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SOFTWARE GUIDE

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- >> THE BEST MIXER YOU MAY NEVER NEED
- >> 4 ESSENTIAL KEYS TO LEAD WORSHIP ONLINE

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Ray Hollenbach



CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE IS CHURCH TECH'S HOUR TO SERVE

All over the United States (no—the world!) churches are responding to the Coronavirus (COVID 19), and church tech is making coronavirus response unique. While community, love and care for the vulnerable have always been a part of the church's mission, the advent of digital technologies has given the church options like never before. Here are a few areas in which church technology's part in coronavirus response is making a real difference in 2020:

COMMUNICATION

Through the use of [texting apps and software](#), churches can now communicate last-minute changes in schedules, and reach most of their regular congregation. Times like these also highlight the need for every church to designate a [communications director](#), whether staff or volunteer.

CHURCH SERVICES

[Live streaming](#) has changed how we reach people who cannot come to church (which, during the Coronavirus Pandemic might be *all* of us for a while!). Your church's coronavirus response should include some form of live streaming, even if it's just sent from an iPhone!

GIVING

Although worship services may be set aside for a short period of time, the work of the church never stops—which

means that the financial support of faithful church members remains necessary—perhaps even more necessary than ever. [Giving apps and software](#) are well-established technologies that provide a channel for resources that was unimaginable just a few short years ago. Does your church offer online methods of giving?

CHMS

It's easy to lose track of people in a crisis. While nothing replaces personal pastoral care and concern, the use of an administrative tool such as [Church Management Software](#) means that even if a church staff cannot meet in person, each member of the staff still has access to contact information and data regarding the special needs of every regular church member, or every visitor, for that matter.

THE REAL STORY

There are plenty more applications—this list could be much longer. But in this pandemic the intersection of technology and ministry is especially helpful. The unique nature of your church's response is the real story, and it's waiting to be written, by you, one church at a time.

Ray Hollenbach is the Editor of Ministry Tech magazine. He has previously served as the editor of Outreach's Better Preaching Update, and as the editor of the Pastor channel at Churchleaders.com. You can reach him at rhollenbach@outreach.com.

The Behringer X32 digital mixing board is an amazing product: used reliably all over the world, loved by beginners and pros, and is still a great choice in many situations nearly 10 years after its initial release! It's *so good* it singlehandedly rescued the reputation of the Behringer brand. But does your church need it, or any digital mixer for that matter?

In the last few years I've witnessed a frustrating theme in my service calls. The often-repeated story goes like this: A church has a total of *three* microphones in the building, *no* monitors on stage, and an X32. The reason I am hired is that the sound person would like to know, "How do you work this thing?" Honestly, I would estimate this is 25 percent of my service calls.

It seems the desire to have a cool new piece of tech with lots of cool lights trumps the wisdom of looking at what the real needs of the situation are. When I'm trying to discern needs, I ask clients questions like: How many inputs are you using on your busiest Easter service ever? What are all the different events that will ever take place in this room? What are the needs for monitoring? What style of music are you doing and where do you see the overall sound and vibe of your worship ministry headed over the next few years?

Sometimes the old tech is better. Analog mixers are not going anywhere anytime soon. They are still great options for smaller churches, churches with only a few instruments, mobile situations, fellowship halls, or meeting rooms.

A few weeks ago I was working in a larger venue with repeat clients. We had previously set up a nice sound system in their main hall (with

an X32). They wanted to add a good system in their fellowship hall area for small events and open-mic nights. After discovering that different volunteers would use this system every night of the week, that there would only be one monitor wedge, and the most inputs anyone would ever use topped out at five, the solution was simple. A small Soundcraft mixer, a rolling rack and mixer case, a couple old-school rack units for house EQ and FX—and cost of installation was still less than a **used** X32.

And no one will ever be calling me because they don't know how to use it.

Two fantastic, very affordable options to consider:

- [Soundcraft EPM](#) – the 6, 8 or 12-channel models. (Their 12-channel model actually means 12 mic inputs, unlike most other brand's offerings.) Crucially, it has sweepable mids, without which it is nearly impossible to EQ an SM58 or a DI acoustic guitar.

- [Soundcraft Signature series](#)—for just a little bit more than the EPM series, it has upgraded preamps and EQ, digital outputs, and built-in FX, which would justify the price difference by itself, if that's a need for you.

"Go big or go home" may work for rock'n'roll, but an analog mixer may be just right for your church. **MT**



Caleb Neff is a producer, pastor, songwriter, worship leader, husband and dad from Cape Coral, Florida. His passion is helping artists both inside and outside the church develop their full creative potential. [Check out his website.](#)

LET'S PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION, VIA CHURCH TECH

These are unprecedented times, and as we watch things unfold around the world on an hour-by-hour basis even words like unprecedented don't seem to capture the gravity of the situation. The good news is: There is hope. God wasn't caught off guard by COVID-19. Heaven isn't in panic mode trying to figure out what to do. He already knows what to do: He has a plan for His glory and our gain.

This is truly a time for believers to put their faith into practice. We trust in God, and now our world is in desperate need for us to show that trust in action. There are two practical areas where technology can really help us stay connected during times of isolation.

