



Fred, Crystal, Phillip, Stephen and Hope Kovach

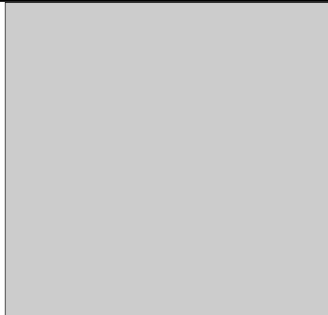
Your Missionaries Using Technology to Teach a Lost World about Jesus!

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Freedom to Grow in God

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Phillip, Stephen and Hope's Corner

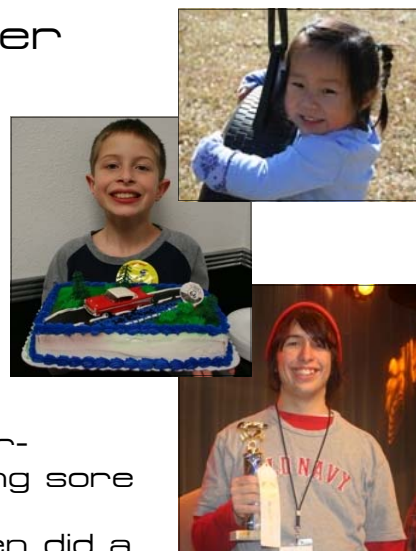
Christmas has come and gone, but the cold weather is still here with us and it seems like it's never gonna leave. Ice storm after ice storm has blown through. Spring is on the way though. With it comes many exciting things. I'll be going on a week long trip to New York with band and a contest in Kansas with jazz band.

Everyone's doing good here in Springfield. Hope's getting bigger and bigger. It seems like she never stops growing. Stephen had his tenth birthday party and made fourth grade student council. I've begun playing third Bass drum in Winter-drumline. I'm having a good time when I'm not feeling sore from the weight of the drum.

We had our Pinewood derby in January. Stephen did a monorail car and I did the Bumblebee Camaro from Transformers. I took third for speed and design.

Well that wraps it up here. God bless!

Phill, Stephen and Hope Kovach.



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The Digital Television Transition

The Change from Analog to Digital Television

What is DTV, HDTV and why are we changing?

DTV stands for Digital Television. Our present signal is transmitted as various voltage levels and is known as analog transmission. It has its roots in the 1920's and was last revised in the late 1950's. DTV will be transmitted digitally (like signals inside a computer). This allows the use of many new technologies and the transmission of much sharper images.

HDTV stands for High Definition Television. HDTV looks a lot sharper in the details.

Is it worth it?

Beauty is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. If you enjoy seeing the details in a scene in a picture or the movies, then you will probably appreciate the better picture that HDTV has to offer you. Costs for the television sets are currently between \$300.00 and up past \$2000.00.

How will it affect me?

On February 17, 2009, all television stations in the United States will stop transmitting analog signals. After this date, only digital television (DTV) signals will be transmitted. If you are receiving your signals through an indoor or outdoor antenna, you will not be able to receive the digital signals and you will most likely see static or snow on your screen. If you are receiving your signals through cable or satellite, then you probably will not be affected. The FCC has mandated that all cable and satellite systems maintain analog signals until 2012.

Do I need to change anything?

If you receive your signals through an indoor or outdoor antenna, you will either need to purchase a new DTV-compatible television with a digital tuner, or you will need to purchase a set-top converter for your existing television.

If you receive your signals through cable or satellite, your cable company will continue to provide analog signals compatible with your present television set until 2012. You do not need to change anything until then.

What about the coupons?

The US government will be issuing up to two \$40.00 vouchers to households with analog television sets. These vouchers are good ONLY for one set top converter each. We saw a converter locally for around \$50.00. For more details on the coupons for the converter boxes go to <http://www.dtv2009.gov>

When should I make my move?

As of the writing of this article at the end of February 2008, the converter boxes are just now coming on the market. The coupons are only good for 90 days from the day they are issued, so apply for the coupons only when you are ready to purchase a box. Quantities are limited on the coupons, so make sure you do not wait too long!

Will I need a new antenna?

One recent engineering survey indicates that people residing further than 30 miles from the TV towers may have difficulty receiving DTV signals and should install an outdoor antenna. If you would like to check for yourself, go to <http://www.antennaweb.org>

What about Low Power TV (LPTV) stations?

Many religious stations on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) and Ion (formerly PAX) are operating under a low power TV license. These stations are exempted from the February 17, 2009 analog cutoff. Most of these stations will probably continue broadcasting with their analog signals. However, set-top converter boxes might not allow these signals through to your TV set. If you watch these stations through an antenna (and not cable or satellite), you might look for a converter box with an "analog pass-through" option. As of the time of this writing, three of the 78 set-top converters have this option.

What about Blu-Ray DVD?

Blu-ray is the HDTV version of DVD playback. You can watch movies recorded in HD if they are on a Blu-Ray disk. You can also watch regular DVDs on your Blu-Ray player.

Is HD-DVD the same as Blu-Ray?

No. HD-DVD disks will not play in a Blu-Ray player and vice versa. HD-DVD is a dead format. Several studios have announced that they will no longer be offering product in HD-DVD format. And its manufacturers will not making any more players. There are a few "Combination" Blu-Ray/HD-DVD players on the market; and HD-DVD and Blu-Ray movies will play back in them. If you have already purchased movies on HD-DVD disk, we recommend that you purchase a combo player. If you have not invested in any Blu-Ray or combination players, we suggest that you wait.

Additional Websites:

<http://www.DTVanswers.com>

<http://www.DTVtransition.org>

<http://www.CE.org>

<http://www.dtv2009.gov>

<http://www.antennaweb.org>

All facts presented are current as of the writing of this article on February 29, 2008. Please check for any changes before following any advice given in this article.

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