

Websites, List Servs, & Blogs Oh My... by: Gavin Richardson

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the Bloggers Prayer

Our Father

who lives above and beyond the dimension of the internet

Give us this day a life worth blogging,

The access to words and images that express our journey with passion and integrity,

And a secure connection to publish your daily mercies.

Your Kingdom come into new spaces today,

As we make known your mysteries,

Posting by posting,

Blog by blog.

Give this day,

The same ability to those less privileged,

Whose lives speak louder than ours,

Whose sacrifice is greater,

Whose stories will last longer.

Forgive us our sins,

For blog-rolling strangers and pretending they are friends,

For counting unique visitors but not noticing unique people,

For delighting in the thousands of hits but ignoring the ONE who returns,

For luring viewers but sending them away empty handed,

For updating daily but repenting weekly.

As we forgive those who trespass on our sites to appropriate our thoughts without reference,

Our images without approval,

Our ideas without linking back to us.

Lead us not into the temptation to sell out our congregation,

To see people as links and not as lives,

To make our blogs look better than our actual story.

But deliver us from the evil of pimping ourselves instead of pointing to you,

From turning our guests into consumers of someone else's products,

From infatuation over the toys of technology,

From idolatry over technology

From fame before our time has come.

For Yours is the power to guide the destinies behind the web logs,

To bring hurting people into the sanctuaries of our sites,

To give us the stickiness to follow you, no matter who is watching or reading.

Yours is the glory that makes people second look our sites and our lives,

Yours is the heavy ambiance,

For ever and ever,

Amen

What You Want to Know:

- Please Write Down a Question, I want you to feel like you this time was worthwhile, so answering your core question is important.

What to Do with the Internet:

- **Web 2.0:** the web is evolving. this is a common term used to express a second level of community and interactivity on the internet that used to be solely obtainable by programmers and companies that could afford to pay for them.

Web 1.0 / Web 2.0
DoubleClick / Google AdSense
Ofoto / Flickr
Britannica / Wikipedia
Content Management System / Wikis
personal web pages / blogging

by: O'Reilly & Media Live
tip: [Andrew Jones](#)

- Church 2.0: a missional ecclesiastic response to a culture influenced by the values of Web 2.0
 - Jesus 2.0? No . . . SILLY . . . He's the same yesterday, today and forever
 - Gospel 2.0? No . . . same timeless message but the message has always been delivered and distributed in a particular context. And I am talking about . . . yes . . . Context 2.0
 - Church 2.0? You bet. (by: [Andrew Jones](#))

How to Obtain Web 1.0 & 2.0:

- **Web Hosting / Domain Name:** If you are looking to get a youth group or church website then you need. 1. a Web Host, which is a server that houses all the information/files of your website. 2. Domain Name: the www.?????.com. Most hosting packages will include domain name with hosting.
- Automatic Plug-In's: look for automatic plug-ins with a hosting service. "**Fantastico**" is a 'turn-key' program that installs a number of plug-ins. "**CPanel**" is another program, that helps you to visually manage some of your databases, plug-ins, emails, etc.
- **CMS:** Content Management System, this is a general name for some software programs that reside on the server that allow you to develop pages and other website content through a web browser. Most commonly used CMS is Mambo, Joomla is new, TYPO3 is one of the more powerful ones.
- Most of what you would want for a youth group or church website is possible with a CMS set up. However, you may want to play with some things like wiki to give you some interactivity over a section of the site.
- **FTP:** File Transfer Protocol, is one of the ways to upload website files onto the server. I prefer an FTP program, generally there is one in Frontpage, GoLive, Dreamweaver. You can download free or shareware ones if you like. You can FTP through "CPanel" or other web/browser interfaces for most needs.

List Servs/Email Lists:

- List Serves or Email lists are a good way to get out quick information when necessary. Do not overload peoples mailboxes. Be quick or creative in your message, best if you could do both.
- There are free list serv services out there that you can stick into a web page.
- CMS systems are set up to do mail listings.

