

Black Mountain, NC  
Thursday, Oct 16 2025

Dear Jamie Cline, Jeanna,

**So good to hear from Jamie** with great stories of doing peer review of another Christian school! I should have done more involvement with national scholarly review to advance my career in academia, but I didn't go that route. Surely studying how other schools have faced challenges and found solutions will help you be a better leader for Cornerstone!

**Seven Rivers Christian School: Public Presentation**

From their web page presentation, I learned quite a bit about Seven Rivers Christian School in a few minutes. They are only 12 years older than Cornerstone (50% older) and their enrollment is listed at 690 students (2/3 or more of Oak Hall, and larger than Frazer School). They are church-based. Their governance structure is (in my view) superior to that of Cornerstone in that their Board is chosen by a larger organization (the church) and would have the goals of Christian school success firmly in mind. They have many of the key items provided on their web page that I viewed as important in my 2023 letter to Cornerstones' Board

(<https://docvacuumtubes.com/cornerstone/2023/CornerstoneBoard12202023.pdf>) :

- The obvious details of their stances, mission, vision, etc. (While not totally complete, they at least provide items such as their "Look," (which includes curriculum), Mission, Vision, School Profile, that come very close to my #1 evaluation criterion (Handbook) and #2 (Course List))
- Clear list of their Faculty (although missing data on their qualification) - so a partial on my #3 Criterion from 2023
- School Calendar -- clear win on my Criterion #4
- Plans for the Future -- they are ABUNDANT with their plans and details -- a clear win on my Criterion #5
- Hiring information -- right there on their web page in great detail; a win on my Criterion #6
- Key Financials -- in their Annual Report I find information giving, but I haven't yet found a budget. It is possible that is presented inside their church reports....but don't see my #7 on their website.
- Governance structure / Board Membership (missing minutes, but at least they present clear documentation of their current Board - so a partial good grade on my #8 criterion )
- Student outcome Measurements -- there are some, particularly the objective AP results, which were very impressive -- so a high partial win on my #9 Criterion.
- Messages from leadership, and listing of leadership
- Clear information on costs (they are running at \$2-4,000 above the state-wide voucher, which is about where Frazer school is right now, and far, far less than what Oak Hall charges)
- SOME information about their impact and success: In their "Annual Report" -- which actually has a tiny bit of "outcome data" and also information on giving (but not a budget). They have a huge number of their students in AP coursework, and their pass rate is 81%. They offer several

of the "softer" AP courses and only the same number of "hard AP" (STEM) that I was able to engender at Cornerstone

Their Athletics web pages uses the same trick (pp 8, 9 of my document) I urged the Board to utilize years ago -- it links seamlessly into a separate web system and presents valuable information on that second system. This is easy to do, and allows you to have different teams maintain secure control of different sections of your public presentation.

**So I'm so glad you took the time to study a successful school like Seven Rivers**, which has some key differences, and apparently a lot of success to show for them.

### **Teacher Certification**

So *delighted* to see that you are exerting stewardship over the quality and certifications of your teachers! It can be a bit "scary" to start down that road, but Cornerstone has (in my opinion) suffered for lack of quality control on teachers, and it will benefit you greatly. Your presentations to the public will be able to be MUCH stronger when you can provide solid details on not only the quality of your TEACHERS, but also on the quality of their work product: the outcomes of your students.

You're a school. As such the outcomes just frankly HAVE to prove that you have done the job of education (and Seven Rivers provides proof of their work product) -- but you are also a Christian School and you need to show that your spiritual input to your students was successful. Since Christ pointed out "the way is narrow and few are they who find it," we can't expect every student to follow the Lord, but we should be benefitting mightily those who do make that choice!

### **Web Page: Part of your Public Presence**

I run a small volunteer group, mostly of older volunteers in the 65-75 range for active volunteers (the "go-go" years some call them). I'm pressed by MY authority structures and participations to create a public presence in as many ways as possible. It isn't that different from your school. I had to learn how to run a web page; an online Forum for discussions; Zoom meetings; print and other media press releases and relationships; Instagram; and public displays where possible. I'm limited somewhat by our group, which is not a dictatorship, and therefore they aren't willing to support everything we could be doing -- but still I was at a table at the Santa Fe College Volunteer Fair and we may be at other events.

I also work with a church up here in Black Mountain which is slowly dying. The leadership has limited skillsets, their own financial issues, and a FULL RADIO STATION created by one of their (now-deceased) members. I keep trying to get them to recognize that they are not going to be able to keep that radio station relevant if they aren't going to be willing to learn at least enough to guide volunteers to take advantage of it. That radio station COULD be doing fantastic ministry in evangelism, Christian discipleship, opportunities for Christian schools to hold debates, training in STEM, music and artistic presentations -- but they are accomplishing NOTHING in those areas, frankly because I can't get the quite-limited church leadership off the log. I keep trying, but our support for that radio station is going to sunset because of our need to be accountable to the Lord in our stewardship.

