

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



Find Us On
facebook 

International Bible Teaching Ministry 2012 Annual Report

All newsletters available at the main website, douglasjacoby.com. This website contains over 8000 pages of (free) material. The second (subscription) website contains hundreds of podcasts. That address is jacobypremium.com.

"TEACHING MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH TO THINK"

To print this newsletter, find the pdf file by [clicking here](#).

1 January 2013
Atlanta, Georgia

*Look to the LORD and his strength,
seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
O descendants of Israel his servant,
O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.*

1 Chronicles 16:11-13

Memory is an important theme throughout the Bible. God always wants his people to remember: to celebrate blessings, commemorate victories, and even remember defeats so we can learn from the past. Every year, composing the annual report of the International Bible Teaching Ministry is an opportunity for me to look back on all that God has done through this ministry and in my life over the past year. And what a year it was!

2012 BY THE NUMBERS

- Total airline miles: 130,000
- Number of nations visited: 15
- Continents visited: 4
- Trips to California: 6
- Conferences attended: 35
- Radio interviews given: 30
- Public events with skeptics: 2
- Podcasts recorded: 50
- Value of educational materials donated: \$10,500
- Number of children left in our home: 0

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The biggest change in our family was that my wife, Vicki, and I became "empty nesters." We sent our youngest daughter, Lily, off to college at Pepperdine, and watched her flourish during her first year of college. Our son, James, who holds degrees from the University of Florida, is planning to teach high school, and our daughter Emma recently performed in the musical *Pippin*. Our family celebrated my mother's 80th birthday this year, and managed to convince her to allow us to throw her a birthday party for the first time (ever)!



**With my mother, Anita Jacoby,
at her 80th birthday party**

This year was an opportunity for Vicki and me to enjoy more time together than we've had in many years, and to do some traveling together. We spent a week walking along Hadrian's Wall, which traverses the United Kingdom—our first coast-to-coast hike. Lily and Vicki both joined me this summer for several weeks of teaching in African churches—a memory our family will always treasure.

Biblical manuscripts are an area of keen interest for me, and while Vicki and I were in Manchester, England, we visited the John Rylands University Library and saw the p52 manuscript for the second time. The p52 papyrus is a fragment of a Bible manuscript from John 18, and is the oldest biblical papyrus yet to be discovered, with the possible exception of a purportedly first-century manuscript from Mark, due to be published in 2013. Seeing p52 again in person was a faith-building moment that gave me such a sense of connection to history and to the Christians who have come before us.

On many of our trips, we reconnected with disciples we've known for many years: in England and Africa we reunited with partners in the gospel from our ministry days in London in the 1980s; in every Asian, African, American, European, and Middle Eastern city we visited, we enjoyed fellowship with friends from various points in our past. It was fun to reminisce about "the old days," even as we were encouraged to see all that God continues to do through and in our friends' lives as years pass. And it was a joy to make many new friendships that we will treasure for years to come.



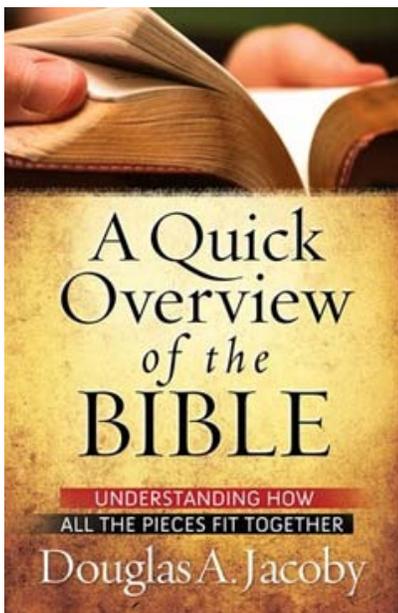
With Charlie Davies (Accra, Ghana)

NORTH RIVER

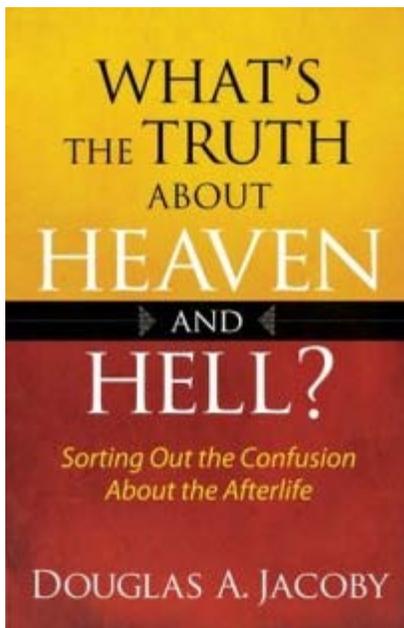
We continue to experience the joy of a thriving fellowship in our home congregation, the North River Church of Christ. The church here is always so supportive of the teaching ministry, and I could not do the work I do without their encouragement, prayer, and help. This year the teaching ministry had the opportunity to give back to North River a bit by bringing Arturo Elizarrarás to speak in our Atlanta city-wide Hispanic service. Vicki has continued to teach in the children's ministry and help in the singles ministry. I have been preaching, teaching, and studying the Bible with people in the Atlanta area, even though most of my ministry is outside the home congregation.

