

# International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



## International Bible Teaching Ministry 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

All newsletters available at the main website, [douglasjacoby.com](http://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](http://jacobypremium.com).

### "TEACHING MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH TO THINK"

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27/02/2012

Greetings from balmy Atlanta, Georgia, where we are enjoying one of the mildest winters in recent memory...even as I am prayerful for our friends in Europe, who are struggling through a particularly harsh season.

This weather gives me more opportunities than usual to walk outside as I pray and reflect. As I look back on 2011, I am—as always—struck by the great privileges and responsibilities which the International Teaching Ministry affords. This year, I've shared meals, made memories, and built and renewed friendships with scores of disciples around the world, many of whom live in challenging situations, where it is not easy to live, period—much less to live as a Christian. Their faith inspires me; their courage challenges me; their humility humbles me. As we in the U.S. struggle with our own economic recession, I have also seen firsthand the face of dire poverty around the world; I am reminded that economic hardship is real, and yet we serve a big God—and he, not money, is always the answer.

One of my most memorable prayer walks this year was around the walls of Jerusalem during the fourteenth annual Bible Study Tour in Israel. Psalm 48:12-13 reads, "Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation." As I walked, my mind was filled with thoughts of the men and women of the Bible who have lived and died within those walls; of Jesus and the revolutionary religion he founded there; of the disciples living in Jerusalem today, and the many souls in Jerusalem who do not yet know Christ. It was a life-changing prayer; one of those you never forget.

This year ended with a bang, as I traveled to 7 nations on a tour of Asia. (To read the full Asian Tour report, click [here](#). Some of the year's exciting highlights for me included tours of Latin America, the Baltics, and the Middle East (I even experienced a bit of the upheaval that has wracked those nations); a debate with prominent Finnish atheist Robert Brotherus; the release of two new books: *The Ultimate Bible Quiz Book*, and *Your Bible Questions Answered* (both from Harvest House); and as a lover of science, I was thrilled to meet two of my heroes, faithful men who have made significant contributions to science: Francis Collins and John

Polkinghorne.

### **Personal**

Life marches on in the Jacoby family! My wife Vicki has begun work on a masters degree in Occupational Safety (the area of her bachelors degree; she worked two years for the British government before her employment as a women's ministry leader from 1985-2003). Our son (James, 23) spent several months helping the poor in Bolivia, and joined me on a week-long teaching trip to Argentina; our daughter Emma turned 21 and relocated to Athens, Georgia; our younger daughter Lily (18) is enjoying her final year of high school. It is strange to think that this year our nest will empty! In 2011 we also had the joy of seeing two more baptisms among our relatives (19 have been baptized in all, most of whom are still faithfully serving God).



Douglas & Vicki, Tallinn, Estonia

### **Thank you**

Before I move into a summary of the year's events, I want to thank all of you who support this ministry in so many different ways. Your prayers, Bible questions, words of encouragement, and donations are all vital to both my personal well-being and my ability to travel and teach.

### **Places**

This year, I logged 150,000 travel miles as I visited 23 nations. In every country, I was inspired by the faith, joy, and zeal I saw in the disciples and seekers I met. In many nations, the visitors far outnumbered the local church members. (In the Muslim nation of Lebanon, seekers outnumbered believers 15 to 1!) I am always amazed by the way that hunger for the word of God transcends culture, language, and boundary lines; and my travels continually remind me that people "in every nation under heaven" long to hear the good news.



Caesarea Maritima, headquarters of Pontius Pilate in the 1st century

The International Bible Teaching Ministry also sponsored visits to the nations of Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, and Ethiopia, for a total of 27 nations visited this year.

### **Quick Facts**

**U.S. States Visited:** Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, Florida, Georgia, California, New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts.

**Nations Visited:** Canada, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Paraguay, Argentina, Honduras, Nicaragua, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, India, Singapore, Bangladesh, Russia

**Universities Visited:** Cincinnati Christian, Pepperdine, Princeton, N.C. State, Eastern University and Dhaka University (Bangladesh), University of Tartu (Estonia), Stockholm University (Sweden), various universities in the Atlanta area.

