

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update

2009 Issue 3 PRAYER NEEDS, PREJUDICE SEMINAR

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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28 February 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Georgia! It's been so encouraging to receive all your letters, emails, and Facebook messages. Thank you! Since the last update, I seem to have been speaking a lot to campus students. Just finished a three-part series at Georgia Tech on *Creation*. We focused on Big Bang (Cosmology), Battle Lines (Darwin & the Controversy) and Implications (what believers should learn from history). The sessions were well attended, and it was exciting meeting so many new seekers every week. Students came from all the Atlanta area campuses.

The evening at Harvard University on 13 February was incredible! In addition to 200 Harvard students and professors, another 250 converged from other area colleges, even from as far away as Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. I taught on the reliability of the biblical record (Dead Sea Scrolls, the original languages, and so forth). I got my masters in New Testament from Harvard in 1982, and even though there are many good memories, I don't recall ever seeing more than 20 or 25 students at a Christian event -- let alone 450! An added twist for me was that the very building where I spoke (the Science Center) is where I held one of my five part-time jobs during grad school. (Needed extra cash for the contribution, and also for the necessary video games and snack foods!) Back then, I have to confess, the job was drudgery -- vacuuming and dusting. (I know, I should have done it to the glory of God...) But on 13 February, my heart was definitely in it! To all who worked so hard for this event, well done! God truly seems to be moving across the university campuses, and this I find tremendously thrilling.

Last weekend Vicki and I crossed the border into Tennessee, for a Mid-South conference. Chip Mitchell (Boston) was the guest speaker, and did an excellent job on the theme *He Said We Could*. My class topic was *Challenging Men and Women of Faith to Think!* There were two points: (1) To be a thinking Christian who moves others, learn from Jesus; (2) To be an agent of unity, develop depth perception. (Here are the [notes](#).) We appreciate our brothers and sisters in the Mid-South area, and it was an honor to speak in their conference.

The weekly O.T. podcasts have kept me busy. Ten have already been recorded, the latest of which are on *Ishmael*, *Rebekah*, and *Esau*. Please consider [subscribing](#) if you haven't already. One day (who knows?) I

may turn the camera on, too, but for now that feels a bit too high-tech! Nearly four weeks of Facebook have entailed enough of a learning curve for yours truly!

In a few days I'll head to South America for a teaching tour in Guyana, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia. This will include a few talks on university campuses, as well as making good on promises to visit congregations that have extended speaking invitations in the past few years. Please keep me in your prayers as I travel away from home.

The rest of Newsletter 3 includes several international prayer needs, plus an invitation to the 15th Annual 2009 International Teachers' Seminar, on the theme *prejudice in the church*. All are welcome (even if they are not teachers). It's going to be hot!

Yours in the cause,
Douglas

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INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' SEMINAR

Why Do the Nations Rage? Gospel Solutions to Prejudice and Separation August 14-16, Atlanta, Georgia

The title says it all. This year's seminar, which is being coordinated by Chicago's Steve Staten, will take place on the grounds of the North River Church of Christ in Marietta, Georgia.

Please [CLICK](#) for details.

INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEEDS

Australia, Asia, Africa, Latin America

Having made inquiries around the globe, I've selected a few hot-spots for your consideration, from Australia, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. I hope these reports are meaningful, and that after you read them over you'll say a prayer for these five locations (1 Thessalonians 5:25, 1 Peter 5:9).

(1) Australia (wildfires)

As most of us know, wildfires have raged through the southeastern Australian state of Victoria. Writes one of the brothers down there: *"We are fine. However, there were six houses destroyed down the road, sadly by an arsonist. None of the homes of believers down here suffered damage; most of it went through bushland and rural areas. One positive is that the country has rallied like never before! More than \$100 million has been raised to help the thousands of victims, and it keeps on coming in fast. The ironic thing (or maybe the self-inflicted thing?) is that we have record flooding in the northeastern state of Queensland at the same time."*

(2) Indonesia (seismic instability)

"On 12 February a 7.2 magnitude earthquake took place at 1.34 am local time in the Sangihe Talaud Islands of North Sulawesi (Celebes). These remote islands are a part of the "Ring of Fire" that produces frequent earthquakes and related disasters. There have been 14 aftershocks over 5.0 in just the past few hours, and two or three fatalities. Ten were seriously injured, another 42 wounded, and over 700 buildings collapsed. 5000 citizens were evacuated to avoid the effects of aftershocks, which continue throughout our region, along with high waves. Still, most people were coming to their offices for work this morning in this district of 91,000 people. Ironically, Sangihe Talaud also came up in the headlines of Kompas this morning as one of the crucial border areas for Southern Filipino terrorist training (Mindanao). Indonesia has been plagued by high tides in the past weeks in several islands, including Java. HOPE worldwide Indonesia has been supporting flood victims as well in the Jakarta slums of Cilincing and Pedongkelan, bringing food and nutrition as well as clean-up kits. We are monitoring this situation closely in Sangihe and Talaud as our office is in nearby Manado."

(3) Liberia (still recovering from the war)

"Thank you for your visit to our country. I'm sorry it took me so long to reply. I don't have easy access to the internet. Our church is doing fine. By the grace of God we were able to construct a multi-purpose hall. This

hall will be our temporary worship place until we construct our main place of worship. This Sunday [25 January 2009] is a special service here in Monrovia. The theme is: "We are in God's hands." Brother, God is doing something He has never done in the history of the church. Guess what? The president of the nation will be cutting the ribbon, thus gracing the occasion. This will be her fifth time visiting the church in the last year or so. It is a very joyous moment for us. Please keep us in prayer that we may fearlessly share our faith."

(4) Mexico (recent violence in border states)

"There is a lot of violence in Tijuana and it has been increasing lately. These days we are more careful when choosing which places to go; some people are afraid to go out at all. Yet you can't live afraid all the time. 99% of the killings are related to those who work for the drug cartels, or the authorities fighting them; the other 1% just happen to be there when the shootings take place. 100% of the kidnappings you have read about happen to the rich people. Even though this is a very sad situation, we feel safe, and hope this will decrease some day. Tourism has decreased tremendously. This is understandable, though I think the media exaggerates things a little. I like the way Ephesians 5:16 runs in The Message. 'So watch your step. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!'"

(5) Sri Lanka (civil war)

The fighting in Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) has been stop-start since 1983. The Hindu rebels (Tamil Tigers) are fighting against the Buddhist government forces (Sinhalese). One of the disciples I have been in contact with shares: "Our country is still in bad shape. Our Bible study group is trying to put a relief package together for the innocent civilians who are torn apart in this war. It's almost the same situation as in Gaza. Apart from these depressing issues, God has been extremely merciful to me. I am married and have two kids, 12 and 8. We moved to Colombo [the capital] from India in 2003. We used to work full time for the church, but resigned and took up regular employment in 1999. I'm pursuing an MA in biblical studies, and will stay here till God reveals His plans further..."