents and the hotels in Istanbul and Ephesus. Save money and hassle; sign up now!

Ephesus is an amazing site, to me more impressive than Rome, Athens, Jerusalem, or even Beth Shean. Also of note, recently a gladiatorial grave (nearly 70 skeletons) was discovered at Ephesus. Click [HERE](#) for the story. We'll have two on-site lectures a day, in Pergamum, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Ephesus, plus (for those who elect this option) Patmos. The fellowship meals are always a huge part of the Biblical Study Tour. We'll also fellowship with Christians in Istanbul; heard from a number of international teachers; and have time to ponder the significance of exactly what the Lord did in this land some two millennia ago. For more information: details.

SOUTH AMERICA

In March my son James (who has just finished his first year of university) and I visited Peru and Ecuador. I gave a number of many workshops (singles, marrieds, leadership, etc). James spoke five times (four times in Spanish), sharing from his experience of campus ministry at the University of Florida. Christians attended from the cities of Lima, Trujillo, and Quito. What beautiful nations these are! And the spirits of the Christians with whom I fellowshiped were earnest, godly and positive. Like most of the churches I visit, these congregations are striving for godly living and leadership,



and eagerly welcome opportunities to learn. They may be understaffed and facing financial challenges, but they refuse to let go of their faith. I pray I'll be able to make return visits, when God wills.

Since the last update I've also been able to deliver two webcasts in Latin America (through Mexico City) on the subject of What Happens After We Die?, thanks to translator, friend, and fellow teacher Arturo Elizarrarás. People tuned in to the webcasts from all over Mexico, Central and South America, and even Spain! More webcasts are on the way. The new technology feels a bit daunting, but it motivates me to become acquainted with it when I see so many people being encouraged.

It's an honor to be able to teach in Latin America and help to "feed" hungry Christians. This is possible because of your donations, and especially because of the continued support of the North River congregation (Marietta, Georgia), which gives monthly to the international teaching ministry. This is my home congregation, where my family lives and where I speak some 40 times a year.

ALBANIA & HUNGARY

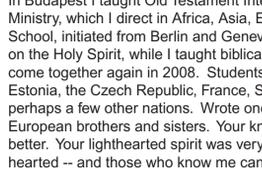
Last week in Tirana, Albania, I taught on The Da Vinci Code, which has swept the nation with major impact. The evangelistic meeting went very well, guests outnumbering members nearly 2 to 1, and with about 20 Muslims in attendance. (I also met with the local church of Christ for an extended Q&A time.) The following day I was interviewed by Channel 2 news on the topic of The Da Vinci Code and Christianity. Pray for good to come from this television spot! I was translated by Vangjel Kojku, evangelist in Tirana. In addition to teaching in Tirana, I also delivered many donated clothes, music CDs, and books. The Christians who received these gifts were extremely grateful. (Honestly, I love to visit gatherings where I get to give things away -- it's like Christmas!) The Albanian trip was a complete joy,



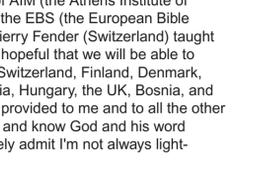
Map: Albania is just east of southern Italy, and you will find Hungary left of center top, bordering Romania.

Albania may not be too familiar to most of my readers, in part because it has only recently emerged from isolation. Between 1990 and 1992 Albania ended 46 years of xenophobic Communist rule and established a multiparty democracy. The transition has proven challenging, as successive governments have faced high unemployment, widespread corruption, a dilapidated physical infrastructure, and powerful organized crime networks. Although Albania's economy continues to grow, the country is still one of the poorest in Europe, hampered by a chaotic economy and an inadequate energy and transportation infrastructure. As for economics, per capita income is less than \$6000 a year, about one seventh of the US level. As for religion, the nation is 70% Muslim, 20% Albanian Orthodox, and 10% Roman Catholic. (Source: CIA World Factbook.) During my visit, I even visited the mosque in the city center. We showed respect, and our presence was no problem at all.