**Nations Receiving Educational Materials:** United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, Estonia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Paraguay, Argentina, Honduras, Nicaragua, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Russia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Barbados, Nigeria, Latvia, Lithuania, and more



Bible Study Tour participants in Israel



Model of 1st-century Jerusalem, Israel Museum



Douglas & Vicki with Tom & Kelly Brown,  
partners in the gospel, North River Church of Christ

**Places Visited Virtually:** Chicago, Toronto, Lithuania, Mexico, and other Latin American nations

**Memorable Events:** It's tough to narrow down the list to a few highlights, as 2011 provided more eventful memories than I can count! Nevertheless, here are a few that stand out:

- Taught North Carolina churches about the Sermon on the Mount alongside longtime friends Joey Harris and Steve Kinnard at the Teaching Jubilee, sponsored by Triangle Church of Christ.
- Guided the fourteenth annual Bible Study Tour to Israel for a week of teaching and exploration of the Holy Land.
- Spoke on "Christianity and the Paranormal" aboard the Queen Mary.
- Invited to speak at Princeton University.
- Made radio "appearances" in 45 states and 5 nations.
- Appeared on TV in the Arab world.
- Taught in Egypt as the revolution was breaking out.
- Preached and taught in my home congregation, the North River Church of Christ in Marietta, Georgia, about 50 times. I especially enjoy teaching the middle school, high school and campus students.
- Served on the Teaching Committee for the International Churches of Christ.
- Became an adjunct professor at Lincoln Christian University, an institution of the Christian Churches.

But bullets and lists can never capture the full story of all I experience as I share the Word around the world.

- How can I convey the intensity of emotion in the room as I explained what the Bible says about suffering to Vietnamese Christians—people who have experienced greater tragedy than most of us can fathom? We all wept, and we could have talked all night.
- How can I capture the courage I saw in the eyes of Suleiman, an Egyptian preacher who has been interrogated several times by the police, yet remains in Egypt to serve God and his church?
- How can I describe the fear I saw (and felt) in cities like Beirut and Cairo, as demonstrations and riots erupted yet again?
- How can I depict the joy of seeing faith blossoming in the heart of a Muslim man who risked beating, imprisonment and even death in order to come hear about Jesus?
- How can I express my joy at seeing 25 Lebanese Christians bring 400 friends—many of them Muslims, atheists, and Hindus—to hear the word of God?
- How can I explain what I felt as Japanese disciples shared their stories of loss after the tsunami that destroyed so many lives?
- How can I do justice to the gratitude I saw overflowing in the hearts of disciples in Latin America, who have few material possessions, but are rich in joy and fellowship?
- How can I communicate how it felt to join brothers and sisters in walking the streets where Jesus walked, in touching the same trees that stood in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed there 2000 years ago?
- How can I convey the pleasure of reconnecting with lifelong friends who now serve on the mission field?

## People

My friends know me as an avid reader of history, theology, and science. I have always loved the way science informs and supports my faith and my awe in our great Creator. This year, at the Christian Scholars Conference held at Pepperdine University, I had the privilege of meeting two scientific pioneers, who are an inspiration to me in the ways they marry their intellect with their faith: Francis Collins, who headed up the Human Genome Project, and currently serves as Director of the National Institutes of Health; and John Polkinghorne, the British theologian-physicist (he is a physicist *and* an Anglican priest) who discovered the quark. I also had the honor of engaging some great minds in debate and dialogue, including skeptic Robert Brotherus in Finland, and several Muslim scholars in Bangladesh.



