

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby

International Bible Teaching Ministry Update

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LATIN AMERICA & ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"



All newsletters available at the main website, douglasjacoby.com. This website contains over 8000 pages of (free) material. The second (subscription) website contains advanced N.T. studies as well as weekly O.T. podcasts. That address is jacobypremium.com.

Note: Please ensure your email software is set to download pictures.

8 June 2009

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Georgia! Our family are just returning from the Great Britain, and are happy to share that one of the cousins was just baptized (Alex, 16). He and his parents are part of our sister church in Birmingham. Along with my wife and our children, my mother, my brother, his wife, and nearly all of his kids, there are now 15 disciples in the extended family. God is moving!

It's been five weeks since the last newsletter -- I'm a little behind. Much of my time has been consumed in the manuscript for my new book, *Why Believe in God?*, as well as in debate preparation. June 13th I square off against "Christian atheist" Robert Price at Houston Baptist University. Your prayers are appreciated -- for me *and* for him!

This newsletter features reports from Panama and Cali (Colombia). This particular trip also included speaking in Venezuela (church and university), Guyana (featured in an earlier newsletter), and Trinidad (a layover that provided time for lunch with a dozen disciples plus a

long, rambling theological discussion on medical ethics, politics, and various biblical doctrines -- fun!). I'd also like to invite you to consider attending a special seminar, *Archaeology and the Bible*, to be held in Marietta, Georgia, 10-12 July. Hope you're moved by what you read.

Yours sincerely,
Douglas

FROM PANAMA
by Horacio Del Castillo

Note from DJ: I was able to visit our brothers and sisters in Panama twice on my recent Latin American tour. The first time was just for a late-night Panamanian dinner and time for questions, as I was en route to Venezuela. The second time was during a 12-hour layover en route to Colombia. I landed early enough to preach, have lunch, and hold an afternoon workshop. The atmosphere in the church was electric, and I certainly hope to return to Panama one day. I have translated Horacio's upbeat report into English, though if anyone prefers the Spanish original, just let me know and I will be happy to forward it.

One thing that encouraged me as a preacher was realizing (as I took my seat after my sermon) that the majority of the audience were visitors. Last, if you are ever flying to Central or South America, consider using Copa, the Panamanian national airline. That way you can drop in on Horacio and the Panama congregation!



Hello, brothers and sisters! We want to share with you that we had a great time with the visit of Douglas Jacoby to Panama, where the brothers had the opportunity to meet him and to pose questions on subjects about which they were concerned. For example, to a brother who is a vegetarian and insisted to Douglas that one must be vegetarian, based on the book of Genesis, Douglas gave a very good explanation -- and then, as he was enjoying Panamanian cuisine, he invited the brother to have a piece of *chicarron de puerco*!

Douglas came on a Thursday, and spent a while dining with us brothers who received him. There was only time to eat and be together, but he returned Sunday for church with *La Iglesia de*

Caracas, and gave us a great biblical study on *Marriage and the Plan of God*, based on the book of Ruth. It was good because it helped strengthen the doctrinal conviction of the church, e.g. how those couples who live together without being married, and aren't under the conviction of the scriptures (even though our permissive culture is very strong on this point), cannot be disciples and ought not to call themselves Christians. It was very good that he publicly affirmed God's high expectations for denominations and churches which claim to be under the scriptures, yet are wrongly motivated by large memberships and money, changing the truth of God and confusing people...



It was also a great help to firm up the conviction of the church for engaged couples, who ought to live in holiness and not be impatient, but to consider the example of biblical characters, like Jacob, who was patient about marriage, and Shechem, who was impatient (and met a terrible end), in the book of Genesis [29 and 34].

Then Sunday afternoon he gave a class to us leaders, including a group of qualified [biblically trained] brothers, on "Biblical Interpretation," and it helped us a lot. It gave me personally a lot of helpful tips on how to teach better: by projecting my voice, instructing other, preparing classes, doing translation work, and pushing the church to go deeper in its biblical study. It helped a good many brothers, reminding us that though we have everything we need to be able to serve Christ [2 Peter 1:3-4], we shouldn't think that we have arrived and know it all. We can grow and know Jesus better, and that's the purpose of Bible study -- not to get all academic. It was a very profound and refreshing class on 2 Peter, which he called the letter of knowledge in the N.T., besides many other points on which we brothers left the session very fired up.

