

Rolling Stone

ministries

"An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it... And the angel...said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who as been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said.'" Matthew 28:2, 5-6

Newsletter November 2011

Good News from Israel!



I've been a speaker for more than 40 years, and have been in front of groups large (over 25,000) and small, all over the world. Most of my speaking is in classrooms and churches, but I've had the occasion to speak on college and law school campuses, at mayor's prayer breakfasts, at any number of different events. The most memorable place where I have spoken occurred back in September, in Israel. I had the privilege of teaching 20 Bible College students at the Garden Tomb, one of two likely places outside the Old City of Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified and buried. Speaking in the shadows of the olive trees that also shade the empty tomb was unforgettable. It is not unusual for me to think that I get a bigger blessing from teaching than do those I teach. On that special afternoon I'm sure I got the bigger blessing for having the privilege to not only be in Israel, but to be in the place where the Messiah, God in the flesh, laid down his life for us, and rose from the dead three days later to prove that the promise of salvation to all who believe is sure.

Teaching the Bible students in Israel, most of them in their early twenties, brought back

fond memories of the students I have been privileged to teach over the years, who are so desirous to learn what the Scripture has to say to them, and to find out how God wants to use them for His service. Any teacher will tell you there is nothing better than a class hungry for what you are teaching them, especially when the subject is the very words and teachings spoken by Jesus and His apostles. Yes, teaching in Israel was special. Laurie felt the same way, and she was blessed to be able to speak at morning Chapel and share with the girls in the class, as a group and one-on-one. We heard students refer to us as their "parents" in Israel. I would have loved to have taken them all home and added to our family. We were happy to model for them how a couple can be a ministry team.



After two weeks of teaching in Jerusalem, we were off to Golan Heights, the area of Israel north of the Sea of Galilee. Everywhere you go in Israel there is some biblical significance. Golan is part of the route taken by Jesus and His apostles on many occasions, as well as Paul's journeys (and his conversion on the road to Damascus). In the Golan Heights we returned to the congregation where we had taught back in February. Laurie's teaching on

prayer was at the specific request of the pastor, Steve Flores, due to how blessed the congregation was the first time we were there.

Before beginning our journey back to America, we were able to visit some important biblical sites, such as Caesarea (Maritima) between Tel Aviv and Haifa, and spend Laurie's birthday (she's 29 and holding) at the YMCA along the shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Joel the prophet tells us that the Lord will pour out His Spirit in the last days. We think this is beginning to happen, as so many believers are praying for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of His chosen people. We see many Arabs coming to Christ, as well as many Jews. Though the conflicts over land remain, the hope for peace in the region will not come from merely having the right leaders meet and make the right concessions. No, peace will come when Jews and Arabs meet the Prince of Peace, the One born in Bethlehem, who died that we might be one in Him.

John



Respect for Marriage Act vs. Defense of Marriage Act

You've probably heard of the Federal DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), a bill signed into law in 1996 by President Clinton. It defines marriage for the Federal government as between one man and one woman and it protects states who do not want same sex marriage in their state from being forced to recognize same sex marriages performed in other states.

Did you know about current efforts to get rid of DOMA? One effort is a bill introduced by the U.S. Congress called the "Respect for Marriage Act." *Don't be misled by the title.* The goal of this bill is to force the Federal government to recognize same sex marriage, and eventually, force all the states. Are we surprised? We shouldn't be after the controversial repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT). President Obama signed the repeal of DADT on September 22, 2011, thus ending the long-existing U.S. policy that prohibited homosexuals from being able to serve in the armed forces.

Earlier this year, Respect for Marriage Act bills were submitted to the House and the Senates' Judiciary Committees. Now, after having successfully repealed DADT, activists on Capitol Hill are preparing to destroy DOMA. The Senate Judiciary Committee will commence debate on the bill, leading ultimately to a vote.