With my brother Steve at Sea of Galilee



With Ken Watson in Estonia



With Francis Collins, Director NIH

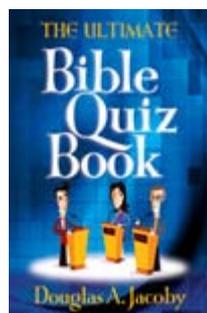
In all of my travels this year, I met hundreds of disciples and seekers whose passion for God and for knowledge inspired me. Here are just a few:

- Yodai, my Japanese translator, who told me the emotional story of how he found his relatives' city washed away by last year's tsunami.
- An 85-year-old man in Paraguay who held onto one of my books—a gift from his son—for 17 years before reading it. He got baptized soon afterward.
- A woman who serves God faithfully in Mongolia—the first Mongolian Christian I have ever met.
- Raghu Katragadda, an old friend who traveled 24 hours to meet me during my layover at the airport in Delhi.
- Hung and Hong, movie stars in Vietnam who now lead a growing church in Hanoi.
- Many brand new believers in Vietnam, who have found hope in a nation that has lost so much.

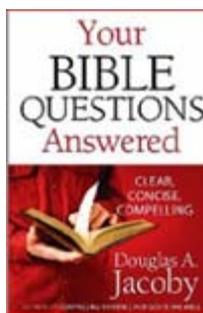
All of the Christians in Bangladesh, who have only had one other visiting speaker come to address them in many years...their faithfulness and hunger to learn were an upward call for me. (Many thanks to the donors who helped the International Bible Teaching Ministry raise enough money to fly Raghu Katragadda, the former Bangladeshi church leader, back to Bangladesh for a long overdue visit. In the coming months, Raghu will return to see old friends, strengthen the church, and give them a large quantity of donated teaching materials!)

### Book Releases

2011 saw the release of two more books from Harvest House:



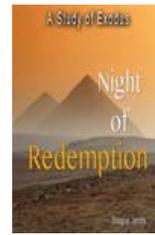
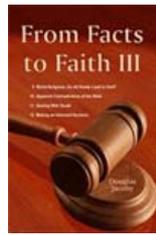
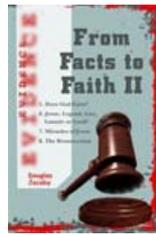
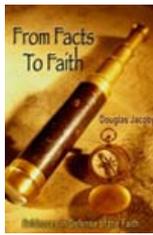
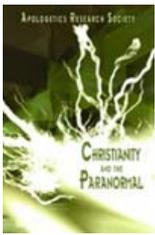
Click [here](#) to order your copy.



Click [here](#) to order.

### New this year from Illumination Publishers: 7 new audio series

Moving left to right: I had a blast teaching at the Paranormal conference, sponsored by the apologetics ministry of John Oakes; the 3-volume *From Facts to Faith* series (the first version of volume I was produced in 2005); *The Lion has Roared (Amos)* and *Night of Redemption (Exodus)* are biblical studies that will bring the Old Testament to life. *The Spirit & the Disciple* was recorded in Boston in 1998, but became a CD only in 2011.



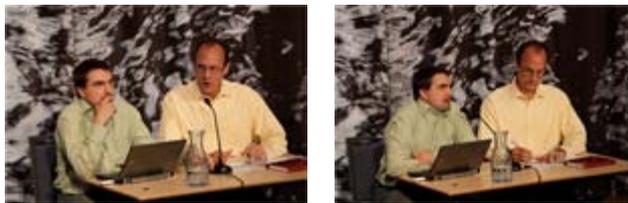
## Podcasts

In 2011, 50 podcasts were recorded, all of which are available through a subscription to the premium site, [www.jacobypremium.com](http://www.jacobypremium.com). Some of this year's memorable topics included:

- 2012 and the End of the World
- Rejoicing in the Death of Osama bin Laden
- Why Atheism Fails
- Is It Wrong to Be Rich?
- Harry Potter
- Seasonal studies focused on various monthly celebrations (New Year's, Christmas, Halloween...)
- What Happens After Death?
- NT character studies (about 70 lessons, to be completed in early 2013)

## Debate and Dialogue

In September, I traveled to Finland to debate prominent atheist Robert Brotherus. The lively debate on the topic *Is Christianity Rational?* can be viewed for free at this [YouTube link](#).