BOOKS

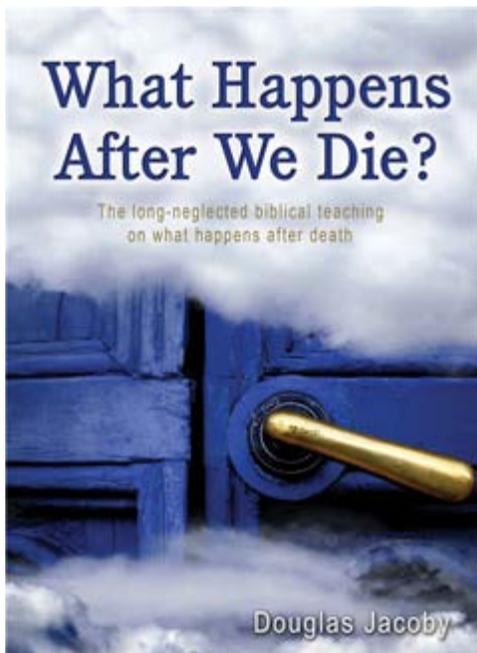
This was a busy writing year. In March, Harvest House released [*A Quick Overview of the Bible*](#), a guide designed to give Bible students a big-picture understanding of the story of God. (Please take a peek at the reviews on Amazon! I always appreciate reader reviews.)



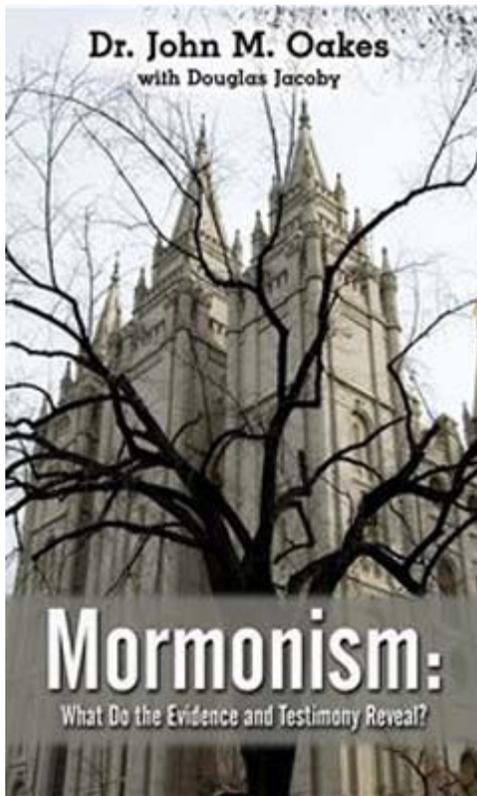
This coming March, Harvest House will release [*What's the Truth About Heaven and Hell? Sorting Out the Confusion About the Afterlife*](#), a study of what the Bible really says—and doesn't say—about the afterlife.



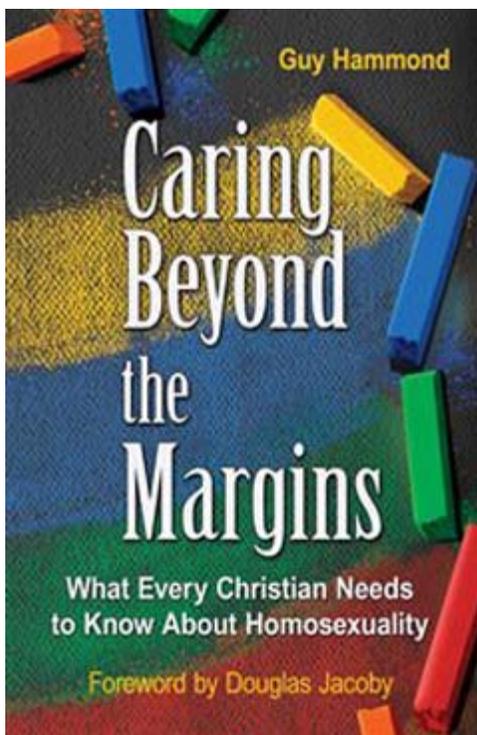
Last month, Illumination Publishers released a book on a related topic: ***What Happens After We Die?*** This book takes a biblical look at the intermediate state of the dead known as paradise, and examines the concepts of Hades, heaven, hell, and purgatory. For more information or to order, click [here](#).



