The past several years have seen a dramatic shift in internet usage and a rise of new technologies such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and many other applications. These applications have given users an entirely new dimension of interactivity on the Web, as people are able to share videos, photos, links, ideas, and information at a heretofore unseen speed and with uncanny ease that enhances the Web experience of every internet user.

As time changes and technology continues to chart a plot ever further into uncharted waters, it is only fitting that the Christian Research Institute adapt to these new technological tools for spreading the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To make the largest impact possible and to equip the body of Christ with truth, CRI has taken advantage of a bevy of new media outlets online.

In order to take advantage of the ability to transfer videos online, CRI can now be found on two different video sharing sites: the massively popular YouTube at www.youtube.com/CRInstitute and the new video service Vimeo at vimeo.com/channels/51527.

CRI can be found in the blogging world at a number of different locations. The Christian Research Institute’s presence can be felt on Twitter and can be followed at www.twitter.com/crinstitute. In addition, the Bible Answer Man broadcast and the Christian Research Journal can be followed as well at www.twitter.com/cribam and www.twitter.com/crjournal, respectively. CRI maintains a short-form blog at Tumblr as well for short video and audio clips, as well as sharing vital links and a variety of information on the go. Find CRI on Tumblr at http://christianresearchinstitute.tumblr.com.

CRI has also joined the social network of Facebook under the banner of the Bible Answer Man. You can find the Bible Answer Man on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/bibleanswerman#/pages/Bible-Answer-Man/55979377851.

In addition to these internet media outlets, much of the Christian Research Institute’s online material can be shared with various social bookmarking sites such as De.licio.us, Mixx, Technorati, Digg, and over 50 other social bookmarking sites by using the “share” button on content pages. By these advances, as well as the other features mentioned above, CRI 2.0 will combine the best of our informative research material with the access and innovation of the new technologies available on the internet.
Fast Facts About Web 2.0: Did you know?

- Of the top twenty sites on the internet, 5 (a full 25%) are social media sites.
- There are more than 250 million registered users of Facebook and 120 million of those log on at least once a day.
- Over 100 million videos are watched on YouTube every day.
- 77% of active internet users read blogs.
- 133,000,000 blogs have been indexed since 2002.
- Twitter attracted over 26 million Americans to the site in June 2009.
- It would take 412 YEARS to watch all of the video currently housed by YouTube.
- 2.6 billion minutes are used daily by the global population on Facebook.
- 1 TRILLION unique URLs are housed in Google’s index.
- The most popular video on YouTube has been viewed 112 million times.
- Twitter receives 3 million new tweets every day.
- 900,000 new blog posts are placed every day.

Truth Prevails: The Undying Faith of Jan Hus (Christian History Institute, 2007)
DVD $19.99 (plus shipping and handling)
Available through CRI

Almost 600 years ago, a humble peasant stood alone against pope, emperor, and king. Hus defied the earthly authorities to seek truth directly from the Word of God and was killed for what he believed.

This hour-long documentary follows the struggles of Hus and the efforts of modern scholars that ultimately led Pope John Paul II to apologize for the Church’s actions. Truth Prevails is more than just a look at an amazing life in a turbulent time. It is also a thought-provoking examination of many difficult issues facing anyone living in any time: When should we stand our ground and when should we back down? Which issues are worth dying for? How should we speak out against what we know is wrong? And ultimately, when should we ask for and offer forgiveness?
How Should Christians Think about the New Social Media?

Hank: Blogs. Facebook. Twitter. Chat Rooms. Message Boards. Twenty years ago, these terms would have made people wonder if we were bereft of our senses. Today, ignorance of such technologies would be patently short-sighted. Like it or not, the new frontier of social media is here to stay. Thus the question, How should Christians respond to such technologies?

First, we should note well Thomas Morris’s “Double Power Principle”—“To the extent that something has power for good, it has corresponding power for ill. Most of the time, it’s up to us how we use that power.” As such, the internet has both good and bad content. As a tool in the hands of someone using it for good, the internet can be a tool for study and the communication of the gospel. In the hands of those who do evil, it can be used to distribute pornography or steal identity.

