Update: Future Blog and Website Plans
By Bob Young
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As my plans to step back from my mission and ministry involvement have taken shape, I am also considering the future of my online digital presence. I will not live forever. The passing of time and aging are naturally slowing down my efforts. Fewer items are being added to my website. The website will eventually go away.

Having a plan for managing the end of my digital online presence is better than no plan. Right now, the plan calls for closing the website near the end of 2027 or very early 2028. My hope is that even now those with interest will begin to download and save any items they may wish to keep for future reference.

In the summer of 2023, the blogging template I had used for over fifteen years became unusable due to an automatic update. Thankfully, I was able to recover over 1000 blogs, transferring them to a new format.

As part of that process, I saw the need to capture the best of my blogs and save them in a more permanent location on my website. I immediately began 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!*
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> *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.*
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> *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."*
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> *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….*
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> *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….*

Recently, my domain reseller and hosting service closed its doors without notice. With the help of a friend who is a website expert, I have recovered my domain name, changed registrars, and transferred the website to a new hosting service. I again had to recover numerous blogs. I have successfully recovered those items and little by little am working through the process of making the best of them available.

I remain committed to writing new articles periodically which will be added to the website. I also continue to add items to my Facebook page and my YouTube channel.

As you can see from the dates on the items above, I have been blogging for almost 20 years. More recently, I have written fewer blogs as other social media tools reach more people. I have maintained a website at the present domain name since 2003. At its zenith, the website had 40,000 visits monthly. When I established the website, I never anticipated half a million visits each year! I pray that these efforts have helped change our world and eternity.