I also enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. John Oakes on another IPI book, titled **[Mormonism: What Do the Evidence and Testimony Reveal?](#)**



And I wrote the forward to Guy Hammond's book, [*Caring Beyond the Margins: What Every Christian Needs to Know About Homosexuality*](#). Guy is the founder of Strength in Weakness ministries, which aims to train Christian leaders and church members in how to compassionately work with other Christians who struggle with same-gender attraction.



CONNECTIONS: CONFERENCES, DEBATES AND DIALOGUES

I made many new friends and acquaintances through my travels this year. As a Bible teacher, I am dedicated to my own ongoing education, and every year I attend seminars for my own spiritual life and learning. This year I attended the Pepperdine Bible Lectures (hosted by

Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA), the International Christian Scholars' Conference (hosted by Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN), the Society of Biblical Literature Conference (Chicago, IL), and Converge PacWest Conference (San Jose, CA). I met many well-known Bible scholars and apologists, including Mike Licona, Josh McDowell, Francis Chan, Denis Lamoureux, Wayne Meeks, Richard Bauckham, Michael Holmes, Craig Blomberg, Craig Keener, and Craig Evans. I sat at the feet of others, even though we did not have a chance to chat, including Harvey Cox, Amy-Jill Levine, Loveday Alexander, and the Dalai Lama. I attended classes on Christian evidences, biblical manuscripts, church planting, Islam, the church fathers, Judaism, the afterlife, New Testament, Old Testament, politics, and reconciliation.



With author and N.T. scholar Mike Licona, 2012

This fall, at UCLA, I engaged in my third public event with Dr. Michael Shermer, well-known agnostic, skeptic, and bestselling author. The dialogue, titled "Why Christianity?" was attended by more than 1,000 college students. I have enjoyed developing an ongoing, respectful relationship with Michael over the past few years through a series of public debates and discussions. Our latest public dialogue is due to be released in early January 2013. In January 2012 I also engaged atheist scholar Richard Carrier in a debate titled "Jesus Christ: Son of God or Apocalyptic Prophet?" That audio is available [here](#).

I continue to serve as an adjunct professor at Lincoln Christian University, where I teach Apologetics in their M.A. degree in Bible and Theology. I do all of my teaching online.



RECENT TRAVELS

In 2012 I enjoyed visits with numerous congregations across the United States, including six visits to California. In the fourth quarter alone I spoke in San Antonio (twice), Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Edmonton. Every year I speak on 10 to 20 university campuses around the world. I love doing this; it reminds me of my own student days at Duke University, where I became a Christian.

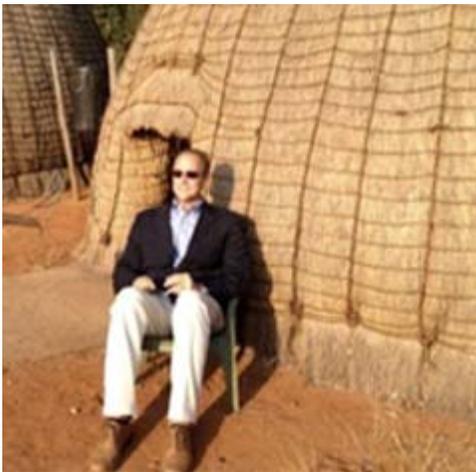
AIM, our ministry school, collaborates with programs in Miami, Boston, and Toronto. For example, I have recently returned from my second visit this year to Boston, where I taught at the New England School of Missions, which is designed to educate and equip preachers to minister to their congregations. My area: the Book of Revelation. It was also gratifying to sign a stack of diplomas for recent Canadian graduates from our affiliate program in Toronto. And in a few weeks Joey Harris and I will return to South Florida to teach on evidences and the

Holy Spirit.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS

This year I logged more than 130,000 miles as I visited churches all over the world. In the spring my wife and I spoke at several events in Toronto, including a Women's Day attended by more than 500, and we had a wonderful time visiting with friends old and new. It was a privilege to speak in Manchester, England, as well as in the Middle East and the Republic of Georgia. One of the year's most exhilarating highlights was a lengthy tour of Africa (a nine-nation tour). This tour took in a West African leadership conference, East African leadership conference, the 20th anniversary of a sister congregation in Accra, Ghana, and presentations on subjects as diverse as the existence of God, parenting, and witchcraft (with the last two topics not being connected . . . we hope!).

