

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2010 Issue 6 -- Radio silence, Homosexuality, Continuing Ed, Wedding in Africa!

"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, O.T. podcasts, and weekly podcasts on hot issues. That address is jacobypremium.com.

18 October 2010

Dear Friends,

A warm and long overdue hello from Atlanta! To be honest, the last few months I dropped off your radar screen because of the workload plus some health challenges. It's been a tough stretch emotionally and physically. I had to cancel my African trip (I *should* be writing to you from Ethiopia). Wise people know how pressure affects them and their loved ones, whereas I seem to have a problem canceling *anything*, somehow equating any plans made public with the Lord's will. Despite the counsel of Proverbs 6:1-5, for me backing out of a commitment feels like a compromise, a failure. So please continue to pray for this ministry, and for this teacher to have the wisdom to strive for faithful yet realistic goals.

Silence broken!

Having apologized for over 100 days of silence, I do want to bring you up to date. Since the last bulletin:

- *Oregon*. While speaking in Portland I enjoyed the hospitality of Steve and Lisa Johnson, even though Lisa is suffering from lymphoma and considerable pain -- such a gracious person. Steve lent me his car and I drove a couple hours south to Eugene, for a productive day with the Harvest House staff. In Portland I also had the privilege of addressing a group of recovering addicts and prostitutes at the Agape Church of Christ, through the ministry of Ron Clark. You may know Ron through his bestselling book on domestic abuse, *Setting the Captives Free: A Christian Theology for Domestic Violence*.
- *Texas*. Opportunity for great fellowship and barbecue with Dallas elders, as well as to teach the church on how to think biblically (navigating the black, white, and gray of scripture).
- *Tennessee*. Much-needed time with fellow teachers and preachers. Curriculum development in Nashville.
- *Anniversary*. Vicki and I celebrated 25 years of marriage. Also on the family side, our eldest began graduate studies in chemistry at Georgia Tech.
- *Florida*. International Leadership Conference, Miami. Fellowship with brothers from Europe,

Africa, South America, Asia, the Middle East -- so many old friends. And I suspect I mean "old" in both senses of the word :).

- *Ohio*. "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" The Columbus church has been very supportive of the international Bible teaching ministry for many years.
- *Nova Scotia*. First time back to Halifax since I was a teenager (Canadian relatives). Our youngest (16) accompanied me on this Canadian speaking trip. A very warm and giving local church.
- *Lincoln Christian University (Lincoln IL)*. Thanks to the excellent networking of Glenn Giles, an elder in the Denver Church of Christ, Lincoln Christian University is allowing Glenn, Steve Kinnard (NYC) and me to teach in Lincoln's accredited online MA program in Bible and Theology. Next autumn I'll teach apologetics.
- *Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince (Haiti)*. September's trip to Haiti deserves its own bulletin -- I promise to send it in a few days' time.
- *Atlanta*. Several lessons in the metro area (sister congregations).
- *New materials*. Earlier this month I submitted my book manuscript, *Your Bible Questions Answered*, which will be published in July 2011. I've also recorded many [new podcasts](#), including Astrology & Horoscopes; the Gender of God; thoughts on the Law, American Revolution, and the Civil War; and a lesson on Judging, Tolerance, and Exclusivism. Finally, if you visit the main website, douglasjacoby.com, you will notice a new (broader) look. Hope you appreciate the improvements.

ARS

For a number of years the International Bible Teaching Ministry has collaborated with the Apologetics Research Society (ARS), the apologetics ministry of Professor John Oakes. In San Diego I taught a series on the existence of God (every class was filmed, and it part of a meaty certificate program offered by the ARS). Later this month I'll fly to L.A. for for another ARS event, on Archaeology and the Bible. For more, click on the following link (ARS homepage).



2011 Biblical Study Tour: Israel & Jordan

The annual Biblical Study Tour will take place in Israel and Jordan, in October 2011. Special features: participating in an actual archaeological dig, an afternoon with a rabbi-archaeologist, swimming in the Dead Sea, and an evening on the Mount of Olives with Jews, Muslims, and Christians personally affected by the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Our hotels are in Galilee and Jerusalem. For those who want to take a couple of extra days afterwards, join us in Jordan!

Click [here](#) for details. (For those new to the BST, the 2010 tour took us to London and Oxford. We most often visit Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Israel.)



Helping those with same-Gender Attractions (AIM/SIW)

A few days ago AIM hosted Guy Hammond, evangelist in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and director of Strength in Weakness Ministries. SIW is carrying out top-notch pioneering work in promoting biblical understanding of the issues surrounding homosexuality in 75 cities worldwide. Together

with Andrew Lewis and F. LaGard Smith, I serve on the advisory board of SIW. In our day, the subject is crucial, and too seldom addressed. SIW effectively counsels disciples who are same-gender attracted, their spouses and siblings, and all Christ-followers who want to reach out to gay neighbors. Nearly 300 attended the Saturday evening session.

To order the 5-lesson AIM/SIW audio series, *Beyond Controversy and Fear: Helping Christians Deal with Homosexuality*, click [here](#).



Sharpening the sword in November

I'm stoked about November, when I get to "go (back) to school." From 17 to 23 November I'll take part in the McAfee Symposium on 1-3 John (Mercer University), the annual meeting of the Biblical Archaeology Society, the Evangelical Philosophical Society Conference (evidences), and the Society of Biblical Literature (attended by the world's top N.T. scholars). This allows me to be exposed to world class thinkers and (hopefully) be a better teacher. Along the same lines, last month I was honored to meet N.T. scholar Craig Evans (Canada), whose writing has benefited many of us. Over coffee in his home we discussed a few of his specialties (the Apocrypha, Septuagint, Dead Sea Scrolls), and also the need for sensitivity in teaching. I need continuing education; everyone does! If we stop working our muscles, they atrophy; if we stop learning, our minds stagnate. That goes double for preachers and teachers.

Wedding bells in French West Africa!

There's one last thing I hve to share. Several years ago this ministry raised funds for a series of operations for Beabylie Lakoussan, women's leader in Cotonou, Benin (West Africa). Her hip and leg were in great pain, and we pooled resources to save them. When we met during my 2007 Africa tour, her friends pleaded for our help. The teaching ministry doesn't normally meet medical needs, but we made an exception, appealing to you through the newsletters. The process was long and grueling (West African hospitals are not what they are in Europe or North America), but three operations later, success! Fast-forward three years, to an amazing note from the preacher in Cotonou. He had just *married* the sister whose operations many of you facilitated.



Beabylie Lakoussan and Stanislas Zoeli

For Stanislas' touching letter, click [here](#). Needless to say, his note and photo (posted for a month at the main website) brought tears to my eyes (and to many of yours).

From French West Africa to the French West Indies

How do they do it? How do the Haitians keep going amidst a time of severe grief and national tragedy? In the *next newsletter* I'll share a report on my recent trip. This will include scriptures that have helped the brothers and sisters in Port-au-Prince stay close to the Lord, as well as some of their personal messages to you. Thanks for keeping current with the ministry, and I especially value your prayers for wisdom.

Till next weekend,
Yours in Him,

Douglas Jacoby
International Bible Teaching Ministry

© Copyright 2003 - 2010 Douglas Jacoby. All Rights Reserved.