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## **I WILL SET NO WICKED THING BEFORE MY EYES**

**Dr. Richard I. Gregory**

It is a genuine privilege to be living during today's technological revolution. The work of the Lord is enhanced by the tools modern technology provides. This issue is about how the church can use technology to minister more effectively and reach more people with the message of the gospel. However, there is a downside that is fraught with danger for the believer and his family.

How many horror stories have you heard about the absolutely evil material that is available on the Internet. If anyone has the slightest temptation to seek out explicit pornographic material, he can do so on the privacy of his own computer - or so some think. I can recount several situations where men in ministry were ensnared by the enemy and their passions to view and even download pornographic material on their computers at church. These men thought that this was something they were doing in private, only to have their sin exposed when their computers "locked up." When they sought help to fix their computer, their sin was "found out." They thought they had covered their sin with the "delete button" but did not know that each time they downloaded pictures a temp file remained in the computer. These temp files finally filled the computer's capacity so that it would no longer function. They thought they merely had a mechanical problem but the real problem was spiritual and devastatingly sinful.

Pornography also does this to the mind. I have often had men tell me that they have "pornographic flashbacks" from former days before they were saved. Just as the Spirit of God brings to one's memory portions of God's Word, so the Evil One will dredge up from the annals of the mind images, words and memories that were feasted on foolishly in the past. It is important that we understand what the Psalmist means when he says "*I will set no wicked thing before my eyes*" Psalm 101:3.

My son has this verse printed in bold letters on the television set in his family room. It is a constant reminder to carefully evaluate what is being viewed by his family. Much of what the world is producing as entertainment must be classified as "wicked" and requires the family to turn it off. Guarding what values and practices that are viewed by impressionable children and adults demand both discernment and constant teaching.

I am deeply concerned that today's believers have been desensitized to evil which enables them to participate in wickedness without any apparent guilt. There are several reasons why this might be so. One reason might be the lack of emphasis on the holiness of God in our preaching and popular presentations of God. We hear much about God as one who understands our weakness and feels our pain. God is portrayed as one who loves us just the way we are but we are often left without any mention of the character of His chastening when we are content to remain that way. We all know about a God who forgives sin and removes our iniquities but we hear little about the righteous judgment of God that sends the unrepentant to an eternity in hell. All of these positive word pictures of God are true but taken alone they can produce a perception of God that overlooks His holiness, justice, righteous anger and His hatred of sin. Ignoring the other side of the gospel is to overlook the dark message of the horrible consequence of continuing in sin. We hear much of the positive side of grace without mentioning its demanding discipline. Titus 2:11-14 points us to grace's discipline when it says "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching (the word is elsewhere translated chastening) us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" May I emphasize that the truth that the believer is "redeemed from all iniquity" is the positive side of grace. The concept that grace also purifies the

believer and makes him zealous of good works demands the denial of ungodliness and worldly lusts. Grace not only provides, it also disciplines.

Technology is a wonderful tool for the furthering of the Kingdom of God. It is also capable of making the expression of our depravity more accessible and acceptable. This is often done by making the believer a passive observer to the practice of sin in its various expressions. Constantly watching sin glamorized desensitizes the believer to its horrible nature and consequence. If we have been desensitized to the many expressions of wickedness we can become the object of Satan's wiles. One of his wiles is the use of technology, like the Internet and home videos, to entrap us into doing his will. Believers who would never think about going to a bar to pick up a member of the opposite sex have been known to "surf the net" and enter into verbal relationships that have ended in moral compromise and marital tragedy. Some would not be caught at an R rated movie but will rent them and view them in the privacy of their own home. It becomes the responsibility of spiritual leadership to confront with a warning and to reach out to God's people with a message of hope and holiness to the end *"that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"* 2 Timothy 2:26.

However, there are an increasing number of pastors that are moving away from confrontation and are preaching a message of accommodation to "worldliness" and branding any responsibility for holy conduct "legalism." It is no wonder that in such a permissive atmosphere we find so many pastors that are "falling" morally themselves and thus bring reproach upon the ministry and especially on the Lord they professed to serve. The church is in desperate need of revival that calls it back to a life of holiness and a consciousness of sin. Technology is only a means. It makes both doing good and evil more accessible. It behooves the believer to carefully guard his heart and be committed to *"Set no wicked thing before his eyes."* Psalm 101:3 and *"to avoid every way in which evil makes its appearance."*( my paraphrase) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

One of the ways to avoid evil on the Internet is to visit the [sites](#) on our main page. This will block offensive material and will not allow anyone to access sites where offensive material is present. There are also Internet services that screen out pornographic material. [Characterlink.Net](#) has been fully operational for a year. They were the first International Internet Service Provider designed to provide special Internet access to those who desire protection from morally devastating content that is so easily accessible on the Internet. They have 400 local access numbers and most are 56 K. For more information, call 1-888-330-8678.

Although not endorsing this service, it illustrates what believers should look for to protect themselves and especially their families from the encroachment of technology used for the promotion of evil.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he shared this piece of advice *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"* 1 Timothy 4:16. While rejoicing in technology's benefits for the work of the Lord, let the church be on her guard and take heed to herself and the believers within her fold.

# **Let's Get Connected**

**Rev. Larry J. Baird**

**"Larry, can you send us some discipleship materials in Spanish?"** The requests came a few months ago via an e-mail message from a pastor and his wife in the States. They had contact with some Mexicans in their area that do not speak much English. The Mexicans needed a clear presentation of the Gospel and other materials for follow up. A few of them had already made professions of faith. I wanted to send the materials as soon as possible, but postal service from Mexico to the States can take up to several weeks.

E-mail was the answer. I tried sending the files via e-mail as an attached file. It worked! The materials were just the help this pastor needed as more of the Mexicans accepted the Lord. The Internet proved to be a great blessing.

We have friends working in church planting in Uruguay that are in need of Spanish materials for parenting classes. We have just what they need here in Chihuahua for we have been translating a popular course and the lessons have not only been a blessing to our own people, but now they are readily available to our friends throughout the whole southern hemisphere. For years, missionaries have been so isolated due to distance and high international phone charges, but with local Internet service, it only costs a few cents to "share" God's blessings across the world!

Furlough is a normal and yet at times stressful part of mission work. We, as a family, will be taking our furlough next year and the IFCA International web site has been an important help in setting up meetings and making contacts with new churches. Through the use of e-mail, I have been able to speed up the process and send immediately our brochure which details who we are and what we are doing as missionaries in Mexico. The Internet has taken a lot of the "stress" out of setting up meetings for furlough as an electronic message has the advantage of being in front of the recipient, arriving almost instantly and being easy to respond to by clicking the reply button.

"Slice of Mexico" has been another means of using the Internet to inform friends about life in this country. We chose the word "slice" because when you take a slice of something you can see part of what is inside and yet it takes several slices to make the whole. "Slice of Mexico" has been enjoyable for us as we explain many aspects of Mexican life to those in the United States and in several other countries. We even have people requesting the "slice" articles which normally go out twice monthly to our e-mail friends. Mexico has changed, but still it is so different that we want to help others understand these differences and maybe even come for a visit! Without the Internet, this would be impossible.

Using the web takes practice, but it is worth it as so much is available now for the missionary, pastor or layman. One can find church, personal or e-mail addresses at the "bigyellow.com" site or go to "infoseek.com" to look for most anything needed for ministry or personal use. I have even had the exciting experience of studying "on-line" which enables me to send lessons via e-mail, have them graded and returned to me in Mexico in 24 hours!

Our mission organization, Biblical Ministries Worldwide has been active in using the web and e-mail. Besides having a great web site, electronic financial reports are available each month to the missionaries and prayer requests may be sent via e-mail to the international office in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Our leadership also has established "Thinkspots" which has been useful for sharing information between pastors and missionaries around the world. Its twin, "Prayerspots" is used in-house for important and urgent prayer requests of the mission family. Other mission organizations have their sites too, making it simple to "log on" and find most anything about them that one needs or wants. I enjoy downloading sermons, text files on different subjects as well as free clip art for bulletins. So much is there for the taking!

**My prayer is that the Internet would be used to draw pastors and missionaries together. We need each other and thankfully the Lord is providing us with a means to share resources and encouragement. I have been so encouraged by supporting churches that send e-mail regularly (other mail too!) as we sense that there is much better communication now. Missionary, could you be more responsive to your supporters in the States via e-mail or perhaps share resources with churches? Pastor, could you get the feel of the foreign field by contacting regularly your missionary? Layman, does God want you to bridge the gap between your church and the missionary? Hopefully, this will encourage you. Souls are being saved and edified because God is using electronic technology as part of His plan. Let's get connected!**

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*Rev. Larry Baird is a missionary to Mexico with Biblical Ministries Worldwide.*

# **Educational Technology and the Christian**

**George Collins**

For almost two decades, digital power has been going into the home and workplace. Countless predictions have been made about the brave, new world of the Information Age. Ostensibly at least, our culture has been fairly resistant to all of this technology, and not that many predictions have come true.

But maybe the world is changing after all.

In 1997 the Wells Fargo bank in California closed dozens of branch offices. The reason: "to get closer to our customers." The branch resources were shifted from real estate to electronic commerce.

The productivity of American workers has taken a dramatic turn upward. After years of disappointment, experts now point to a clear link between productivity and technology. These factors are, in turn, tied to a booming U.S. economy.

According to Internet World, the World Wide Web is doubling in size every 53 days.

Presently about 150 commercial satellites are working overhead. In seven years that number should increase to 1,700 telecommunication satellites.

The largest university in Britain-160,000 students-does not have a physical campus but runs over various electronic avenues, including broadcast and computer networks.

Someone explains the changes we are now experiencing as a bit of the "rubber band" effect. Business, home, and institutions have been making investments in technology for so long-the rubber band is pulled out tight-and now change is moving forward at an ever increasing rate.

How will all of this change affect Christians? Specifically, what will change in Christian education?

First of all, what does not change?

At the risk of being obvious, the Bible does not change. Whether digitized onto an optical disk or handwritten by a scribe on to a sheet of parchment, God's Word does not change. Likewise, principles based on the Bible do not change-and that has a direct effect on education.

For instance, the teacher (who may now be miles removed from the student) remains key to each student's success. The principle of sowing and reaping (i.e., the student's reward is contingent upon the student's effort) is still in effect. Christ, the Master Teacher, favored a variety of teaching methods (e.g., lecture, guided discovery, question and answer), and variety will continue to play an important part in the educational process.

The Bible and Bible principles remain foundational to Christian education.

Further, schools and other institutions of learning will not disappear. There are some unique and special things that happen through the human interactions at school. The educational resources schools provide-an engaged faculty, library collections, media tools, etc. - cannot be fully replicated as dispersed resources. It is fair to say, though, that proximity to the physical plant (be it an educational institution or a commercial venture) will be less important in the future than it has in the past.

What does change?

There's not a lot of merit in trying to guess how fast modems will run in the year 2010 or how many gig the average hard drive will contain at the turn of the century. What we can do, though, is identify trends and draw some lessons from them.

