

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry 2012 Third Quarter Newsletter

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.

"TEACHING MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH TO THINK"

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**October 2012
Atlanta, Georgia**

"All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth" (Col. 1:6). I have seen this scripture in action firsthand during the past few months, and I can testify that it is as true today as it was in Bible times. Truly God's word is "living and active" (Heb. 4:12) all over the world—changing lives, transforming families, restoring hope.

During the past few months, I have spent more time abroad than at home. I have recently returned from a teaching tour that spanned the continent of Africa, with brief stops in Asia and the Middle East. Several weeks later, I also spent time in the United Kingdom, and followed that trip with some travels closer to home. I have returned from these travels jet-lagged in body but refreshed in spirit; there is nothing like seeing God's Spirit in action in other languages and cultures.

WEST AFRICA



GHANA

I started out a nine-nation tour of Africa by spending three weeks in the West African nation of Ghana with the Accra Christian Church. My wife, Vicki, and youngest daughter, Lily, joined me in Accra (the capital of Ghana) for the first half of the African adventure. While we were there, Ghana's beloved president passed away, and we were able to watch and pray as a grieving nation made a peaceful transition of power.

The fellowship in Accra has several hundred members, and during our visit the church celebrated its twentieth anniversary. All of the church's former staff members, along with several visiting speakers from other nations, traveled to Accra for a special anniversary service. Accra also hosted the West African Leadership Conference (Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and several other nations were represented).



20th Anniversary Service, Accra Christian Church

This was an inspirational time as the church remembered and celebrated all that God has done over the years. It was encouraging for me and Vicki to spend time with Charles and Pat Elikwu, who planted the church in Accra. Charles was part of our campus ministry in England in the 1980s.



Vicki & Lily in Cape Coast, Ghana

While my family was with me in Ghana, together as a family we conducted workshops for campus students, singles, and families. We addressed such pertinent issues as witchcraft, materialism, the health and wealth gospel (extremely popular throughout Africa), teachings about signs and wonders, favoritism toward boys and firstborn children, and even superstition surrounding albinism. We encouraged Christians to consider adoption, and shared what a blessing adoption has been for our family (Vicki and I adopted Lily from China when she was just a toddler). Because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Africa has a staggering number of orphans who need families.

I am always amazed by the hunger of disciples in other nations to learn about the word of God. One Nigerian evangelist traveled to Accra for our West African Leadership Conference, even though the day before he had been ill with malaria, typhoid, and dysentery! I was inspired and challenged by his desire to learn.

TOGO

Lily and I then spent a couple of days with the church in Togo, where we spoke several times and participated in the Benin/Togo reunion. Meanwhile Vicki was the speaker at the Accra Women's Day.



EAST AFRICA



KENYA

From Accra I traveled alone across the continent to East Africa. First stop: Nairobi, Kenya, to visit the 1600 members of the Nairobi Christian Church. In Kenya, I attended the East African Leadership Conference, where I met with 42 leaders from 6 African nations, some of whom traveled long distances to meet together to fellowship and learn. Leaders from Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and all over Kenya came together to learn about such practical topics as leadership principles, building and preserving unity, and putting together a sermon. I also addressed the church from the gospel of Luke, and spoke about prayer and fasting.



**Jane and John Maleya, Nairobi
Christian Church**

UGANDA

From Kenya, I traveled to Uganda, a nation plagued by witchcraft. Every year, 9,000 Ugandan children disappear and are never seen again—abducted and then sacrificed at the direction of witch doctors, or dismembered for the magical value of their organs. Many Africans consult witch doctors for everything from business decisions to advice about their romantic lives, and here the gospel of Jesus shines brightly in contrast to the dark shadow of witchcraft. The fellowship in Kampala, Uganda, a joyful community of about 200 Christians, asked me to equip them biblically to address witchcraft as they go about their daily lives and share the gospel with their family and friends.

Uganda has another dark part of its history: the dictatorial reign of Idi Amin, who ruled Uganda from 1971 to 1979. Whenever I visit nations, I make it a point to familiarize myself with their history—it's difficult to minister to people if you don't know where they're coming from. I paid a sobering visit to Idi Amin's torture chambers, where he killed several hundred thousand of his own countrymen.



Idi Amin's torture chambers

On a more positive note, I also visited the Ugandan Parliament building, a historic place. I even spoke there (to an audience of two!—no politics here).

ASIA



QATAR

Then it was on to the Persian Gulf, while I was "in the neighborhood" (if you consider 2,000-plus miles, or 3218 km to Qatar—as being in the neighborhood!). My first stop in Asia was the Qatari peninsula, where I did some teaching and missions sharing in Doha, the capital of Qatar. In Qatar, it is illegal for nationals to convert to Christianity, although foreigners are free to practice their own religion, and so the members of the fellowship I visited are mostly of Filipino and South Asian descent.



Image courtesy of
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/south-africa.htm>

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

From the Caucasus I flew 7,200 miles (11,587 km)—summer changed to winter as I crossed into the southern hemisphere—to South Africa. What a joy it was to speak about Christian evidences to a church in Port Elizabeth at an evangelistic event where the seekers outnumbered the believers! There I enjoyed rich fellowship with disciples who inspire me—men like Neil Trollip, faithful Christian and veteran triathlete.