STREAMING

Churches have been streaming for as long as streaming has existed. The technology to start streaming is universally available, and more churches than ever have begun to stream. At Faith Ministries (my church) we used to have our church service for a live audience and then used cameras to allow those who were not in the room with us to watch. Now our rooms are empty, and everyone knows that.

This is a great time to consider changing what you're streaming. We aren't doing worship services for a gathering anymore; we are doing an individual worship TV show. This may require us to change the content of our services, our worship sets, even helping those involved in the services to look directly at the cameras to connect directly with our audiences.

For some churches a long worship set may work, but for others shorter sets with more meditation, scripture reading and prayer may be best. As it appears we will be doing worship in empty rooms for a while, consider how your service production is connecting with a drastically different audience.

IT APPEARS WE WILL BE DOING WORSHIP IN EMPTY ROOMS FOR A WHILE. CONSIDER HOW YOUR SERVICE PRODUCTION IS CONNECTING WITH A DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT AUDIENCE.

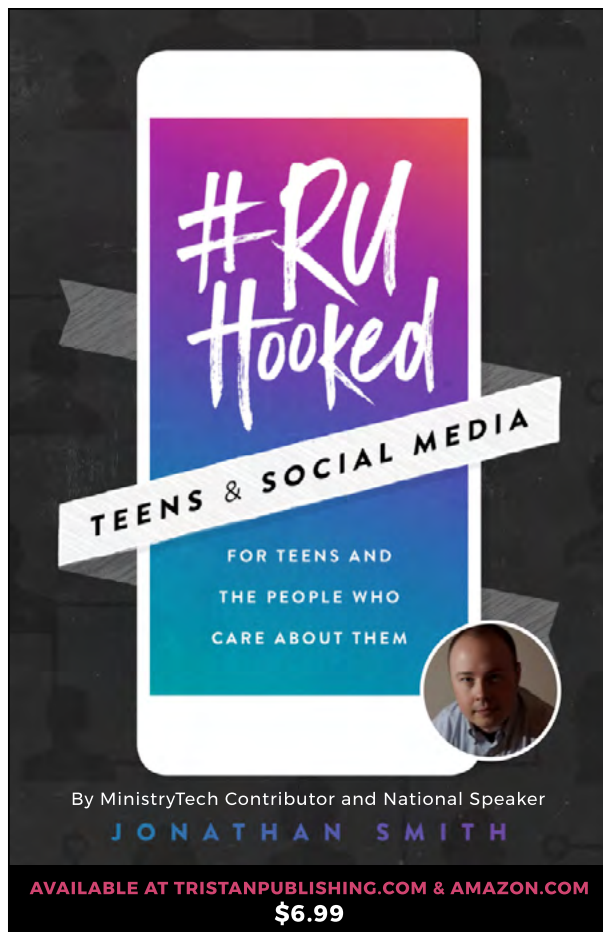
But don't forget to serve those without Internet access. "Sneaker net," running DVDs and USB drives around to those who can't stream, might just make a comeback.

IT (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

More and more we are being told to work from home, and with each day that passes it seems another we are more isolated. Fortunately there are many tools that make connection and working remotely easy. Instead of viewing isolation as a disconnection from those to whom we minister, we should simply view it as a change in medium to connect with them.

Social networks like Twitter and Facebook can really shine during a time like this as they provide a worldwide connection point. Enterprise tools like Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting and others provide chats and video conferencing for our staffs to stay connected and productive. And don't forget the good ol' telephone: In the old days we used to call it working the phone: It's still an effective ministry tool, and one that ensures you can connect with anyone regardless of their tech savvy.

Use your time in isolation to build bridges—albeit virtual bridges—with those around you. It's not like there are any new movies coming out or any sports to watch. All your favorite places to eat are carryout only. It seems God has cleared our schedules for a potential



IT SEEMS GOD HAS CLEARED OUR SCHEDULES FOR A POTENTIAL REVIVAL IF WE ARE WILLING TO TRUST HIM AND USE THE TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL.

revival if we are willing to trust Him and use the tools at our disposal.

My encouragement to you is don't panic, be patient, and put your faith into action. We are told to love others, and we say we do: So now go show the world!

Jonathan Smith is the Director of Technology at Faith Ministries in Lafayette, IN, an author and frequent conference speaker. You can reach Jonathan at jsmith@faithlafayette.org and follow him on Twitter @JonathanESmith.



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4 ESSENTIAL KEYS TO LEAD WORSHIP ONLINE

A huge component of any worship gathering is, well, the gathering. It's the people. In light of the quarantine taking place with most churches it's important that we take a deep breath and consider the challenge ahead for us as the church. It is a shock to the system and a learning curve for musicians, techs and congregations: This will be new for just about everyone!

It's OK to grieve the loss of the physical connection. Don't rush, and don't try to make a virtual meeting more victorious than it is. Nothing will compare to the physical connection of people. That being said, God is not limited. For example, check out this less-than-ideal worship service with Paul and Silas in prison:

After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. Acts 16:23-26

Even in shackles, their worship of Jesus and recognition of his kingdom was established in that less-than-ideal situation. The same can be true for us. Jesus is established forever, and he will be glorified in the church. Here are a few things worship leaders can think about when leading worship in this new era:

NAME THE STRANGENESS

This is not business as usual. You can publically acknowledge the uniqueness of the time and format for worship. Look forward to a day when we will be together again. Reflect on times past that were wonderful. Let people know this is new for them—and you! Smile. Laugh when things go wrong. Don't feel a greater pressure to perform or be perfect.