*Trend 1. Education will be less constrained by time and geography.* Remember Wells Fargo closing branches? Traditionally, to do banking you physically went to the bank during certain limited hours. Now you can hit an ATM machine at the mall or pay your bills electronically from home. The bank building is still there for certain types of transactions, but many banking functions have been freed of the constraints of time and geography. The same is true in education. For example, HomeSat (1-800-739-8199), a distance-learning service Bob Jones University offers to home schoolers, is specifically designed to deliver instruction anywhere in the country and allow students to proceed on their own schedule and at their own pace.

Part of an education is access to library and reference material. An increasingly sophisticated reference resource is available on line. A good example of this is "The Linked Word Project" on the [BJU Website](#). This amazing hyperlinked database of the Bible is available from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day.

*Trend 2. Courseware will become increasingly sophisticated.* Traditionally it has cost only a few thousand dollars, including labor, to offer a particular course. Because the electronic world offers a larger potential audience, curriculum developers are developing much more sophisticated materials. In the secular world, some distance-learning course productions are reported to be costing from \$100,000 to over \$1-million each. The dollars are impressive, but the caliber of the product hinges on how well the producer understands the technology and the educational process.

The economy-of-scale issue is real, though. For instance, physics, chemistry, and physical science students on the BJ LINC network (1-800-876-5462) to Christian high schools have benefited from regular exposure to NASA's Lunar Prospector-currently orbiting the moon-project, almost since its inception. Students in BJ LINC schools have had opportunity to interview the project director, see video of the space probe under construction, and see the launch. Could students in any other school-public or private-gain that sort of access? Economy-of-scale allows greater opportunities and sophistication.

Perhaps nowhere is this better seen than in the new BJ HELP Network (1-888-406-4040) that will be launched in the Fall of 1998. These video materials are designed particularly for Christian home educators with elementary students. The variety and excitement that the BJ HELP production team has melded with the BJU Press curriculum gives the new network material of unprecedented quality.

*Trend 3. Perpetual learning will become the norm in our society.* Remember the orange juice ad a few years ago? "It's not just for breakfast anymore." The same might be said of learning: It's not just for school any more.

Someone noted the differing plights of a steel worker and a secretary who were "downsized" out of their jobs. The steel worker generally has the worse situation because, while his skills are important, they are also specific to that one job. The secretary, on the other hand, has digital resilience. A good secretary will have learned a variety of computer skills over time and many of them (e.g., spreadsheet skills) are transferable to other vocations.

Educators and economists agree that the average working American will need the equivalent of about 30 credit hours of education every seven years in order to remain competitive in the job market. That, in turn, is possible only within the context of the first trend, freeing learning from geographic and time constraints. Conventional schools will continue to serve their traditional constituency, but technology will extend the reach of education to meet lifelong needs.

**A number of churches and schools are using their BJ LINC facilities to meet that need during after-school hours. BJU's Extended Ed/Satellite program (1-800-253-9833) offers through these facilities non-credit Bible classes in the evening. Pastors can take a Bible class at night; teachers can maintain currency through graduate education courses offered in the evening.**

**Recently, an 88-year-old grandmother enrolled in (and successfully completed!) A four-credit course in Bible apologetics offered by Bob Jones University. The technology made it feasible for her to study live and interact with the Ph.D. Bible teacher hundreds of miles away. She represents a lot of others who were "disenfranchised" by the limitations of conventionally delivered education. With today's technology she, and thousands of others, can continue to learn.**

### **The next generation**

**Having discussed and illustrated some of the looming trends in educational technology, let's take a look at what the "next generation" of technology will look like.**

**Bob Jones University is now in the midst of bringing its new, second-generation distance-learning network (1-800-880-7283) incorporating BJ HELP and HomeSat on line. The new network will incorporate the strengths of its current offerings with important additional functionality.**

**The new technology will be able to deliver full-motion audio/video ("multimedia") not just to a television set but to any Pentium equivalent computer. The TV/PC distinction is an important one. Historically, the television-and we're talking about the TV set, not the programs-has been one of the dumbest appliances in the house. In terms of microprocessors, even the toaster is smarter.**

**The combination of high bandwidth (i.e., large data-carrying capacity) and satellite delivery to the computer gives a family a tremendous educational resource. The computer can serve as an "agent" to sort through incoming information and capture what is relevant (thus avoiding the need to program a VCR!) Through the computer the network can provide "filtered" Internet access in a protected environment. The computer can even provide the means for students and teachers to interact-even if the student and the teacher are on different schedules.**

**Remember the trends: learning unbounded by schedule or geography; learning with more sophisticated tools; perpetual learning. The power of the PC coupled with a high-bandwidth satellite network offers the promise of making that a reality. The exciting aspect of this for Christians is that it can-and is-being done while maintaining fidelity to God's Word and a Christian philosophy.**

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*George Collins is director of Bob Jones University's Center for Educational Technology. He also is active in the distance learning industry and as advisor on technology issues.*

# Reaching Your World Community Via the Internet Why Bother?

By "Webservant" Warren Dane

By fall of 1997 the information service Dataquest determined that 43% of U.S. homes had a personal computer. All computers now sold have modems which are used to connect to the internet. Given the rapid growth in computer and internet use, that suggests that nearly 50% of the U.S. population will be internet capable by the end of 1998. The number of internet home pages has grown from 8 million in May, 1995 to 35 million in May, 1996 - an increase of approximately 450%. In mid 1996 there were 23.5 million World Wide Web (WWW) users (nearly 10% of the U. S. population - a ten-fold increase in four years). By the end of 1997 that number has increased to 40 million in the U.S. That does not include those internet users in other countries.

There are four compelling reasons to begin Internet ministries.

- (1) The WWW offers an inexpensive and timely mass-communication tool.
- (2) The WWW offers high quality and quantity research information and data.
- (3) The WWW can drastically reduce the price of quality/quantity publishing.
- (4) The WWW will be second nature to the next generation. Those not conversant may be left behind.

Your ministry goals, therefore, should be to make wise use of this valuable communication tool.

**1. Improve your church's communication** with members and missionaries via e-mail. As your members get online, gather their addresses in a master e-mail list and use it to send:

prayer requests that can obtain instant prayer support.

program information and ministry updates.

send missionary reports to congregation (many are online through their mission board).

send letters of encouragement from congregation to your missionaries.

**2. Your church can be an educational and evangelistic ministry** by making access available to online sites of seminaries, Bible colleges, theological journals, and your own Bible study, devotional and witness materials.

A computer in the church library could be made available as a research tool for teachers and staff who cannot afford a computer or internet service.

**3. Your church can provide** Bible studies, sermons, testimonies available in written or audio form on the internet.

A good example of this type of ministry is found at: <http://www.byronbible.org>, one of our IFCA International churches.

**4. Churches and individuals** are making use of e-mail as a discipling, witness and devotional tool. They send out a daily devotional thought to their online church members and offer it as a free service (daily or at specified intervals). If you do send the offer to people on a large e-mail list, as a matter of courtesy, ensure that you offer them the option to send a decline response.

**5. The international scope of our outreach** cannot be overlooked. The IFCA International website has had numerous international visitors who recorded their visit and its blessing from areas all over the globe.

One recent visitor from Zambia thanked us for the IFCA International site. It was encouraging for them to find others committed to biblical ministry and living. They requested help in finding churches of like mind in their area of Zambia.

The Biblenet radio audio and print ministry over the internet has resulted in many coming to Christ and e-mailing for spiritual help and guidance.

**6. There's a new generation to reach** around the world that is, or are becoming computer/internet literate and seeking to use it for personal information and growth, not just fun and games.

While the church will always need to meet face to face, we can also meet in cyberspace to encourage one another, build up one another, and share the Good News with our global neighbors.

The apostle Paul following the direction of the Holy Spirit, and acting in obedience to the Lord, adjusted to the demands of the surrounding culture to communicate the Good News effectively (1 Corinthians 9:19-22).

He strategized to minister in the great urban centers where the seed of the Good News could be planted and grow to the outer reaches of the Empire. If he were living in our time I believe that he would be using and encouraging use of this valuable communication tool to reach to the uttermost part of our world.

As it was in the first century so now we are challenged to make the most of the opportunities afforded us because of the nature of our times (Ephesians 5:15-16).

### **Why bother using the internet for ministry?**

Because it is a way to be obedient to the command of the King of kings...

*"While you are going, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20a).*

### **COULD THERE BE A BETTER REASON?**

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*Rev. Warren Dane maintains the internet ministries of IFCA International and its chaplaincy endorsing ministry, the Bible Churches Chaplaincy.*

# **Building a Pastor's Software Library**

**By Rev. Dennis L. Finnan**

As I gaze up from the keys of my computer I see mountains of books surrounding me! I've spent 17 years of my ministry amassing books dedicated to presenting the Word of God. Often when not in my study, I wish I had certain books with me. That was a dream of the past, for now through the blessings of technology, I can carry a library full of books by my side. I bought a notebook computer in which I've loaded some of my favorite books for research, study and devotion. Today, it is virtually possible to begin to move library books into cyberspace and have a portable library available anytime and at a moment's notice.

This article is about building a pastor's software library and how you can do it on a pastor's smaller budget. We will talk about how you can begin to collect exciting, God-honoring theological reference books, Bibles, journals and periodicals and place them in your desktop or notebook computer.

For starters, one must have a Bible Software program that has an accompanying "Library System." There are a good number of commercial and shareware quality Bible software programs available. Unfortunately, only a few of them have the ability to display different publisher's literature. Two major manufacturers have taken the lead in building a pastor's software library. They are Logos Research Systems, Inc, utilizing the Logos Library System, and Parsons Technology utilizing the QuickVerse 2.1 Library Reader.

First of all what is a library system? It is a software program that catalogs and stores a multitude of books and periodicals for instant access. The two systems mentioned operate similarly and accomplish almost the same thing. Logos uses a proprietary electronic publishing standard call LLS (Logos Library System). It has just two parts, the "viewer" and the "books." The Logos viewer is free, but the books must be purchased. Many publishers have agreed to publish their books in this "LLS" standard. Logos claims to feature the largest collection of electronic Bibles and Bible reference books in the world. Parsons Technology has devised a different library viewer that works similarly. It is called the STEP (Standard Template for Electronic Publishing) Reader. Parsons Technology, in cooperation with major Bible and reference book publishers like NavPress, Loizeaux Brothers, Kregel, InterVarsity Press, Tyndale House, Chariot Victor Books and many others, has chosen this standard for open publication. Most Christian publishers are making their printed works available in one or both of these electronic publishing formats. There are also a number of stand alone libraries, like "The Master Christian Library," and "The Bible Library," both being marketed on one CD-ROM for under \$ 80.

You might at this point say, "Hey wait a minute, that's nice but I can't afford this!" Here the beauty of free enterprise and competitive business kicks in. Each reference publisher and software manufacturer wants your business. As a result, both LOGOS and PARSONS Technology offer their Library systems FREE! All you have to do is pay for the shipping of the software, or download it from the Internet. If you want to begin a Pastor's personal software library, nothing stops you except having a computer able to handle the new breed of software. Of course, you can adequately run this software on much smaller and slower machines, but you will have much slower access and wait periods for information to surface. Here is how you can get started to build an impressive library of electronic books for "men of the cloth."

