

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2008 Issue 03 Baltic Updates: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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Dear Friends of the International Teaching Ministry,

Last night I returned from Kiev and Minsk. What an exciting trip! Details will be in the next newsletter. In this issue I wanted to give a brief Middle East tour update, as well as publish the reports we have now received from the three former Soviet Socialist Republics I visited in January.

Middle East Tour: Over 70 have now registered, from a dozen nations, including singles, couples, families, teens, and seniors. Today is the last day for early registration. Regular registration begins tomorrow (6 February). [Click here for details and registration form.](#)

Yours in Him,
D.J.



ESTONIA

"In the second weekend of January we had a great opportunity to have our dear brother Dr. Douglas Jacoby with us in Tallinn, Estonia. Two churches spent the weekend with him, and we can say in full confidence that *our faith was strengthened and our convictions increased!* On Saturday Douglas delivered a lesson on the Word of God, and prepared our hearts for the teaching seminar. On Sunday we learned from a three-lesson seminar on *How to use the Word of God*. The seminar motivated the disciples in Estonia to take the Word more seriously, and we got a lot of practical help and advice. Many made serious decisions to grow in knowing and using the Word. Members felt after the sessions that they had found their "first love" again. And over 200 people listened to Douglas' sermon during the Sunday service. We are thankful for the God-given opportunity to grow in Christ!" --Your brothers & sisters in Tallinn and Tartu

LATVIA

"Douglas delivered a message on *New Testament Conversion* to the members of the Riga Church of Christ at their regular midweek service on Tuesday night Jan 17, plus a lesson on the topic of *Women's leadership in the New Testament* at a special meeting on Monday night Jan 16. In between, there was time to stroll around the historical old town of Riga (the Latvian capital was founded in 1201) and fellowship with the local disciples. There was a feeling of

positive excitement and refreshment among the congregation after hearing DJ preach. Shares Ilona Gobiņa, a sister in the Riga church (a wife and mother of four, converted 1995 in Berlin): "I was swept up and convicted by the careful exposition of the Bible passages and cultural-historical background information. Now, I really feel called higher to pursue deeper Bible studies myself." Kaspars, a brother who recently saw his mother and a younger (physical) brother become his sister and brother in the faith, says: "Never before have I experienced the Scriptures used in these lessons open up to me quite like this. How exciting God's Word is!" The Riga Church of Christ was started in 1995 and has gone through multiple changes of leadership. (The lead evangelist changed more than 10 times in the first 10 years of the church's existence!) With the arrival of ministry couple Sandu and Zhenya Iepur from Kiev in 2006, the group of about 60 disciples of Jesus has gained stability, and the Lord has recently encouraged them with new baptisms and the return of former members." --*Marcis*

LITHUANIA

"I would like to share feedback from the brothers and sisters here in Lithuania, as well as my own impression of your visit to us last month. Before your visit I kind of pictured a 'dogmatic' time with you. (Read: less valuable than what's most important, which is love.) But it was the opposite! I saw a man who is genuinely and utterly in love with and driven by the Almighty, both in heart and mind. Now I have a firsthand live example of what David meant in Psalm 119, where he spoke so highly of God's statutes and laws. The Bible can and must be the ultimate source of knowing God and receiving inspiration! You really made us turn to the Scriptures and dig deep! Thank you so much, personally and on behalf of the whole tiny church in Vilnius! Keep up the work that God is doing through you." -- *Ramunas*



Above: In Vilnius, Lithuania. Top right: With teen disciple Sten Leesmann of Tallinn, Estonia. Bottom right: Riga, Latvia.