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International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2008 Issue 13

Lily Jacoby baptized, *Heaven & A New Earth*, Global 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."

3 July 2008

Dear Friends of the International Teaching Ministry,

Greetings! In this update we wanted to share with you some terrific news concerning our family. Our daughter Lily was baptized last night! We adopted Lily through Hope for Children in 1995. She is 14 years old, and will enter high school next month. She is a joyful child, and has touched many lives. We are deeply grateful to the Middle School ministry of the North River congregation, and to all who helped to study the Bible with her (Alicia, Amber, Kelly, Kristi...). Her older brother James and sister Emma became Christians in 2002 and 2005, and we are thrilled that now the family is united in Christ.

Your prayers and help with the International Teaching Ministry mean a lot. Special thanks to our monthly supporters.

In His Service,
Douglas





BOOK REVIEWS: ECKHART TOLLE'S *A NEW EARTH* & RANDY ALCORN'S *HEAVEN*

I've reviewed Tolle's New Age smash bestseller, *A New Earth*. In addition, I have critiqued Randy Alcorn's popular book, *Heaven*, which contends that heaven will be *on earth* (the New Earth).

These books have been highly influential in the religious world. Tolle argues, in effect, that we are all God. Alcorn interprets the book of Revelation, and other passages, literally. We need to understand how people think if we are to meet them where they are, answer their questions, and intelligently engage in dialogue. Please click on the links above for my reviews.



FEEDBACK FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Puerto Rico

Thanks a lot for your encouraging newsletters. Is so amazing to know that we have brothers and sisters in distant places. Even though we have cultural differences, God is one as is the same for all of us. When you share your experiences through your letters, it helps me to remember that I am a part of a big family and not just a small group in a little island. You are our eyes out there. It must have been a wonderful experience for your son James traveling with you and meeting so many people. I pray that he continues to grow in the Lord and that he can capture your vision and zeal. The same for your beautiful daughters. My husband, Raul, sends you greetings. -- *Nydia Vasquez*

Zagreb, Croatia

Wow, I was really encouraged by the news from Malaysia: 330 disciples and 190 guests. It brought tears to my eyes. Here in Zagreb we are not sharing our faith as we used to do -- it's getting better -- but when I hear such stories from a Muslim country, I think how much more we should preach the gospel here in a Catholic country where we can freely talk about God and people do have traditional values... We had lost our dream, so thanks for your zeal and your efforts for God. These stories

inspire me. -- *Romana and Vedran*

Liberia, West Africa

Thanks for all the newsletters we are receiving from you. There is nothing more encouraging than knowing what's happening in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. --*Betty Flahn*

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Thank you again for encouraging the Phnom Penh church. The lessons you taught inspired us to hunger more for the Word of God. From swimming against the current, to looking at the big picture of Revelation, and Principles of Parenting -- amazing! We are very grateful for all the books you donated, top. You've given a lot to the church and we can't wait to share with the people of Cambodia the many lessons we've learned from our time together. We look forward to your next visit. Also, we will be translating your book on parenting into our Khmer language... -- *César Lopez*

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

On behalf of the Vietnam church, we would like to say thank you very much for your loving heart to us. We are so appreciative that you gave us a chance to study deeper in the Bible. It's impacted all the members a lot. We are still talking about what you taught for us. I myself feel so great to know you and to learn from your knowledge on the books and website. We love you very much, and looking for a next chance to study from you. -- *Doan Tran Hai*

It was great to see you in Ho Chi Minh City. Thank you so much for your visit. The classes [on Genesis 1-11 and Hades] inspire me to want to study the Bible more, to be a real student of the bible. -- *Scott Dang*

Long Island, New York

Last week I was browsing through your website and on the Online Audio & Video page I played the audio called "All Things Excellently," on taking school seriously. I was so blown away by this lesson! I believe the Spirit led me to your site. I was actually struggling with math, feeling down and discouraged. I pray every day for wisdom and guidance and try to get help in math. However, I still was praying for something else, guidance, comfort and reassurance from God. I had not taken math for more than 20 years and I decided to complete my BS in Information Systems. but working and going to school at the same time is challenging. Your lesson filled me with encouragement and hope and I felt that the Lord was speaking to me through you... Thank you very for your desire to equip Christians around the world and to help them to excel in everything they do. -- *Rolin Herrera*

Stockholm, Sweden

Thanks for your latest visit. It was inspiring, and awakens many memories for us... You reinforced many biblical truths in our hearts. For me it was the occasion of a new decision to dig deeper in the Bible. In our discipleship group we decided to do a deeper study from Ruth, with inspiration from your wife Vicki's audio series. We have also started to study the Bible with a couple who came on Sunday! -- *Lovisa Lindfeldt*

Cebu, the Philippines

Hi, brother Douglas! I heard about your debate, and I know many people will be impacted to search for God. Your visit here in Cebu was such a blessing for me, encouraging me to hold on to the kingdom of God. Seeing people like you in person inspired a lot of people like me... May God continually bless you as you challenge extraordinary people and thus do your part to win this world for Christ. I will be praying for you, your family, and your ministry. -- *Antoinette*

Thank you all for your encouraging responses! Followers of Christ are one family worldwide, and it is wonderful to be connected. We cannot do this alone; we need each other if we are to keep the faith. --*DJ*

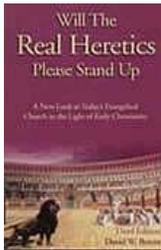
**EARLY CHURCH HISTORY WEEKEND: "THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD," 19-21
September 2008**

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.
- 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 read one or more of the [recommended books](#), including Bercot's *Real Heretics*, if you haven't 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.