Furthermore, the propagation of truth is a divine mandate—“because truth matters.” Western civilization built on the back of Western Christianity based on the DNA of the Bible cannot survive a technological revolution apart from the propagation of truth. Indeed, only biblical truth can supplant the pervasive skepticism, cynicism, and mysticism of the World Wide Web.

Finally, like it or not, the potential impact of Web technologies for the furtherance of the gospel exceeds that of radio and television combined. As hard as it is to imagine, people in over one hundred and seventy seven nations now access equip.org via the World Wide Web—nations we were previously impotent to penetrate through other technologies. And as yet we have but scratched the surface.

With your partnership, we are committed to seizing this new frontier. Not only so, but we have been greatly emboldened and encouraged by your prayers and support. As we continue to use the social media of our day to harness abundant abiding fruit we will forever thank God that you have been with us on the journey.

Testimony

A glimpse into how your faithful prayers and generous financial gifts have influenced lives:

“I’m a relatively new believer who was shocked to hear such an intelligent witness for Christ. Prior to Hank I thought all electronic evangelicals wore plaid jackets and had big hair and spoke with a southern accent (not that there’s anything wrong with that), but it’s boosted my faith to hear Hank’s erudite broadcast every day.”

—Keith, a Bible Answer Man listener, in Florissant, Missouri
Welcome to the Techno Jungle

When he was 19-years-old, Isaac Newton drew up a list of questions under 45 headings to accomplish a goal he had set for himself: to constantly question the nature of matter, place, time, and motion. His style was distinctly non-esoteric: to slog his way to knowledge. For example, he purchased the philosopher Descartes’ Geometry and read it by himself. After two or three pages, when he could understand no more, he started over and continued paragraph by paragraph until he had mastered the complex material.

When asked how he had discovered the law of universal gravitation, Newton simply said: “By thinking on it continually, I keep the subject constantly before me and wait till the first dawning open slowly, by little and little, into a full and clear light.”

Welcome to the Web phenomenon! A jungle to be hated or harnessed for the glory of God. Interpretations seem to the world, but, as to myself, I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me.”

Like Newton, Christians are called to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Therefore, we should desire to nurture careful and critical thinking, rather than narrow-mindedness and ego-centric thinking. In pursuing the most important spiritual questions, we should rely on perseverance and continual reflection, rather than quick reflexes.

It has been said that creativity without criticality is mere novelty, and criticality without creativity is bare negativity.

I suggest we approach these unchartered waters of the brave new ocean of social media with an attitude which combines both a creative and critical approach, a kingdom perspective that discerns unparalleled opportunity for the clarion call of Christ from a meaningless meandering midst the narcissistic noise of the World Wide Web.

If we compare the world of social media to an ecosystem, we are in what biologists aptly describe as a jungle in which both beasts and beauties threaten and enthrall. In this sense, a jungle is a defined area where things threaten to eat each other in order to survive—Facebook, YouTube, Blogspot, Twitter, MySpace, Skype, Vimeo, Streaming Audio and Video.

Welcome to the Web phenomenon! A jungle to be hated or harnessed for the glory of God. Out of the chaos we are committed to creating one Christ-centered apologetic community where all the resources of the Christian Research Institute and the Bible Answer Man broadcast are yours for the taking.” — Hank Hanegraaff

Because Truth Matters,

Hank Hanegraaff
President

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Old Testament Audio Theatre is Now Available!

The Word of Promise Old Testament is the second half of the award winning 2008 Book of the Year—the first Audio Bible or book to receive this coveted award. A great companion to the New Testament set, the Old Testament set includes a dramatized version of the Bible in the same high quality style as the New Testament recording and including new voices like Richard Dreyfus as Moses, Gary Sinise as David, Jason Alexander and over 600 actors contributing to this timeless work. 62 CDs and one DVD in this set.

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