Jacoby-Brotherus debate, Helsinki 2011

In Bangladesh, I had the privilege of speaking on panels alongside eminent Muslim scholars and professors at Eastern University and Dhaka University. The dialogue was respectful but vigorous, and students posed challenging questions about Christianity and the disconnect between Jesus' teachings and the lifestyle of many who profess to be Christians.

## AIM

The Athens Institute of Ministry continues to equip Bible students and leaders with deeper knowledge, greater Bible proficiency, and greater confidence in teaching the Word. Through AIM and its predecessor, MTP, more than 2000 students have received 2-year certificates in Bible study! In 2011 we graduated a class of 40 students from West Africa, 6 from the Ukraine, and several others from the U.S. and the Caribbean.



With fellow AIM Instructor Joey Harris with AIM graduates from Fayetteville, North Carolina



With AIM graduates from Kiev, Ukraine

### Organizations and Continuing Education

I continue my involvement in organizations that help to further my own education and provide me with opportunities to meet experts in their fields:

- American Association of Christian Counselors
- American Scientific Affiliation
- Strength in Weakness Ministries
- Biblical Archaeology Society
- Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Society of Biblical Literature
- Attended Christian Scholars Conference at Pepperdine University
- Attended Pepperdine University Bible Lectureship
- Attended Stone-Campbell Church History Conference at Cincinnati Christian University
- Took another 10 classes (150 hours) on history, science, literature, and a variety of Christian subjects

### How You Can Help

The International Bible Teaching Ministry is only possible because of the generous support of people who wish to help spread the gospel worldwide. We are deeply thankful for all who support this ministry, and strive to honor your contributions—and above all, our great God—in all our efforts. If you wish to become a supporter, you can help in several ways:

1. **Become a monthly donor.** The International Bible teaching ministry is significantly dependent on donations in order to operate. We especially rely upon those who donate on a monthly basis. If you believe in this ministry, please indicate your interest at the main website, at [Support this Ministry](#). IBTM is a 501(c)(3), and all donations are deductible. Click [here](#) to become a donor.
2. **Become a premium subscriber ([www.jacobypremium.com](http://www.jacobypremium.com)).** Premium memberships cost \$36.50 a year (or ten cents a day...and the price is even lower when you sign up for 3 years) and provide access to a wealth of written material, including 500 advanced N.T. Bible studies, and hundreds of podcasts on current issues, thorny topics, and biblical characters. By subscribing, you are helping the ministry and boosting your own personal Bible study. You may also provide sponsorship for people in the developing world. [Click](#) to subscribe.
3. **Become an AIM sponsor.** The Athens Institute of Ministry was established in 2004 to train preachers, teachers, and serious Bible students. Biblical education is a deep need, and it is also the area in which I feel most called to serve. Sessions have taken place in Georgia, California, the UK, the Philippines, Sweden, Nigeria, and the Ukraine, as well as long distance by DVD or online. We are eager to offer scholarships to worthy students in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe. Your donations help students to participate who otherwise would not be able to afford the tuition. AIM is a 501(c)(3), and all donations are deductible. You may donate to AIM by clicking [here](#).
4. **Pray!** Whether you are in a position to help financially or not, you can always help with your prayers. Pray for the Lord to move through this ministry to increase biblical literacy worldwide (Isaiah 11:9); build unity through teaching (Ephesians 4:16); protect traveling teachers, especially in dangerous nations (Ezra 8:22); provide funding for the ministry (Philippians 4:17); raise up more men and women qualified and eager to teach globally and locally (2 Timothy 2:2); remove barriers to "thinking outside the box" (Ephesians 1:18); and exalt Christ in all things (2 Corinthians 4:2).

Thank you for subscribing to the newsletters of the International Bible Teaching Ministry. We hope this letter whets your appetite for the Word, builds your faith in God, and increases your vision for taking the Word to all nations. Again, I ask for your prayers as I continue teaching the Word in 2012: "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Yours in Him,

*Douglas Jacoby*

International Bible Teaching Ministry

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