First, start with all the FREE software you can get! Parson Technology is king here. They offer an absolutely free starter kit. This includes the award winning QuickVerse 4.0 Bible software program, and the New QuickVerse Library 2.0 plus 10 unlocked books and over 200 additional STEP-compatible titles that can be purchased separately at any time. From there you can usually

**"unlock," these additional books to add to your library system from the existing CD-ROM software.**

**Logos doesn't offer their Bible software program free. You must purchase their starter kit for \$ 49.95. It gives you the King James Version Bible, a Logos Bible Map set, Strong's Expanded Dictionary, one hundred MIDI hymns and a devotional book. You can get a free download of the Logos Library Viewer 2.1 and order a free set of three CD's for \$ 9.95. Whichever you choose, I would recommend adding your favorite Bible versions for comparison study. If you are a Greek or Hebrew enthusiast, the LOGOS Library System excels. Logos offers impressive Greek and Hebrew tools, language lexicons, along with popular study Bibles, and theological works for research such as:**

**Byzantine Majority Text/Form**

**Nestle-Aland/UBS Greek with GRAMCORD Morphology**

**Nestle Aland 26th Edition Greek NT with McReynolds English Interlinear**

**Steven's Textus Receptus**

**Brown/Driver/Briggs lexicon.**

**Liddell and Scott's Greek/English Lexicon - Abridged**

**Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged**

**Interlinear Hebrew & Greek New Testament**

**Strong's Hebrew/Greek Concordance**

**Bibliotheca Sacra - A Theological Journal**

**For the average preacher who has not had complex language training skills, there are more simple works to help him overcome the language barrier and stay true to God's Word. To help here, I would add the following:**

**Matthew Henry's Commentaries**

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary**

**The Bible Exposition Commentary**

**MacArthur's New Testament Commentary Series**

**Holman Bible Handbook & Dictionary**

**Topical Analysis of the Bible**

**Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia**

**Willmington's Book of the Bible**

**Fisherman Bible Study Guides**

**The College Press NIV Commentary Series**

**Hebrew or Greek Tutor**

These are just a smattering of the more than hundreds of titles available to "unlock" from as few as three or four usually free CD'S. The only costs to you is "unlocking" the books you personally choose. It is possible to unlock one book at a time by a phone call that gives the unlocking code. Parsons declares that on their free disks, more than 200 STEP-compatible Bible reference titles are available with prices as low as \$ 4.50. These can be unlocked with a simple toll-free call.

Recently, Parson's began a new service to pastor's and Christian workers. One can subscribe to their monthly service plan. Through the Internet access is provided to their QuickVerse Online Library Server where they store a selection of theological works for you to browse, read, copy and paste as if it were stored on your computer.

For many pastor's reading this article, this still may seem overwhelming and expensive. However, I obtained many of my earliest biblical software works absolutely free! Many Christian publishers offer at least one or more free books on their introductory CD'S, and if you have Internet web access you can go to their home pages and download the free books that they offer. Here are some free books and software available through such means:

**Logos Library Viewer 2.1**

**King James Bible in QuickVerse 4.0**

**QuickVerse 2.1 STEP Library Reader**

**Brown/Driver/Briggs lexicon**

**Scripture Alphabet of Animals**

**Easton's Bible Dictionary**

**Smith's Bible Dictionary**

**Practice of the Presence of God - Brother Lawrence**

**The Religious Affections - John Wesley**

**Spurgeon's Morning and Evening Devotions**

**The Imitation of Christ -Thomas A'Kempis**

**Power Through Prayer - E.M. Bounds**

**St. Paul the Traveller & Roman Citizen**

**Pilgrims' Progress**

If you watch the ads there are Christian software sales with 40% - 80% off. There is no pastor who has a computer that is capable of storage and CD-ROM access, that cannot begin a Pastor's electronic library. God has given us this new technology and we should begin seriously using it for mankind's good and God's glory.

**SOME BASIC SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR A BEGINNING PASTOR'S ELECTRONIC THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY:**

**A Survey of Bible Doctrine - by Dr. Charles C. Ryrie**

**Basic Theology - Dr. Charles C. Ryrie.**

**The Great Doctrines of the Bible - Dr. William Evans**

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary - An Exposition of Scriptures by the Dallas Seminary Faculty.**

**MacArthur's New Testament Commentaries**

**Wiersbe's Bible Exposition Commentaries of the Old Testament & New Testament**

**The Moody Handbook of Theology - By Dr. Paul P. Enns.**

**Holman Bible Dictionary and Handbook**

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**Topical Analysis of the Bible - Edited by Walter Elwell.**

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**Nelson Electronic Publishing (800/933/9673) or [www.nelsonworddirect.com](http://www.nelsonworddirect.com)**

**Epiphany Software - Bible Explorer 2.0 (888/333-BIBLE)**

**Hermeneutika - BibleWorks (800/74-BIBLE) or [www.bibleworks.com](http://www.bibleworks.com)**

**Ellis Enterprises, Inc - The Bible Library (800/729-9500) or [www.biblelibrary.com](http://www.biblelibrary.com)**

*Rev. Dennis L. Finnan of St. Charles, Minnesota, uses all of the above-recommended software and more in his personal Bible study and research in preparing his pulpit messages, radio sermons and lectures. Dennis and his wife Ursula have five children and two grandchildren. He is pastor of the St. Charles Bible Church, and weekly speaker on the national radio broadcast, the [World, the Word & You!](#) He is also president of the Minnesota Regional of IFCA International.*

# **Creative Use of Technology**

**Rev. Bob King**

Technology has changed the way people work, play, relax, learn, communicate, interact with one another, and even the way we think. This is a reality local church leadership must recognize and utilize if we are to effectively communicate the truth of God's Word to those who are being impacted by the technological phenomenon. Technology has long played an important role in the enhancement of both communication and education. In recent years, however, the advent and rapid development of the personal computer has made technology more than just an enhancement. There is a sense in which technology, like music and language itself, has become a separate and very important medium of communication. The computer has changed the way many people transmit and receive thoughts and ideas. Acceptance and use of technology has created the most visually oriented society the world has ever known.

The creative use of technology in the local church is no more than the reflection of a realization that people are communicating differently today than in the past. The language of technology is the common language, a vernacular of our time. Refusal to make appropriate, creative use of such technology is little different than requiring all people to either read the Bible in Latin or depend upon others to explain it.

A little thought and investigation can produce more valid and practical uses for modern technology than the average church will ever have resources to pursue. Some serious research can narrow the field to technological innovations that are within the reach of any congregation. The uses which follow are the product of such thought and research in one local church of modest size and budget. Some are underway, some are under development, and others are yet under construction.

## **E-mail communication with Missionaries**

Assuming a church already has a computer, some creative uses of computer technology can be made at little or no expense. One possibility is e-mail communication with missionaries. A mission station is placed in the foyer and equipped with a computer and an operator. Excerpts from one or more current mission letters are read during the service time. The excerpts are carefully chosen and presented in such a way as to stimulate questions and to focus attention on special needs for encouragement and prayer. Attendees are encouraged to go to the mission station at the conclusion of the service and send brief notes of encouragement to the missionaries. They can either type their messages into the computer or write them out and give them to the computer operator.

A ministry of this kind is inexpensive and requires little time or effort. In most churches there are people who can readily do this and would appreciate the opportunity. The impact can be very significant. Such notes are a tremendous source of encouragement to the missionaries who receive them. They are tangible reminders that the missionaries and the work they are doing are not forgotten, and there are people back home faithfully praying for them. At the same time, it provides the church family another hands-on contact with their missionaries and gives them opportunity to actually minister to them.

## **Web sites**

Web sites are somewhat more expensive and require more expertise and work to establish and maintain. However, the ratio of cost to potential impact is excellent; and anyone who is computer literate can quickly gain enough expertise to establish a simple but respectable site. There are several excellent software programs specifically designed to help with web site development and

**maintenance. A floodgate of potential uses and design ideas can be opened by surfing the sites of other churches already on the World Wide Web. Links to a number of such sites can be found under Our Churches' Web sites on the IFCA International home page at [www.ifca.org](http://www.ifca.org). Several of them are excellent.**

**Once in place, a web site has tremendous ministry potential both within the church and as an outreach tool. There is almost no limit to the variety of information a site can host. However, the popularity of the site is dependant upon the quality and relevance of the information provided and the way it is presented. The site needs to have good eye appeal and be structured so it is easy and efficient to use. Regularly updating the information and periodically changing the style and presentation will make the web site new and refreshing and keep visitors returning again and again.**

### **Video Projection System**

**One of the most useful, effective, and versatile technologies to consider is a video projection system. A reasonably good complete system can be established with a medium quality video projector, a good quality VCR, a sound interface for the public address system, a large screen (a blank flat-white wall works very well), and a reasonably powerful computer. Ideally, the computer should be powerful enough to handle real-time video and sound and be equipped with a rewritable compact disk (CD) drive and a high speed CD drive (play only). However, respectable presentations can be accomplished with considerably less powerful computers and simple ones with any computer capable of running presentation software. Admittedly, the equipment does represent a considerable investment; but it can be done in stages to reduce the pain. If the church already owns an appropriate computer, a good part of the expense is already covered.**

**There are a host of uses for such a system. Video projection is an excellent means of projecting music for congregational singing. With some initial preparation, both the words and the musical scores can be projected. The improvement in congregational singing is almost unbelievable as people are singing and projecting upward and outward rather than down into a song book. In addition to music, the system can be used to project sermon and teaching outlines, illustrations, maps, reports, charts, graphs, special announcements and promotions, or virtually any other kind of visual learning aids. Such uses generally enhance both understanding and retention. With proper software and adequate computer power, extensive animation, sound, and even full action video can be added to presentations greatly multiplying the impact.**

**With the same equipment it is also possible to create self-running announcements to be shown unattended between services or whenever appropriate. The same technology can be used to produce promotional presentations for publicizing specific ministries of the church or stimulating greater interest in special events and services. The same platform can also be used to develop interactive Bible lessons. Triggers appear on the screen allowing students to respond to questions or make selections by clicking the mouse or entering a key stroke. The program responds differently for each possible choice. Add a rewritable CD drive to the computer and presentations, including interactive Bible lessons, can be stored on a CD for distribution and use on almost any computer with a CD player and a sound card. With the addition of a computer/television interface, non interactive presentations can be transferred to standard video tape and played back on any television equipped with a VCR. With that added innovation comes the possibility of producing very economical promotional videos for the church or any of its ministries for broad distribution.**

**There are also some fringe benefits to having a good video presentation system in place. When it is not in use for the development of running of presentations, a reasonably powerful computer is available for other applications. In addition to computer generated presentations, the video**

projector can be used to show conventional video tapes. The big screen presentation gives such showings a much greater appeal than just viewing them on a conventional television; and when the screening is done, the tape can be added to a growing tape loan library for the church. If the need arises, commercial television broadcasts can be played through the video projection system by attaching cable service or an antenna to the VCR tuner and playing it through the projector.

