

# International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby

## International Bible Teaching Ministry Update

2009 Issue 9  
SCANDINAVIA & GREAT BRITAIN



"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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

14 June 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Houston! (Actually, I'm writing from the tarmac!) The 2009 International Christian Evidences Seminar ([EvidencesForChristianity.org](http://EvidencesForChristianity.org)) has just concluded, with such speakers as Everett Ferguson (Abilene Christian University), Bob Kurka (Lincoln Christian Seminary), and Denis Lamoureux (St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta), to name a few. The classes were excellent and stimulating. The entire set (13 lessons) is available through IPI.

I myself taught classes on *Dealing with Doubt*, in addition to taking part in an evidences Q&A panel and leading a lunchtime discussion group on *Apologetics and Evangelism*. Participants in the seminar, held at Houston Baptist University, came from the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and Mexico, and the age range was 18-80! Thanks to John and Jan Oakes, Foster Stanback, Kedron Jones, and others who made this conference a success.

Last night was my debate with eminent skeptic and self-styled "Christian atheist" Robert Price.

The topic was *Jesus: Man, Myth, or Messiah*. Dr. Price attempted to discredit biblical Christianity by suggesting that the gospel accounts of Jesus are only extensive and sanctified borrowing from Homer, Josephus, Euripides, and the Old Testament. The resurrection of Christ is utter myth; in fact, Jesus died for no one's sins. Most scholars, however, see in the historical and biblical materials nothing of the kind. Several noticed that Price's arguments were only a warmed-up rehash of eccentric notions presented in his bestselling books, like *Jesus is Dead*, *The Incredible Shrinking Son of Man*, and *The Empty Tomb*. Although we did not agree about who Jesus is, the interaction was respectful, and today Dr. Price joined us at church in Houston.

This was my fifth public debate, and it should be ready in DVD form by the end of the month. By the way, debate 3 (October 2008, on *Evolution*, held at the University of Florida) was released yesterday, and you can find it at [ipibooks.com](http://ipibooks.com). Look for a report of the debate in an upcoming newsletter. Debate 4, which is a dialog between Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, Rabbi Elie Abadie, and me, will also be ready very soon.

This morning, it was also a pleasure sharing a world report at church in Houston. The church is spirited and growing. This is also where my primary publisher, IPI, is located.

Tuesday I head to East Africa (Kenya and Uganda). On the way home I will also speak in the United Arab Emirates. As always, thanks a million for all your prayers, and special thanks to all of you who prayed for last night's event.

Yours in Him,  
*Douglas*

**FROM NORWAY**  
**by Katrine Yttrehus**

*From DJ: My recent Scandinavian trip took me to the Norwegian cities of Oslo and Bergen, and then to the Swedish capital, Stockholm, where our family lived 1989-92. Besides the wonderful fellowship, high latitude, and snow (and a lot of great Nordic and Asian food), I also taught in the European Bible School (see below). The congregation in Oslo, the capital of Norway, has about 50 members, and is led by Sigmund and Anne Lise Barø, who are a light-hearted but hard-working couple. I certainly enjoyed my time in Oslo.*

*The church in Bergen, a coastal city and in my opinion one of the most beautiful cities in the world -- and Oslo isn't ugly! -- has seen several become Christians in the last few weeks, including an Iranian Muslim. All over the world the gospel is bearing fruit (Colossians 1:6)! Katrine, who penned the following report, is the wife of Ronny Yttrehus, a native Norwegian ministering among the congregations in his homeland. Both have tremendous hearts for learning, and Ronny is not only a graduate of AIM, but an AIM Board member and liason for the Western European AIM program.*

*Here is Katrine's report on my visit to Bergen.*

"Hello! The small church in Bergen, Norway, had the privilege of benefiting from Douglas' considerable Bible knowledge. First, we had a fellowship meal in our home, which brought together 16 disciples and their children. Then Douglas showed an inspiring slideshow and taught on the importance of daring to ask questions, and how doubt can be something positive (and necessary) if it motivates us to wrestle with our faith and dig deeper into the Bible.



"At the end of our evening, we had an extended Q&A session. He then shared with us many useful tips for our Bible study, plus advice about using extrabiblical material and tools. I personally appreciated how he helped us see that we can often find the answers to our questions *ourselves*, given the right tools."

### **STOCKHOLM: EUROPEAN BIBLE SCHOOL**

The EBS usually meets in Budapest, Hungary (where I have often taught) or in Geneva, Marselleiles, or some other accessible European city. This spring classes were in session in Stockholm. The topic: Old Testament. The brothers and sisters came together from Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and other locations. The fellowship was great, the eagerness to learn superb.

How's your Old Testament knowledge?



## **GREAT BRITAIN**

My mother-in-law turns 75 this year, and to take advantage of a rare opportunity to get the British family together, we used dollars and airmiles to bring the American Jacobys to northern England, where many of our UK relations now live. (You can see Kendal near the middle of the map below.) In connection with this visit I was able to speak in Manchester (24 May) and London (31 May).

Manchester lessons were *Why I Am A Christian* (evangelistic) and, after our fellowship lunch, a world report. London lessons included *The Holy Spirit, 1 Peter 4* (sermon), *Jesus & Islam*, and "Our Journey So Far," a personal reminiscence of the early days of London plus a number of spiritual lessons we've learned through the years. This last lesson Vicki and I taught together, and seemed to touch hearts.

As always, it is a joy to visit old friends. We are especially edified by the spirit of the UK congregations, and their visible growth in confidence, spirit, and numbers.

Of historical interest, Vicki and I broke away to explore Hadrian's Wall, the second century Roman structure separating Britain from Scotland. This is only an hour or two away from Kendal. The wall marked the northwest frontier of the Roman Empire. The B&B where we stayed even included stones from the Wall, one inscribed by the Roman commander who had completed that section of this famous landmark. Of course, while the kingdoms of men are interesting to study, nothing beats the Kingdom of God!



## ASSORTED REMINDERS

\* **PODCASTS:** Have you explored the new website? New podcasts are uploaded weekly at [jacobypremium.com](http://jacobypremium.com).

\* **ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR:** This event has been postponed until 2010. (Too many events this summer.)

\* **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%! Many will be coming to the seminar from the Atlanta area, but also from all over the country.

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

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