"Welcome to worship on Facebook Live and YouTube! We are so glad you logged in to participate in worship together. This is a unique time and we recognize this will be hard for some of you. This is new for us, too!"

GIVE PERMISSION

As a virtual worship leader it's important that you recognize that everyone is watching and participating at their own comfort level. They see you, but you do not see them. Encourage everyone to take postures of worship that might include singing, shouting, lifting hands, bowing down or kneeling down. For many, this will be the first time they might feel comfortable worshipping this way. Encourage families (especially families with children) to worship together through dance and physical action.

"We encourage you, in the comfort of your own home, to worship freely before the Lord. Turn up the music and express your worship to God through song and prayer. Feel free to bow before the Lord or dance with your family. Be free to worship!"



Mike's ability to break down complex ideas into memorable phrases and move-forward practices is second-to-none. I wholeheartedly recommend that you have Mike in to work with you, your musicians, and your techs. You won't regret it; he carries the heart of worship deep within him — and it spills out everywhere."

— Dan Will

www.themikeo.com

DO LESS

When you are in a room with people looking at you it's a lot easier to "feel" the room. Since you will not have the sympathetic sounds and vibrations of the room, you should assume that you *will* lose people more quickly. Consider a shorter worship set or amend the songs, so they don't carry on too long. If you are fortunate enough to have more production elements (additional cameras or top-notch broadcast audio) you might be able to extend things. But if you are just getting started consider using a smaller worship team rather than immediately trying to get your whole band to broadcast-quality sound.

SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

As you move to a regular culture of live streaming there are elements at play that might be new to you. The clothing you wear is much more important (solids are better than stripes). Stage lighting is a bigger deal. Effects like reverb and delay are much more pronounced. All of these little things are simply more important because the two-dimensional expression on the screen is more limiting, and we need to help remove unique obstacles. Also, make sure you watch and review what things actually look and sound like during rehearsal or sound check. You might change your strumming style or your posture based on what you see. Also, ask congregants for their feedback on what could be done better as the weeks progress.

"Difficult times" doesn't mean "impossible times." You can serve your church in this hour, *and* grow as a worship leader!



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FROM PRINTERS TO FACEBOOK MINISTRY, YOUR CHURCH CAN COMMUNICATE!

What an exciting time this is! Yes, it's hard and challenging, but so exciting for those of us who know we serve a good God who works out all things for the good of those who love him. We have great resources in online streaming of our services—my little church did that for the first time last week, and it was great! I especially liked the chat portion of the program they used, as people had a great time interacting, making jokes, and sharing prayer requests. As much as I use and love technology and constantly interact with people digitally, I was surprised at how emotionally close I felt to the congregation during the service.

But I also noticed that there were many people who weren't part of it. Many of our older members do not have the current technology to participate and they were left out. I'm sure many other churches are in a similar situation. What can we do to reach them?

REMEMBER POSTCARDS!

The mail service *hasn't* shut down. Most churches have printers that can print in full color on cardstock. We can create postcards to send to homebound people (that's all of us here in California). To help you do that I [created a set of totally FREE post cards](#) you can download and send.

I created the cards in [Canva](#), which is a great program to create images. I then downloaded each image into a postcard-size, MS Publisher file, printed it four-to-a-page, then made a PDF.

The first set I created with verses and encouraging words for Christians. Then I thought about sending some to my neighbors, but I realized Bible verses might not do much for them, so I [created another set for people who aren't Christians](#).

YOU CAN'T GIVE ONLINE WITHOUT A COMPUTER!

This is a real challenge for many churches whose primary donors are older people, who rarely give online. Once again, the tried and true technology of printing

comes to the rescue. I wrote a [more detailed explanation](#) of this process, but here's a summary of what you can do:

1. Record your sermon
2. Transcribe the sermon. (There are inexpensive technologies that can do that almost instantaneously. One of them is [www.temi.com](#).)
3. Print out the sermon, along with a nice note to the people who will get it.
4. Remind them that giving is a part of worship, and along with the printed sermon, send an addressed envelope asking for their weekly tithes and offerings.
5. Send it off with prayers.

You can't expect people to give if they are totally alone, and ignored by the church.

ENLIST DIGITAL OUTREACH MINISTERS

Some people who are not accessing your services or giving online do have computers (you know, to keep up with the grandkids). All they need is someone to show them how to use it for more. They would love to be part of online services or learn to chat with family and see them online.

In the past, during times of plague, ministers visited those in need without concern for themselves. The needs may be different today, and we want to follow all wise cautions, but let's get creative on how we can reach out and minister to technology needs. Invite people to your church building for a demonstration (sitting an appropriate distance apart, of course). Or volunteers can phone to talk people through how to use the technology they have. You could illustrate a "how-to" sheet and send it out via snail mail.

It is a challenging time, but the Lord can use it to grow our churches and us. We will come out of this stronger than ever in our churches and our faith. Let's use every bit of imagination and courage he's given us to respond creatively with technology: new *and* old.

Yvon Prehn's ministry to church communicators has two parts: [effectivechurchcom.com](#), a site of FREE templates, strategy and resources, and [churchcomtraining.com](#), a Church Communicators Online Training School.



