

Using Commercial Online Services and the Internet for Evangelism and Networking

Rich Robinson

What Can You Do On the Commercial Online Services (America Online, Prodigy, Compuserve, etc.)?

1. Network via e-mail and directory searches.
2. Engage in discussion on bulletin boards (examples from America Online).
3. Upload and download text files or graphics (cannot be included in text files).

What Is the Internet?

1. Originally a government-academic electronic network.
2. Today, a fast growing unregulated network accessed inexpensively by the general public.
3. "Parts" of the Internet:
 - a. Gopher - file searches
 - b. FTP - file uploading and downloading
 - c. E-mail
 - d. World Wide Web - visual presentations of anything with hypertext links to many other "sites" worldwide -- at the cost of a local phone call. WWW incorporates Gopher, FTP, and e-mail (though FTP not as efficient as using separate program).
 - e. Newsgroups - usenet

What Can You Do on the World Wide Web?

1. Set up your own site to provide information and interaction (see Jews for Jesus demo)
 - a. Literature with integrated graphics: documents, tracts, evangelistic pieces, newsletters, catalogs.
 - b. Video and music (but too slow right now to be effective).
2. Connect elsewhere via hypertext links for resources and networking (see notebook of Christian and Jewish resources)
 - a. Connect to other sites via links in your documents. Example: an LCJE "home page" could provide links to all member organizations (assuming they each had their own Web sites).
 - b. Other sites connect to you by providing a link.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Commercial Online Services Compared to Internet

1. Advantages

- a. Much better than Internet at present for discussions.
- b. Specialized bulletin boards are easier to find on a service than a particular Web site on the Internet.
- c. Easier to interact without the necessity to spend time and energy learning how to set up a Web page.

2. Disadvantages

- a. Potentially expensive (high monthly bill).
- b. Not international (except for e-mail).
- c. Any material uploaded cannot be changed; and is under control of the service.
- d. Evangelistic activities subject to the preferences of the online service.
- e. Not possible to generate interactive forms.
- f. Most material posted by users is text form without integrated graphics (however it is possible to upload graphics as files separate from text files).
- g. No hypertext links.
- h. Much less material is available for access than on the Internet.
- i. More restricted networking. Especially for exchange of information about resources, the World Wide Web is more suitable.
- j. Completely unable to implement non-Western alphabets.

Advantages of the Internet

1. Inexpensive networking worldwide.
2. Quick access to information (ministries, libraries, people, places, organizations -- including ability to download files).
3. Publicity for your site
 - a. Your site can show up in any number of places which link to you by a single click: religion directories, directories of organizations by country, lists of new sites. You submit the name of your site to these places.
 - b. Your site can be electronically publicized in any number of "new group listings" etc.
 - c. It can be publicized in your regular literature (for unbelievers: tracts; for believers: newsletters).
 - d. It can be publicized on the commercial online services.
 - e. Other individuals can provide links to your site. Example, Chi Alpha at Syracuse University offered to put in a link to the Jews for Jesus site.
4. Interactive forms allow you to run "ads" or write evangelistic material and allow for responses.
5. Multimedia: future speeds will allow music and video as well.
6. International opportunities as your site can contain foreign language material and is always accessed by a local phone call.
7. Growing medium. The World Wide Web is the fastest growing part of the Internet.
8. Potential to implement non-Western-alphabet foreign language material (Russian, Hebrew)

What Does It Take to Access the Internet?

To access the Internet without placing your own material there:

1. An Internet provider with SLIP or PPP service. NOTE: The online services will offer their own Internet and World Wide Web access, making them Internet providers. But keep in mind the potentially high monthly bill.
2. A fast up to date modem (current standard as of February 1995 is 28,800 v.34 baud rate).
3. For Macintosh, MacTCP and PPP.
4. Completely accessible on all platforms: Macintosh, IBM, Unix.
5. Learn more through any number of computer books on the Internet.
6. Experiment with the Internet gateways on the commercial services.
7. Optional: A shareware or freeware program called Fetch, to download programs and files. (There are other similar programs that do the same thing as Fetch.)

What Does It Take to Set Up a Web Site?

1. An Internet provider as above that "rents" out space on their computer. (Much easier than setting up your own in house computer for this purpose). We use a local company, Best. Charge is \$30.00 a month both for access to the Internet and to maintain our own Web site along with 25 M of hard disk space for material. For this price our address is our own organization rather than Best Communications, e.g. jews-for-jesus.org rather than jfj@best.com.
2. General knowledge of the Internet in general and the World Wide Web in particular -- both available through computer books.
3. Knowledge of the HTML language. The basics can be learned within several hours by a computer-literate person. (See sample book *Teach Yourself Web Publishing With HTML*.)
4. Creativity and time to design the Web page(s).
5. A shareware or freeware program such as Eudora to manage e-mail sent to and from your site.

