

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007 International Teaching Ministry Update

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

Past newsletters are available at the [website](#). Enjoying the updates and the website? Please spread the word. (If not, just click on **REMOVE**.) And if your email address has changed, please send the new *and* the old address, so it may be deleted. The website features new material every day. Look for the Q&As, Articles, "Quote of the Day," and items under *What's New?*

Greetings from Houston!

I'm down in Texas, visiting my publisher (Toney at IPI). The family is doing well. James is enjoying his sophomore year at the University of Florida, Emma is preparing to go off to college next summer, and soon Vicki and I will have only Lily (now in eighth grade) at home. Vicki's life has changed in another way, as last week she began working part-time for the North River church, heading up the children's ministry. She loves her job, and is well-suited and confident in the new role.

For me, local ministry has been a blast. I've been five times to Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum. It's been fun leading tours of a special exhibit, *The Cradle of Christianity*, which amply illustrates New Testament times. It features one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Pilate stone, coins of the money changers, Caiaphas' bone box, the foot of the crucified man, and more -- all on loan from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. This also became the focal point for our third 2007 congregational teaching day. (The fourth and final will take place in October.) The elders and staff here have been extremely supportive of the teaching ministry.

Time is split between teaching/training and the book & audio ministry. In 2007 we will have released a dozen new items before year end, including our first book in Spanish (*El Aljaba: Crianza Cristiana en un Mundo no Cristiano*)! With all the conferences, plus time helping churches in Europe and North America, August came and went (sorry!) -- hence the combined August and September bulletin.

Feedback & thanks

One of the most encouraging things for me is hearing comments about how the ministry has been helping people's faith. In Orlando, many non-Christian teens were strengthened when they attended classes on *Understanding Islam*, as well as the day tour of *The Holyland Experience*, which brings many features of 1st century Christianity to life. I love it when grateful parents tell me, "Johnny really hasn't been very interested in the spiritual things, but today I can see he's really engaging," or "Tina normally hates church, but she just told me she's ready to study the Bible and become a Christian."

One young man attended my three-class series *Friend or Foe?* It is based on Luke 9:49-50 ("*Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.*" *But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."*) The series addresses the question of how we are to relate to believers in different fellowships, or even people in our own group with whom we have important differences. After all, one of our favorite mottos in the Restoration Movement is, "*Christians only, but not the only Christians.*" Later that evening he came to my book table to tell me how much the series helped him. His response (reworded) really touched me:

"I wanted to thank you for your insight during the Florida Discipleship Conference in Orlando. I spoke to you briefly [at your book table], but I wanted to thank you again and to let you know that, while at the time I was not your brother, I became your brother when I was baptized in the Gulf of Mexico five days later!

I'd been struggling a lot at the time, partly over some things in the past of the ICOC, and also because I wanted all of the forgiveness and none of the repentance... Friend or Foe? finally resolved the issues that had been building up in me regarding the ICOC. It was the song of my heart to hear that you don't have to be in the ICOC to be a Christian. "You mean I can live by the Bible and be or not be in the ICOC?" I thought to myself, "Amazing!" The invisible oppression around me had suddenly been lifted. After hearing your speech I knew

that I could be baptized in the name of Jesus with a clear mind..."

He's right: no one has a monopoly on the truth. To suggest otherwise is a form of oppression. Not to say that the road isn't narrow, or that "easy believism" will take anyone to heaven. Yet the inherent humility of this position set this man free. While continuing to boldly share the word of God without compromise, and doing all we can to build up the ministries in our local churches, let's strive hard to avoid sectarianism. This makes it difficult for many to enter the door into the kingdom of God!

And you who are reading this bulletin have also helped many others enormously, through your contributions. In the last update, I requested assistance for teaching materials, and found several generous donors, including Christians in Florida, Washington, New Hampshire, Georgia, and other places. Materials were provided for India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Russia, the Ukraine, Hungary, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic. One brother, having just received a hundreds of dollars of books and CDs, exclaimed, "**Wow! You've given me enough teaching material to last two years!**" This is what I love to do.

Christian leadership is hard, and I know how much those leading in challenging situations need moral support, funding, relationships, and connection. If I can help by stirring their minds, making it easier for them to put together solid biblical sermons and interesting classes, it is all worth it.

This month Joey Harris (my colleague in teaching and leader in Augusta, Georgia) and I taught in the Atlanta Singles Retreat. We challenged singles to stay built on the rock (Psalm 40) and anchored to the truth, and had tremendous fun during our tag-team class. Kudos to Scott Kirkpatrick and the planning group for a vibrant and uplifting conference. I saw many old friends from former "ministry homes" -- in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Georgia, the UK and other nations. Blaise Feumba (Cote D'Ivoire) was the featured speaker. These days most of my time at conferences is spent manning my book table -- an apt venue for fellowship!

This month I teach twice in Roswell GA, twice at Georgia Tech, and twice in other states (Texas and Tennessee). Sunday the 23rd I am in Chattanooga, the day after hang gliding from Tennessee's Lookout Mountain. (Hey, you only die once, right?!) Never a dull moment. I love my job, wouldn't trade it for the world.

