



International Teaching Ministry of
Douglas Jacoby

Issue 15: Year in Review, Synagogue Debate, 2010 Podcasts

14 December 2009

Dear Friends of the International Bible Teaching Ministry,

Season's Greetings from Atlanta. It is good sometimes to look back and take stock of how God has moved in the course of a year. This newsletter is a synopsis of 2009. Reviewing all that's been accomplished, three things strike me: the persistent thirst of so many disciples desiring deeper biblical teaching; how long a year it has been (a jam-packed year, which feels like *two* smushed together); and yet (still) how many needs remain unmet. Although there is far to go, positive signs are everywhere.

As I communicate with brothers and sisters from Santiago to Anchorage, Reykjavik to Capetown, Moscow to Hong Kong, Kuwait to Melbourne, I sense a genuine **love for God's word** and desire to grow. And as I travel globally, I'm constantly reminded of the **mission**. Such places as Panama, Bangladesh, and Colombia come to mind -- churches intent on evangelizing their cities and nations. Moreover, there are a number who have become Christians through this ministry, particularly in Asia and the Americas. It is always especially thrilling to meet new brothers and sisters in whose journey I've played a small part. It is, after all, the Lord who does the work. We are never more than the little girl who stands by her mother's side, stirring the soup, and yet proudly exclaiming, "Look what I did!" I also feel **gratitude** for what I have been given: education, the tools of technology, a good standard of living, and everything else that comes with living in a modern western society. I say this because, in so many cities I visit, church members' salaries are only a few dollars a day. I have so much, but at times complain about what I don't have. They have so little, yet understand their true treasure. Last, I often witness the **power of the Spirit** to change lives. In my travels I meet so many Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists who have come to faith (India, Iraq, Korea); people who've overcome trauma, such as civil war, natural disaster, or leadership challenges (Uganda, New Orleans, Venezuela); and many seemingly entrenched atheists who have renounced their atheism (Norway, Ukraine, Moldova). May many more be reached for Christ through this ministry, even more in 2010 than in 2009.

When I stop and think, I feel so small: how significant is the role I play on the stage of life, amidst thousands and millions of others who enter, say their lines, and depart. The one constant, the central figure in the spotlight, is Jesus Christ. As Paul said, "For we do not live to ourselves alone" (Romans 14:7). International teachers are members of **teams**: local teams of elders, preachers, and other leaders, and equally part of the worldwide brotherhood of believers.

Below you can see at a glance the overall impact of the 2009 ministry. Be sure also to take a peek

at the exciting podcast plan for the New Year, at the end of the bulletin. But first, I'm eager to tell you about the latest IPI release, a debate/dialog with content, passion, and spontaneity. Keep reading....



Rabbi Shmuley

PEACE DEBATE AVAILABLE

Who was Michael Jackson's spiritual adviser? And who is Oprah's favorite rabbi? That would be Shmuley Boteach (pronounced bo-TAY-ah). Would you be interested in watching a lively debate between yours truly and Rabbi Shmuley -- IPI's latest release? The event took place at Manhattan's Safra Synagogue, and this was our second debate. In fact, in April 2010 Vicki and I will share a Shabbat meal with Rabbi Shmuley and his family. (He and Deborah have 9 children!) Please say a prayer that during our third time together, Christ will be glorified. Click to **ORDER** the debate.

NATIONS VISITED IN 2009

Africa: Kenya (Nairobi), Uganda (Kampala)

Asia: Bangladesh (Dhaka), Dubai (Dubai City), India (New Delhi), Singapore (Singapore), South Korea (Seoul)

Europe: Hungary (Budapest), Italy (Rome), Moldova (Chisinau), Norway (Oslo, Bergen), Sweden (Stockholm), Ukraine (Kiev), United Kingdom (Manchester, London)

South America: Colombia (Cali), Guyana (Georgetown), Venezuela (Caracas)

North America: Canada (Vancouver), Panama (Panama City), Trinidad (Port of Spain), United States (Athens, Atlanta, Bloomington, Boston, Denver, Houston, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New Orleans, Orlando, Phoenix, Tuskegee, Washington)

Support helped other teachers to visit: Botswana (Gaborone), Iraq (Kurdistan), Namibia (Windhoek), and South Africa (Johannesburg)



NATIONS RECEIVING FREE TEACHING MATERIALS

Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Kenya, Moldova, Nigeria, the Philippines, Russia, Uganda, Ukraine, and the U.S. (less wealthy Christians in the states and territories).