WORK-FROM-HOME, BUT IS HOME SECURE?

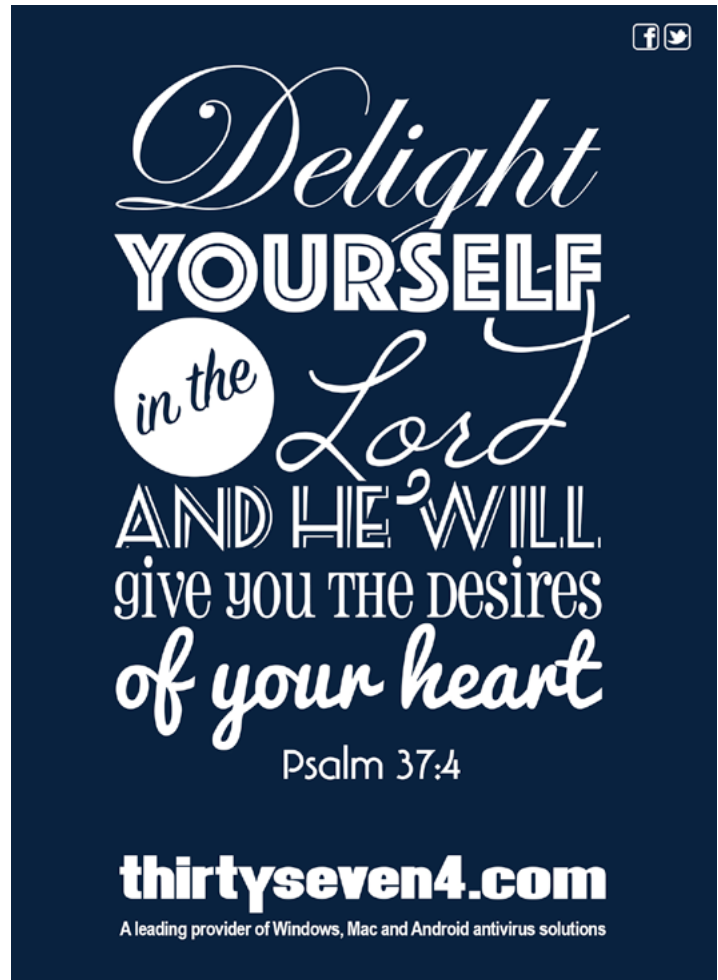
Given the COVID-19 pandemic schools have closed their physical doors nationwide and are moving to online assignments. Most churches and businesses have shifted day-to-day operations to a work-from-home model. And so, with most of us working at home now, and remotely connecting back into our critical networks at work, it raises the question—have we implemented the necessary safe computing practices at home? Here are six essential safe computing practice tips:

1. Implement complex passwords. Passwords must be long (over 15 characters) and complex (mixing upper- and lower-case letters with numbers and special characters). Furthermore, it's foolish to repeatedly use the same password for multiple login accounts. Cybercriminals are scavengers (and are not lazy, like us) and they will use these "dummy" passwords to login to multiple accounts that we possess. Using the same common password makes it easy for hackers.

Home computers are "low-hanging fruit" for hackers. In other words, they are preying on vulnerable remote systems that are likely to have less-secure passwords, and they will use those to compromise or obtain the (usually more secure) business network login credentials. If we have weak computer security and passwords at home we are opening the door to security breaches on our (remotely accessed) professional networks.

2. Maintain regular software updates. Keeping up to date with your installed software patches is critically important. New operating systems and third party vulnerabilities are announced daily. Turn on automatic updates for your Windows OS or MAC OS systems. It's essential. This also goes for web browsers and browser plug-ins.

3. Lock or shut down your device when not in use. This is an age-old, sound and safe computing practice. The current work-at-home climate opens the door to heightened awareness on this level because we have children and spouses that usually share Internet access and devices at home. The risk of data loss (even accidentally) or data theft increases significantly. On a similar security parallel, another high priority should be to keep proper track of flash drives and external hard drives that store your personal and professional data.



4. Common sense still wins out. Don't open attachments from unknown sources or click on links embedded in emails or on social media sites. I've been harping on this point since the days of the LoveLetter worm back in 2000, and for good reason. Despite many of the criminal advancements that attackers use to proliferate malware, the use of spam email is still the #1 source for malware infections, including spying software. These email scams are highly socially engineered to pique your curiosity, and they are no longer easily identified by poor grammar or spelling. The reality in staying secure is that extreme caution should be used when opening *all* emails. (Also: Be skeptical of phone calls.)

5. Install strong antivirus/endpoint security protection.

With tens of thousands of new malware and viruses created and released each day, it's essential to have a reputable antivirus/endpoint security software installed on your system. It's equally important keep your security software up-to-date with the latest virus definitions.

6. Think! Cybercriminals are after YOU! As organizations are evolving in accordance with health safety precautions and state guidance, so are hackers. They're clever, they're smart, and they want to harm you financially from both a personal and corporate standpoint. We all must do our part to remain vigilant from online dangers!

These practices are not difficult, and most of them stem from common sense. We can establish safe-computing methods at home to protect both in-house and remotely accessed networks. We are in this work from home situation together as a nation, and we will come through it together and safely if we are prudent and wise about the health of our devices and ourselves!