In Hungary, in the capital city of Budapest, I visited a strong, thriving congregation, one serving as a beacon to churches in surrounding nations. One highlight was presenting Péter Szabad (Peti, the evangelist) and Adrián Molnár (the teacher) with their well-deserved AIM diplomas. In fact, Peti and Adrian had the highest test averages of any of our 200-odd students. Well done!



What made this special presentation problematic was that Adrián, recipient of the diploma, was also my (modest) translator. The (extremely enthusiastic) audience, some of whom understood English, helped me to ensure Adrián was omitting nothing from the translation! Note: As Péter Szabad was ill that evening, Virag, his wife, accepted the diploma on his behalf.



In Budapest I taught Old Testament Interpretation. This was the first combined meeting of AIM (the Athens Institute of Ministry, which I direct in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the US -- California and Georgia) and the EBS (the European Bible School, initiated from Berlin and Geneva, and usually meeting in France or Hungary). Thierry Fender (Switzerland) taught on the Holy Spirit, while I taught biblical interpretation. The event went so well, I am very hopeful that we will be able to come together again in 2008. Students came from Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, the Czech Republic, France, Spain, Portugal, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, the UK, Bosnia, and perhaps a few other nations. Wrote one brother, "Thanks so much for the inspiration you provided to me and to all the other European brothers and sisters. Your knowledge and zeal are always a calling to do more and know God and his word better. Your lighthearted spirit was very refreshing and made it fun to listen." (While I freely admit I'm not always lighthearted -- and those who know me can attest to this -- I appreciate the compliment!)

UNITED STATES

Since the last update I've also spoken in Birmingham, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; Phoenix, Arizona; Greenville, South Carolina; and at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, Georgia. It is always encouraging to speak within a few hours' driving or flying distance, and all told about half of my speaking takes place in North America. Here I will share only a few noteworthy points from each trip:

- * **Birmingham** - This city is just a 3 hour drive from Atlanta. I taught on What Happens After We Die?, had dinner with old friend Cecil Woolen, and enjoyed the hospitality of Jarrod Robinson (evangelist).
- * **Nashville** - Spoke on The Problem of Suffering, stayed with Thom & Sheila Jones (DPI), spent time with two of my nieces (students at David Lipscomb University) -- they were guests at church with me that Sunday.
- * **Atlanta** - Presentation on Genesis, Science & History at Georgia Tech. I frequently speak in the Atlanta area universities. In two weeks our congregation will be hosting the second annual Campus Internship program, combining teaching, evangelism, and road trips to university ministries in the southeast United States.
- * **Phoenix** - AIM (West) session on Old Testament, Sunday sermon with two thirds of the Phoenix church, topic: "Jesus and the Snakes." It is always good to spend time with fellow teacher Gordon Ferguson.
- * **Greenville** - Astronomy, afterlife, and the existence of God; nearly 100% attendance at events (teens and adults alike). This is a church without staff, though ably led by Jimmy Rogers and the Greenville leadership team.

AIM VI, COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY -- STILL SPACE!

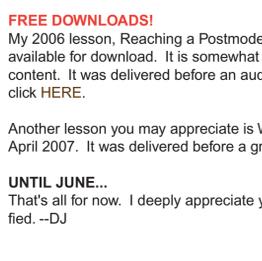
Learn about counseling and the Bible. Sit at the feet of qualified professional psychologists, counselors and therapists, Steve Brand, Dr. David McAnulty, and Drs. Michael & Mary Shapiro. This next AIM session will be taking place 12:00 noon Monday 21 May - noon Wednesday 23 May, at 285 Victory St, Marietta, GA 30060. This is the meeting place of our sister church in west Cobb County (in the Atlanta area). We expect about 80 brothers and sisters in attendance.

