Social Media for Gods Glory

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains
   are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
   who bring good tidings,
   who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,

The harvest is online the laborers are offline!

I got saved on the Internet" – that is what more and more people are saying, after logging onto religious Web sites.

Facts

1. There were over 2 trillion **Google searches** per year in **2019**, but Internet Live Stats, an excellent source for making assumptions, claims around 5.5 billion **searches done on Google** per day or over 63,000 **search** queries **done** per second.
2. **How many people** use the **internet**? Almost 4.48 billion **people** were active **internet** users as of October **2019**, encompassing 58 percent of world population.
3. Facebook: With 2.45 billion monthly active **users** as of the third quarter of **2019**, **Facebook** is the biggest social network worldwide.
4. **How many websites are there**, exactly? And the number you were waiting for, **there** are over 1.7 billion **websites by 2019**

Introduction to Internet Evangelism / Cyber Evangelism

The audience is changing. The terms of engagements are changing. The social topography of communities is changing too. So, we have to appreciate this fact. Our electronic gadgets together with different applications are now part of us.

People search the Internet for answers to all kinds of life problems. We're making it easier for them to find Jesus as they search.

Internet evangelism is the new frontline of evangelism. It is no longer a tool which is used to increase offline "brick and mortar" ministries, instead it is the ocean in which all ministry (both online and offline) must either sink or swim.

- Many people are seeking their religious information online.
- They are making their decisions for Christ online and are being followed up online.
- Some will baptize themselves (as is happening with Muslim believers), others are joining cyber-churches like in **YouTube**.
- Some are joining online and offline bible studies.
- Some are worshiping in small groups with their families.

For billions of folks the **smart-phones** will be their main means of finding out about God.

Why we train churches on Online / Internet Evangelism
The Church need to position itself for the digital world and beyond

- When people fail to prepare for change, they become ineffective, irrelevant and non influential.
- We empower churches to do outreach to an ever-changing population

Evangelism on Cyber space

- The cyber space and its accompanying technologies offers incredible opportunities for Christian missionaries in our time and age.
- The online platforms created by Technology offers essential arenas to share the Christian faith
- The church need to use the available tools :- Internet for soul winning

What is internet evangelism?

Internet Evangelism is basically communicating the most important Message one can ever give-that of the Person, work, love and call of Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior.

Internet evangelism is the communication of the Gospel--all about giving and receiving a message, His Message

Not since the printing press has the Church had the opportunity to rise and shine His Light to so many people. It does seem a waste that so many church leaders do not get it.

It would be naïve to suppose that social media is not rife with abuses; however, the important question that can be asked for social media and all of life is this: how will you use this for God's glory?

Effective evangelism and outreach are essentially good communication; good communication in any arena is comprised of a conveyance of integrity, respect, and

truth with others in a kind and active listening manner that reflects and glorifies Christ. This is the foundation of a healthy church, a great marriage, and in the ministry of outreach by an affirmative friendship.

What makes people not be able to share the Gospel of Jesus on Social Media?

In social media villages, you find that people are not authentic. The stories they share do not reflect who they are. Many people have masked themselves. Who they say they are actually is the reverse of who they actually are.

Becoming effective on Social Media?

For you to become effective on social media, you need to live and share what you are. All other kind of social media representation are acting.
1. Be authentic and consistency
2. Edify and uplift - genuine love for others
3. Respect intellectual property of other people.
4. Be wise and vigilant on protecting yourself and the people you love.

A successfully maintained social media presence can help your ministry greatly by:

- Social media is what your ministry needs to stay relevant to enhance its awareness, relationships, marketing prowess, and overall web presence to expand the Kingdom and give glory to our Lord.

- Increasing overall web presence and potential people and potential believers access to you.

- Connecting and engaging more successfully with current church members

- Creating a community around your message, programs, people and brand awareness.

- Promoting and expanding the Kingdom by your people's expertise and character.

- Generating leads and presence to your church or business including search engine ranking so people can find you.

Based on this method, here is a social media discipleship pathway:

i. CONNECT (network) online: social networks, blogs, chat rooms, special interest sites.

ii. SHARE (post) relevant material that meets the needs of people and invite them to visit and explore wholistic life together through videos and articles.

iii. TALK (chat) with your online friends in order to understand their needs, and respond with the relevant messages of hope found in the Bible, and perhaps by sharing your personal story.

iv. MEET (offline) face-to-face to develop trust and confidence in Jesus.

v. INVITE (follow) Jesus on the journey of spiritual development.

When a church or ministry decides to use Technology by connecting with people using social media platforms, the first thing to do is to identify the **Web Pastor (s) WP.** The WP equips a small group of people who we call the **Digital Missionaries DM.**

Who are the Web Pastors? The WP might be the coordinators of the department, a church pastor or a missionary who will coordinate more of the activities.

Who are the Digital Missionaries? The DM are all people who are actively helping the WP. His or her first task after transition will be to find good content, filling all subcategories.

Demerits when you choose not to use the internet

By choosing not to engage in internet evangelism, you are choosing to disengage from people and your community in another effort at efficiency and success.

How to do Internet Evangelism

Your goal is to represent the Gospel clearly, so people can understand and make an authentic decision for Christ. Here are some more tips:

Pray! Where and how can God use me? Then pray for wisdom and discernment and opportunities and contacts and of course for God to use you and for them to respond.

Keep your conversations simple and short. Write in the theme of the 'Fruit of the Spirit' especially with kindness, with what and how you say things. Be straightforward and simple, never condescend or get mad. If they insult you, stay cool and kind; remember they did it to our Lord too. Do not use derogatory or slang terms.

Stay away from using Christian 'jargon' like 'are you saved' or are you 'born again,' or theological words like 'sanctification.' These terms are loaded with misunderstandings and hurt.

When someone respond to you, try to respond back within a day. And try not to be a know it all, if you can't answer their question, let them know you will try to find out and get back to them.

Always be encouraging, plug them into a local church in kindness and timing, and ask them to take a step of faith like salvation. Point them to Discipleship sites like ours at www.discipleshiptools.org.