Steven Sundermeier is the owner of [Thirtyseven4, LLC](https://thirtyseven4.com), a leading provider of antivirus/security software. With 17 years of experience in the cybersecurity field, he is one of the nation's leading experts in virus, malware and other threats. Before founding Thirtyseven4 in 2009, Steven worked in a number of roles in the antivirus industry dating back to 1999.



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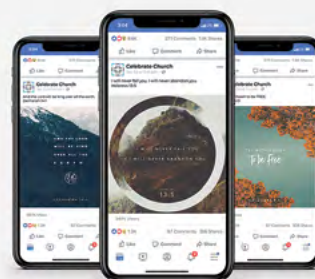
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CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

by Nick B. Nicholaou

Solutions from church and donor management software providers keep improving in their ability to help churches and ministries fulfill their mission! Their features to track and communicate with people, their web and mobile device interfaces, and their powerful database tools make this category of software a big help and a valuable asset for today's ministries in reaching many with the gospel and discipling them.

CHURCH SOFTWARE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In the mid-1980s the number of these programs had grown to 262! Then some merged, some consolidated, and some went out of business, reducing the number to only 34. In the 1990s the internet made it so easy for those writing solutions for their own church to share them that the number of solutions more than doubled! Our research this year found 55 solutions focusing on the church and ministry market, of which 35 qualified for this article (requirements include active marketing, minimum customer growth, and active development of their solution—and completing the article survey).

We always include new providers (those three years old or less) to give them a chance to build some momentum and compete with 'the big guys.' It also keeps all of the providers 'on their toes' as the up-and-comers sometimes develop new technologies that benefit many churches and ministries in new ways.

WHY CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?

The solution providers on the following pages meet the sophisticated and complex needs of churches and ministries. Tracking more than just simple CRM

datasets like names, addresses and phone numbers, many of these also help build community and track traditional and modern family relationships, spiritual gifts, talents, interests, attendance, nursery security, contributions, fundraising campaigns, volunteerism, small groups and more.

Church and ministry offices can be stressful workplaces because of the many deadlines that must be met by an administrative staff that is typically smaller in number than what would be found in a similar-sized secular business. Church management software, if well written, can be a soothing balm. If it's powerful, capable, fast and reliable, the ministry team can use it to help them get the most possible work done—efficiently and with minimal stress. And if its abilities are broad enough, every ministry in the church or ministry can focus on just one database, increasing synergy and minimizing cost.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE DEFINED

Decades ago Steve Hewitt, then Editor-in-Chief of *Christian Computing Magazine* (now re-branded as *MinistryTech Magazine*), labeled this software category tailored to meet the needs of churches as *Church Management Software*, or CMS. There are now a lot of software categories abbreviated 'CMS', so we now refer to it as ChMS. Parachurch ministries need to track similar data, so we invited those solutions into this article too. Following is a well-researched list of the leading ChMS providers at the time of this writing, with each stating at the top of the feature chart whether

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their solution can also meet the needs of parachurch or denominational offices.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACCOUNTING

Churches and ministries exist in a unique accounting niche that most software (and even most CPAs!) can't help with. But many ChMS packages can help in this area.

One of a ministry's most vulnerable areas is finance. All too often we hear about churches and ministries that have suffered embezzlement by a trusted team member. One of the best protections is an accounting system with a good audit trail, tracking the details of every transaction and whose data cannot be altered in any way. For these reasons, some ChMS providers have written their own fully-integrated accounting system.

Some churches and ministries want a ChMS that has a fully-integrated accounting system, and we list the functions they look for in the chart. Others may not care if the ChMS provider has written its own accounting system, and for them it's good to know that most ChMSes can interface with 'third-party' accounting systems, such as those in the chart that only provide nonprofit accounting solutions.

THE CHMS CHALLENGE

ChMS is a challenge for many of those who work on church and ministry teams. Usually it's because they haven't been trained, sparking the concern that the ChMS is not simple or intuitive. As mentioned, though, there are too many types of deep data to be simple or intuitive.

We've added to the feature chart the ability to create custom workflows for tasks and roles that help make it simpler and more intuitive. But the key will always be training. We strongly recommend that new team members be trained before being given access to update the ChMS, and that the solution provider be contracted to come on-site or provide interactive remote training at least annually.

Making ongoing training part of your ChMS strategy will ensure that your ChMS investment will last longer and serve your team better.

FEATURE CHART

We've tried to give you the most comprehensive and quickest format possible of those ChMS database and accounting functions teams request most. We removed features provided by all ChMS providers to help focus on

solutions' distinct feature sets.

The chart lists solutions by the name their providers use to market them rather than by the company name. We include the company name in the section following the chart in which we give information on each provider, such as how to reach them, how long they've been making their solutions available, how many organizations they currently serve, their support hours, and how often they update their software. We have trusted the software companies to provide this data accurately; all of the information was provided by them.

The chart uses two symbols:

- The "■" symbol indicates features ChMS companies provide directly, and
- The "◼" symbol indicates needs they meet through an outside (third party) source.

HAPPY HUNTING!

Shop wisely. We recommend doing your due diligence and checking with current users of the software you're interested in. Ask questions like:

- Does the software do what was promised?
- Is their support team capable and available?
- If you were faced with the same decision today, what would you do differently?

