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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

[Naomi Frizzell](mailto:Naomi.Frizzell@webevangelism.com) – 904.262.5202

SPIRITUAL LIFE ONLINE FOCUS OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

[INTERNET EVANGELISM COALITION ANNUAL MEETING](#) TO DISCUSS INTERNET TRENDS

(1 September 2004, Chicago, IL) According to an April report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 64 percent of Americans online have used the Internet for religious or spiritual information. The report found:

- 38% have sent and received email with spiritual content.
- 35% have sent or received online greeting cards related to religious holidays.
- 32% have gone online to read news accounts of religious events and affairs.
- 17% have looked for information about where they could attend religious services.

Lee Rainie, Director of the [Pew Internet & American Life Project](#), will address the findings of this and other Pew reports during the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Internet Evangelism Coalition September 14-15 in Chicago. Rainie will discuss who is online, what they do, how they feel about it and what impact it has had on them. He will also describe the three major pieces of research his organization has done on how people use the Internet to get religious and spiritual information, how churches have begun to move their missions and evangelical work online and how private piety has become a part of the email world. In addition, the focus will be on the Project's findings about how people use the Internet in times of great national stress -- such as after the 9/11 terror attacks and at the dawn of the Iraq War.

Other speakers include:

- **Andrew Careaga**, author of three books and numerous articles about the convergence of spirituality and Internet technology. He writes frequently on his weblog, [bloggedy blog](http://bloggedyblog.blogspot.com), <http://bloggedyblog.blogspot.com> and is quoted often in articles dealing with spirituality and cyberspace.
- **Eric Celer**, [Top Chrétien](#), on his ministry, a French-based web portal focused on evangelism. Eric is head manager of Top Chrétien.
- **Keith Stonehocker**, www.Christianitytoday.com, on the IEC International Strategy Group and IEC Global Forum. Keith is Executive Vice President of R&D for Christianity Today International.
- **Richard Post**, www.eo.nl, on "Why Jesus?" the power of e-learning. Richard is Editor-in-Chief of "Why Jesus?" and Internet Counselor for the Evangelical Broadcasting Organization, Netherlands.
- **Robby Richardson**, GospelCom.net, on the developing relationship between IEC and the National Religious Broadcasters. Robby is Director of Internet Ministries for Gospel Communications, Intl.
- **Debra Brown**, [Brown Governance](http://BrownGovernance.com), on "Internet E-vangelism Day – Encouraging the Church in Web Evangelism." Debra is President and CEO of Brown Governance, Canada.

Participants will have the opportunity to network and learn from others who share their vision and passion for using the Internet to spread the Good News of Jesus and more about their online ministry in small groups in discussions of what works and what doesn't when sharing faith in Christ online.

REGISTER

Registration for the meeting is \$95 and includes: admission to all meeting sessions; food and beverage breaks and two meals. To register for the IEC Annual Meeting, please go to <http://bgc.gospelcom.net/iec/meetings.html>.

IEC HISTORY

In 1997, the Billy Graham Center hosted a consultation on using the Internet for evangelism, bringing together nearly 100 participants from churches, denominations and ministries interested in or already doing Internet Evangelism. At the close of the meeting participants voted to establish the Internet Evangelism Facilitation Committee to help facilitate online collaborative evangelism.

Two years later (April 1999) under the leadership of Dr. Sterling Huston, the Internet Evangelism Facilitation Committee convened an international conference to focus on networking, equipping and mobilizing those involved and interested in Internet Evangelism. Out of that conference a permanent organization - now known as the Internet Evangelism Coalition (IEC) - was formed.

Since 1999, IEC partners have:

- Hosted several Internet Evangelism Coalition conferences and meetings
- Developed a web site that helps serve as a hub of information and connections for Internet Evangelism worldwide (www.webevangelism.com)
- Developed web sites to assist those involved in Internet Evangelism including:
 - Now Try God – a seeker-sensitive evangelistic web site (www.nowtrygod.com)
 - Evangelism Toolbox – a comprehensive listing of evangelism tools and resources (www.evangelismtoolbox.com)
 - Growing in Christ – discipleship resources for the new believer (www.growinginchrist.com)
- Designed Online Training for Online Evangelists (<http://bgc.gospelcom.net/iec/otoe/index.php>)
- Produced a monthly IEC ENewsletter on Internet Evangelism

The Internet Evangelism Coalition is providing a strategic gathering place and open forum for sharing ideas, information and insights on Internet Evangelism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the IEC, or to register for the September meeting, please go to www.webevangelism.com or call 630.752.5156.

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MEDIA NOTE

For assistance in scheduling an interview concerning the Internet Evangelism Coalition, please contact Naomi Frizzell at 904.262.5202 or by email at naomi@webevangelism.com.