

Bio of John Edmiston



John Edmiston is an Australian missionary who has been in full-time Christian ministry since 1981 and who has served in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, mainly in student ministry, urban ministry and Internet ministry as well as being a bible college lecturer.

John is currently:

- ❑ Chairman/CEO of the Antioch Internet Bible International and its partner organizations Digital Opportunities and Eternity Christian Fellowship
- ❑ A member of the executive of the Internet Evangelism Coalition,
- ❑ Serving on the Joint Information Management Initiative task force of the World Evangelical Alliance - Missions Commission,
- ❑ Lecturing in Internet Evangelism and Cybermissions at the Fuller Theological Seminary.
- ❑ A Volunteer Regional Area Director of Techmission/AC4 and Chairman of their newly formed International Advisory board.

John first went online in 1991 and he helped found Australian BibleNet and participated in many Christian bulletin boards. In 1994 he started The Prayer Page – the one of the first Christian prayer sites where people could post prayer points on the newly emerging WWW. In mid-1994 the Prayer Page became Eternity Online Magazine, the first major bible teaching e-zine, which saw over 1 million readers per month during 1996-1997.

In 2001 John went to Mindanao in the south of the Philippines as a missionary and noticed the abundance of internet cafes and the dearth of theological training. So the Asian Internet Bible Institute was born to give free/low cost online training to Asia's pastors. The AIBI now has around 4000 students (nearly all are part-time) in over 40 nations. The courses are in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, Russian and Tagalog.

John's vision is for transformational training that equips charismatic Great Commission Christians to both know Christ and to make Him known. Courses are focused on "real world" issues. John has partnered with urban ministry networks in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines to offer training and is a member of the Ecarnacao network which focuses on ministry to urban slums in the developing world (John provides some technical assistance in developing their M.A. program).

In Mindanao John noticed that the indigenous missionaries he was training lacked entry platforms into the often-hostile UPGs (unreached people groups). So he set-up evangelistic Internet cafes as small businesses that both support the indigenous missionaries (three can be fully supported from an icafe with 21 computers) and provide a safe, neutral entry platform and a means for community contact and transformation.

The house churches that often resulted from such missionary outreach then needed some secure and central way of receiving mentoring and guidance so Eternity Christian Fellowship was started to network small churches via a central website supplying teaching materials, sound doctrine and online mentoring and fellowship. This is currently in its formative stages only.