A.I.M. change

To allow more people to participate in AIM, the European and Georgian programs are changing format. From now on the longer sessions will meet Friday-Saturday (Class 1), and Sunday-Monday (Class 2), rather than Wednesday-Saturday. This will allow people to miss fewer work days. This change was approved by our point-men in England, Norway, and the US. We want to share our material with not only preachers and teachers, but all brothers and sisters interested in going deeper, and this requires making the program more accessible.

Upcoming sessions:

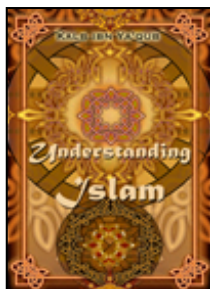
Apologetics (27-28 October, San Diego)
Family Life (1-2 November, London)
Family Life for Every Disciple (16-17 November, Atlanta)
Special topics (December, Lagos, Nigeria)
Continuing AIM (Spring 2008, TBA, Manila, Philippines)

A reminder, these programs are open to anyone who can attend them. And if you cannot make it to one of our 5 cities, the **Take AIM!** DVDs are also available.

Also -- very good news, and an answered prayer -- a ministry training program for Russian language speakers is slated to begin in Kiev in late January, 2008. I will be making four visits a year to the Ukraine during 2008-2009. This will most directly benefit the nations of Russia, Belarus, Moldova, and the Ukraine.

New!

Two new DVD series will be released next week. You may order both of them by clicking on the images below. They were recorded before live audiences.



Understanding Islam (two powerpoint classes) was recorded in Orlando, in July. Although less material than you will find in *The Muslim Challenge*, it is more colorful, since it is image based. To order the new set on Islam, just click on the image.



The second series is *Friend or Foe?* (three powerpoint classes, described above). While it fits well and overlaps a little with *Anchored for Life* and also *Who Is My Brother?*, this contains mainly new material. To order this new set on biblical fellowship, click on the image.

As for books, later this year look for *The Bible Quiz Book*, *The Muslim Challenge*, and *Al Ajaba* (Spanish translation of parenting book).

Debate update

In addition, the conclusion of the Jacoby-Shermer debate has been uploaded to the website (for free download). For some reason it had not been filmed by the original recording company. Future editions of the DVD *Does God Exist?* will include opening statements, cross examinations, rebuttal summaries, Q&A session, and closing statement. Interest in the debate has been high, and some teen ministries have been showing it (in episodes) to generate discussion and strengthen faith. By the way, I've been in near constant contact with Dr. Shermer since we met in Irvine for our debate. He, like me, seems eager to maintain our relationship.

Update on Béabylie Lakoussan Surgeries (osteonecrosis patient)

Earlier this year you contributed approximately \$10,000 so that Beabylis Lakoussan, woman's leader in the nation of Benin, could receive a new lease on life. She has suffered for years from osteonecrosis; without the donations she would certainly have lost the use of her legs. Things are going well, even if proceeding slowly. The following reports are from Stanslas Zocli, the preacher in Cotonou, Benin, West Africa.

"Great news -- Béabylie our sister was operated on this morning on her left leg. Three months later by the grace of God, the doctor will also operate on the right leg. Oh, my brother, it is a great victory! We prayed and fasted today, and God acted as usual. After the scan and radiography, the doctor attached the prosthesis. She has just regained consciousness in her hospital bed. Thanks you for all your love for her. Tomorrow more radiography will be done, and in three days by the grace of God, rehab begins. I'll keep you informed...

-- Your brother, *Stanislas*"

--and later:

"Good evening. Good news, my brother. Glory be to God in the celestial places! What God begins, he completes. Radiography shows that Béabylie's operation was a success. The doctors too gave credit to God. She had to stay one month at the hospital for follow-on care. The wound was completely healed, and she returned to her home. Not she goes every other days for rehab, and also for the bad leg that has not yet been operated on. She is able to walk with crutches, and sometimes with only one crutch. In two weeks, she'll see the doctor for a check-up, and after two and a half months [December] the doctor will attempt to operate on the right leg. Again, please extend our thanks to all who paid for this operation, and especially to those who remember us in prayer. May God's name be glorified. Amen!

-- Your friend, *Stanislas*"

The final operation has (theoretically) been paid for, and there is a small reserve for the unexpected. Would you say a prayer that the doctors will charge no more than has been agreed, so that Beabylie's full recovery may not be hindered?

PLEASE BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER!

Last, I thought it would be good to remind everyone that the international Bible teaching ministry is still a fledgling effort, dependent on donations in order to operate. Especially needed are those who can afford to donate on a regular basis. You can make a difference!

Please consider becoming a *monthly* supporter. Your credit card would be processed and a receipt emailed once a month. Once we establish contact, you can provide the relevant financial information. (For US residents, a tax receipt will be sent annually.) If you can do this, please click [here](#).

FAREWELL TILL OCTOBER

It's possible we are still sending this newsletter to defunct email addresses. If your address has changed in the past year, please write in with

the old address so that it may be removed from the list. And thank you all so much for your prayers, ideas, and friendship.

Until October... -- D.J.

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