

Bethany Website News

April 3, 2005

The Bethany website (www.bethanycrc.org) was launched in mid-January this year. Website features were demonstrated in a live session after worship on January 23. Since then the look and content of the website has continued to develop. It could be said that it will always be a work in progress. Periodically we will publish a Bethany Website Newsletter to advise the Bethany family of new features and new resources.

New features to be aware of

1. A “site map” tab was added to the tabs across top of home page. This is a feature found in most websites. For some readers the site map provides an easier way to access items in the website. The presence of a site map also improves the number of ‘hits’ we get from search engines, or at least this is what I’ve been told by our website guy Carl Leck.
2. In the home page “welcome” paragraph, “More...” was added which is a link to another page. The linked page includes encouragement to visit Bethany and asks the reader, “Are you a Christian?” Also included are links to other web pages that tell the salvation story in various ways. The reader is encouraged to contact one of our staff to get answers to questions and tell us if they have accepted Christ. This can also be a useful resource for Bethany members to prepare for the opportunity to tell their salvation story to a friend or acquaintance.

Folders

On the right side of the home page you find “folders.”

1. A “Photo Albums” folder has been added that include several new photo albums of events such as the Cantata. We are always anxious to receive photos for the website from ministry leaders.
2. A “Daily Devotionals” folder has been added that contain links to several familiar websites such as the “Daily Word” and the infamous Oswald Chambers.

3. The “links” folder contains links to other websites. Many new links have been added. Included now are links to more Christian colleges. The number of links in the “resources” folder has increased also.
4. A “Report to Synod 2000” folder has been added. This folder contains the report prepared by the Committee to Review the Decision re Women in Office for Synod 2000, the Bethany Council Unity Declaration and other related material.

Other items of note

1. Pastor Henry has received emails from several people outside the Bethany family some requesting prayers and some requesting information.
2. John Vanden Berg contacted us by email from Dordt College with applause for the website. We encourage parents of college students or others of their family living away from the area, to make them aware of the Bethany website as a way keeping up with what is happening “back home.”
3. Carl Leck and Eileen Walraven are discussing how to get connected with our library.
4. As more people pictures become available we hope to rotate the people in the middle section of the home page every week or so. Don’t be too shy, if you see one of us snapping pictures of you and others around Bethany.

We love to get feedback. Whenever you find something or think of something the Bethany family should be aware of, the website is probably a good place to put it. Click on the “send us comments on our website” button to send us an email with your feedback or mention it to Carl Leck, to me or to anyone on the Bethany staff. Remember, this your website.

Mike Whitten
Website Curator