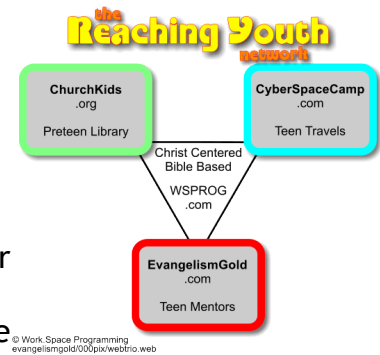


The Reaching Youth Network – How God Fashioned Us

The Paper Door

Most paper has 4 corners, most doors have 4 corners - no surprises here, right? A blank piece of paper begs to be written on, a door ajar beckons to be entered. In my case, 3 decades ago, God set a door in front of me He left ajar.

My many years of writing are more of a diary of those journeys, rather than a methodical diagramming of what the paper is to say. Far more often than not, I don't know where the journey being written will take me. What spurs me on, is the knowledge that God is leading my writing, and my curiosity. And then at moments, these journeys have been a bit of an escape from the less than thrilling moments in my earthly journey.



Early on, I found I could type faster than I could write and more importantly, be able to decipher what I had just composed. I even developed a method of 'monitors-off' composing whereby I'd put my thoughts into the computer without having the monitor turned on. In this way I wasn't distracted by spelling, grammar, flow, and punctuation. I could come back and do all of that afterward. Silver hair memory forces you to get ideas jotted down before they vanish in the customary 9 seconds. Grin.

I had trusted Jesus Christ as my personal AND PERMANENT Savior at the age of 21. (1961). For some time, I endured my bible reading with some imaginary threat from my pastor(s) at that time. The memory and inspiration of lots of 'bible stories' seemed to wear off, through my young adult years.

My employment centered around electronics, in spite of no college training. I had taken a long-term RCA correspondence course, prior to entering the Regular Air Force as a Radar Repairman. My path then led on to guided missile electronics repair in the Civil Service, and then secular electronics R & D support technician positions.

As I began doing corporate contract programming, I took on the name "Work.Space Programming." My primary website domain name became, "WSPROG.com".

We're Unique!

All that follows, are unique concepts and resources - all gifts from my God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Somewhere along that path, I began noticing some scriptural principles that were great for computing in its many forms. I cherished the promise in 2Timothy 3:16,17, that all scripture is profitable in guiding us in 'all good works'. This, to me, certainly included technology, which, in me, began a deeper link between scripture principles and computing. One principle really captured my reasoning beyond its first notice.

1982 - I heard a young mother, seated in the back of the Sunday School class complain that she had no way to get out and honor the Great Commission she definitely felt responsible to follow. I went

home and wrote the “Prison Visitation” segment of what is now called GOIN' 'N GROWIN'. Shortly afterward, I added the other layered segments to that same tracting resource that gave insight to visitation based in the laundry room, or secluded lighthouse.

1985 - The life of Joseph, among the many other famous Bible characters, really spoke to me. It struck me, God did not pamper them. To the contrary, He most often refined their characters through tough growing experiences. This told me we're not to shun God's polishing/pruning process, because He's preparing us for greater things. I then wrote and self-published IT'S THE PITS MAN, JOSEPH & ME, which I have since retitled HOW TO BECOME BOSS. This became the first in my FLESH 'n BLOOD series.

ComputiVerse© - 2000

I first noticed Christ's lessons to His disciples in Mark chapter 8. Though His actual lesson was about the corrupted Pharisees, I saw verses 19 and 20 as a simple illustration of a two record database. He asked two questions with the same syntax i.e. 'food', 'fed', and 'fragments'. Consistent syntax is what transforms lists into databases. From that point on, I kept a watchful eye out for more principles that would lend themselves to computing, as promised by the 2Timothy 3 reference previously mentioned. my library which would scare anyone trying to organize them.

My mind and heart kept going back to the odd questions Jesus asked. He didn't quiz them on how much food or how many people. He kept asking about the fragments - the leftovers. Soon, my heart began pestering me with the questions, “Are there 'leftover' people? If so, who are they? Why are they leftovers? Does God want them to remain that way?”

Those stories and ComputiVerse lessons were wrapped around another 50 or so principles. In 2000, I formed these principles into more than 20 lesson trios, that consisted of a lesson, related short story, and a fun-with-friends page. The idea is that adults teach the lesson, and then the student teaches others with the story and games. It becomes 2Timothy 2:2 in action.

SpaceGate©

SpaceGate became the code word for my resources that enforced responsible computing beyond just entertainment and communication. It is an acronym for (S)tudents (P)romoting (A)ccountability in (C)omputing and (E)vangelism. And then, (G)od (A)pplauds (T)ech (E)vangelism.

Evangelism Computing became the basic concept of prioritizing the use of computing. Evan. Computing is clearly the opposite of the common Computer Evangelism. The core concept here is that used in accordance with the Great Commission, a junk computer (without repair) becomes far more powerful than when the machine came off the assembly line. Evangelism Computing is somewhat like 'unplugged computing'.