Feel free to contact any of the providers listed. They would love to help you in your ministry. Happy hunting! MT



Nick Nicholaou is author of [Church IT: Strategies and Solutions](#) and is president of MBS, an IT consulting firm specializing in church and ministry computer networks, VoIP, and private cloud hosted services. You can reach Nick at nickn@mbsinc.com, and may want to [check out his firm's website](#) and [his blog](#).



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CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

Maybe you're a spreadsheet person. You know: comparing, contrasting and evaluating features; finding the differences in every detail. We've got your back with this comparison tool or the online version at:

<https://ministrytech.com/church-software/>.

NON-ACCOUNTING FEATURES (PART 1)

		ACS	BLACKBAUD CHURCH MANAGEMENT	BREEZE CHMS	CANARAWORKS CHURCH SOFTWARE	CCIS SHIELD CHMS	CDM+	CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER	CHURCH WINDOWS	CHURCH360	CHURCH MEMBER LINK	CHURCHTEAMS	CHURCHTOOLS	COMS AND EFA FOR WINDOWS	DONARIUS CHMS	DONATION AND ACCOUNTS	EXCELLENCE CHURCH MANAGEMENT	FAITHFUL STEWARD
SOLUTION FOCUS	ALSO IS PARACHURCH / DONOR MANAGEMENT FOCUSED SOLUTION																	
	DENOMINATION "EDITIONS" AVAILABLE																	
	NON-ENGLISH VERSIONS (GERMAN, DUTCH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, RUSSIAN, SPANISH, OR ALL)										A							
DATABASE	MULTISITE CAMPUS CAPABLE																	
	TRACKS NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY STRUCTURES/ROLES																	
	CAN TRACK NON-TRADITIONAL GENDERS (BEYOND MALE / FEMALE)																	
	PRINTS U.S. POSTAL BAR CODES																	
	CERTIFIED POSTAL CASS & PAVE																	
	NATIONAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS (NCOA) UPDATES																	
GIVING	TRACKS GIFTS IN KIND (GIK) CONTRIBUTIONS																	
	GIFTS IN KIND CAN SATISFY PLEDGE WITHOUT SETTING GIK VALUE																	
	CHECKS CAN BE INPUT VIA CHECK21-COMPLIANT SCANNER																	
	SCANNING CHECKS ONCE PRODUCES DEPOSIT & DATABASE ENTRY																	
	CAN STORE CHECK & ENVELOPE IMAGES																	
	CAN AUTOMATICALLY IMPORT GIFTS RECEIVED VIA WEBSITE																	
	NOTIFIES CONTRIBUTOR IF TRANSACTION IS DECLINED BY MERCHANT ACCOUNT																	
	CONGREGANTS/DONORS CAN VIEW CHECK IMAGES ONLINE																	
	STATEMENTS CAN BE AUTOMATICALLY SENT VIA EMAIL																	
ASSIMILATION	TRACKS ATTENDANCE																	
	CAN POST ATTENDANCE USING GEOFENCING																	
	SECURITY/CHECK-IN CAPABILITY																	
	CAN CHECK IN VIA IOS AND/OR ANDROID TABLETS																	
	CHECK-IN TRACKS ALLERGIES, ALLOWABLE CHECK-OUT PERSONS, ETC.																	
	FACILITATES ROAMING CHECK-IN (LIKE A VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKING LOT WITH A TABLET)																	
	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FUNCTIONS (POSITION DESCRIPTION, APPLICATION, ETC.)																	
	HAS BACKGROUND CHECK INTERFACE																	
	CAN SET CAUTIONARY "FLAGS" BASED ON BEHAVIORAL /LEGAL ISSUES																	
	APPROVED VOLUNTEERS CAN SCHEDULE THEMSELVES FOR SERVICE																	
	APPROVED VOLUNTEERS CAN SET UNAVAILABLE 'BLACKOUT' DATES																	
	SENDS VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT REMINDERS																	
	TRACKS MISSION TRIPS (PRE-TASK CHECKLISTS, SUPPORT, ETC.)																	
FACILITIES & EVENTS	MANAGES SMALL GROUPS																	
	FACILITY/EQUIPMENT CALENDAR SCHEDULER																	
	FULLY INTEGRATES WITH COOL SOLUTIONS GROUP'S ESPACE (WWW.ESPACE.COOL)																	
	CALENDAR SCHEDULER CAN FEED EVENTS TO MINISTRY'S WEBSITE																	
	RETREAT/EVENT REGISTRATION A/R TRACKING FOR OUTSTANDING BALANCES																	
	CAN IMPORT REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED VIA WEBSITE WITHOUT MANUAL ENTRY																	
	LIBRARY MODULE																	
	FIXED ASSETS TRACKING (INVENTORY, DEPRECIATION, MAINTENANCE)																	
VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >																		

CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

NON-ACCOUNTING FEATURES (PART 2)