Respect for Marriage Act Talking points
- From [Concerned Women for America](#)

- Despite its deliberately deceptive name, the "Respect for Marriage Act" insidiously seeks to destroy the historical, traditional definition of marriage.
 - It seeks to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).
- DOMA does not prohibit states from recognizing same-sex "marriages."
 - It defines marriage as we have always known it, the union between one man and one woman, for federal purposes.
 - DOMA also protects states from being forced to recognized same-sex "marriages" from other states, if a state chooses to do so.
- The Respect for Marriage Act runs contrary to the will of the majority of Americans who support marriage as the union between one man and one woman.
 - The most comprehensive scientific national survey to date, completed by Public Opinion Strategies (May 16-19, 2011), reveals that 62 percent of Americans believe "marriage should be defined only as a union between one man and one woman." 53% *strongly agreed.*

- The Respect for Marriage Act circumvents the will of the 30 states that have already voted to protect marriage as the union between one man and one woman in their state constitutions, forcing the states to go against their own public policy goals to recognize same-sex "marriages" from other states.
 - More than *63 million* Americans in 30 state elections have voted on constitutional marriage amendments. Around *forty million* in all (63 percent) voted to affirm marriage as a union between a man and a woman.
- The Respect for Marriage Act forces states to recognize any kind of marriage that another state decides to sanction. It is by no means limited to same-sex "marriages."
- It was introduced by Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) in the House (H.R. 1116) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) in the Senate (S.598).

Keep your eye on the status of these efforts. May the Lord have mercy on us.

In God's light, we see light. Psalm 36:9

RSM needs your help...

What is Rolling Stone Ministries? In 2007 John and Laurie Stewart founded RSM to expand the work they had been doing for a number of years, that is presenting an intelligent Christian faith in an increasingly-secular world through teaching, legal advocacy, speaking, and writing. The *rolling stone* represents the mechanism by which evidence confirmed that Jesus is the Savior.

RSM is committed to defending and proclaiming biblical truth. Internationally, John and Laurie teach and speak at universities, Bible institutes, churches and conferences. Nationally, they speak at law schools, conferences, churches, retreats, camps and other groups. Additionally, they use their legal skills as attorneys to defend civil and religious liberties. They face the challenges head-on in a growing secular culture, and are on the cutting edge of winning the culture back to a biblical truth.

However, RSM cannot engage unless it is properly equipped to engage. Never send a soldier to battle unless the soldier has the tools to win. This is where you can help. In order to win RSM needs the tools to win and in order to have the tools to win we need the resources to attain such tools. Will you donate today? Will you provide the resources for the right tools for victory?

Jesus commanded, "Go and make disciples of all nation." Will you pledge to financially support RSM so it is fully equipped to do the work for which it is called?

You can make your single or monthly tax-deductible donation online through our website:
<http://www.rollingstoneministries.org/donations.aspx>

Or you can mail a check to:
 Rolling Stone Ministries
 P.O. Box 6271
 Orange, CA 92863

Please consider partnering regularly with us every month.



PARTNER WITH ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with RSM today. When you offer support, you partner with RSM in the mission field and share in building the Kingdom. Becoming a Treasure Builder (a monthly partner with RSM) will go a long way to provide for basic needs to help minister more effectively to fulfill the Great Commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19-20*



- I will pray for RSM
- I will contribute \$_____ monthly to RSM to enable it to be a full time ministry.
- I would like to make a contribution to RSM in the amount of \$ _____.

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RSM is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Send your gifts to: **ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES, INC.**

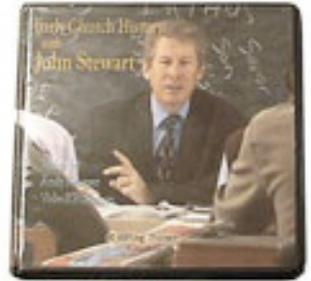
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Study with John Stewart...



John Stewart's teaching DVDs
on Apologetics and
Church History
NOW AVAILABLE!



During their Kenya 2010 teaching trip, John and Laurie Stewart were accompanied by Andy Krueger, a videographer from Iowa, who filmed John's two week teaching at Manna Bible Institute (two classes: Apologetics and Church History) and other intriguing events while traveling the country. The highlights video is currently already available on the RSM website. But now, for the first time, *John's teaching on Apologetics and Church History is available on DVD*. Gary Crocker, a good friend of the Stewart's, has spent countless hours converting Andy's video into DVDs to make available to the public. Each subject has about 14 hours of class lecture time. *A syllabus for each course is available online*. Visit www.rollingstoneministries.org for more details. We look forward to your feedback and comments once you experience the "live" classroom experience with John Stewart!

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