Another exciting possibility is live video conferencing between the church congregation and missionaries on the field. Two computers are required. The video projection system's computer as well as a notebook computer are equipped with video conferencing capability, including color video cameras. A time is established for a video conference with a mission family having access to an adequate telephone system and Internet service. The conference is scheduled during a regular church service time and the church family can interact with the missionaries, and each party will be able to see and hear the other. When the conference is over the missionary repackages the notebook computer and ships it to another missionary family with which the next conference has been arranged. All the shipping is prepaid by the church and the computer is insured against damage or loss.

Getting the message of God, Christianity, and the church into the medium of advanced technology must be done with the same caution, precision, and determination required of those who translate that message into other languages. The focus must be kept upon the message rather than the medium. Video is commonly used for purposes of entertainment, and entertainment is not the purpose of the church. However, it is also true that appropriate video stimulates the learning process. It has long been known that information both seen and heard is more fully and easily understood and better retained than information that is only heard. Furthermore, we do live in a visually oriented world in which technology is rapidly becoming the common language of the masses. While maintaining due caution, the effort must be made to effectively communicate the most important message and the most eternal of all truths in this new language of the masses.

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*Rev. Robert (Bob) King is pastor of Calvary Bible Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma*

**THE CHURCH AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Creative Uses of E-mail (Electronic Mail) in the Local Church**  
**Rev. Ronald Klein**

According to the October 1997 edition of Windows Magazine, 31 million Americans were using e-mail in 1994. In 1997 the number was anticipated to more than double to 66 million, and by the year 2000, e-mail users are expected to number 107 million. Users generated more than 812 billion messages in 1994. In 1997 the "mouse" clicked off 2.7 trillion messages; by the year 2000, the figure is expected to be near the range of 7 trillion messages a year. Mountains of e-mails are moving at higher speeds and greater volume, and for people who can afford it, you can even receive e-mail in your car by way of Clarion's dashboard voice controlled auto PC ([www.autopc.com](http://www.autopc.com)).

**People are paying attention to e-mail!**

Today's technology tools are providing significant opportunities and benefits for the church as we press on to fulfill the Great Commission. ". . . make disciples of all nations . . ." (Mt. 28:19). However, we must also be alert to the limitations and potential dangers.

Evangelists and missionaries have seized computer technology, especially the Internet, as a way to swiftly and efficiently reach others with the Gospel and share the Word of God at lower costs. It is time for pastors and teachers to wisely and vigorously take hold of this tool to shepherd the flock, do the work of an evangelist, and discharge all the duties of our ministry (II Tim. 4:5)!

Churches, large and small, along with missionaries even from remote places, increasingly benefit from the wise use of modern technology. Missionary linguists labor in partnership with churches in fulfillment of Acts 1:8. ". . . You will be My witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

E-mail is used by Parkside Church (more than 2500 attendees) to network church ministry workers, other churches, foreign missionaries and their agencies, Christian colleges, and many para-church organizations, etc. worldwide. I receive and send e-mail from my Parkside Church and home offices daily. Even from primitive areas of the world, communications via high frequency radios powered by batteries and/or with solar-powered electric cells, are effectively advancing the cause of Christ. Parkside Church staff and other workers use technology tools frequently. (At least 22 high-tech electronic systems are used in our facility and ministries.) Our office and church ministry teams are networked and regularly use e-mail. Parkside Church

Care Ministries (New Mom's Meal Ministry and Barnabas Ministry) use e-mail for multidirectional network communications.

Workers are now more readily available because they can serve from their home offices, a distance away from the church. Commuting time and money is saved. Office space for more workers is less of a problem and long distance phone call costs are avoided.

Childbirth reports coming to the church by phone are reported via e-mail to New Mom's Meal Ministry coordinators who in turn e-mail or phone workers who provide ministries, like Prayer Networking, literature, and food service for parents lacking adequate family support. Coordinators e-mail reports, needs, statistical data, and spiritual information back to overseeing church staff.

This ministry also uses a 24-hr. 7 days a week electronic phone service (you can reach the New Mom's Meal Ministry phone service at 216-436-4900 and Parkside Church Care Ministries e-mail at [103232.726@compuserve.com](mailto:103232.726@compuserve.com)).

**Our Barnabas Ministry also uses e-mail in a ministry of encouragement. Foreign missionaries are included. Assignments from pastoral staff go via E-mail to coordinators who e-mail or phone workers who then provide Biblical encouragement by e-mail, phone calls, prayer, and appropriate cards for 3-5 weeks as needed. Reports come from workers through coordinators back to staff via e-mail.**

**Evangelistic outreach is facilitated by e-mail. Effective and inexpensive distribution of Gospel information and ministry team communications move fast and far by e-mail. We are reaching our community and beyond. You can reach me at Rklein1616@aol.com and you can try our Parkside Church "Truth for Life" at tflca@aol.com. Audio is available if you have multimedia capability.**

**Quality Ministry Resources/Christian Computer Libraries are available to virtually anyone with the necessary hardware and software. Free e-mail is available. Modest fees for online services, and pertinent knowledge and skills are necessary.**

**Philip Barker has provided the Lord's people a good service in his brief user friendly Moody Graduate School "Servant" November/December 1997 article "Seize the Internet." E-mail and Internet users, and prospective web site providers would do well to consider his suggestions. He is available at International Teams e-mail: Phil@itusa.org.**

**Evangelism and Missions Networking has been enhanced. By using e-mail, time and distance are not now as much an issue in communicating as they were before. We are doing it faster and more frequently with partners in the Gospel. The savings in time and dollars for Parkside Church has been very significant. All Parkside Church evangelistic and missionary ministries are using e-mail. Could, and should more local churches do better "connecting"?**

**Our missionaries are linked to key people via e-mail while on the field and on furlough. "Truth for Life" (TFL) is a Parkside Church example ([www.truthforlife.org](http://www.truthforlife.org)). We receive upwards of 50 e-mail responses per day through our TFL ministry. TFL has seven different uses of e-mail. E-mail links provide a vehicle for effective interactive dialogue. It's a tool for Gospel ministry. You can reach "Truth for Life" (TFL) directly at [TFLCA@aol.com](mailto:TFLCA@aol.com). In a small way, the Gospel is available worldwide via e-mail and the Internet. Good Bible teaching and ministry helps like the IFCA International web site resources and e-mail links provide many new opportunities for CONNECTING**

**with people. We are linking saints locally and worldwide who need to grow spiritually. More Gospel light is being provided for those in spiritual darkness. Today the scope of our audience is not as limited by physical proximity as it has been before. We are no longer locked into expensive snail mail.**

**Now along with some positive aspects of technology, to be balanced, we need to look at the negatives. We need to be alert to the limitations and potential evils of today's technology. There is no e-mail heaven on earth!**

**Contrary to the marketing hype, computers, the Web and e-mail are not panaceas. Obviously, blatant hazards include the assault of computer crime, pornography, apostasy, and the like through e-mail. Proper management of this tool is necessary. "Cybersin" is only a few clicks away. Unsolicited and unexpected e-mail madness is possible. Beware of confusing knowledge with information.**

**Soul viruses are common in cyberspace. Spiritual viruses are more dangerous and costly than software viruses. Immature cyberspace saints with a "cut and paste" mentality can ignorantly and quickly download destructive data. Well meaning immature "surfers" have ended up seriously distracted or distorting the Scriptures to their own destruction. We must be on our guard (II Pet.**

**3:16-17). Online wolves in sheep's clothing are extremely dangerous.**

**Cyberspace may provide a kind of "virtual community." Yes, there are many benefits through computer technology. But it's also possible to become so involved in cyberspace and even "cyberchurch" that "real world" local church responsibilities and eternal benefits are lost. Beware of the "virtual church," a kind of virtual Christian community that lacks real community in**

**the Biblical, face-to-face sense. Some professing Christians have become so involved in e-mail, etc. that they lose touch with or never really connect with what God has for them in their marriage, family, and church. Assembly worship, Biblical accountability, corporate communion, Biblical body life, Christian community, flesh and blood collective service, spiritual presence,**

**and the like can "crash" and disappear quickly. John wrote "I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face so that our joy may be complete" (II John 12). This kind of flesh and blood, face-to-face fellowship is important to God, irreplaceable, and indispensable if our joy is to be complete. It cannot be reproduced or distributed digitally! "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing . . ." Heb. 10:25**

**I know a woman who through unwise e-mail/cyberworld involvement neglected her real world family and friends. She eventually became entangled in off-line adultery and other sinful activities. Today she has lost her marriage, children, and much more. She may soon be in prison. Remember, our sinful nature follows us into every technology. Whether online or off-line we must guard our heart, "for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov. 4:23). ". . . Flee from idolatry . . ." I Cor. 10:14 ". . . Flee fornication. Every sin . . ." I Cor. 6:18**

**Men have come to me on the verge of losing their marriages, families, mental and emotional health, and their jobs because they became seduced and "hooked on" addictive and destructive uses of this technology. "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace . . ." II Tim. 2:22**

**So our technology comes with a very mixed blessing. We need to search the Scriptures daily and ask the Holy Spirit to direct our steps into the use of technology to enlighten our conscience, to speed the Gospel and sound doctrine into all nations, and seek God's wisdom in the use of this technology for His glory. I think Phil Baker makes an excellent point that I paraphrase: Perhaps**

**our biggest challenge is to seize this new technology to declare the works and Words of the true Communicator Himself.**

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*Rev. Ronald Klein is Pastor of Care Ministries at Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls, OH. Following graduation from Moody Bible Institute in 1960 he served for 33 years in Pastoral ministry at churches in New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. During his Pastoral ministry he also earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Moody Bible Institute. Prior to coming to Parkside Church, Ron served with Moody as Field Representative for Eastern Ohio. He has been in IFCA International about 35 years.*

# **The Christian and Technology**

**Rev. Allan McGuirl**

Is technology really going to change the world? I remember the old 78 rpm records, then cassettes, then along came CD's. Now we access microchips and talking computers. Yes, the whole method of communication is changing. I have often said, "If the world can use technology, so can the church of Jesus Christ." The message is always the same but the method has to be relevant to the day in which we live.

Can you imagine a 250 Watt radio transmitter fitting into a suitcase, also known as "A Radio Station in a Suitcase," that can reach a city for Christ? Galcom International is a non-profit technical missionary organization coming alongside the local evangelical church to provide durable technical equipment for communicating the Gospel worldwide.

The Lord allowed us to start in our home 8 ½ years ago and today we are working in over 88 countries of the world with a major thrust of placing fix-tuned radios in the hands of the blind, refugees, the poor and disabled, prisoners and Muslims.

You, as a church can set up your own Christian radio station on the mission field. Less than \$10,000.00 will give an effective outreach.

Hard-of-hearing a problem in your church? We have customized a little transmitter that will cover any congregation in North America. It is inexpensive but excellent in performance. It comes with little receivers that the hard-of-hearing can use week after week. Using similar technology, we make a small adjustment, and now we can do simultaneous translation using the same system.