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Phone (415) 864-2600; Fax (415) 552-8325

GlennNJ 02/23/95

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Isaiah 53	RA Rob	02/23/95
Mity Mo - an Invitation	Kiruv	02/23/95
Why Jesus Died	B Emmett	02/25/95
Re:Jesus = A Golden Calf	DozerStd	02/26/95
Mity Mo - Another Invitation	Kiruv	02/27/95

Subj: My Friend Kiruv, 4
From: TClontz

95-02-09 15:57:35 EST

Dear Kiruv:

<<1. Judaism has never accepted human sacrifice, because G-d declared it an abomination ! Therefore G-d knew that Jesus dying was going to be an empty gesture to the Jews. Why would He do that ?>>

Dbrick may not wish to repeat the long discussion Len and I had concerning this only a few weeks ago. I have saved both sides of the discussion. If you cant find it, just let me know and Ill e-mail you the transcript. The brunt of the discussion revolved around the difference between sacrificial acts and human sacrifice. Christians do not regard this as human sacrifice, since His life was not taken -- it was given.

<<2. If Jesus's intention was to die, that would be suicide, which is another abomination. G-d knew that too. Why would He allow that to happen ?>>

Is it suicide to lay down your life for your friends? Many soldiers do that even today.

<<3. Since He commands us only to sacrifice on the Temple altar, why did Jesus die outside the Temple wall ?>>

Again, this was not human sacrifice. That would be an abomination both to Jews and Christians.

<<4. Judaism never belived in Original Sin. Why would G-d send a Messiah to correct something He never told us about and therefore again we would not recognize ?>>

A lot of Christians dont believe in original sin either, so lets just leave that alone. Certainly both you and I believe that we have sinned against God and against each other. Anyone old enough to argue about original sin has already committed conscious sins, so the question is moot for him anyway (this includes you and me as well, friend).

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So, does the Tanakh say that we are sinful? Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Psalms 51:5; Job 14:4; and Ecclesiastes 7:20 quickly come to mind. Lets take a quick look at them shall we?

Genesis 6:5

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Not only are we evil, but EVERY INTENT of the thoughts of our hearts are ONLY evil CONTINUALLY. Thats a pretty serious condition to be in, wouldnt you say, friend? People like you and me dont even WANT to seek God, at least not without any self serving motivation.

Jeremiah 17:9

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

You may believe that our hearts are basically good, but that disagrees with the testimony of Jeremiah. We are not only wicked, but we are DESPERATELY wicked. Who can know it? We cannot even understand our own sins. Fortunately the context of this chapter teaches that there is One who can know it and remedy it, God Himself.

Psalms 51:5

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

You cant get more original than that, can you?

Job 14:4

4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

Can these desperately wicked hearts whose every inclination is only evil continually, even from birth, produce true righteousness? The message here is in the negative.

Ecclesiastes 7:20

20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.

Every sins, friend. Everyone. We sin because we want to sin. We want to sin because we are wicked and rebellious at heart. We are wicked and rebellious at heart now because we were born that way -- indeed, even conceived that way.

Even if modern Judaism does not teach these truths from the Tanakh, it is certain that the Tanakh does itself teach these things. Besides, why would there be a need for the Torah to be written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31) if it is already sufficient that it is written down in words? The answer, of course, is that there is a basic problem

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with our hearts. The Torah places bars around our wild natures. To have the Torah in our hearts would give us tame natures instead.

Your Friend,
Tim

Subj: Re:Grandiosity. 95-02-09 23:15:09 EST
From: DBrick

Subj: Re:Why don't Jews believe in Jes 95-02-09 23:12:06 EST
From: DBrick

ZVI, is there any more doubt re the Gospels than about the Torah? Same doubters, same scepticism. Be careful what scholarship you trust. One other thing. Jesus rose from the dead which kind of makes what he said more important than other claimants

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Subj: Re:DBrick-best defence=nastyatta 95-02-09 23:19:28 EST
From: DBrick

Oh brother, do you honestly expect me to believe that you are saddened. Be honest, you are just taking a swipe at me in a rather back handed sort of a way. Why don't you deal with what I am saying instead of trying to attack me and my "lack of knowledge." You keep puffing yourself up. You should know the Tenach says Pride goes before the fall. I don't want to exclude the New Testament from discussion just because you don't accept it. I am not asking you to exclude the Talmud just because I don't accept it. And who said I was trying to prove Jesus is the Messiah? I think the onus is on you to prove he is not. After all, he said he was. I believe him. Why don't you?

Subj: "Perfect Sense?" 95-02-09 23:22:56 EST

Shalom from Jews for Jesus!

Jews for Jesus
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e-mail: jews-for-jesus.org

Jews for Jesus was founded in September of 1973 to proclaim the message of the Messiah to all people.

