

## TECHNOLOGY REBOOT: “BACK TO DELONG?”

“Back to DeLong.” That’s a theme our 21<sup>st</sup> Century family has discussed on occasion. The world our grandparents lived in during the early/mid 1900s in DeLong, Illinois is dramatically different from what we experience today. Relating to faith, there are certainly advantages and disadvantages.

The rural community relationships were face-to-face, getting to know family through printed pictures, direct activity and lots of stories. Today, technology allows for Facebook and various other internet/email groups so that pictures of a newborn, a mission success, natural disasters, ... are transmitted within minutes worldwide to provide the feeling of “being there.”

Pre-computer faith growth was through printed devotionals, prayer phone chains, well-worn Bibles, televangelists and Sunday School classes. Now we still have all of those and additionally podcasts, daily devotional emails, Facetime, YouTube, streaming video of worship and more.

Yet, where in the midst of all this technology and action is there space for hearing the still, small voice? How do we use technology choicefully to nurture our relationship with God, emulate Christ’s actions and channel the Spirit’s stirrings in our world?

While continuing to struggle with those questions, I’ve created a working model of my Christian Playbook (CP) online. CP is a series of activities – Devotional, Prayer, Music, Study, Love – to drive daily Christian intentionality into my day, using technology where advantageous but still allowing the ways of my grandparents. Technology facilitates electronic reminders to do my CP activities, emailed daily devotionals from various faith traditions, easily updatable online pictures of those I’m praying for, religious music galore and study resources that are only a net-search away. WOW.

Yet, the boundlessness that technology brings can be too much of a good thing. Many of us suffer from “information smog” -- too much to read, Facebook posts that could become all-encompassing, podcasts from well-known theologians, on-line spiritual training, etc.. As we all know, too much of a good thing can bring bad results.

May we find our way to a personal “Christian Playbook” that enhances spiritual life, whether done using the technology of today and/or DeLong-like simplicity!

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*Steve Long lives in Cincinnati with his wife Kim. They are blessed to have both adult sons living in the area and most immediate family within a few hours drive. He enjoys family time, music, volunteering and enhancing his Christian Playbook website [[www.christianplaybook.longmemories.info/](http://www.christianplaybook.longmemories.info/)] with hopes that it helps showcase ways to enhance our daily walk as Jesus followers.*