People say they need a portable PA system to run on solar because they have no electricity or batteries. Technology allows us to use a little 2½ lb. unit that can reach out to approximately a quarter of a mile and run off the sun.

The Jesus film has had a great impact. Along with this, new technology has provided us with video projectors for indoor or outdoor use. Galcom makes them available for home or mission field. You can even use your computer in combination with the video projector to display your sermon notes, announcements, choruses, etc. We even custom make video screens for outdoor evangelism.

Just recently we heard of over 200 people coming to know Christ listening to the little fix-tuned radios in Burkina Faso where Youth for Christ was broadcasting over a low-powered radio station. A customs officer in Cuba confiscated 30 radios; turned on one of the radios, came to know Christ and gave the rest of the radios to unbelievers.

Over 900 people speaking at least eight different languages heard the Gospel at a crusade where our speech translation units were used. Hundreds in Zaire at an outdoor showing of the Jesus film, using our portable video equipment, came to know Christ.

Yes, technology is helping to advance the Gospel. Galcom International is committed to helping you as a pastor, church leader, or missionary to be equipped with the very latest in technology in sending forth the Word of God to the unreached. Contact us today for details on the above.

*Rev. Allan McGuirl is serving with Galcom International, a ministry established in 1989 to provide durable technical equipment for communicating the Gospel worldwide. Their primary tool was fix tuned radios but solar PA systems, solar battery chargers, portable low power radio stations and video projectors with screens are also used. Over 175,000 fix tuned radios have been distributed around the world. He was born in rural Ontario in Canada. He is a graduate of Ontario Bible College and served*

*a number of years in the pastorate and as Director of Gospel Recordings before the founding of Galcom International.*

# MIDI MUSIC: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Mr. Brent Olstad

MIDI, which stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, is the computer language that computers and synthesizers use to speak to each other. MIDI was introduced in the 1980's so computers and synthesizers could communicate, thus giving the user the ability to link various makes and models of computers and synthesizers together. The introduction of MIDI totally changed the way the music business operates and virtually all aspects of today's music industry uses MIDI. This article will not delve into the technology of MIDI, but rather will give you practical ideas that you can use in your church.

## COMPUTERS AND MIDI

There are so many computer applications that use MIDI that it would take many pages to describe them all. Basically they fall under three categories: **Notation Software, Sequencing Software, and Editors.**

**1. Notation Software** allows the user to input music either through the computer keyboard or a MIDI keyboard, edit and then print out a copy. In order to use a MIDI keyboard your computer must have a MIDI device through which your keyboard communicates. All MIDI devices are standardized so any MIDI device and MIDI keyboard will be able to communicate. Notation programs allow you to enter notes in real time (the computer essentially records what you play and then notates it) or one note at a time. The cost of notation software runs from \$50 up to \$400, and generally the more you pay the better the program.

*Practical Uses:* Let's say your pianist has difficulty transposing a certain hymn. You can input the notes of the hymn into your notation software, tell it to change the key, print it, and give it to your accompanist to play. Perhaps you like to have musical transitions between hymns or songs. You can notate them exactly how you want them played, including dynamics, tempo changes, key changes, etc. Many programs allow you to save files in formats that enable other people to print out and/or play your arrangements on their computers. Of course you must be careful to obey all copyright laws and restrictions. I use my notation software to arrange music for our choir, orchestra, and instrumental and vocal solos.

**2. Sequencing software** is essentially a multi-track digital recorder. It allows you to record different instruments onto separate tracks which you then can edit (tempo, dynamics, effects, etc.) for playback. A basic recording session using sequencing software would be: 1) connect your MIDI keyboard to your computer and open the software; 2) record piano on track one; 3) record strings on track two; 4) record brass on track three; 5) edit the balance of each instrument; 6) save song for future use; 7) transfer song onto a cassette tape or other storage medium. Many programs allow you to copy and paste sections of songs, change the dynamics of specific spots in your songs, change tempo, meter, instrumentation, and much more.

*Practical Uses:* Many church musicians use sequencing software to create accompany tracks for solos, choirs, or congregational singing. You can have your pianist record a number of hymns for those days he/she may be absent. You can easily transpose hymns as well. Many sequencing programs also include notation capability so you can print out separate parts for each musician. Sequencing notation allows you to create a CD or tape of your own arrangements. Again, obey all copyright laws.

**3. Editing software** basically allows the user to import audio, sampled sounds, effects (reverb, chorus, etc.), tweak them and apply them to other programs. Such programs are usually required

for advanced applications so I will not expound on this any further. There are many books that deal with electronic music available through your local music store if you want more information.

## **KEYBOARDS AND MIDI**

Today all "professional" keyboards and virtually all "home" keyboards have MIDI capability. Your keyboard has MIDI capability if there are two to three round 5 pin jacks on the rear of your keyboard identified as "IN", "OUT", and "THRU" (not all keyboards have this third jack.) A basic MIDI keyboard setup includes the "mother" or "slave" keyboard which acts as your main controller. You then plug in as many other MIDI keyboards as you want to your "mother" keyboard that in turn can be connected to your keyboard. A "multitimbral" keyboard is essential if you plan to use your keyboard as the source of your multi-track sequencing program. This means your keyboard is capable of playing two or more sounds at one time. If your keyboard is not multitimbral you can play and record just one sound. Some keyboards have built in sequencers eliminating the need of a computer. These keyboards always have some form of multitimbral capability.

The choices of keyboards available today is overwhelming. I believe there are some basic guidelines to follow:

- 1) You must like how it sounds. Don't just rely on the salesperson's recommendations.
- 2) You must like how it plays. Is the action too stiff or too loose?
- 3) The keyboard must have at least 64 voice polyphony. In basic terms this means you can play up to 64 notes at one time without having notes drop out. If you plan to do a lot of sequencing, this is essential.
- 4) The keyboard must have multitimbral capability. Sixteen parts seems to be today's standard.

*Practical Uses:* You can add color and variety to your congregational singing by adding strings, brass, or other sounds to the music. Connecting two or more keyboards together allows you greater variety and usage for solos, choral accompany, preludes, offertories, etc. Most keyboards allow you to easily transpose the entire keyboard to any key you like. This is a great tool for many pianists today. Most keyboards are easy to transport and they don't go out of tune either! If you already own a MIDI capable keyboard, you can purchase sound modules (the "brains" of a synthesizer) that will connect to your keyboard.

Modules range in price from \$300 to \$2,000 and offer all the functions of a full-blown synthesizer, minus the keyboard.

## **GM AND OTHER MIDI GADGETS**

GM, or General Music, is the capability for keyboards to share MIDI files. If your keyboard has GM capability you can record a song on a Roland keyboard and play it back on any other keyboard. You can also purchase GM files that include full orchestrations of songs that your keyboard can play. Remember though, your keyboard must have GM capability and be multitimbral.

Many computer soundcards have MIDI and sequencing capability, and with the advanced WAVE technology you often don't need a keyboard to generate great sounding MIDI files. There are many sequencing modules available that have built in sounds that are portable making it easy to plug into your church's sound system and most support GM files.

This article has brushed just the surface of MIDI music, but I trust it

has given you an idea how you can incorporate MIDI into your music program. If you have further questions, please feel free to [contact me via email](#) or at (541)482-8644.

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*Brent Olstad is minister of music at Ashland Bible Church in Ashland, Oregon. He graduated with a degree in organ performance from Biola University. His published hymn arrangements for piano, flute and piano, and saxophone and piano are distributed by Intrada Music Group and are available through local Christian bookstores.*

# **Technology in the Rural Church**

**Rev. Joseph P. Smith**

There's a sort of a joke that runs around cyberspace that goes like this.

**Question: Should I buy a newer computer or a newer car?**

**Answer: Walking is good for you!**

That answer may not seem practical to you, but actually, it's better than you might now think. Internet ready systems, including printers but not software, are available for under \$500. The technology is now well enough understood that you can be careful about buying things that are really useful, and not just cute. But the perception is that this stuff is for the big church, when actually, it's more necessary in the smaller church.

A very wise pastor of a large multi-staff church once noted that it was foolish to hire a second pastor before you hired adequate secretarial help to make sure this high-priced person wasn't spending all his time doing things he wasn't trained to do.

In my career of small churches and church planting, it would be interesting to have a total of how many church bulletins I have typed. All this was done in spite of the fact that I was only able to get two hours in a typing class and use two fingers. The reason I now type with a computer is that I type so fast - almost 50 mistakes a minute. The main reason rural pastors use volunteer secretaries is not to save time, but to get a clean product. If he has to write out the information for them, it does not save time. And, in a small town the propriety of working alone with someone of the opposite sex is often in question.

One of the most common complaints about pastors of small churches is that they do not answer their mail. But given that their training was not directed into how to answer correspondence, it is little wonder. I believe the Acts 6 principle applies here. Why should they leave the ministry of the Word and prayer to wait on tables (answer their mail).

Many of the letters he sends can be edited from an existing letter. If, for instance, he writes to a new family that has just visited the church, he can load the last one he wrote and just revise it. Then he can store it under a new name in a subdirectory for these kind of letters. He

will even have a record of the date it was written. Once he has the basic form for the church bulletin, revising it for each week is much easier.

He can use search mechanisms to answer questions he needs to know. In most modern word processors, you can search for words in any document in a designated path. (That's an area of the computer's storage.) For instance, should there be a question as to when you have

had baptism, you could search the subdirectory where the bulletins are stored for the word baptism. Or if you want to see how many times Mrs. Jones has sung a solo in the last year, you can search for that.

This saves filing, filing cabinets, and paper. Most offices in small churches need the savings in space. And it makes it easier to find documents when you can't remember their names. All this can be accomplished with only one software tool, a word processor.

Word Processors can now handle pictures and color. The small church often wastes time and money looking for insignificant numbers of certificates. With a computer, you can print them yourself.

But it surprises many to find that some of these routine tasks are better done by a database manager. For instance, it is perfectly possible to do the church bulletin with a Filemaker Pro 3.0. A basic layout can be created, and all that is left to do each week is the date, numbers, titles, names, etc. Even the section for announcements can be set up in the layout. The advantage of this is quicker searching, and alternate layouts that give you reports, such as scripture used, hymns used, etc.

All sorts of church record keeping can be done with one of these. Sunday school attendance is an example. One of the things I urge pastors to track is their contacts with people, whether by phone, letter, visit, or in a meeting. I am convinced that after tracking these things for one month, anyone will see the value in not letting some people slip through the cracks.

Another way computers can help a rural church is in research for the pastor. In these churches, it is not good to preach Greek in the pulpit. You need to use tools that compare translations. These are available on CD-ROM, and will save a bundle compared with the cost of books. And, since they are searchable, they are better. Items you want to quote can be cut and pasted (electronically) so that you don't introduce spelling errors. One CD-ROM I have has eleven English translations, uses Strong's numbers to identify the words in the original languages, has eight commentaries and even a book of hymn stories. Think of the space this saves, let alone cost, and agony when it comes time to move.

