Ten Year History of withChrist.org

BACKGROUND – The Lord's inspiration for withChrist.org and a website/correspondence portal for Miles J. Stanford began in 1995. While the Internet originated as a university project in early 1983, it wasn't until 5 years later in 1989, that the World Wide Web (WWW) became a reality. About this same time, AOL began providing Internet Service (ISP) dialup connections. As they say, "The rest is history." Sometime in the early 1990s, I transitioned from being an Apple Macintosh user to MS Windows at the behest of my employer. With Windows 95, Microsoft released its first version of *Internet Explorer* and MS *FrontPage* web creation software became available in 1996. I purchase MS *FrontPage* and the first websites were designed, constructed, and then launched in September 1996. I never considered us "early adopters," but looking back I guess that was the case. Miles' online ministry flourished for three years before his death in September 1999.

Much has happened over the span of 10 years. Correspondence (thousands of emails) has been maintained with believers throughout North America, Europe, and around the world. Foreign language translations of some of Miles' works have been added. I have devoted hundreds of hours, at nights and on weekends, to making withChrist.org a trustworthy source for Christian truth. In that ten years, the initial site (45 megabytes) has grown to nearly 1.5 gigabytes in size—a 35X increase! Hungry-hearted believers are often surprised at the volume and content depth and what they can find while "digging around."

TRANSITION 2006 - The last version of *MS FrontPage* was released in 2003. Microsoft has just released [Expression Web](#) to replace *FrontPage*, and I and withChrist.org will soon make the transition to that realm. The website needs some clean up and maintenance design work before I return to my day job in mid-February 2007. Since this is still my <u>second</u> job (2+ years until retirement), I'll appreciate your prayers that all goes smoothly. While some consider me *tech-savvy*, I'm not a professional web designer. WithChrist.org was created and has been maintained on a 'shoestring' budget. I estimate total hard costs for the past 10 years to total $13,000: $5,000 was provided by unsolicited donations (from you) and $8,000 from our pocket. In my opinion, our stewardship of the Lord's resources is highly favorably compared to ministries having professionally-designed sites supported with annual million-dollar budgets.

THE FUTURE - Throughout the industrialized world, the WWW is beginning to provide broadband content, and television and computer technology are converging. The Lord has begun to give me the inspiration to take withChrist.org to another level—*streaming video presentations* using new multi-media technologies and both WWW and DVD distribution. Examples of what I'm talking about are media applications by the company—*Serious Magic*. In my opinion, their [Visual Communicator 2](#) and [ULTRA 2](#) offer much potential and it's being used in the [educational world already](#). Also, IBM's *Second Life* virtual technology <u>may</u> partially solve the problem of not being able to find that doctrinally-sound church!

I continue to be burdened with the Body's need for simple/basic and intermediate level doctrinal presentations. The local church continues to fall short of adequately grounding members--children to adults. Despite my own early theological explorations, I persist in asking, "Why have I remained loyal to biblical inerrancy and a dispensational approach to viewing Scripture, when so many have been lured or fallen away?" I believe the answer is getting sound doctrinal basics early; it makes all the difference!

Finally, we ask for your prayers and comments. Will the envisioned doctrinal teaching material be both practical and usable? Should it be free or available at a nominal charge? Is there some other need I haven't identified? I look forward to hearing from you.

By His sovereign love, grace, and mercy,

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