Blogs:

- **Blog or Web-Log:** this is software that is geared to be an online journal. The putting down of thoughts that people can interact with and engage in conversation.
- This can be just as powerful of a spiritual practice as Journaling because it has a built in accountability, people will read, some will comment back, show support, be challenged by your thinking.
- The Spirituality of Blogging (by [Andrew Jones](#))
 1. **Praise** (public acknowledgment) - “publish glad tidings daily”
 2. **Accountability** - (Eph. 5:21 “Submit yourselves to one another”
 3. **Vulnerability** (Daniel’s Window)
 4. **Given-ness** (Freely you have received, gift economy, Prov 11:2)
 5. **Creative Naming** (Adam, Neighbors in Ruth)
 6. **Repentance** (editing/deleting/changing our mind in new media)
 7. **Fellowship** (hypertext linking, Koinonia)
 8. **Evangelism** (storytelling, blogging from our lives)
 9. **Integrity** (writing matches our speaking, design reflects reality)
 10. **Posterity** (store/guard what has been entrusted, writing history)
 11. **Watchfulness** (“watch and pray”)
- Ideas for Blogging:
 - **Personal Journaling**, pick a blog service and join a few web rings. If you have a strength in your conversation lead with that, but let it be more about what is happening
 - **Youth Group Bible Study**, use something the youth are already doing, throw up topics, reflections of lessons, an open ended question to a scripture.

Gavin's Preferred Links

- Hosting
 - www.vinehosting.com (if you wish to use the web empowered church)
 - www.midphase.com - domain name for life! good price, all the perks
 - www.ipowerweb.com - solid host, excellent support, at this time doesn't have all the plug-ins, but has most.
 - www.ace-host.com - an inexpensive option, with all the plug-ins.
- CMS
 - www.webempoweredchurch.com (tutorials, downloads, & forums)
 - www.sourgeforce.com - Mambo homepage
 - www.mambohut.com - Mambo & joomla templates
 - www.mamboportal.com - Joomla homepage
- Blogs
 - www.typepad.com (a pay blog site, but has the easiest interface to give a rich site)
 - www.blogger.com (free, need a little html knowledge to tweak, add links, etc.)
- Online Communities
 - www.myspace.com - growing community, not Christian, very rough
 - www.livejournal.com - online community, more of a journal
 - www.xanga.com - online community
 - www.friendster.com - online community, your become friends with your other friends friends, chat, photo sharing, commenting
 - www.facebook.com - online community for college students, you need to use a college email for registration
- Local Bloggers:
 - www.gavoweb.com (me)
 - www.onlywonder.com - Jay Voorhees, Pastor at Antioch UMC
 - www.methocast.com - Jay does a Podcast on the Methodist Church
 - www.stphransus.com - Jonathon Norman, Youth Pastor, Hermitage UMC
 - scrambies.blogspot.com - Josh Tinley, Editor, UMPH
 - theleedsjourney.blogspot.com - Lanecia Rouse, Youth Pastor, Belmont UMC
 - rouserantings.blogspot.com - Ciona Rouse, Writer for UMC
 - darewebe.blogspot.com - Kara Oliver, Stay at Home Mom
 - ericcoomer.blogspot.com - Eric Coomer, starving artist
 - www.ramblingthoughts.com - Jay Huff, recovered youth pastor
 - www.tnumc.org - the conference website has a number of blogs for different topics
- Other
 - www.flickr.com - Flickr, online photo community
 - www.blogs4God.com - Christian blog aggregator
 - www.nashvilleistalking.com - News2 blog aggregator
- Books
 - Wired, by John Jewell - probably the only good church & internet book at the moment, but yet, it's dated already

For the Sake of Fun:

by: [Andrew Jones](#)

If the Bible was Blogged

I know the Bible was not blogged. The publishing technologies were different back then. But what if it was? What technologies would be used? What kind of blogs would the authors create for their unique messages?

Jesus wrote in the sand with his finger. No doubt a Wiki-man who would have preferred his own Wiki Sandbox.

Solomon would have sent out his proverbs with an daily RSS feed, perhaps using a blog as a home base for his feeds.