Click on the company name with a *
to read more about it. →

		FASTEND ONLINE	FELLOWSHIP ONE	FLOCKBASE SOFTWARE	ICONCAMP	IGLESIA EN CONEXION	IGLESIA HOY	MINISTRY TRACKER	MINISTRY PLATFORM	PARISH DATA SYSTEM (PDS)	POWERCHURCH	REALM	SAGE INTACCT	SERVANT KEEPER	SHELBYNEXT MEMBERSHIP	SHEPHERD'S STAFF	* TOUCHPOINT
SOLUTION FOCUS	ALSO IS PARACHURCH / DONOR MANAGEMENT FOCUSED SOLUTION	■		■	■			■					■	■			■
	DENOMINATION "EDITIONS" AVAILABLE			■				■	■			■	■	■	■		
	NON-ENGLISH VERSIONS (GERMAN, DUTCH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, RUSSIAN, SPANISH, OR ALL)			S	S												
DATABASE	MULTISITE CAMPUS CAPABLE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■
	TRACKS NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY STRUCTURES/ROLES	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■				■
	CAN TRACK NON-TRADITIONAL GENDERS (BEYOND MALE / FEMALE)	■		■	■			■		■			■				■
	PRINTS U.S. POSTAL BAR CODES						■	■	■	■			■	■	■		
	CERTIFIED POSTAL CASS & PAVE		■					■	■	■			■	■			
	NATIONAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS (NCOA) UPDATES	■						■	■	■			■				■
GIVING	TRACKS GIFTS IN KIND (GIK) CONTRIBUTIONS	■		■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■
	GIFTS IN KIND CAN SATISFY PLEDGE WITHOUT SETTING GIK VALUE							■	■		■		■	■			■
	CHECKS CAN BE INPUT VIA CHECK21-COMPLIANT SCANNER			■				■	■		■		■	■			■
	SCANNING CHECKS ONCE PRODUCES DEPOSIT & DATABASE ENTRY		■	■				■	■				■	■			■
	CAN STORE CHECK & ENVELOPE IMAGES		■	■				■	■				■	■			■
	CAN AUTOMATICALLY IMPORT GIFTS RECEIVED VIA WEBSITE	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■
	NOTIFIES CONTRIBUTOR IF TRANSACTION IS DECLINED BY MERCHANT ACCOUNT	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	CONGREGANTS/DONORS CAN VIEW CHECK IMAGES ONLINE			■				■									■
ASSIMILATION	STATEMENTS CAN BE AUTOMATICALLY SENT VIA EMAIL	■		■				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	TRACKS ATTENDANCE		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	CAN POST ATTENDANCE USING GEOFENCING		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	SECURITY /CHECK-IN CAPABILITY		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CAN CHECK-IN VIA IOS AND/OR ANDROID TABLETS		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CHECK-IN TRACKS ALLERGIES, ALLOWABLE CHECK-OUT PERSONS, ETC.		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	FACILITATES ROAMING CHECK-IN (LIKE A VOLUNTEER IN THE PARKING LOT WITH A TABLET)		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FUNCTIONS (POSITION DESCRIPTION, APPLICATION, ETC.)	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	HAS BACKGROUND CHECK INTERFACE		■	■	■			■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CAN SET CAUTIONARY "FLAGS" BASED ON BEHAVIORAL/LEGAL ISSUES	■	■		■			■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■
	APPROVED VOLUNTEERS CAN SCHEDULE THEMSELVES FOR SERVICE	■		■				■	■				■	■			■
	APPROVED VOLUNTEERS CAN SET UNAVAILABLE "BLACKOUT" DATES	■						■		■			■	■			■
	SENDS VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT REMINDERS	■		■				■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■
	TRACKS MISSION TRIPS (PRE-TASK CHECKLISTS, SUPPORT, ETC.)	■	■					■	■				■	■	■	■	■
FACILITIES & EVENTS	MANAGES SMALL GROUPS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	FACILITY/EQUIPMENT CALENDAR SCHEDULER		■					■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	FULLY INTEGRATES WITH COOL SOLUTIONS GROUP'S ESPACE (WWW.ESPACE.COOL)								■	■			■	■			■
	CALENDAR SCHEDULER CAN FEED EVENTS TO MINISTRY'S WEBSITE		■					■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■
	RETREAT/EVENT REGISTRATION A/R TRACKING FOR OUTSTANDING BALANCES	■	■		■			■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■
	CAN IMPORT REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED VIA WEBSITE WITHOUT MANUAL ENTRY		■	■	■			■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■
	LIBRARY MODULE									■							
	FIXED ASSETS TRACKING (INVENTORY, DEPRECIATION, MAINTENANCE)			■				■	■	■	■			■			
VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

ACCOUNTING FEATURES (PART 1)

