

Update: Future Blog Plans

By Bob Young

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Around the middle of last year, the blogging template I have used for the past fifteen years became unusable due to an automatic update. Thankfully, I was able to recover over 1000 blogs, transferring them to a new format.

For the past three years, I have been considering the future of my online presence. I will not be around forever. Time is naturally slowing down my efforts. Fewer items are being added. Eventually, I hope for a window where those with interest can download anything they may wish to keep for future reference.

As part of this planning, I saw the need to capture the best of my blogs and save them in a more permanent location on my website. The recent problem has motivated me to begin that process. In reviewing early blogs, I found the following, entitled "A thank you, a request, and a blessing" (August 31, 2008).

The "thank you" is first! In the third full month of taking the new website and blog public, we have surpassed 4000 monthly visits! Through 30 days of August, visitors to the site represent 61 countries. I say "Thank You" to every visitor and regular reader for the encouragement you provide. By your visits and involvement, you say that this is worth doing!

My request is that you share feedback and reactions and let other readers know what you think.

May God bless you today and may you know his presence in your life as we seek to fulfill his will for us.

A little over two years later (February 21, 2011), I wrote the following, "A Letter to My Readers."

I am both amazed and pleased as I consider the impact of this site. For over 40 years I preached and taught weekly. I spent 25 years in full-time local ministry—20 of those years in two churches. Those two churches grew in marvelous ways with God's blessing, one reaching a regular attendance of about 300 and the other a regular attendance of almost 400.

Following my years in full-time church work, my ministry turned toward Christian higher education where I spent about a dozen years working in undergraduate, and then graduate, ministry training. Along the way, I kept preaching and teaching, mostly in interim roles in churches that were "between ministers."

When I reconstructed my website and added a blog a little over two years ago, I had no idea what would occur. I really thought I was writing for myself, archiving some of the materials I had written, and providing a place for the things I would write in the future. With God's blessing, the extent of this ministry has reached around the world. In the last days of 2010, visits to the website over the last 2+ years passed 200,000. The number of page views during the same time was 558,000....

Your interest motivates me and encourages me as I continue writing and posting. For the most part, I do not know who you are. You remain anonymous, and we are as the poet's "ships passing in the night." I pray for you insights and wisdom. I pray for you the ability to find God's unique niche for you, and his will and way in your life, as we attempt to understand how he wants us to respond to his great love evidenced in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross for our salvation.

I hope you know I stand ready to assist with that task. I invite your comments and letters.

Fifteen years later, the website has continued to grow with about 40,000 visits monthly. I never anticipated half a million visits each year! I pray that we are changing our world and eternity. My blogging has produced 70-75 blogs annually. For now, those blogs can be accessed on my website. In coming months, I will work through those blogs. Some will be eliminated; some will be rewritten. Some will be copied and placed on my website where they will be accessible more permanently.

A part of this effort is a commitment to write new articles or blogs. In most cases, new items will appear both on my blog and on my website. I also plan to be more diligent in using Facebook to call attention to new items.

If you have read this far, thank you! Thank you for your interest in spiritual things. I again say **thank you**. I ask you to **refer others** to my website, blog, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. And I pray **God's rich blessings** on you and your every effort to grow spiritually, share the Good News of Jesus, and expand the Kingdom.