Topics include Boundaries, Life Outside the Discippling Pyramid, Principles of Mental Health, What Men need to Know about Women's Issues; Children, Family Issues & Church Life; Psychological Issues in Leadership; Family Systems; and Principles of Pastoral Counseling.

If you're within driving distance of Atlanta -- or even if you can fly here -- don't miss a great opportunity for personal growth! To attend these stimulating sessions (housing may be provided), please click [HERE](#) for full details.

MEDICAL UPDATE

Béabylie Lakoussan (osteonecrosis sufferer and women's leader in Cotonou, Benin, West Africa), has finally been scheduled for operation. In December 2006 I met with Béabylie and the evangelist of the church in Cotonou, Benin, about the possibility of fundraising to enable a life-saving operation. By February, generous donors had made the operation possible. Preoperative analyses, radiography of hips and lungs, the preanesthetic consultation, further preoperative examinations, a alimentary treatment, bloodwork, treatments for infection, etc went well, yet since mid-April she has been waiting for an hospital bed (so many acute medical needs in Benin). Until today, 25 May she will be hospitalized. Prayer is powerful.



Audio version of The Quiver now available

In late 2005 the first edition of The Quiver: Christian Parenting in a Non-Christian World was released. This book was designed to present the principles of biblical parenting. Although practical, its focus is on principles more than practicals. If the principles of God's word are universally true, they should work in any culture (not just North America!). The book is challenging, and features a large number of passages seldom seen in books on parenting.

The Quiver has been well received worldwide. In 2007 the revised edition -- mainly cleaning up errors but also adding a little more content -- made its appearance. Yet many parents prefer to listen rather than to read. With this in mind, Vicki and I have recorded the book on audio CD. Little has been left out, apart from the endnotes. The 4-CD audio version will be ready to ship on 10 May. To order, click [HERE](#).

FREE DOWNLOADS!

My 2006 lesson, Reaching a Postmodern World (delivered at the International Leadership Conference in San Diego Beach) is available for download. It is somewhat philosophical, and a bit heavier in tone than my usual lessons, but still with lots of content. It was delivered before an audience of about 200 men, and we did have fun in that session. If you'd like to hear it, click [HERE](#).

Another lesson you may appreciate is Why Does a Good God Allow Evil?, which was my Sunday lesson in Nashville, in April 2007. It was delivered before a group of around 500 adults and teens. Click [HERE](#) to listen.

UNTIL JUNE...

That's all for now. I deeply appreciate your believing in this ministry, and all your prayers that through it Christ may be glorified. --DJ

BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER

If you believe in the international teaching ministry and would like to become a monthly supporter, please send us an email. Be sure to indicate how much support you are able to provide each month: for example, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, etc. Any amount is fine. Once we establish contact, you will provide the relevant financial information. (For US residents, a tax receipt will be sent annually.)

ATHENS INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total fund: \$106,105
Received in 2007: \$34,000

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, San Diego, London, Manila, and Lagos, 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 Western 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 150 scholarship students in 25 nations, and most of them need ongoing sponsorship. Our eventual hope is to support the principal AIM teachers on a part-time basis. 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 are tax-deductible.

The Athens Institute of Ministry admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to students of A.I.M. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in admissions policies, scholarships, or other programs.

THIRD WORLD TRAVEL FUND

Total need: \$31,348
Received in 2007: \$14,200

Currently I make teaching visits to 25-40 cities a year, about half in the US and half outside. Other, teachers are also sent to areas of special need. Funding is needed to cover airfare and reasonable speaking fees for third world visits, and in some cases accommodation and meals, when not provided by the local church. IBTM is a tax-exempt entity with 501(c)(3) status. All contributions made to IBTM are tax-deductible.

GENERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Total need: \$37,170
Received in 2007: \$25,320

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 made to IBTM are tax-deductible.

THIRD WORLD BOOK FUND

Total need: \$10,000
Received in 2006: \$2420

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 made to IBTM are tax-deductible.