We left to drop off Douglas at the airport and met up afterwards; many recognized we'd only been doing what was convenient, and had even become proud in thinking that we knew what we were doing. We realized this because he showed us things in own life, in areas in which we greatly lacked... He said, "I haven't arrived, but I keep pushing myself to learn," and "A church

which isn't [biblically] trained is in great peril." This really helped us to be able to follow up on the needs of family leaders and sector leaders, and personally to always see our the need as leaders to keep growing.

As we left Douglas he expressed that he was very excited to present these themes, and the day he said good-bye he departed for our sister church in Cali. We are very fired up that those present included several married couples who are already studying, others being restored, and others who are just beginning to study, whose needs were met. May you receive many greetings and a big hug.

We love you in Christ,
Horacio Del Castillo

FROM CALI, COLOMBIA
by Fabio Miguel Castellanos

Note from DJ: The church I visited in Cali has 18 members, and just 5 in the campus ministry. The visit to Cali was made as part of a four-nation tour, involving Guyana, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia.

Back in 2003 I promised Fabio I would come to Cali, though it might be a few years. At last everything worked out -- thanks to all of your who support this ministry financially -- and I am so glad I was able to spend a few days with this faithful and spirited congregation. They are to be commended for their faith.



The few days Dr. Douglas Jacoby spent with the church of Christ in Cali were very enjoyable! His first night with us he presented an inspiring missions report, and the second night a brilliant lesson on *Genesis, Science & History*. He also lectured at two local universities, La Universidad Javeriana and La Universidad del Valle. 125 college students heard strong arguments for the reliability of the scriptures and the existence of God. Of this number, 55 expressed a desire to learn more about God, so we have lots of follow-up to do! Now, our work is cut out for us!

We are very grateful to God, and also to Douglas' financial supporters, for the recent visit. This not only motivated us in our faith, but was also an important evangelistic tool, enabling us to reach out to students from several different universities.

**A FAITH-BUILDING OPPORTUNITY:
ARCHAEOLOGY & THE BIBLE
2009 C-AIM**

Last year's AIM session with David Bercot was a hit. Thanks for your interest and for the great attendance! This is a reminder about the 2009 C-AIM event. *Archaeology and the Bible* will be offered 10-12 July. We think this could be a great event for strengthening Christians' faith – and others'!

John Wilson, our guest speaker, is a university professor (Pepperdine) and professional archaeologist. John Oakes is a university professor in Chemistry & Physics, and travels worldwide, speaking on apologetics. Foster Stanback has an excellent class on OT archaeology, which he taught at the teachers' seminar in Egypt (last July). In addition, Joey Harris and I will present a class on biblical archaeology. A highlight of the conference will be the visit to Emory University's excellent [museum](#).

The seminar is only ten dollars each day, or twenty-five dollars for the entire weekend. The price includes the admission to Emory University's museum, plus drinks and snacks. *Come to part or all of the weekend*. The weekend will also be filmed, producing a DVD set (just as we did last year).

Friday evening 10 July

7:00-7:30 Reception (drinks/snacks)
7:30-7:45 Intro: "Why Archaeology is Important" – Douglas Jacoby
7:45-8:45 "The Wild World of Archaeology" – John Wilson
9:00 Closing prayer

Saturday 11 July

9:00-9:30 Reception
9:30-10:30 "Evidence for the Exodus" – Foster Stanback
10:45-11:45 "Archaeology in Evangelism" – John Oakes
12:00-1:00 "Excavating the Holy Land" – John Wilson
2:30-3:30 "Archaeological Highlights: O.T. and N.T." – Douglas Jacoby/Joey Harris

3:45-5:00 Question time / Panel discussion

Sunday 12 July

8:30-9:30 "Digging Deeper" – John Wilson

10:00-11:30 Worship with North River Church of Christ

2:00-3:00 Special visit: Emory University Museum

ASSORTED REMINDERS (please check)

* **PODCASTS:** Have you explored the new website? Podcasts uploaded (second website) in 2009 include not only a Response to the Global Financial Crisis, but also 24 O.T. character studies. with a new lesson every week.

* **PREJUDICE IN THE CHURCH:** Program at main website. Includes messages by prominent black, white, and Arab speakers, a racial case study on the Atlanta congregations, and visit to Martin Luther King Center. 10% off for all signing up before July. And churches sending 10+ participants save 50%!

* **ROME:** There are still spaces available for the October 2009 Biblical Study Tour. Complete info at main website.

* **CAN YOU HELP?** This international teaching ministry is largely supported by donations. Would you like to become a monthly supporter? We need you. If yes, please click [here](#).