Evangelism Gold

One evening I gave my 'Computing Principles from Scripture' presentation in a small church with great attention from the parents and youth sitting toward the front. However there were two silver-haired folks in the rear pew listening. I could read it in their faces, they felt left out; alienated by the technology appetites of the youth, yet deeply burdened to minister to the youth around them. The Lord showed me how to recycle tech trash in a way that pleases Him. I began the GRAMPS AND THE CLUBHOUSE GANG story series, showing how to use junk pieces of computers in non-technical ways as metaphors.

The Lord deepened my thoughts about the potential of using seniors as front-line mentors to youth. It is a 'golden' opportunity for that older generation, with their empty days with no challenging purpose, especially in the cause of Christ. While they may be somewhat intimidated by advanced use of technology, those silver-haired seniors have many years experience weathering the storms of life, by the power of God, led by His word. Largely, that mentoring process depends on listening to the heart and words of teens. And doing it without building a quick barrage of heartless 'I-told-you-so's.

Computer Ministries - 2002

The dangers of technology use is presented here in a backdrop of the 12 spies that checked out Canaan. They came back with conflicting attitudes about the gigantic fruits and giant fears in the land that God had given them; somewhat like the gift of technology that God has given us.

This is the first book I got published by 'Print on Demand' methods.

Until 2006, my 'library' had consisted of what is presently bound in the CHURCHKIDS.org site. But that was beginning to change.

Comfort Zone Visitation - 2009

This workshop goes far beyond the 'Prayer Walking' techniques that were already in use around the country. It takes the fear and uncertainty out of visitation.

Videos - 2010

I wrote and produced 11 videos covering some of my favorite topics, including DITCH DIGGING.

Digging Diamonds - 2011

Seeing so many folks, including some youth, 'hooked on' wordsearch puzzles, I created and posted over 200 scripture-based puzzle duos. The idea being, the key word list has many missing letters that can only be filled in by reading the accompanying 15 verses that contain those key words. Afterward, the completed key words can then be searched for in the character jumble field.

WORTHshops© - 2011

As I became more involved in what some might call the traditional nursing home ministry*, I sensed a great deal of potential in a place so filled with despair and emptiness. My heart cry here became, "If your still breathing, God has IMPORTANT work for you to do. Get busy!"

* "Songs, scripture, and 'so-long till next month'."

EvangelismGold.com

After beginning extended dialog with some troubled teens, I've learned that (in their desperation) they are far more dangerous to themselves that to me and you. Heart Cries became the vanguard of my resources for preparing seniors (silver-haired) for reaching out to troubled youth. The odd appearance and actions (sometimes bloody and explosive) are actually cries for help from anyone who will stop long enough listen.

This part of the REACHING YOUTH NETWORK captures most of the resources related to the details of Evangelism Gold, above. Other resources like TEEN BRIDGE and TEENAGE JESUS call attention to some of the powerful Bible principles needed in mentoring teens; both troubled ones, and those who have us fooled.

Many of my resources have been mirrored into blogs that are more correctly called 'blocks'.

CyberSpaceCamp.com

The Spirit has been leading me, in accordance with 1Corinthians 14:40 - 'Let all things be done decently and in order', to get some order in my 'pile' of resources to make them more accessible. In particular, I've separated resources more pertinent to teens and young adults into the CyberSpaceCamp.com part of my REACHING YOUTH NETWORK.

Because our on-line downloadable resources are now allowing many points for feedback, we've redefined our library to be a 24/7 NETWORK.

The Bottom Line

I have considered myself to have strong 'Martin Luther' church reformation burdens within me. Today's church youth ministries and pulpit messages are using technology as a presentation/administration tool, rather than a 'front lines' tool toward making (and teaching) God's precious word as the pinnacle 'How-to Manual', particularly in today's flood of data and tech addiction.

The church's use of technology is nothing short of idolatrous and disastrous to the future of the local church. Do you think this statement coarse and slanderous? As your church youth (future church leaders), if you still have any.

The ChurchKids.org, EvangelismGold.com, CyberSpaceCamp.com, trio called The Reaching Youth Network provide over 30 years of non-technical, freely downloadable, God-honoring, Bible-based resources as tools to reach and retain all generations in your church and your community for the Glory of Jesus Christ.

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Our vast network of free resources serve just 4 purposes:

1. Show God's Written Word to be as irreplaceable and timely in our technology driven world today, as it was when written. (as promised in 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17)
2. Show fun, non-technical ways to use computer trash, and techniques to share one's faith and message, even by preschoolers, from backyards, basements, and jungle clearings. (as commanded in Matthew 28:19, 20)
3. Show the terrible neglect of faith-based groups not using technology beyond just administrative purposes. (Evidenced by youth leaving the church)
4. Accent the service of our silver-haired mentors as their potential is so terribly under-used in this technology age. (as directed in Job 32:7)

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My purpose on this earth is captured in Psalm 71:18:

Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Serving alongside you
till His soon sure return,

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