In the same way, I would suggest to you that since we expect HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS to have some grasp of presentation techniques (you wrote it into your mission/vision!) then certainly leadership must also, to adequately oversee those who actually do the work for you.

The language of the Internet is TCP/IP and you don't need to know much at all about those except for the fact that the early creators came up with a way to do error-free movement of documents from one point to another, known as FTP (file transfer protocol). There are zillions of free implementations of FTP but it is built right into most systems for managing web pages and hence your need to know about it is also limited.

Just as every language has a vocabulary and a syntax, the language of web presentation on the TCP/IP-based Internet has a language/syntax: HTML.

ALL browser applications (Chrome, Safari, Edge, etc) are able to "read HTML" and create visual displays of information. HTML is the "Latin" of the internet display world.

In the early days, we had to painstakingly write pure HTML phrases (coding) in order to create documents that could be displayed. Those days are long, long gone. (Thankfully).

Just as we now use WORD PROCESSORS and we wouldn't think of graduating a high school student who hasn't at least learned how to use a word processor, in the same way, there were quickly created word processors for HTML. You can find many free or inexpensive "what you see is what you get" (WYSIWYG) word processor-type creators of HTML web pages. The one I learned on is KOMPOZER (and it is now a relic, but my versions still work just fine!). Review:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla\\_Composer#KompoZer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla_Composer#KompoZer) Software:  
<https://sourceforge.net/projects/kompozer/>

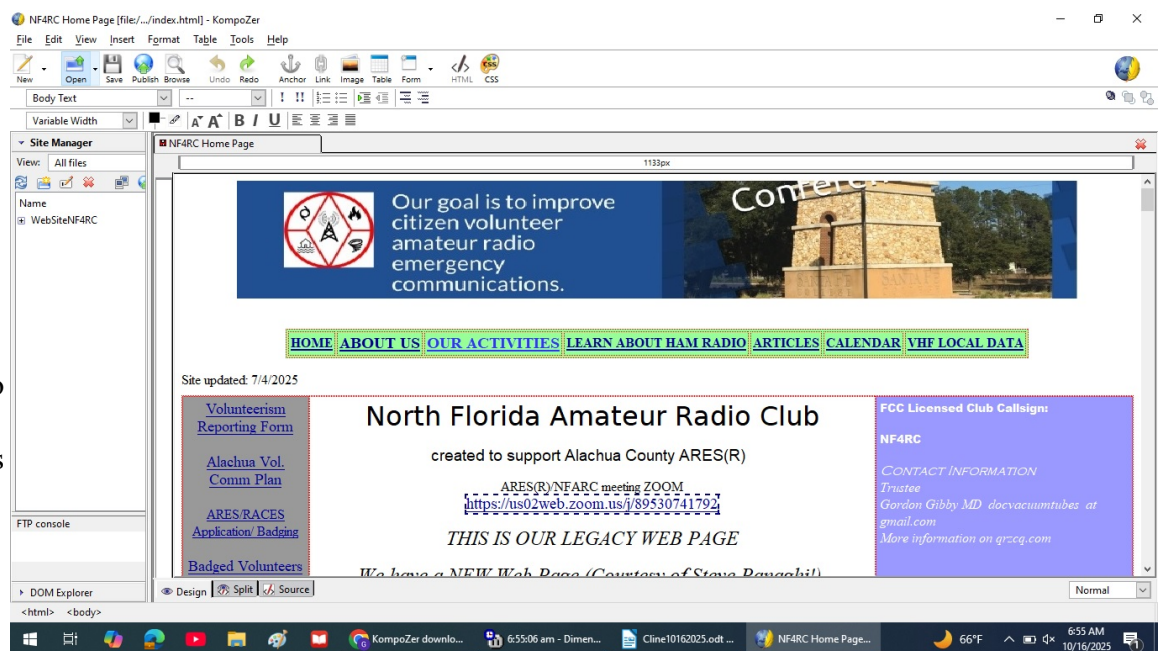
Here is what the index page for my *old* web page looks like inside Kompzer:

The actual (older) web page can be viewed here:

<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/>

and it is easy to see why these kinds of editors were known as "What you see is what you get" editors -- they are very

easy and intuitive to use. When you want to publish the page, you merely press the PUBLISH button



and the software automatically does an FTP (file transfer protocol) upload to your web site -- provided that you have previously entered the

- URL
- username
- password

so that the software can authenticate itself to the web server and properly upload. Newer versions use a more secure FTP and sometimes older software can't handle all that.

