

Dear Ministering Brethren,

July 31, 2000

*"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."*

Proverbs 11:14

The past 10 years there have been some phenomenal advances in the field of electronic technology. We've all been affected by it through better and faster measures of communication through our phones, cell phones, and beepers.

The most recent entrance to this field of communication/information is the Internet. It has dramatically changed and affected the way the world/society acquires and disseminates information, and buys and sells merchandise.

We know that there is an enemy of our soul and there are many stories heard today of wrecked homes and personal lives through the misuse of the Internet. Satan will destroy us if we allow him to and he has found this an enticing tool of use.

To remain consistent with our stand on the radio and T.V., we believe we cannot disregard this interference.

We also believe that the issues are broader than the indecency found on the many websites but involves stewardship of time, money, and spiritual resources.

This letter is an invitation for you to participate in helping find scriptural ways of addressing the "E" question. We trust that hearing from each other can encourage us to a faithfulness that will help protect us and those under our care from needless exposure to the vices promoted by Internet Websites.

Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire and return it by August 31, 2000 along with comments or other useful material related to this subject.

*"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but the exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."*

Hebrews 10:24-27

We covet your prayers for proper direction from God.

The Bishop Committee

Ernest Hochstetler

*Ernest Hochstetler*

Nelson W. Beachy

*Nelson W. Beachy*

Ivan R. Beachy

*Ivan R. Beachy*

Perry Troyer

*Perry Troyer*

David M. Yoder

*David M. Yoder*

## E-technology Questionnaire

1. Do any of your members use of the following?

A. Computers

Home Use

Business Use

B. E-Mail

Home Use

Business Use

C. Internet services

Home Use

Business Use

Public Library (Or similar)

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

2. Is the above use reflected in a church decision that you have made?

A. If yes, would you be willing to share your guidelines with us?

A copy would be appreciated and useful.

Yes  No

Yes  No

3. Where the Internet is used, do you require any of the following?

A. A filtering software or blocking service provider.

B. Do you make a difference between "filter" or a "blocker"?

C. If yes, please describe it. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

Yes  No

D. Some type of accountability

1. With a friend

2. Within the home

3. If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

E. Are there restrictions on who the Internet service provider is?

If yes, who is this approved provider? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

4. The following are general questions with a yes or no answer. We would however, enjoy your additional comments.

A. Where the computer is used, are there guidelines about games?

B. Are there limits of time used per day?

C. If the Internet is allowed or used, do you view "surfing" as a danger?

D. Do you personally use a computer?

E. Do you personally own a computer?

F. How well do you understand computers?

1. Very well

2. Well

3. Not well

4. Not at all

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

G. Do you personally subscribe to any of the following

1. Internet

2. E-Mail

Yes  No

Yes  No

5. Do you have specific concerns about the Internet or other areas of electronic technology?

Yes  No

If yes, please list your concerns

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are there ever legitimate uses for the Internet. ie: business, research, etc.

Yes  No

Describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you see a safe way to use the Internet?

Yes  No

If yes, please give us your proposed safety plan and ideas

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are some ways that you would suggest to help in dealing with these issues?

- Message at next annual Ministers Meeting  
Suggestion for speaker \_\_\_\_\_
  - Calvary Messenger article
  - Other ideas \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this questionnaire on or before August 31, 2000.

Send to Ernest Hochstetler  
143 Geneva Lane  
Abbeville, SC 29620  
Phone (864)446-8279

Your response will be treated in confidence. A summary report of this survey will be shared at a later time.

May God bless you for your time and interest.

The Bishop Committee

*This questionnaire is being sent to all ordained brethren. Please indicate if this reply is an \_\_\_ individual response or \_\_\_ plural ministry.*

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_