In La Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia

UNIVERSITY LECTURES GIVEN IN 2009

Arizona State University, Georgia Tech, Harvard University, Houston Baptist University, La

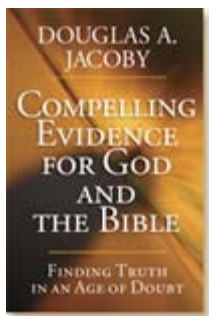
Universidad Javeriana, La Universidad del Valle, Pepperdine, Southern Polytechnic, University of Georgia, and La Universidad Nacional Experimental Politecnica de la Fuerza Armada.



2009 AIM SESSIONS

Georgia (4 sessions); diplomas were presented this year at the Atlanta Metropolitan Christian Church and at the North River Church of Christ (Marietta). Foreign programs include Stockholm (1 session for European Bible School); West Africa (inching forward but currently seeking more funding); and the Ukraine (2 sessions, Russian). This Russian language program has nearly concluded. Students are feverishly preparing for the final examinations, and graduation is in 2010.

The AIM Board met today, and we are currently discussing plans to bring the 150 hours of recorded lessons to as many nations as possible. Look for some interesting developments in the near future...



The next book

NEW TEACHING MATERIALS IN 2009

- Debate 3 (Evolution), Debate 4 (Peace), and Debate 5 (Jesus) all published on DVD.
- *Jesus & Islam* (book), postscript by Abdel Aziz Sarah. Kudos to Toney Mulhollan and the IPI team, who have now produced some 80 books and audiovisual products.
- Baptism: The Water that Divides (DVD), recorded live at the University of Georgia. A lively evening! Recorded and edited by Byron Thompson, a professional videographer who works with the Jacques Cousteau family.
- A Christian Response to the Global Financial Crisis (my first podcast), available at both websites.
- *La Aljaba* (Spanish version of our parenting book, *The Quiver*). Order at IPI site.
- 52 Old Testament character studies (podcasts, all available at jacobypremium.com).
- 4 more books are in the pipeline. Next out: *Compelling Evidence for God & the Bible* (March 2010).



Fred Gray

OTHER COOL STUFF

- In early '09, we launched a **new website**, jacobypremium.com. Has weekly podcasts and 100s of pages of material for deeper study. Special thanks to Chad Garber, my web manager.
- Interviewed **Fred Gray** (lawyer for Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks) -- at YouTube, 8 mins long. Many thanks to Michael Brouder for filming and editing this event. When you listen to the file, try to guess what church Fred attends!

