

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



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International Bible Teaching Ministry 2012 Second Quarter Newsletter

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"TEACHING MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH TO THINK"

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2 July 2012
Atlanta, Georgia

The second quarter of 2012 has been packed with exciting events—most memorably, our daughter Lily's high school graduation. In a few short weeks, Lily will enter Pepperdine University. We are so proud of the young woman she has become and the strong faith she has developed throughout her teen years. We recently wrote about our experience in adopting Lily from China when she was just 14 months old, and you can read the full story [here](#).



The Jacoby family at Lily's graduation

Vicki and I recently returned from our annual visit to Toronto. I teach Canadian leaders regularly via WebEx, but it's always better to personally renew our friendships face-to-face.

Vicki spoke to a crowd of more than 500 women at their Women's Day, and I spoke at their Teaching Jubilee. Please scroll down to read about the trip from the Canadians' perspective.



In writing news, this spring I gave a number of radio interviews to promote my new book from Harvest House Publishers, [A Quick Overview of the Bible](#). I've also devoted a lot of time to research for my next book, *What's the Truth About Heaven and Hell?*, which will be released through Harvest House in 2013.

In April, we conducted an AIM session via WebEx for our students in Norway, Iceland and Denmark—18 classes in one intensive but inspiring weekend, all on New Testament Survey and Interpretation. In May, I enjoyed teaching more than 100 zealous college students from all over the Southeast at the North River Church of Christ's student internship program.

U.S. travel this spring has included visits with churches in Portland, Oregon; Sacramento, California; Nashville, Tennessee; Auburn, Alabama; and my hometown, Jacksonville, Florida. In May I traveled to Los Angeles, where I taught a mini-series on Jesus for the Coastal Region of the Los Angeles Church of Christ. Topics included history and apologetics.

I've also had the opportunity to attend two conferences for my own education and inspiration: The Pepperdine Bible Lectures, held at Pepperdine University, and the Christian Scholars' Conference, sponsored by Lipscomb University. Conferences like these provide exciting opportunities for spiritual growth, and for fellowship with other Christians and with scholars whose work informs my own. A highlight for me was spending time with Christian scholar and prolific author Jim McGuiggan.

You'll find many new podcasts at our premium (subscription) website, www.jacobypremium.com. In the weekly podcasts, I address biblical issues, along with world events and cultural trends that influence our worldview and thinking. Please listen to a recent podcast on the popular book series and movie [The Hunger Games](#).

This spring, the International Teaching Ministry was honored to sponsor Matt Anjilivelil on a visit to the Kuwait Church of Christ. Matt, who helped to start that church, was eager to return and minister to a congregation that does not receive many visits from disciples in other churches. (I was able to visit in 2011, and can assure you that this is a faithful community of believers!) Matt provided much-needed encouragement, counsel, and perspective for Christians in Kuwait. Many thanks to the supporters of the International Teaching Ministry—your contributions make visits like Matt's possible. Scroll down to the end of the newsletter to read Matt's report from Kuwait, and to see pictures from his visit.

If you'd like to hear to some of my recent sermons, click [here](#) to listen to my Father's Day sermon, titled "The Fifth Commandment" (Marietta, GA). To watch a video of "Entering the Kingdom" (Jacksonville, FL), click [here](#) for the message.

Up next: a lot of travel! After the World Discipleship Summit in San Antonio, Texas, I'll prepare for a six-week tour of Africa. I look forward to teaching and fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Uganda, Swaziland, South Africa, and Mozambique, with additional stops in the European nation of Georgia, and in Qatar, along the Persian Gulf. Vicki and Lily will join me for the first 25 days. I appreciate your prayers as I prepare for this adventure.

To close this newsletter, I include the reports from Kuwait and Toronto.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Douglas Jacoby

Special Report: Mission Trip to Kuwait by Matt Anjilivelil



The Kuwait Church of Christ

On Wednesday, March 14, my wife Sandy and I flew out to Kuwait for a family reunion. We were going to meet our spiritual children in the Kuwait Church of Christ. It was a bittersweet visit for us, as we were back there to celebrate and memorialize the life of Rachel D'Souza, who had just passed away after a two-year struggle with leukemia. The three of us had started the church planting back in 1999. As mission teams were being sent out in the '90s, it became apparent that the only way to enter the Persian Gulf countries was to have a job offer. Disciples from the US, India, the Philippines, and other countries sought jobs in these nations, often not realizing the conditions they would be working in. Although some of us had good job offers, others worked as domestic help, or took other menial jobs. Many made untold sacrifices to get churches started all over the Gulf.

The church in Kuwait is comprised primarily of Filipinos and Indians, with disciples from the US, Jamaica, Jordan, and South Africa rounding out the fellowship. Worship is on Friday (the Muslim day of worship), and the disciples meet in an area hotel. Most disciples work blue-collar jobs and make less than \$12,000 a year (this is still a princely sum for people coming from Third World nations). Temperatures soar beyond 126 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius) during summers. In spite of these difficulties, the time of worship is truly a family time. Sandy and I were overwrought with emotion, not only from the joy of being reunited with our children in the faith, but also because of their love and devotion to us and to each other. There were 45 in attendance at the worship that Friday, and I could not help but thank God for the work he has done, starting with the three of us.

Pray for your brothers and sisters in the small churches who have left their families behind to brave harsh climates, racial bias, long hours at work, and deplorable living conditions, all while continuing to show their joy. They are real heroes!

We are very grateful to the International Bible Teaching Ministry for helping us make this trip and connect with the church in Kuwait.



**Matt and his wife Sandy
in front of Kuwait Tower**

Toronto Bible Jubilee a Great Success

by the Toronto Leadership Team

The annual Bible Jubilee in Toronto, held May 11—13, 2012, was a tremendous success. The weekend kicked off with a Friday night women's event that lived up to its title, "For Inspiration Only." Vicki Jacoby spoke to a packed 500-seat auditorium with standing room only as she ministered to sisters and inspired them in their walk with God. Afterward, sisters said, "I was in tears most of the night—the atmosphere was electric," and "Vicki is so real, I was blown away by her conviction and authenticity."

While the women worshipped, Douglas met with the Canadian Steering Committee and senior staff men. He was able to field our questions and offer us input and perspective regarding our 2020 Vision plan, and other decisions we are facing as a leadership. The time was both encouraging and challenging, as we were reminded of proven leadership principles from God's word.

The Jubilee events continued with our deeper Bible study sessions on Saturday morning. A full house turned out as Douglas delivered two thought-provoking sessions complete with substantive question and answer sessions: "What Happens When I Die: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell" and "Paranormal Activity: The Truth Behind Ghosts, Goblins, and Psychic Phenomena." These topics were not only fascinating, but the investigative approach used by Douglas proved enlightening to seasoned Christians as well as to those new to the faith.

We are truly blessed to have a growing friendship with Douglas and Vicki, and our Canadian family is grateful for the partnership with Douglas's teaching ministry.