The Trollips, Port Elizabeth

MANZINI, SWAZILAND

I then spent several days in Manzini, Swaziland. While there, I visited with a small, faithful band of Christians, and spent time at the African Christian College, where a friend of mine serves as the chairman of the board. I addressed first-year students on the topic of spiritual formation, second-years on hermeneutics, and third-years on the benefits of learning New Testament Greek. I enjoyed the hospitality of the Dean of Students, who put me up and even whisked me away for a visit to a game park.



Manzini, Swaziland



African Christian College, Manzini

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

From there I headed back to Johannesburg—I was there four times on this trip—and taught about parenting, the Holy Spirit, angels and demons, and witchcraft. I enjoyed reuniting with many friends I've made over the years, including the Pocta family (Americans who have made Johannesburg their home in order to establish a teaching ministry there), who gave me a place to work and sleep; and Justin Renton, evangelist in the Johannesburg church who is a great example of zeal and wisdom.



The Pocta family, Johannesburg



Johannesburg Christians

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

In Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, the church had an interesting request: they asked me to address the issue of the name of God. Some people in Mozambique are being taught that unless you know the mystical name of God, your prayers, baptism, and spirituality are unbiblical. The church in Mozambique had never had a Bible teacher come to teach them, and I was honored by their eagerness to learn.

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Next I enjoyed a brief stay in Durban, on the Indian Ocean, where I preached again on Christian evidences to a crowd filled with many who were seeking God. Duncan Comrie, passionate evangelist, serious cyclist, and AIM graduate, put me up.



With Duncan Comrie in Durban

LESSONS LEARNED

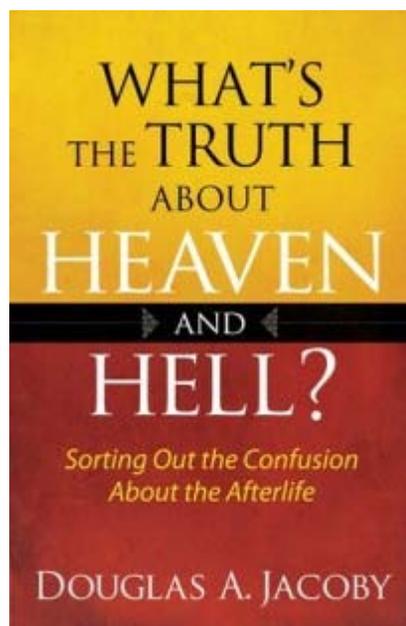
I concluded the African tour back in Johannesburg, and returned home to Georgia (the other Georgia—the American one!) with my faith invigorated and my spirits high. The lessons I learned from my travels could fill a dozen newsletters. My convictions are renewed about the importance of always moving forward as individuals and nations, no matter what our past holds; the need for global outreach—the world is hungry for God's word; the importance for Christians in every nation to remain counter-cultural, resisting the temptation to blend in to their own culture; and the continued need to strive for unity with the worldwide brotherhood of believers.

THANK YOU

I want to extend sincere thanks to all the brothers and sisters from North America, Africa, Europe, and Asia who have contributed to the International Teaching Ministry. Because of your donations, I was able to distribute \$7500 worth of books and teaching materials to disciples across Africa who hunger for access to Bible knowledge. (There are always ongoing needs for donations of this kind—please click [here](#) if you'd like to contribute.)

BACK HOME . . . BRIEFLY

While I was back in the United States for a few weeks, we held an AIM session on Apologetics & the Spirit, and then I devoted several weeks to completing my next book, *What's the Truth About Heaven and Hell? Sorting Out the Confusion About the Afterlife*. This book releases in April 2013 from Harvest House. Click [here](#) for more information.



THE UNITED KINGDOM

Then Vicki and I took back to the road—actually the sky—for a visit to our friends "across the pond," to visit our sister church in Manchester, England. The church in Manchester has seen a revival in spirit and zeal over the past few years, and we were inspired by their growth and passion as a "mature" church in the Lord. What a great example they are of Christians who continue to grow more enthusiastic and passionate for God as their faith is seasoned over time. While we were there, they saw their largest attendance in about a decade. Even now they are studying the Bible with a number of people they reached out to that weekend.

After our time in Manchester, Vicki and I shared the adventure of hiking Hadrian's Wall, which dates back to 122 AD and served as the northern boundary of the Roman Empire for several centuries. It spans northern England coast to coast, and it took us a week to hike the entire path. Along the way, we enjoyed breathtaking views like this one:



BIBLICAL STUDY TOUR 2013

We've recently announced plans for the 2013 Biblical Study Tour: In October, 2013, I will travel with a group to Athens, Corinth, Patmos, and Ephesus. For details about signing up for the trip, please click [here](#).

It's been an exciting few months in the Jacoby household, and I am grateful for all the experiences I've had, and the faithful Christians I've met around the world. I count it a privilege to be able to travel and teach as I do; to have the opportunity to fellowship with brothers and sisters around the world and to minister to their churches and their friends. Again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the supporters of the International Bible Teaching Ministry, who help to make visits like these possible.

May the Lord bless you and your family as we enter into the last part of 2012. In the words of Paul, "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

As for me, I would appreciate your prayers along these lines: "Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador . . . Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (Ephesians 6:18-20).

Douglas Jacoby