What an inspiration it was to spend time with Christians for whom the walk of discipleship can be difficult—even dangerous. With as much as I tried to give everything that I could to those disciples, I returned home refreshed by their example of courage and faith. For a full report, please click [here](#).



In Swaziland



Kampala, Uganda

PODCASTS

I continue to record weekly podcasts. This year I introduced an extensive podcast series, which is still ongoing in 2013, on New Testament characters. Featured characters include [Jesus](#), Malchus, Mary, Joanna, Paul, Felix, Drusilla, Andrew, Peter, James, John, Judas, Thomas, Philip, Matthew, Nicodemus, Barabbas, the Samaritan woman, Mary and Martha, Lazarus, Apollos, the siblings of Jesus, Simon the Sorcerer, Matthias and Joseph, [Pilate](#), Claudia, Demas, Stephen, and the Magi, with many more on the slate for 2013. The series, when complete, will include about 70 podcasts. While I make many podcasts available for free, most of these character podcasts are available by subscription to the [premium website](#).

Other podcasts recorded this year (50 new recordings in all) include the God of the Old Testament, Islam A & B, Mormonism, [The Hunger Games](#), [O.T. Archaeology](#), [N.T. Archaeology](#), Prayer and Fasting, [Why Doubt Is Good](#), [7 Compact Evidences Arguments](#), Near-Death Experiences, Ecology, and Witchcraft.

In 2012 I enjoyed featuring a number of guest podcast speakers, including:

- Joey Harris (Augusta, Georgia): Creative Quiet Times I, II, III
- Arturo Elizarrarás (Mexico City) : Lessons of Suffering from Mexico
- Steve Jacoby (Managua): Priests and Levites, the Herods, and Neither Poverty Nor Riches
- Cristian Paduraru (Transylvania): [Communication in Relationships](#)

Many of these podcasts are available for free at my main website, [douglasjacoby.com](#). For access to an extensive library of podcasts (more than 500 in all, with more being added every week), you may subscribe to my [premium site](#) (\$36.50 USD for a year, discounted for multiple years).

AIM

The Athens Institute of Ministry, or AIM, is undergoing some exciting changes—all designed to make the program more accessible to a greater number of students. We are moving to more of an online teaching model, with classes conducted live via WebEx (and also recorded for later viewing). Beginning January 19, AIM will conduct a six-week series of classes on Christian Evidences. Courses may be audited or taken for university credit through Lincoln Christian University. For details on the winter session, click [here](#). (If you plan to register for this course, **please do so by January 12.**)

UPCOMING IN 2013:

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](#). If you wish to be added to the interest list, please email dj@douglasjacoby.com, and we will send you updates on our plans.

40 DAYS OF QUIET TIMES

It's not too late to start your new year with the 40 Days of Quiet Times series, available at my website, [www.douglasjacoby.com](#). This podcast series, titled Draw Near to God in the New Year, consists of 40 podcasts, each 20 to 30 minutes in length, and includes printed notes and suggestions for further study. The series is designed to help you kick off 2013 with 40 days of exciting Bible study and spiritual growth.

FIRST QUARTER 2013 TRAVELS

The first quarter of 2013 will be busy with domestic travel, as I head to New York City, Orlando, Dallas, Miami, Los Angeles, and Raleigh, with possible trips to West Africa and the Caribbean.

LINCOLN PROFESSORSHIP

I will be teaching another summer intensive at Lincoln Christian University, this time on worldviews. Everything is done online, thanks to the wonders of cutting-edge technology!

THANK YOU

Thank you for the countless ways that so many of you supported me in my ministry last year. I am grateful for every word of encouragement and every prayer offered on my behalf. I always need your prayers, and your emails, cards, and calls help to keep my faith high and my vision clear.

I want to again extend sincere thanks to all the brothers and sisters from all over the world who have contributed financially to the International Bible Teaching Ministry this year and in years past. Because of your donations, in 2012 I was able to distribute nearly \$11,000 worth of books and teaching materials to disciples across the globe 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 in 2013.)

I pray that 2013 is a year of great growth and blessing for you and your family. I look forward to connecting with some of you face-to-face during my 2013 travels, and to remaining connected in heart and prayer with all of you who I do not see in person this year! "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).

Douglas Jacoby