### **Word Processors**

Of course, makers of Word Processors were not at all happy to see the rise of WYSIWYG web page editors -- so it wasn't long before Microsoft WORD and free LIBREOFFICE etc were all allowing you to export any document right into HTML -- but they just aren't as easy to use, and usually much more difficult to make a really nice web page (in my opinion).

However, one of the really useful things that modern word processors allow is the exporting to PDF of any document. And PDF pages are a wonderful thing to have on your web page!! It is likely that some of the pages of the Seven Rivers web site are either exported PDF, or are images (.jpg for example) -- some of their profile and achievement documents look like scanned or exported pages.

So even just using a word processor and creating either HTML or PDF, you can quite easily update and provide excellent and current information to a simple page as part of your web site.

### **WordPress**

But everyone like beauty in their presentations. So along came special purpose web creation systems such as WORDPRESS. One of my volunteers was aghast at the starkness of my ham radio group web page, and the vastness of the information contained therein -- so he created a Wordpress site for me and in 20 minutes, taught me enough to begin to manage it by myself.. You, too, can easily do this if someone just sets up the themes, colors, banners, etc.

One the basic choices of themes and colors etc are chosen in wordpress, all that remains is to create CONTENT. You can see the basic theme/color of our volunteer website here: <https://www.nf4rc.club/>

It is a very simple website, but it is quite possible that Seven Rivers is also running much of their website on Wordpress (or a similar competitor).

My volunteer web site's mission is education of our volunteers and documentation and retention of our growth and development, so I don't try to be a web page professional -- but ANYONE can provide current, valuable, up-to-date information on a web page, which makes any organization look better-managed

Wordpress appears to view all documents as either of two cases:

- POST -- a news-type update that may later be eliminated; these show up on my front page and I can make them "sticky" (stay in place).
- PAGE -- a document of information that is likely to be cataloged and maintained for posterity.

I get to the management of my web page by accessing

<https://nf4rc.club/admin>

and providing the proper credentials.

Then I get to a page that offers me many choices, and chief among those are to work with either POSTS or PAGES. Here is what I get if I choose to look at all the POSTS (news items on my front page). These apply more to me, than they do to Seven Rivers -- when I look at their web page, most of their material appear to be PAGES, not news posts.

The screenshot displays the WordPress admin dashboard for the 'North Florida Amateur Radio Club'. The left sidebar shows the 'Posts' menu selected. The main area features a 'Posts' section with an 'Add Post' button highlighted by a red box and a red arrow. A text annotation points to the button: 'One way I can add a new post to my front page'. Below this, a list of posts is shown with columns for Title, Author, Categories, Tags, Stats, and Date. A red text box overlay states: 'This is just a listing of all the POSTS that are on my front page. I can pick anyone of them and edit, delete, etc'. The table lists three posts: 'New Volunteer MOU — Sticky', 'Approved 2025 Field Day AARIP — Sticky', and 'Baofeng CHIRP Files — Sticky'. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'New', 'Delete Cache', and 'Events' buttons, and a bottom status bar showing the time as 7:14 AM on 10/16/2025.

So moving on to PAGES (which I think is more useful to your) it works very similarly:

Pages **Add Page**

This theme recommends the following plugins: [AF Companion](#), [Blockspare](#), [Elespare](#), [Free Live Chat using 3CX](#), [Frontend Post Submission](#), [Latest Posts Block](#), [Magic Content Box](#), [Templatespare](#) and [WVP Post Author](#).  
[Begin installing plugins](#) | [Dismiss this notice](#)

All (501) | Mine (130) | Published (497) | Drafts (4)

Bulk actions **Apply** All dates **Filter** 501 items 1 of 26

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Author	Stats	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	2024: Hurricane Debby AARIP	Gordon Gibby KX4Z		Published 2024/08/11 at 3:54 am
<input type="checkbox"/>	2024: Hurricane Debby IAP	Gordon Gibby KX4Z		Published 2024/08/11 at 1:08 am
<input type="checkbox"/>	About/Contact/Zoom	Steve Panaghi KC2ASY		Published 2023/03/30 at 6:01 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Posts	Steve Panaghi KC2ASY		Published 2023/03/30 at 6:37 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Club History	Gordon Gibby KX4Z		Published 2023/03/30 at 6:37 pm

**List of my pages (I have hundreds of them)**

Again, you can easily see how to ADD a new page. When you ADD a page, you have the ability to put a zillion different types of objects on that page -- video, images, PDF's, probably music -- and any number of any of those.

Add title

Type / to choose a block

**There are a SLEW of different types of things you can put on any page.**

Block inserter menu options: Paragraph, File, Image, Embed, List, Page List.