There are wonderful resources available on the Internet, too. For instance, the RBC Ministries pages will let you find inexpensive (often free) books on any subject that just a few folks need to study. They can be searched and even ordered over the web. This saves postage. At <http://www.gospelcom.net/bible/> there is a wonderful concordance that works for about seven English translations. Recently, I wanted to send a verse to a new convert from Hungary. I located the verse in the concordance, then found it in a Magyar translation, cut and pasted it into a letter.

Many pastors need the resources of a library that is nowhere near them. But for instance, books on the rural church may be borrowed from the Oak Hills library by finding them in our [Rural Church Bibliography](#). Just click on the link to the bibliography, locate the book, click on another link and you'll be ready to e-mail a request to borrow. If you copy the book from the bibliography, you won't even need to know our address, or type its name.

Just paste it in the e-mail. We'll pay the postage one way - you only need to pay return postage. We're working on getting the entire library on line.

Many rural pastors need to continue their education. Among some of the options out there are seminary programs that are on-line. Bethel Seminary now offers an accredited M.Div. Degree that may be earned with only four weeks of campus residency.

Don't underestimate the value of the Net for shopping. I recently checked a computer bookstore (<http://www.amazon.com>) for a book and found in about twenty seconds that I could save \$4.00 there. And the catalog is almost as good as *Books in Print*. For instance, Harold Longenecker's *Growing Leaders by Design* is there.

Finally, the computer can mean a help for the sense of isolation rural pastors (and their wives) suffer. I'm not talking about chat places, that can be a waste of time, but access to newspapers, newsletters, e-mail forums, etc. I pray regularly for Steve Francis, an IFCA International prison chaplain whom I've never met, because he faithfully keeps me posted. Prayer requests can be circulated frequently and easily. Correspondence was never so easy.

**There is one caution, though. These things are such cute gadgets that some pastors spend more time with them than they do with people. Remember Noel Olson's dictum. "Shepherds spend time with their sheep!" The purpose of a computer in a small church is to save time for the ministry of the Word and prayer. Computers can do that. Why not use the tool?**

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*Rev. Joseph Smith has been in ministry for 30 years serving as a pastor, Christian school teacher, church planter, hospital chaplain, foreign mission representative, and as adjunct faculty, both on the graduate and undergraduate level at Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music, Oak Hills Bible College and the Moody Bible Institute. In addition, He ministered for eight years with the Evangelical Hospital Chaplains of Grand Rapids, MI. He is presently the Director of the Church Ministries Department of Oak Hills Fellowship.*

# **From the Pulpit to the Living Room**

**Dr. James Scudder**

Following the leading of God in a fundamental Bible-believing church should be easy. However, when God is leading you to begin a television ministry, where do you start? Where do you go for technological support and how do you get financial support? These questions are only the beginning of the hundreds of questions you eventually will have to answer before your program airs. Nevertheless, the need exists for quality teaching and preaching on our airwaves. With the start of satellite and cable networks, it is now possible to reach into the homes of millions of people.

Some are convinced that the world does not need another "TV evangelist." But in carrying out the Great Commission the church must not use the excuse that because others are doing something badly, it does nothing at all. I believe it is vital to use every area of communication to reach precious souls for God's kingdom.

Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church began in a storefront on the northwest side of Chicago with four members; two gentlemen, my wife and myself. God in His graciousness, has prospered that humble beginning. Twenty six years later He has blessed us with a recently completed 2500 seat auditorium. Located on 40 acres in Lake Zurich, IL in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, "[The Quentin Road Bible Hour](#)" is broadcast nationally and, as of this writing, is on three networks, including ODYSSEY and FAMILYNET. These reach two thirds of the homes in America. We are also on many individual stations throughout the country and internationally. We are seen in Bolivia and on 99 stations in India. Our's is the only Christian broadcast in India's state of Andhra Pradesh.

We are pursuing broadcast outlets that will reach the whole European continent from England to Russia and all the countries in between. The program will be translated into seven different languages. The Christian stations in Iceland are also interested in the program. Last year, our "Victory in Grace" radio program began on local Chicago stations and expanded as more stations were added throughout the country.

In 1993, the Lord laid on my heart the burden for reaching people via a television ministry. It was not easy at first to understand the burden for it seemed so much was involved. We already had several ministries reaching our community with the gospel of Christ through our school and preschool programs for 850 students. God was really blessing with solid growth both spiritually and numerically with people being saved and added to the church. Christians were growing in the Lord and rejoicing in serving Him in our local church. Yet I was convinced there was something more God wanted me to do.

We had a lack of experience in the area of television and radio broadcasting. I went to see a friend who was on a local TV station. He had a couple of video cameras and was taping his services and sending the tapes to a local cable station. This seemed like a great way to start, so I began checking into acquiring equipment. As with all technological areas today, this became more complicated as we began to learn more about it. Rapid changes are common in this field. We had to make choices as to the format required by different stations. This would ultimately decide the type of equipment we purchased. We knew consumer camcorders would not work so we purchased 3 beta format, broadcast-quality cameras and a computer editing processor.

With literally no broadcast experience or training at all, we set to work on learning how to do it. Cameramen had to be trained. We recruited volunteers from our church with my son, Jim as director and Neal DeAryan, my son-in-law doing the editing. The Quentin Road Bible Hour was

on its way! Our present sound system was modified and tied in to produce quality broadcast audio. We were able to rely on the technological abilities of a few men in the church.

Later, we purchased a mini-cam which enabled us to go on location. This is useful in our yearly India Crusades, our camp ministries and even local shoots around the area. In 1997, our audio editing system for radio broadcast was added and when our new auditorium and ministry area was completed, a studio was added that expanded the audio and video departments. Because we have a full-power local Christian TV channel, we began serious inquiries with WCFC-TV in Chicago. It has a potential of reaching into over seven million homes. Although the management held a different theological position than we, they were persuaded that a local church broadcast would greatly enhance their viewing audience which in fact, it did. Through them and other media contacts, we were able to constantly improve the quality of our program and gain experience in the broadcasting world.

The opportunity presented itself to expand to a network of stations across the country. Most networks are difficult to get on and often, the editing times are different. For example, on ODYSSEY and FAMILYNET, we broadcast in a half-hour slot but on other stations, we have an hour slot. The radio broadcast, has fifteen minute slots and half-hour slots. This all requires more editing time necessary to be aired on a particular station or network.

The hallmark for "The Quentin Road Bible Hour" is a clear presentation of the gospel message coupled with expository preaching. When we started, there was no separated, fundamental ministry that I knew of with this type of programming. Occasionally, I will include a series on marriage and family life, personal evangelism and soul winning. But the need is to teach people the Bible and motivate them to get into a local Bible-believing church.

During broadcasting times, we offer a toll-free number with volunteers from our congregation manning the phones. They have been trained to lead the unsaved to Christ. We send them literature to help them begin to grow in Christ. People from teenagers to the senior saints, from doctors to mechanics do this at our church.

Every Wednesday night people share accounts of people getting saved or being blessed in a difficult time through the teaching on the broadcast. Are these converts getting into churches? Locally, we know of many who have begun attending our church as a result of the broadcast and really getting into the Word of God and serving Him in a local church. Those outside our area are encouraged to attend biblically separated churches and we send doctrinal statements from our church so they have the knowledge to find one close to them. But the bottom line remains, many who never would have heard the gospel any other way are led to a saving knowledge of Christ through this media.

Testimonials from our own members bear up the fact that many of their family members and friends who rejected their own witness to them, will watch the Bible Hour in the privacy of their home with no intimidation. They even call our members to find out why we are not on if we are preempted for some reason.

The format of our program is usually an opening explanation of the message, music by our 90-voice choir, the preaching and teaching of the Word, an invitation to receive Christ and to take advantage of an offer of a book or tape to enhance their Christian growth. With very high quality programming and a clear teaching of the Word of God, "The Quentin Road Bible Hour" is experiencing good growth and positive feedback. It is possible to have growth and maintain a separated stand.

An integral part of the television and radio ministry is publishing a monthly devotional magazine. *The Quentin Road Bible Hour Magazine* is edited from sermons and includes a daily Scripture

reading, devotional passage and an opportunity to purchase sermon tapes if desired. Other articles center on doctrinal subjects, political viewpoints pertaining to the Christian and life-living stories of those who in their life's struggle see God working through them.

Most pastors ask the question how does this apply to me? I would like to suggest some real life examples of ways you can use the media to reach the world. A pastor friend in Minnesota has a weekly preaching and teaching program through the local TV station in his town. They do not have their own cameras so he goes to the studio and tapes the program. It is locally through cable stations. Another young pastor friend just began recording his messages with a good quality cassette recorder. He was able to do a limited amount of editing, and found his local radio station would broadcast it at a nominal cost.

Television ministry is very expensive and to do a consistently quality broadcast, you could invest up to \$250,000. Radio is much less expensive and even with a computer editing system, the initial investment could be \$10,000 or less for very high-end quality broadcasting equipment.

How do you finance this type of venture? There are many options but it is remarkable how people get excited about this type of ministry. In our case, there have been a few large donations toward the program but most of it comes through the faithfulness of people giving their time and money to make the Bible Hour a vital, soul-winning ministry.

You might be surprised at the doors the Lord may open for you. Some cable companies will even give air time on a very local and limited basis just to fill up programming time. There are many opportunities to reach people with the gospel. With God there are certainly no limitations and we cannot use lack of experience or lack of time as an excuse.

The heart of "The Quentin Road Bible Hour" is to reach millions of people, one soul at a time.

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*Dr. James Scudder is the Senior Pastor and founder of Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church. It's various ministries include an 850 enrollment preschool, K-12 school and Dayspring Bible College. The "QUENTIN ROAD BIBLE HOUR" TV program and the "VICTORY IN GRACE" radio program are produced from the church and are broadcast nationally on the ODYSSEY NETWORK and FAMILYNET in addition to many local stations. The church is a member of IFCA International and will host this year's Annual Convention. Dr. James Scudder is also a member of the IFCA International National Executive Committee.*

# Simultaneous Translation

C.A. Birch

Immigration, both legal and illegal, has changed the face of the United States today. Ethnic groups can be found in most communities throughout our country. Have you noticed this change in your community? You might be the one God will use to share His message of hope and salvation!

One way you could do this is through simultaneous translation of your Sunday morning service using basic radio technology. Providing a worship service in the 'heart' language of an ethnic population shows you really care about them and that you believe in your message. Each step of accommodation builds a bridge between separated people. Perhaps the steps that follow are within your ability to begin building your Gospel bridge.

## Step 1- Enlist a support team

If you are the pastor of a church you are a very busy person. You need others to help establish a cross-lingual ministry. You will find it takes some effort to start and maintain a translation ministry, but the effort is worth it!

Equipment set-up person:

You need someone who will oversee the equipment set-up each week. This person does not need to be bilingual, but does need to know the basics of the hardware you are using.