- Met with the leaders of the **American Scientific Affiliation** at their headquarters in Ipswich, Massachusetts. After theology and history, I find science utterly captivating. Our family reads *Scientific American*. I am a member of the ASA and greatly enjoy their journal. For more, visit asa3.org.
- We started a home **Bible discussion**, specifically focusing on current / challenging topics (the economy, crime & punishment, Islam & terrorism, etc). Attended by Christians, Jews, atheists, and other seekers.
- Finally joined **FaceBook** (5000 friends worldwide, the maximum allowed). Good fun!
- Debated Robert Price of the *Jesus Seminar*. (Thanks, John and Foster, for making this possible!)
- Spoke at the **Pepperdine Bible Lectureship**, an annual event featuring 300 speakers. Will speak there again in 2010. I had lunch with the organizer in London in 1987, and we've been in touch ever since.
- **15th Annual International Teachers' Seminar**, in Marietta, Georgia. This year focused on (1) biblical education & ministerial training, and then (2) the problem of prejudice & separation in the church. This was a tremendous occasion of open discussion and healing among leaders in the Atlanta family of churches! The mp3 is available through ipibooks.com, and is sure to make you think.
- Served under Steve Staten (Chicago) on **Teaching Committee** (Ministry Education and Teaching). Advisory Board member of **Strength in Weakness Ministries** (for those struggling with same-gender attractions), ably led by Guy Hammond (Halifax, Nova Scotia).
- Led the annual **Biblical Study Tour** -- this year to Rome and Pompeii. Saw the Forum, Colosseum, Catacombs, Mt. Vesuvius, and much more. Next year we'll be in London (plus Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon). Join us, learn about the world empires in the background of Bible history; how the Bible came together and why so many ancient manuscripts are now in London; the role of Britain in church history; Oxford, the city of C.S. Lewis; Stratford too, as we study the role of the Bible in Shakespeare. And enjoy the international fellowship! Details at main website.
- Signed a third contract with **Harvest House Publishers**. In 2007 Vicki and I prayed for a "publishing breakthrough." By year end I found an agent. In 2008 we got a contract, and in 2009 signed two more. Of course I continue the relationship with DPI, IPI, who since 1986 have helped me publish nearly 50 books, CD sets, and DVD series. Harvest House, as one of the largest Christian publishers in the country, is giving a big boost to the international teaching ministry.
- Connections built with a dozen **scholars and university professors** in the US and Canada. One thing that impresses these men of faith is their accessibility. They can be reached by email, telephone, and even enjoy sitting and chatting face-to-face. For example, last month I talked with New Testament scholars Ben Witherington III, James Dunn, and Craig Keener, philosophers Timothy McGrew and William Lane Craig, and apologists Gary Habermas, Michael Licona, and Greg Koukl. For many years their books and insights have motivated me. To meet them face to face is an honor indeed.
- Attended the **apologetics conference** of the Evangelical Philosophical Society. This was my "continuing education" for 2009. (After all, teachers need to be taught, too.)
- **Email contact** with disciples in over 100 nations. 1000s of Bible questions answered in 2009. Special thanks to those who are now helping me field some of the questions (especially you, Jason!), as the amount of correspondence has become overwhelming. (But keep 'em coming!)



PODCASTS

After weekly Old Testament podcasts in 2009, in next year we'll head in an entirely different direction. Join me in discovery as Bible sheds light on such issues as *euthanasia, marijuana, stem cell research, capital punishment, birth control, astrology, the gender of God, cloning, Mormonism,*

ghosts, warfare, the Tribulation, "tongues," lawsuits, ecology, politics -- and dozens more current topics. Many Christians have not clearly thought through their positions. A great opportunity to become more informed, speak knowledgeably about social issues, and strike up interesting conversations with outsiders. Sound interesting? Subscribe at jacobypremium.com.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

A subscription to the premium site makes a stimulating Christmas present. You can also gift a subscription to someone in another nation, as long as he or she has internet access. If you're interested in this possibility, please reply and suggest the nation(s) you'd like to help. You can also order books, CDs, and DVDs from ipibooks.com; these too make practical and reasonably priced gifts.



YOUR SUPPORT

Of course, this ministry is only possible because of generous financial support. You who have underwritten the International Bible Teaching Ministry know who you are, and we hope you feel *our appreciation* as well as *confidence* that your donations have been spent. We also thank you for your prayers, notes, moral support, and camaraderie as together we work to spread the gospel. Naturally, **end-of-year donations** are welcome (main website > support).

Thank you for subscribing to the newsletters of the International Teaching Ministry. We hope these updates have given you vision, and touched your heart. Please keep us in your prayers.

Until January,

Happy Holidays,
Douglas & Vicki



The Jacobys (L to R): Vicki, Lily, Emma, James, Douglas. Picture credit: Cameron Mackenzie. Not pictured: two cats and a dog. Location: North River Church of Christ.

