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International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2008 Issue 12 Debate!, Rome 2009, Church History, Website Feedback

"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."

Dear Friends of the International Teaching Ministry,

Greetings from Georgia! We pray your summer season is beginning well. Vicki and I head to Hungary tomorrow, where we will join Christians from all over Europe. We'll be speaking in the European Bible School in the area of New Testament (Roman Empire, Women & the Gospel, Survey & Interpretation).

Thanks again for your support. Hope you enjoy the update.

In His Service,
Douglas

I. TRIBATE

Last week's three-way debate (or "tribate") with the rabbi and the imam went great. (Feels like I was just in the Middle East -- I, the unbearded one!) As the debate took place minutes after the Sabbath, the (Orthodox) rabbi walked a mile and a half to the venue, rather than accept a lift. He came with two of his sons -- theirs is a family of 11! The imam was very warm to me before, during, and after the debate. We even had a follow-up breakfast the next morning! All three of us agreed to hold the event again in New York (Rabbi Shmuley's territory) and Toronto (Shabir's adopted home).

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach (www.shmuley.com) is the host of the National TV show, "Shalom in the Home" airing on TLC (The Learning Channel), and the international best-selling author of 18 books. In Oxford, where Rabbi Shmuley served as Rabbi to the students for eleven years, he played host to, and debated, some of the world's leading thinkers, statesmen, and entertainers including Mikhail Gorbachev, Professor Stephen Hawking, Deepak Chopra, and Professor Richard Dawkins.



Shmuley Boteach



Shabir Ally



Douglas, Shmuley, Shabir

Imam Shabir Ally (www.shabirally.com) is the president of the Islamic Information & Dawah Centre International in Toronto where he functions as Imam. Mr. Ally travels internationally to represent Islam in public lectures and interfaith dialogues and explains Islam on a weekly television program called "Let the Quran Speak." Mr. Ally also holds a B.A. in Religious Studies from Laurentian University with a specialization in Biblical Literature, and an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Toronto with a specialization in Quranic Exegesis.

I'm deeply grateful to the teaching ministry of John Oakes for organizing the International Apologetics Conference. **Instructions for ordering the 2008 debate will be sent soon.** Next year's Apologetics Conference and debate are slated to take place in Houston.

II. ROME 2009

The results are in -- thanks for your "votes" after the last newsletter. Italy edged out Israel and Greece for the location of the 2009 Biblical Study Tour. Highlights include the Coliseum, Catacombs, Sistine Chapel, Mt. Vesuvius (plus Pompeii & Herculaneum), the Pantheon, the Forum, and more...



The cost of our 2004 Biblical Study Tour to Rome and Pompeii was 750 euros (for all expenses except airfare). Five years later, a provisional estimate would be 900 euros. No deposit is required for another 6 months or so. At this time I need to know how many people can commit to Rome 2009. (We'll need 50-100 persons to make this worthwhile.) **Just send an email** if you believe you're likely to come. Thanks!

As for the 2009 International Teachers' Seminar, this will be separate from the Biblical Study Tour, and will take place in early November somewhere in North America, details TBA.

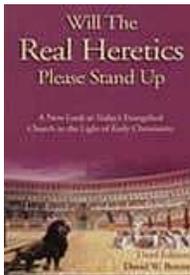
III. EARLY CHURCH HISTORY WEEKEND:

"THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD," 19-21 September 2008

What did the early church really teach? What was their spirit of faith like in the 100s, 200s, and early 300s? And just how far have we drifted? What are the important lessons? Did you know that tens of thousands of pages have survived the centuries, recording the thoughts and faith of our early brothers and sisters? Want to learn more? (And meet David Bercot?)

Guest speaker at our Early Church History weekend is **David Bercot**. David has been a friend and mentor to me since 1995. His expertise is Patristics, the study of the Church Fathers -- those who lived their faith, often died for it, and fortunately (for us) recorded their thoughts. Bercot makes history come alive, never failing to stretch the mind and challenge the heart. (This is also the 2008 Continuing AIM event, for all current AIM students and graduates.)

- Theme: "The Church and the World"
- Speakers: David Bercot, Joey Harris, Douglas Jacoby, Steve Staten
- Date: Friday 19 - Sunday 21 September 2008
- Location: The new church building of the North River Church of Christ, near I-75 in Marietta, a northern suburb of Atlanta.
- Early savings: Pay in June and save \$10.
- Regular cost (for those signing up in 1 July - 31 August): \$100. This includes any and all days of the conference.
- Late fee (after 31 August): \$20.
- Discounts: 50% off for seniors and full-time students. Spouses of participants may attend for \$50.
- Housing: Available on a limited basis with members of the North River congregation.
- Preparation: Please go through one or more of the [recommended books](#), including Bercot's *Real Heretics*, if you have not already read it.
- Exam option: For all current and former AIM students, as well as those who would like more accountability, there an examination will be available. (An additional examination fee applies.)



Click [here](#) for the provisional schedule. About 30 people responded to the last newsletter to indicate they would attend. At this early date, I would predict an attendance of 80-250. To register, send your check to T&R, Inc, 2256 Rushmore Dr, Marietta GA 30062. Payment date will be reckoned by postmark. To pay by credit card (+2% handling cost), please send an email to dj@douglasjacoby.com.

IV. WEBSITE RESPONSES



- "Just want to say thanks for your letters and pictures from different churches around the world. It's inspired me and makes me know that I am not alone in the battle! Keep it up!" -*E.D., Charlotte*
- "I just wanted to let you know about the impact your debate with Dr. Schermer is having. I'm actively reaching out to several of my fellow engineers. I shared the DVD with one of my co-workers, and he in turn told another co-worker about it, who then asked me to lend it to him. The net result is that it is providing me a good platform to engage them in further spiritual discussions and, God permitting, Bible studies" -*J.G.*
- "I felt so refreshed and validated reading Philippians 1 and commentary that followed, especially in relation to unity! Though I do not agree with the leaders who promote division, I have always believed that if 'innocent' ears hear the gospel message in its entirety and become disciples, they are our brothers and sisters - regardless of the motives of their leaders. I was converted in such a manner and believe others will be as well. God wants all men to be saved - much more than we ever could. I believe He will use anyone to do it as long as what they are

teaching is consistent with biblical conversion. Thank you for your commentary on this as I have been challenged on my beliefs regarding these matters...and now have more confidence to stand firm."

- "I really appreciate that you keep us updated on things going on around the world, and mostly for your willingness to go around the world to teach and preach... I pray that maybe soon you can come to Hawaii... Anyway, thank you for your love of God and His people! Please continue to keep us in touch with other ministries worldwide." -*J.S., Honolulu*
- "You have proven over and over your commitment to reasonable consideration of contemporary issues that many Christians face in this modern world. I wanted to thank you for your insight and willingness to discuss issues that previously had been taboo for many members in our fellowship." -*B.V., Minneapolis/Saint Paul*
- "I thoroughly enjoy the resources at the website. I love studying — in particular early church history and science. I've found your website to be a valuable resource, especially as a launching pad towards avenues of thought I have not yet considered..."

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