For me, since I'm working primarily to train volunteers, most of what I do is simply put in a title, put in a PDF document (from a word processor) and save the page within the hierarchy of my web page (to fit under a desired menu or submenu). It took me a bit to learn the hierarchy.

Creating the page itself is EASY and any high school student (or high school administrator) should be quickly capable of this!

### **An Overview Only**

OK. This was just an overview. You have true PROFESSIONALS within your parents, and several of them could have done far better at any of this -- if they had been engaged to do so (and perhaps that is precisely what you have done?) But you as administrators need to at least have a passing understanding -- and within your school some of this should be taught to your students!

I'm hoping that your school is going to make a success of your presentation to the public via your web page! That would be entirely consistent with your goals:

We want to further impact this community and the world with **well-educated Christian leaders** who think clearly and listen carefully with discernment and understanding; who reason and **articulate precisely**; who are capable of evaluating their range of experience in light of the Scriptures; and who do so with eagerness in joyful submission to God. [emphases added]

### **WYZANT**

I am SO delighted to hear that your daughter is doing so well in Chemistry! Bravo!! Daniel is a fine teacher who really knows chemistry well. I'm certain that he is doing a fine job teaching for you!! It is no problem at all that she has no current need of tutoring!

I am almost swamped with students. I can basically have as much work as I wish, but it seems to ebb and flow with exams and midterms etc. I'm OLD and retired and I have a slew of interests and not that many years left on this planet, so I have to manage my time and invest it where I think it is most useful (like writing this missive to you!).

A good number of my students are taking very accelerated courses in high school -- much more accelerated than Cornerstone in many cases -- or are college students struggling to build their education toward a career. Unfortunately, the reason many of them have come for tutoring is that they are in deep trouble in their coursework. I seem to have developed an intense following in PHYSICS and a smaller following in CALCULUS -- no one has yet asked me for Chemistry (I'm approved for all three). I have at least 8 students I've worked with and some of them have dropped off for now; some of them I think are in over their heads and will eventually have to drop out or flunk. I care for each student and try to do the best that I can to help them. It is basically exactly the same stuff that I taught both Selasi and Aseye-Shika. My time teaching them was incredibly helpful in being able to help these new students the Lord has sent my way via secular Wyzant....

I'm going to develop a far more "hands-on" "technology" course for high school students, to try out at the GCCS school in the 2nd semester, than what I can find out there. The only text I could find was narrowly restricted to web-based and Internet knowledge acquisition and management. I think "technology" is far, far wider than that, and in the past Mr. Knack helped Cornerstone students get much more "hands-on" knowledge which greatly helped those students. So we'll see how well I do with this, potentially ending up with a new textbook on Amazon, since I can't find anyone who has pursued it the way I think it could be done better.

**Action Items** (for me anyway; you folks certainly can do as you wish)

- I'm very much looking forward to seeing an initial work product from your team working on a new web presentation for your school! I'll be happy to add in my 2 cents worth of comments, but I suspect you are going to have a far better presence that will add more students.
- I'm hoping that you will acquire MORE STUDENTS and therefore be able to better support MORE ADVANCED courses such as bringing back AP to Cornerstone, and perhaps there may again be a niche into which I can fit. Oak Hall and Frazer School have definitely proved my point that there is a market for advanced high school education -- but there is still the market for advanced CHRISTIAN high school education.
- GCCS has succeeded at getting at least one of their teachers approved as an **"adjunct" professor** at some college (a Baptist one?) -- and therefore they are able to put some of their students in true college classes getting college credit! (Soft classes, in my opinion, but still college!). Cornerstone talked about that, but never took successful action. If you were able to match GCCS, you could add college coursework right on your own campus -- a competitor at the very least to AP! One of my Wyzant students is taking calculus-based Physics at a small community college (in New Jersey) where the Physics department consists of ONE professor and about 6 or 7 adjunct professors.
- The key to Frazer's success is he is appealing to the competitiveness of students and giving them chances to EXCEL in measureable ways. I tried to do the same at Cornerstone by giving students the chance to get documented grades on AP Exams -- and we succeeded more than I would have even expected!!! 5's on PreCalculus, some 4's and a 5 or two on AP Physics, 4's on an incredibly rushed one-year tour of AP Chemistry with NO prerequisite! Oak Hall doesn't push their students that way; they set up a very obvious path in the math and sciences that gives their students the chance to get GREAT scores over a period of some years with less stress. Sure wish the culture at Cornerstone would move toward those kinds of successful and less-stressful paths.
- Surely with your expertise at Young Life, you are making great headway in the more eternal benefits of growing your students in Christ!

Sincerely,

Gordon L. Gibby MD

Thursday Oct 16 2025