We are an evangelical mission agency committed to creative proclamation of the Gospel, with branch offices in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Toronto, London, Paris, Buenos Aires, Johannesburg, Odessa and Moscow.

More than at any time since the first century, Jewish people are coming to faith in Y'shua (the Jewish way to say Jesus)! We Jews for Jesus have discovered that Y'shua is the promised Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world.

If you are Jewish and not a believer in Jesus:

- We'd like to tell you why we believe that Y'shua (Jesus) is the promised Messiah of Israel.
- You can browse through ISSUES, the magazine with a Messianic Jewish perspective.
- Or read the first-hand accounts of other Jewish people who have come to believe in him.

If you are already a believer in Jesus:

- We can help you witness effectively and with confidence to your Jewish friends.
- If you're not yet familiar with our ministry, read about Jews, Jesus and Jews for Jesus.
- Questions about our doctrinal position? See our Statement of Faith.
- For edification and encouragement, be sure to visit our Newsletter section, written "for the Christian who wants to know more about Jews and evangelism."
- Find out how we relate to the local church.
- Stop by our Purple Pomegranate Resource Catalog where you can order all kinds of helpful books, tapes, and witnessing tools.

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Jews FOR Jesus NEWSLETTER

What is the Jews for Jesus Newsletter?

It's our free monthly publication for Christians who want to know more about Jewish people and evangelism. Inside you'll find challenging lead articles by Executive Director Moishe Rosen; exciting stories of how God is working among Jewish people worldwide; encouraging testimonies of Jewish believers in Jesus; and practical tips on witnessing to your Jewish friends and co-workers. You might even discover a tasty recipe or two!

Watch this space for our most recent newsletters; and write us at our address on the home page to receive the Jews for Jesus Newsletter through the regular mails.

And for those who are wondering--we number our newsletter according to the system of [the Jewish calendar](#).

What's inside the Jews for Jesus Newsletter?

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Van Evangelism

by **Richard Harvey, Director of Jews for Jesus, United Kingdom**

In England, it is not as common as it is in the United States to have bumper stickers on cars or logos on vans. That's why the van I use at the London branch of Jews for Jesus attracts a lot of attention. When I'm stuck in traffic, frequently someone in a car alongside me pulls down the windscreen and calls out, "What's it all about--this Jews for Jesus?"

I always have a good supply of tracts in the glove compartments on either side of the van. When the traffic jams back up, as they often do in London, I have some interesting conversations.

One morning as I came in to work, the Jewish owner of the store next to our bookshop came up to me and asked, "Were you driving up the M1 (the main freeway that links London to the North of England) at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday?"

"Yes, I was," I said. "I was on my way to speak at a church in Leicester. What were you doing there?"

"I was taking my wife diving," he explained. "She is doing a course in caving and diving. But I was surprised to see you on the motorway. That van gets everywhere!"

When Jewish people see the van, they are frequently "gobsmacked," to use an English expression. I find this reaction of surprise to our high-profile, visible approach most useful in beginning a witness.

One time, I had left the van in a car park (British for parking lot). Upon returning to the van, I found a well-dressed woman in her thirties staring at the logo. "What do you think of it?" I asked.

"I don't believe I'm seeing this!" she exclaimed. "I never realized this sort of thing existed. How can you be Jewish and believe in Jesus? If my father saw this, he would have a heart attack!"

Susie was an accountant who worked in a nearby office block. She explained that although she was not Orthodox, she lived in an Orthodox Jewish neighborhood in nearby Golders Green. Her parents had brought her up strictly in the Jewish faith, but the sight of our van brought many questions to the surface of her mind.

"What do you call yourselves, Jews or Christians? And what about your families? What do they think of this? And do your children grow up having both Christmas and Passover?" The questions tumbled out of her, one after another.

It has been said that one fool can ask more questions than a hundred wise men can answer. But in Susie's case, the questions were all genuine. Her curiosity was insatiable. We stood in the car park for several minutes as I answered some of her questions.

"The most important question," I said to her, "is whether Jesus really is who He claimed to be--the Messiah. If He is, the rest all falls into place. If not, then none of it makes any sense. Who do you think Jesus is?"

Susie confessed that she had never really thought about that question. She would not even know how to begin to answer it.

"Would you let me send you something to read on the subject?" I suggested.

She agreed, on the condition that I would not send her any further literature. She did not want to receive more "junk mail" than she already did or to be on another mailing list. Besides, she dreaded her father's reaction should he discover she had received literature from Jews for Jesus.

I sent Susie our book *Y'shua, the Jewish Way to Say Jesus*. I'm praying that in reading it, her curiosity will change into a spiritual hunger that will only be satisfied when she comes to a personal relationship with God through Jesus. Will you pray for her also, and pray for my "fellow evangelist," the Jews for Jesus van?

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