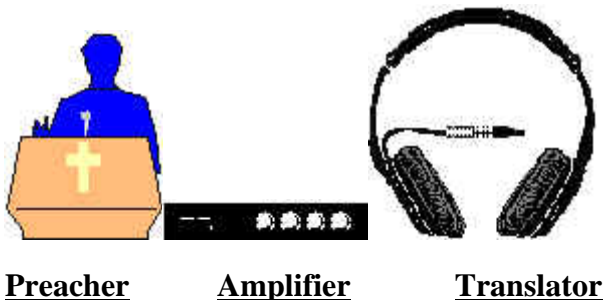
Translators:

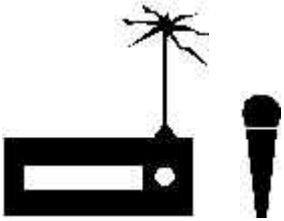
You need to have a few bilingual people who are committed to this ministry concept. Simultaneous translation is a challenge even to those who are fluently bilingual. It is something rarely done in normal situations, so be patient and allow for your folks to develop their skills over time. Two translators each service are best for the job. The primary translator needs a break occasionally and a second person helping can provide time for refreshing one's thoughts, as well as allowing the second person training time to become a primary translator in the future. More translators may be added through the use of a primary-secondary team each Sunday. The best translators will be those familiar with Christian terminology in the language being translated.

## Step 2 - Equipment

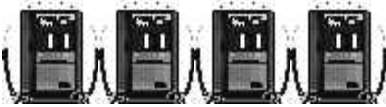
Hardware needed- Diagram of equipment layout

## How to set up a system:





### **Low-power FM Transmitter**



### **Regular FM pre-tuned radio headsets; one for each person**

- 1. One transmitter working on the FM band, with sufficient out-put power to be broadcast throughout the auditorium.**
- 2. One headphone amplifier with 2 outputs and independent volume controls.**
- 3. Two sets of earphones. [one for each translator]**
- 4. One microphone for the translator, or, if the transmitter permits, separate microphones for each of the two translators. [Ideally two earphones with attached boom microphones, such as those used by sportscasters, could be used.]**
- 5. A number of FM receivers for reception of the translation signal. These may be purchased at electronic supply stores for a very reasonable price. [the number needed is determined by the number of people who will be listening.]**

### **Step 3 - Implementation**

The translators need to work closely with the pastor regarding the content of his sermon. The pastor could provide a set of sermon notes to the translators, along with any extra quoted material before the service. A preview will help the translators know where you are headed and help in transitions. Some words do not translate directly. Poems are hard to translate off-the-cuff. The preview will help prevent awkward pauses in the translation.

An outline with the Bible verses and heading already translated will enhance your presentation. Many computers have the ability to provide multi-lingual Bible texts. Others in your church might be able to provide heading translation for notes. This is a plus to aid in teaching, but not an absolute necessity.

### **Step 4 Promotion**

Make an announcement each Sunday that simultaneous translation is available. You never know when someone might visit and benefit from your preparation. These announcements help train your folks to be on the alert for visitors and serve as a reminder to invite those who may benefit from translation.

Advertise the translation service in your bulletin. Do it in the language being translated. When a visitor sees it written in their tongue it will be deeply appreciated. This is another way to go the extra mile for Christ's sake.

**Ask your translators to help publish it in your ethnic community. They will have good ideas and eventually the word will spread, literally and figuratively!**

**Step 5- Help is available, if you need it!**

**You may contact Southwest Community Church [305-223-3816 or email [swcc@swcc.org](mailto:swcc@swcc.org) ] for help. They have been doing a Spanish simultaneous translation of their worship service for five years.**

**A resource for all the equipment you need may be acquired through Galcom International, 65 Nebo Road, Hamilton, Ontario, L8W2C9 Canada. Tel: 905-574-4626. Galcom presented their technical wares and expertise at the annual convention in Lake Placid, NY last summer.**

**Many churches are discovering ethnic populations right in their backyard! What a wonderful opportunity to expand God's family and train our congregation in the work of cross-cultural missions. God has brought the world to us, let's take the Word to them!**

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*Rev. Chip Birch is Sr. Pastor of Southwest Community Church*

# **CHAPLAINS DIARY**

## **A Day in the Life of...**

*This description of the daily ministries of our chaplains serving in the military and a variety of civilian ministries can help you see how to pray for them and also provide insight into the ministry to which the Lord might lead you. [Warren Dane, Director of Chaplaincy]*

### **CHAPLAIN DALE HANSEN**

**(Phoenix Police & FBI)**

I participated in two Critical Incident Stress Debriefings with FBI Agents involved in a bank robbery shootout. After a daughter of an FBI Agent was abducted and murdered, I worked with the family. I had the opportunity to participate in the FBI Citizen's Academy. During the last year I have had 25 counseling sessions.

I also ride along with Phoenix police officers two to three times a month. I was also allowed to set up a Dept. of Public Safety (Highway Patrol) Chaplains Program. We had two police officers killed because of drunk drivers. I worked with one family at the hospital and helped them make an important decision about the family viewing of the body only at the funeral. It was in the best interest of the family to wait until the funeral, thus avoiding the shock of seeing their loved one in a badly mauled state.

I worked with a female officer who got caught in the political system after having a relationship with another male cop who attempted to get her fired. She gave her life to Christ and I had an opportunity to work with her in developing her faith.. She was promoted to supervisor (SGT) last week.

### **LT ALAN GARNER (CHC, USNR)**

Chaplain's ministry on Okinawa involves a number of opportunities. Some of those I worked with this last year were:

- Planning and speaking at our "Iron Man" Christian Men's Conference.
- Coordinating Clean-up/BBQ at Chuo-En Home for the Mentally Handicapped.
- Collecting clothes for the needy-donated to an Okinawa missionary.

One of God's recent blessings was leading a female Marine named Michelle to faith in Jesus Christ. After two suicide attempts, she was sent to the mental health unit at Okinawa's Naval Hospital. While visiting her I realized that this young woman lacked any sense of purpose or direction in her life. The Holy Spirit moved me to drop the psychology stuff and just present her with the simple Gospel of Jesus, which I discovered she had never heard. I had the joy of hearing her call on the Lord in simple faith and sincerity. There was a visible change on her face as God's peace came into her heart. We rejoiced together and I left her with a New Testament. This took place just before Thanksgiving.

About two weeks later I saw Michelle again and gave her some books to encourage her in her faith. Though she was being discharged from the Marine Corps, she was very hopeful for the future. She thanked me for coming to visit her and I encouraged her in the Lord. To me, her new birth in Christ made my assignment here in Japan worth it all. The sum of all the challenges that I have faced here cannot compare with the wonder of God saving a soul and changing a life.

**CHAPLAIN FRANK EMRICH**

**(City of Pacific, Washington Fire & Police Chaplain & Sr. Pastor, Valley Bible Church, Sumner Washington, and President of the Northwest Regional)**

**In addition to serving as a chaplain I also serve as the Assistant Fire Chief and so I have a lot of duties, responding to calls, as well as being in charge of training. However, I change hats when there is a chaplain call for either police or fire. I have had five funerals this year as a result of my chaplain duties, I have done quite a bit of counseling with personnel, and have performed two weddings for firemen.**

**Because I have been able to do weddings for fire and police personnel, I also get to do counseling when there are problems. One police couple in particular have been able to turn their marriage around, and both have become Christians. They are building their marriage now on God's Word. A number of our people have talked to me about difficult calls and I have been asked by the King County Emergency Medical Service to present six seminars on death and dying and how to handle it. All of these provide opportunities to share the gospel.**

*Please remember to pray for our chaplains who are missionaries on the front lines of our culture and around the world. Spiritual power is essential for ministry that touches others with the love of our Lord and brings them to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pastor, if you have been looking for a way to connect with the people of your community, check out the fire and/or police chaplaincy possibilities. It is spiritually fruitful. If you have questions about this ministry contact me. The military chaplaincy is a unique mission field and I encourage men to consider this important outreach to those who protect our nation, many of whom may become future national leaders.*

**Warren T. Dane  
Ch, Lt Colonel, USAF (Ret.)  
Director of Chaplaincy**

## **A WORLDWIDE MINISTRY FROM MY LIVING ROOM?**

**Mrs. Monica Schutte**

Who but the One who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think" could provide the method and means for a worldwide ministry from my living room? A computer with modem, telephone line and \$20 a month Internet access were my tools as I began a journey two years ago to "be a witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The mission field I currently serve is 'cyberspace.'

As a wife and mother of three wonderful sons, my primary ministry is to my family. Several years ago I enrolled in a few basic classes as preparation for the use of a computer in home education. Introduction to Telecommunications at the local community college included a brief encounter with the Internet and the wonders of global e-mail. I was fascinated. During spring vacation of 1996 I took the HTML plunge. Forty hours later [Byron Center Bible Church](#) (BCBC) southwest of Grand Rapids, Michigan had a homepage. All the information and software necessary to get started was available free on the "net." This marked the beginning of a secondary avenue of service originating from our home. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance and drawing wisdom and strength through my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am privileged to serve God through an exciting and innovative use of technology created by Him. Thousands around the world have been given opportunity to better know Him and the truths and power of His Holy Word by visiting [www.ByronBible.org](http://www.ByronBible.org).

Building a basic website is not difficult. However, developing a vital, interactive ministry that causes first time visitors to linger and explore while drawing them to return time and again is an extremely time consuming challenge. Content is key. The BCBC Internet ministry would not be successful without the fine preaching and teaching ministry of our pastor, Dr. Richard W. Gregory. His weekly sermons provide the foundation. Cyber visitors can read or print complete outlined sermon notes for over 100 exegetical and topical Bible studies. They can *listen* to dozens of sacred midi selections, Real Audio special music, or more than 20 evangelistic and Christian growth messages from Pastor Gregory and many other speakers. "Beauty for Ashes" features testimonies from several folks in our local church. Online tracts provide the plan of salvation in clear, understandable terms.

Weekly statistics automatically logged by our Internet provider verify that visitors hail from all continents, over 70 countries, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day! Each week our cyber guests come from over 400 different, distinct hosts and Internet providers. Our BCBC congregation has more than doubled without adding buildings, staff or additional worship services! We praise the Lord for what *He* has done.

Upon "casting our nets" into cyberspace we find them so full that we struggle to pull them in. Pastor Gregory has answered over 250 questions during the past 18 months. "Ask Pastor" is the most interactive aspect of our website outreach. Visitors submit a vast variety of topics including issues of morality, marriage, terminology and all aspects of practical, systematic and biblical theology. Here are a few questions we recently received. "Will suicidal victims who proclaimed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?" "After 4 years of divorce and trying to reconcile, my wife says she loves me. Should I try to reconcile, or am I free to remarry?" "Does the term "Son of Man" refer to Jesus or Satan?" "What must I do to be saved?" Recently we enlisted a team of six elders to assist in answering future questions allowing this ministry to further expand externally to the world and internally to involve more within our congregation.

