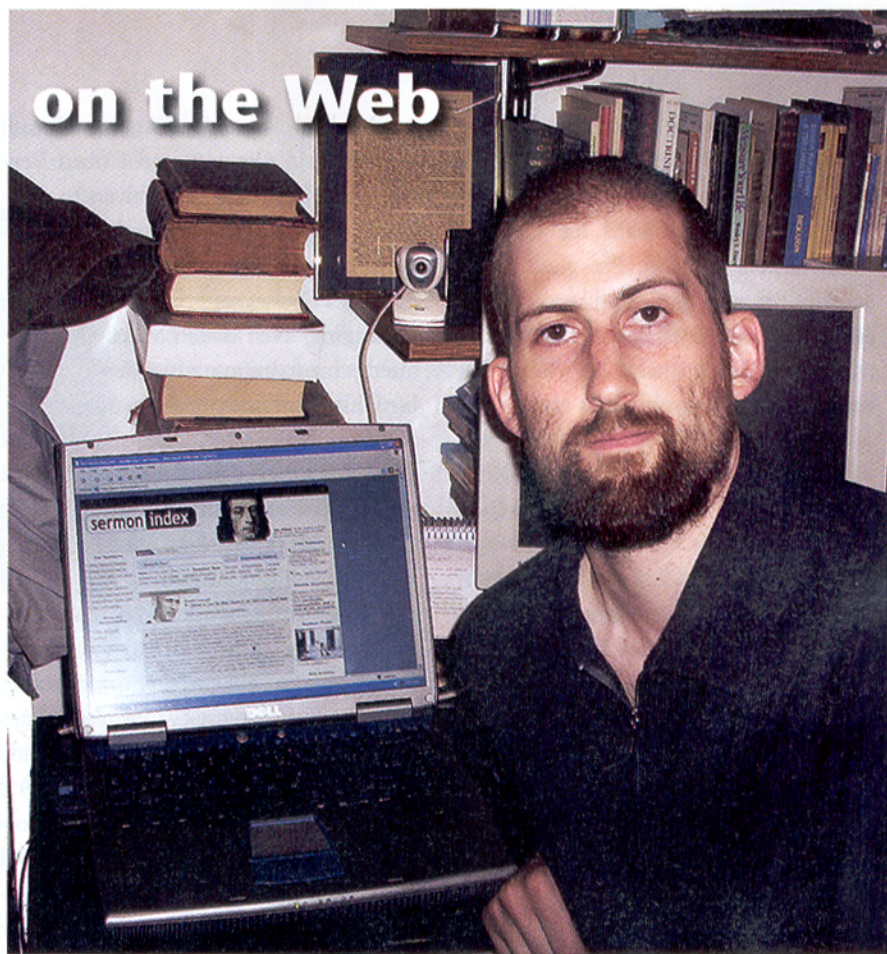


## Classic Preaching on the Web

"If the preacher is full of the fire of God, then people will gather just to watch him burn," said the famous preacher and churchman John Wesley. These days some people aren't gathering but downloading, to witness classic preachers burn again with the fire of God. It's happening on [www.sermonindex.com](http://www.sermonindex.com), a web site created by Toronto computer technician Greg Gordon (and he's also sharing the sermons freely at [www.christianity.ca](http://www.christianity.ca)). Gordon thinks that the preachers of yesterday have something to say to the people of today—and he wants to make it free and easy for listeners to mine those sermon gems.

Gordon started "exploring old messages and old books" after being left dissatisfied by some contemporary preaching. Stirred by his discoveries, Gordon designed a web site committed to the "preservation and propagation of classic preaching in its audio form for this generation and the next. I felt I needed to share what I was finding with others." The site provides free access to more than 4,000 taped sermons of mainly "classical preachers from the past, men of renown." Visitors to the site are asked to consider making a



Greg Gordon: The preachers of yesterday have something to say today

donation to offset the costs of accumulating and distributing the taped sermons. Gordon estimates more than half a million

sermons have been downloaded since the site's inception in December 2002.

Although it is not Gordon's goal for his site to replace going to church to hear a local preacher, he concedes that some of his clients are "people disillusioned with Christianity. They are out of church for a while and are being fed." Not surprisingly, the main visitors to the site are preachers "looking to be fed and inspired somewhere."

It is an inspiration that Gordon hopes will spark a revival in today's church: his primary goal for building [sermonindex.com](http://sermonindex.com). "The site's emphasis is revival. We want people to take these teachings and apply them to their lives," explains Gordon. "It's healthy for Christians to look into church history. There's a heritage of God's people we shouldn't neglect." The preachers on the site speak "more powerfully, more stirringly," according to Gordon. It is a stirring that he hopes will help today's Church be more passionate and committed in the faith. ■

—KAREN STILLER

### An Evangelist in Every Church

An equipping evangelist in every church: that is the goal of a new Association of Evangelistic Point Persons being launched by National Evangelism Partnerships (formerly Vision Canada) in conjunction with the Leadership Centre of Willow Creek Canada.

The new association has the potential to transform how churches view evangelism in Canada, says its chairman, Merv Budd. "The point person in each congregation will be there to pound the drum of evangelism in church life," explains Budd, who leads the "Equipping Evangelism Action Track" of National Evangelism Partnerships, the roundtable of evangelism ministries facilitated by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

To join the association, an individual must be recognized by their church's leadership as the individual "charged with responsibility for evangelism in the church" and eager to become an equipper of others.

The new association will organize local chapters of evangelistic point persons that will meet regularly for education, encouragement and training. "These groups will be clusters of people meeting, praying and sharing with each other," says Budd. "They will have the chance to watch training DVDs that feature experts in evangelism." The genius of this approach, according to Budd, is its rooting in the local church: "This approach says, 'You have the vision. Let us help you.' It is not program-based, but people-based—which is why it has huge potential." The new association is gathering members now. For more information e-mail [merv@nbbc.ca](mailto:merv@nbbc.ca) or register at [www.growingleadership.com](http://www.growingleadership.com). ■

—KAREN STILLER