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REACTION TO THE TSUNAMI DISASTER

Christians around the world continue to respond to the earthquake and tsunami disaster that occurred December 26 in Asia. In addition to providing prayer and financial support, several groups have also created online ministry responses directed at those who are seeking answers to the "whys" of the disaster.



TruthMedia's site, <http://www.thelife.com/disaster>, offers a variety of help including: answers to the question "Where was God when the tsunami came?"; issues such as grief and fear; a place to post prayer requests and; an online course entitled "Why does God allow disaster?"



WorldLINC ministry has created an evangelistic web site, www.whendisasterstrikes.org, that organizations who want to present a gospel opportunity to seekers can link to easily. Web visitors may submit prayer requests, view articles that share a biblical perspective on why God allows disasters like this to happen and give to trusted organizations.

Other Resources

- [Christianity Today](#), [More from CT](#)
- [Gospel Communications](#)
- [Religion Journal](#)
- **American Tract Society: [When Disaster Strikes tract](#) (also available as an e-tract)**

INTERNET EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - NRB



The [Internet Evangelism Coalition](#), in cooperation with the [National Religious Broadcasters](#) (NRB), will be holding an *Internet Evangelism Boot Camp* on Saturday, February 12th, in Anaheim California.

For the last few years, NRB has been holding Boot Camps (5-hour targeted workshops) in advance of the annual NRB convention. Last year marked the first year for a Boot Camp centering on Internet Evangelism and NRB has invited the IEC to hold one again this year.

Robby Richardson (www.gospelcom.net) is coordinating the boot camp. Richardson says "The Internet has matured into a full-fledged communications medium and there are exciting opportunities around the world to utilize this medium for evangelism." The boot camp will offer an overview of some of the issues of using the Internet as an effective means of sharing the Gospel as well as look at tools that can make the task easier. Speakers include:

- Greg Outlaw: www.Allaboutgod.com
- David Bruce: www.Hollywoodjesus.com
- Sterling Huston: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, www.billygraham.org
- Allan Beeber: Campus Crusade for Christ, www.worldlinc.org and www.evangelismtoolbox.com

The Boot Camp is included in the registration cost for those attending the NRB Convention that begins the evening of February 12. Please contact [Robby Richardson](#) if you have any questions.

INTERNET EVANGELISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - NEW WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

An Update from Dan Heinrich

Six new workshops have been added for the *Internet Evangelism for the 21st Century* conference to be held April 1-2 at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. New workshops include:

- Rowland Croucher (Australia): "Evangelism on Usenet Newsgroups"
- Steve Knight (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association) along with D.J. Chuang, Stephen Shields, Will Samson and Nick Ciske: "Reaching the Connected with Blogging"
- Nick Ciske: "Podcasting and Internet Evangelism"
- Todd Smith (Liberty University): "The Church, Evangelism and Interactive Virtual Reality Worlds"

At least two other workshops are being planned: "Using Chatrooms and Internet Evangelism" and; "Reaching Women on the Internet." Workshop leaders are still to be announced. More information on all the workshops may be found in the Workshop Schedule section of <http://ie-21stCentury.com>. Each of the 19, 1.5 hour, workshops will be video and audio taped and offered, technology permitting, through live streaming from the conference website. At the very least, visitors will be able to stream the audio version and download them as a "podcast" for later listening.

Visits to the web site are increasing from a variety of nations: USA - over 1,000; Canada - 52; U.K. - 18; Singapore - 14; Russian Federation - 13; Germany - 11, Australia - 16, India - 11 and many others from countries such as Israel, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, New Zealand and Oman! A total of 1,310 unique visitors and 974 reloads!

One of the key aspects of *Internet Evangelism for the 21st Century* is it's location on the wireless Liberty University campus in Central Virginia. The conference will be held in the newly renovated Campus North facility that hosts LU's School of Law and LaHaye Student Center. Special affinity groups will meet over lunch on Saturday. Groups planned include: Blogging; Web Follow-up; Convergence; Unreached People Groups and; Women. Online registration for the conference is available.

For more information email [Dan Heinrich](#) or visit the [web site](#).

GAP IN CHURCH USE OF TECHNOLOGY – MANY FACTORS CITED

According to a recent study, church size and the age of its pastor are two factors that affect how a church uses the Internet for ministry.

[Agape Press Story](#)
[Ellison Research Report](#)

FUTURE OF THE INTERNET

A wide-ranging survey of technology leaders, scholars, industry officials, and analysts finds that most Internet experts expect attacks on the network infrastructure in the coming decade as the Internet becomes more embedded in everyday and commercial life. They also believe the Internet will have "the least impact on religious institutions."

[Pew Internet Report](#)



EXPERIENCING GOD EXTENDS ITS REACH ONLINE



The book *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby has been translated into more than 60 languages, sold more than 4 million copies and now is available as an online Bible study through LifeWay.com.

LifeWay's e-business department launched "Experiencing God Online" in October and is hoping for 5,000 subscriptions in 2005.

[Baptist News Story](#)
[Experiencing God Online](#)

INTERNET & CULTURE TRENDS, NEWS & LINKS

WIRED NEWS: TECH COMPANIES "GIVE IT UP" FOR ASIA. [GO](#)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN STAR TRIBUNE: "BLOG ON CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS." [GO](#)

BELIEF NET: RATING THE "BEST SPIRITUAL BLOGS." [GO](#)

BBC NEWS: AMERICANS ARE BECOMING AVID BLOG READERS. [GO](#)

CENTER FOR MEDIA RESEARCH: SMALL TOWN USA IS CONNECTED. [GO](#)

ONLINE SPIN: PREDICTIONS FOR MEDIA AND ADVERTISING FOR 2005. [GO](#)

IEC ENewsletter Information

Questions and comments regarding the Internet Evangelism Coalition ENewsletter are welcome. Email iec@webevangelism.com. To submit content for possible inclusion in an upcoming IEC ENewsletter, please email Naomi Frizzell at naomi@webevangelism.com. The IEC reserves the right to refuse or edit any submitted content.

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Send this email: Know someone who is interested or involved in Internet Evangelism? Consider sending this email to them and encouraging them to subscribe.

Contact the IEC by mail: Internet Evangelism Coalition, Billy Graham Center, 500 College Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187.