E-mail is used weekly to mail sermon notes, bulletin, and prayer requests to dozens of recipients on every continent. Our distribution list includes college students, missionaries, our members, and

many folks who found us "on the net." Recent e-mail verifies the dynamic potential of this technology. "For some years now we have been looking for a church which is deeply rooted in the scriptures in doctrine and deeds, one that does not compromise the Father. We are glad to have found you." The note goes on requesting discipleship and fellowship. We are corresponding with these dear men from Zambia, South Africa!

I encourage you to consider incorporating the international outreach possible through the worldwide web of the Internet into your ministry vision. However, I implore you to heed this strong warning! Please recommend the use of filtering software such as Cyber Patrol and strongly discourage use of chat rooms due to their waste of time, money and inherent potential dangers. All media including literature, television and others can be used for good or evil. Encourage others to esteem moral excellence and accountability. Here are some suggestions to help you "go into ALL the world!"

- Seek approval from your pastor. You ARE representing the church.
- Be willing to invest your own money (minimal) and time (lots!) to begin.
- Start small and simple. Learn as you grow.
- Use statistics to track your visitors and validate your investment of time and money.
- Make those stats known to your church leadership and congregation.
- Encourage others to participate, especially to pray.
- Visit [www.ifca.org/webhelp](http://www.ifca.org/webhelp) and many sacred and secular websites for ideas.

We installed a second phone line in our home. The first year my husband and I paid for our pastor's Internet access. I spent many hours setting up his computer at home and church at no charge. This initial time and money invested was profitable. It allowed Pastor Gregory to understand the potential and actively participate from the beginning. He's been extremely supportive. However if the church had to pay true "market value" for the creative and technical work, they would not be able to afford a website. I donate my time as ministry. As we pursue our goal to train a webteam of volunteers the load will be lightened and many others will be able to donate their skills. This will encourage the work to proliferate should I be unable to carry on.

A budget supported by the congregation now pays for the web space and dial up access. Recently approval was granted for the purchase of a multimedia computer to be placed in the back of the auditorium. It will be used to:

- enhance the Real Audio portion of our website through instantaneous, digital recording and uploading
- expand the ministry to include others by providing a website workstation
- generate Power Point presentations
- create midi files for use with choir, special music or website

It has been an honor to be used of God to help others catch the vision. Through our example and technical help, we have assisted many other biblical ministries in starting a similar outreach. The response has been enormous, unbelievable and overwhelming! The potential is great and far more than we anticipated. Yet we have only "scratched the surface." The fields of cyberspace are indeed ripe unto harvest.

**BCBC Worldwide Ministry via the Internet**

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*Monica Schutte, is the webservant of Byron Center Bible Church.*

## **The God-Given Increase of a New Church"**

**Rev. Henry A. Vosburgh  
IBCM General Director**

In the summer of 1991, the Indiana Bible Church Mission conducted a bulk mail outreach ministry in three small Indiana towns along US 24 north and west of Lafayette. After conducting some field research in these communities, it was determined that there was an insufficient Gospel witness. There were a number of believers in these communities, but they were forced to drive considerable distances just to find an active Bible-believing church. This led IBCM Field Director Henry Vosburgh to publish and mail a flyer inviting residents of those three communities to attend a Bible class. The flyer explained that the class would eventually lead to the formation of a Bible church to serve what is called the Tri-County area. A response leaflet was included in the mailing, and after a few weeks, a number of people had expressed interest in attending this new class.

The IBCM Field Director then went to work following up the responses by phone and personal visitation. A meeting place was found, so in mid-October 1991, the first Tri-County Bible Class was held at the home of Myrna North in Wolcott, IN. Four people were in attendance on that first night, and two promptly decided that they would not pursue the class. This left Myrna and her good friend Debby Woodbury. Their small Ladies Bible Study which met weekly on Thursday nights would become the foundation to a new local church!

During 1992, several other people got involved in the Tri-County Bible Class. Each week the class met in different homes for prayer, fellowship, and Bible study. The topics of "How to Understand the Bible," "The Book of Revelation," and "The Fundamentals of Faith" (which walks believers through the IFCA International doctrinal statement) dominated much of that year's program. People were being reached and discipled in the Word of God. By the end of that year, word spread in the community that the class was making plans to conduct church services. After much prayer, the class took that step of faith. It secured a two-room storefront facility; and on March 14, 1993, the Tri-County Bible Church opened with Field Director Vosburgh serving as pastor.

Forty-nine people attended that first day, and after a few weeks, the regular attendance averaged in the twenties. From this base of believers the church began to grow. Before the year was out, attendance reached into the sixties, and they soon realized that relocation was becoming imperative. A search throughout the Tri-County area resulted in finding a vacant country church building, equipped with piano, pews, and space!

Easter 1994 was the first service at the new location with sixty-seven attending.

Growth continued, and associate missionary pastor Andrew Overly was added to the church staff. One year later the church was averaging ninety, had purchased five acres of land, and had begun the construction of a 9500 square foot church building. Throughout 1995 more people came, and by Easter 1996, a record 182 attended the Sunday morning worship.

Construction continued throughout that year and into 1997. By Easter, the church was ready to be entered with all ministries operating. On that blessed morning, 274 people worshiped the risen Savior at Tri-County Bible Church. The building was dedicated on June 1; and the church took the step of complete independence from IBCM on November 9, with Pastor Vosburgh leaving to continue in church extension and with Pastor Overly serving as interim pastor. The church today averages 175 on Sunday mornings.

So much could be said about all the individuals touched by this new church. Many have been saved, many have been baptized, many have been and still are being discipled to follow the Lord.

**But in it all, we as a fellowship can recognize the importance of IFCA International Church Extension. It is a vital arm of outreach to our nation, a broad IFCA International ministry of mission boards by which God gives the increase of souls won and disciplined.**

**Without our church planting vision, the task of the Great Commission in America would become an increased burden for a lesser number of churches to bear. May our faith increase to see more Bible churches planted throughout our great land!**

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*Rev. Henry Vosburgh, his wife Linda, and their three children reside in Goodland, IN. Henry has served as the General Director of the Indiana Bible Church Mission since 1993. Upon leaving the Tri-County Bible Church in November 1997, he accepted an appointment to also serve as the General Director of the Illinois Bible Church Mission. He has been a member of IFCA International since 1989.*

# **"What Do We Do With This Stuff?"**

## **Using technology to minister to today's young people.**

**Troy Thornton & Mark Breta**

*"Hey, give me your e-mail address! ... Did you see that new web site? ... How fast is your modem? ... This file is self-extracting! ... Have you seen the graphics on my 32 bit system?"*

To many these phrases may sound like something from a strange and foreign land. Others may think that this "techno-lingo" would only be heard in some research laboratory at MIT. However, one would most likely hear similar conversation at any given Junior High or High school in America. The young people of today have grown up in a media and technology focused culture. Teenagers today are very "techno-savvy." This proclivity toward the latest and fastest computer / media gadgetry has created both concern and creativity in some Fundamental Churches of our day. How can the church use technology to reach this generation for Christ? What concerns should the church have with this ever changing medium?

"Even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4b). Daniel points out that there will be an increase in knowledge at the time of the end. Has that time come upon the world? I don't know. However, clearly there has been a dramatic increase in knowledge as a result of technology in this century -- specifically in the last 20 years. For example, the computer that I am writing this article with is at least 100 times more powerful than the earliest computers of 40 to 50 years ago. Yet this computer, only being three years old, is slow and outdated by today's standards. This tremendously fast paced change has given scientists, doctors, and researchers power and knowledge that Isaac Newton only dreamed of possessing. The danger in all of this is that young people of today are developing a reliance upon mankind and his accomplishments and the power of technology. The perception is that technology will cure what ails this world. There is no need for God. The real need for a Savior has been lost in the shuffle of developing computer simulations to find cures to disease. It is the task at hand for the Church to show this generation that Christ is the unchanging Savior in an ever changing culture.

"That I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22b). Paul points out that he used various methods and mediums to convey the truth of the gospel. (By no measure is pragmatism ever condoned.) God uses men and their means to reach people where they are. The use of different forms of media and technology to accomplish the disciple making process is profitable and wise. The medium can be flexible as long as the message is from the Truth. The danger is to be so caught up in the gadgets that these become the focus instead of the Word of God. It concerns me when I see youth pastors use "techno-gadgetry" as a hook to bring numbers instead of focusing on the Word of God to make disciples. After all, it is the Truth that is God breathed and profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17) not the sharpest web page or the latest multi-media.

Let us strive to meet our technologically advanced culture with perfectly clear message of Jesus Christ.

### **Practical Uses for Church & Youth Leaders as well as Young People**

So, how can we efficiently take advantage of the positive resources available to us on the Internet? How can the church use the features of the Internet and computers in general? There are various ways that this can be done:

- \* A web site or web page on the Internet
- \* Multimedia presentations in services via computer

*What do I need?*

First of all, a computer with a 486 processor or better will suffice, though Pentium computers have greatly come down in price in recent months. You will also need a modem for online services. The cost-effective speed right now is 33.6K, while faster ones are available, if you want to pay the price. You will also need access to the Internet through a service provider.

For "surfing" on the World Wide Web, you need a browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator.

For web site construction, there are many programs that allow you to design your web page. Add-ons are available for the Netscape and Microsoft browsers to edit pages, or you can even use Microsoft Word.

For multimedia presentations, you can use Microsoft PowerPoint.

*I have these programs, now how can I use them?*

When you surf the web, you can point your browsers at search engines to obtain any information you need. The popular ones include [Yahoo!](http://www.yahoo.com) (<http://www.yahoo.com>), [Alta Vista](http://altavista.digital.com) (<http://altavista.digital.com>), and [Excite](http://www.excite.com) (<http://www.excite.com>). They have a variety of information on Christian sites as well. Of course, for information on IFCA International, go to <http://www.ifca.org> and you will find materials from the *VOICE* magazine as well as updates from the main office. You will also have a link to details on the upcoming National Conventions in the Chicagoland area Adult Convention (at Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church), as well as the Youth Convention (Trinity International University), including information on schedules and competition.

For multimedia presentations, PowerPoint will do animated presentations for message outlines or stories, or you can put songs and choruses on the screen. The advantage to songs is that you can choose almost any song to project, where you may be limited with those on slides. (For copyright information, please contact Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc., 1-800-234-2446.)

*I just want to be able to communicate with e-mail.*

If you do not want to spend a lot of money on services, but need to communicate, you can still have your own e-mail address.

A popular e-mail service is [Juno](http://www.juno.com) (<http://www.juno.com>). You can download their software directly from their website or they will send you a disk. One phone call via your modem will send and receive your messages.

If you do have web access, you can create your own e-mail account at [Rocketmail](http://www.rocketmail.com) (<http://www.rocketmail.com>), [Hotmail](http://www.hotmail.com) (<http://www.hotmail.com>), or Excite Mail (<http://www.excitemail.com>). The advantage to this type of e-mail system is that you can check your e-mail anywhere you travel, as long as you can access the Web. This is also an advantageous and low-cost means for college students to communicate with Dad & Mom!

The IFCA International web site has many resources that can help in your ministry. And in the coming months, the Youth web site will have links that will give you ideas for your youth group. Just "surf" on over to <http://www.ifca.org>!

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