Matthew. A hyperlink geek who would blog with a constant stream of links back to the original prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures. Most blogging programs make that easy. But a blogging editor lets you do it all offline. I use Ecto.

Luke was writing the book of Acts on the move. He would have been a Moblogger for sure, He could have sent all his posts through telephone - both written and audio. Unless he was a WiFi Warrior, tapping into rogue signals to post their blogs like other missionaries on the move around the world (yes, thats me . . . many times)

Moses? MoBlogging would have worked for Moses also, but posting from the middle of the desert would have been a nightmare. Not only no WiFi but also not phone signal. Perhaps satellite technology would have been necessary. I tend to think of Moses as more of a .PDF man - creating long, scrolling documents that could be safely stored and retrieved when necessary. Especially the Commandments - they were too permanent to blog. And if he did blog the commandments, he would have turned off the comments underneath. I know I would have.

Nehemiah was the firewall freak, always worrying about security, hacks, and building up those walls to keep out the bad guys (spammers, hackers, crackers, flammers). If he blogged, he would have gone for one of those really secure blogging systems that make you type out unique codes before you can comment.

John could have run a Vlog (video blog) with all those visions that make up his Revelation. Pity he couldn't record the visions with a mental screen capture program.

David was a musician so a podcasting blog would have enabled the recordings of his psalms to be narrowcast to anyone, broadband or dial-up. As for live performance, Media Shout rather than the complicated VJ software like Arkaos or Isadora that Ezekiel would have used for his mixed media presentations.

Saul was paranoid about rumors and threats. He would have subscribed to Bloglines, or Del.icio.us or created a watchlist on technorati with the key words "David has killed his ten of thousands" and then he would have tracked exactly which blogger was saying it, and when, and where they lived. Or even better, snatching the blogger's own RSS feeds to read what they are reading. Like dragging Jordon's del.icio.us/inbox/jordoncooper into one's news reader, for example. But if he did blog, he would have used a similar site to measure his blog rankings, so that he could be sure of being head and shoulders above the rest.

The Apostle Paul, I have always thought, would be a straight xhtml guy - a designer who creates and controls his own site. "See with what large letters I write to you" - the man was a Coder, no doubt. He created business tent-shops, so web design would be the contemporary equivalent in today's e-business world. Paul would have used a notebook PC.

Peter, on the other hand, employed Silvanus to write his first letter. He would have used an easy blogging system like Typepad, Blogger, SquareSpace, InkNoise. And Silvanus would have set him up with a blogging editor like Ecto for his Mac. Yes, Peter's Mac. . . iBook, to be exact.

And What Would Jesus Do with all the blogging choices? I dont know . . . but if it was you thinking of blogging and not Jesus, you might check out the first stop for any budding theoblogian which is Jordon's Blog Round-up.

by: [Andrew Jones](#)

What Bloggers Hear

This morning I was wondering how bloggers would hear this parable that Jesus told about gratefulness.

What Preachers Say

This is the Parable of the One Who Returned

Luke 17:11-18 And it came to pass, as they were on their way to Jerusalem, that he was passing along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, who stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go and show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, with a loud voice glorifying God; and he fell upon his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were not the ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there none found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger? And he said unto him, Arise, and go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

What Bloggers Hear

this is the parable of the one blogger who tracked back

Luke 17:11-18 And it came to pass, as they were reloading the Jerusalem home page, that in his RSS reader he noticed the suspicious URLs of Samaria.com and Galilee.com. And as he opened a certain website, there met him ten bloggers with viruses in their hard drive and they messaged him, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go and show your template html unto the Programmers. And it came to pass, as they went, their viruses were erased. And one of them, when he saw that his html was restored, pinged back, with a bold trackback glorifying God; and he uploaded a huge blog post of appreciation: and he was not logged in as a member. And Jesus answering said, Did not the ten bloggers get cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there none found that pinged a trackback to God, except this non-cookied non-logged non-member? And he said unto him, Boot up, log in and blog on: your faith has made your code whole.