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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Run over

No doubt you have seen a pigeon hit by a car, flopping on the side of the road, with others looking on until the flopping stops. Then they fly off.

I am like that pigeon, run over by an ever expanding electronic world increasingly beyond me.

Don't be fooled. It can happen to you too if you live long enough.

The high water mark in my effort to remain "current" was when I brought an elephant home – a desktop computer, a printer, and "floppy" disks.

When my wife was here, she insisted I have a cell phone in case of emergencies. So I ended up with one. I felt good because I could answer "yes" to the question if I had a cell phone (even though I never turned it on).

I needed it for when I met my brother-in-law at the Minneapolis airport, but I discovered then that I did not know how to answer it. I was reduced to flagging him down when driving by looking for me.

Years back my smooth talking friend from North Carolina, Steve Piantadosi, talked me into Dragon Speaking.

Just talk and it will translate what you say into typed text. Maybe he saw me type and felt sorry for me?

I asked Watson to order a copy.

I spent the next couple of weeks teaching it in my best Midwestern accent. The breaking point was "Holy Bible" which it always translated to "holly bible". After two weeks I gave up and went back to my two finger method of typing.

I should have taken typing in high school!

My choice for word processing is Word Perfect (WP), but I have been run over by Microsoft Word.

Invariably journals want submissions in Word. Not a problem because WP documents can be saved to Word. The problem comes if you have to make revisions (the usual case unless rejected).

You cannot save a Word file to WP. Either you are in Word for revisions or back to WP for revisions and then save to Word when resubmitted.

Getting outmoded is gradual, not evident until you are on a toll road that does not accept cash or when confronted by terms like block chain, non-fungible token (NFT), or bit coin.

But the seminal event serving to remind me I am outdated was my decision to give up my land line in favor of an Apple cell phone.

My youngest daughter, Jill, is an Apple girl so I went for Apple because I knew she would be my “teacher”.

I bite the bullet Christmas 2020. I even boasted about my decision to get rid of my land line to reduce my dinosaur ness (posting 1 June 2021; No longer a dinosaur!)

Soon after I got my cell phone, I dropped it. I spent the next half hour trying to pick it up. Bending is difficult, so I went for my “picker upper grabber”.

Good idea, but useless because the phone is slippery as ice, devoid of purchase points for grabbers.

After that experience I bought a dozen suction arrows like kids play with to distribute at strategic locations in the house when I have to pick it up.

I boasted in a posting about giving up my land line in favor of my cell phone. A mistake!

I got it back a couple months ago complete with the same number I had when I gave it up!

The primary use now of my cell phone is texting. Watch my daughter and it is zip zip bang bang with two fingers, but I am a one finger guy with lots of back spacing. Talking my text messages is about like Dragon Speaking, but at least “Holy Bible” does not come out holly bible!