



PRESENTING THE GOSPEL — MAKING DISCIPLES

February 11, 2016

Internet Ministry

“**Why do you still do radio?**” That question, from an FBH supporter, came as a shock in 1993 as I began to work with the ministry. At the time, the question related to television, which was the medium of the moment. I had come to a ministry with many long-standing assumptions, which I had accepted without much thought. After taking a few days to consider the merits of radio over television I had a good answer, (mostly related to resources and reach).

When that question was asked, the internet was still a novelty. Now everything has changed. FBH International has moved from radio-based outreach to internet-based ministry. Today, if someone were to ask, “Why do you still do radio?” I would explain that radio is playing a shrinking role in our efforts to present the gospel and make disciples. In fact, everything we produce on radio is also available on the internet, but we produce a great deal of material for the internet which is not accessible on traditional radio stations.

Internet-based ministry offers several advantages to the seeker. Probably the most important one is **privacy and security**. Anonymous connections in public places allow seekers to explore Christianity without anyone knowing they are doing so. This advantage is most important in the Arab world where merely asking questions can get one into serious trouble, but it is equally available to Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, and English speakers.



One reason that internet ministry is effective is that **seekers can move at a pace with which they are comfortable**. Sometimes, instead of answering a specific question, Christians attempt to share the whole gospel and press the seeker for a decision—a tactic which can put people off. Ministry websites typically deal with individual issues and offer a variety of choices which follow naturally, but the seeker decides whether to move forward or hold off for a few days, to think.



The internet is instant. Seekers can find exactly what they want in a few seconds. They don't have to wade through hours of radio programming to get an answer to a specific question. By extension, **internet ministry is always appropriate to the seeker's interest** at the moment. If a seeker has a theological question, he or she can get to it without delay. Thoughtful ones will find several angles on most topics and can consider and weigh what a variety of writers have to say. We believe that the

Holy Spirit guides in this process to bring people to the truth.

With internet ministry, **seekers can initiate communication with a follow-up worker with a few keystrokes.** This can be by phone, text, social media messages, live chat, or email. Once again, the seekers are in control of the process and can use the medium with which they feel most comfortable. Often a progression from short text, to longer emails, to voice conversations is followed. The world has never seen communication speeds as we do today—real-time interactions across thousands of kilometers.



These are just some of the benefits that internet-based ministry offers to seekers. Radio certainly still has a place, particularly in regions where reliable internet service is unavailable, but the internet offers important advantages to those who can access it. We are grateful that God has given us these amazing communication tools and opportunities as we walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time (Col 4:5).

Remember that you can access uplifting programming with encouraging missions reports at <HopeStreamRadio.com>. As always, thank you for your spiritual and financial support of FBH International

Your fellow-servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Hughes".

President

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