ACCOUNTING FEATURES (PART 1)		SOLUTION PROVIDERS																	
		ACS	BLACKBOARD CHURCH MANAGEMENT	BREEZE CHMS	CAHABAWORKS CHURCH SOFTWARE	CCIS SHIELD CHMS	CDM+	CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER	CHURCH WINDOWS	CHURCH360®	CHURCH MEMBER LINK	CHURCHTEAMS	CHURCHTOOLS	CHURCHTRAC SOFTWARE	DOMARIUS CHMS	DONATION AND EFA FOR WINDOWS	EXCELERATE CHMS	EXCELERATE CHURCH MANAGEMENT	FAITHFUL STEWARD
GENERAL LEDGER	GENERAL LEDGER	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	NATURAL, HIERARCHICAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	DIMENSIONAL ACCOUNTING (VS NATURAL, HIERARCHICAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS)	■	■		■								■					■	
	AUTOMATICALLY TRACKS MULTIPLE FUND BALANCES	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	AUTOMATICALLY BALANCES FUNDS IN INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS	■	■		■	■	■		■				■	■		■		■	
	AUDIT TRAIL IS SECURE & UNALTERABLE (NOT JUST PASSWORD PROTECTED)	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	CAN ENTER EITHER STRAIGHT LINE OR SEASONAL BUDGETING BY ACCOUNT	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	HAS METHOD FOR BUDGETING CAPITAL EXPENSE ITEMS	■	■		■				■				■						
	GRAPHIC ANALYSIS	■	■				■		■	■			■					■	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND/OR BILL PAY INTEGRATION	■	■		■	■	■		■				■		■			■	
	CAN RUN AS EITHER ACCRUAL OR CASH BASIS	■				■	■		■				■		■				
	INVOICES CAN BE AUTOMATICALLY DISTRIBUTED TO MULTIPLE GL ACCOUNTS	■	■		■		■		■	■			■					■	
	A SINGLE CHECK OR CHECK RUN CAN POST AGAINST MULTIPLE FUNDS	■	■		■	■	■		■	■			■	■		■		■	
	CAN PARTIAL PAY INVOICES; BALANCE REMAINS PAYABLE WITH SAME INVOICE #	■	■			■	■		■				■		■			■	
	CAN AUTOMATE RECURRING ENTRIES	■			■	■	■		■	■			■		■				
	CAN VOID CHECKS WITH OPTION OF REOPENING THE INVOICE	■	■			■	■		■				■		■			■	
	ANNUAL 1096 & 1099S	■	■		■	■	■		■				■	■					
	PURCHASE ORDER TRACKING (AUTHORIZATION, BUDGET & GL INTERFACE)	■					■												
PAYROLL/HUMAN RESOURCES	PAYROLL WITH MINISTER'S SALARY CAPABILITIES (HOUSING, SECA, ETC.)	■			■	■	■		■				■	■					
	CAN ALLOCATE A PERSON'S PAYROLL & BENEFIT COSTS ACROSS MULTIPLE DEPTS	■			■	■	■		■				■	■					
	TIME CLOCK INTERFACE					■													
	PAYROLL ACH DIRECT DEPOSIT	■				■	■		■										
	ACCURUES VACATION & SICK TIME BY HOURS WORKED OR PAY PERIOD	■				■	■		■										
	HIRING & TERMINATION PROCESS & DOCUMENTATION W/ SOLUTION-DRIVEN SELF-AUDIT																		
	VACATION REQUEST / SCHEDULER WITH SCHEDULE VIEW BY DEPARTMENT						■												
	TRACKS & STORES IMAGES OF HR FORMS	■					■												
	TRACKS EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE RECORDS						■												
	STATE & FEDERAL TAX TABLES ARE MAINTAINED BY SOLUTION PROVIDER	■			■	■	■						■						
	ALL FEDERAL & STATE PAYROLL TAX FORMS	■			■	■	■		■										
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AUDIT	■				■													
	VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >		ACS	BLACKBOARD CHURCH MANAGEMENT	BREEZE CHMS	CAHABAWORKS CHURCH SOFTWARE	CCIS SHIELD CHMS	CDM+	CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER	CHURCH WINDOWS	CHURCH360®	CHURCH MEMBER LINK	CHURCHTEAMS	CHURCHTOOLS	CHURCHTRAC SOFTWARE	DOMARIUS CHMS	DONATION AND EFA FOR WINDOWS	EXCELERATE CHMS	EXCELERATE CHURCH MANAGEMENT

CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

ACCOUNTING FEATURES (PART 2)

Click on the company name with a *
to read more about it. →

	FASTFUND ONLINE	FELLOWSHIP ONE	FLOCKBASE SOFTWARE	ICONCMO	IGLESIA EN CONEXION	IGLESIA HOY	MINISTRY TRACKER	MINISTRY PLATFORM	PARISH DATA SYSTEM (PDS)	PARISHSOFT FAMILY SUITE	POWERCHURCH	REALM	SAGE INTACCT	SERVANT KEEPER	SHELBYNEXT MEMBERSHIP	* SHEPHERD'S STAFF	TOUCHPOINT
GENERAL LEDGER	GENERAL LEDGER	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	NATURAL, HIERARCHICAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS		■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	DIMENSIONAL ACCOUNTING (VS NATURAL, HIERARCHICAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS)	■		■				■	■		■	■		■	■		
	AUTOMATICALLY TRACKS MULTIPLE FUND BALANCES	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	AUTOMATICALLY BALANCES FUNDS IN INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS	■	■	■	■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	AUDIT TRAIL IS SECURE & UNALTERABLE (NOT JUST PASSWORD PROTECTED)	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	CAN SELECT STRAIGHT LINE OR SEASONAL BUDGETING BY ACCOUNT	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	HAS METHOD FOR BUDGETING CAPITAL EXPENSE ITEMS	■	■	■	■			■		■	■	■		■			
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	GRAPHIC ANALYSIS	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND/OR BILL PAY INTEGRATION	■	■		■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	CAN RUN AS EITHER ACCRUAL OR CASH BASIS	■	■		■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	INVOICES CAN BE AUTOMATICALLY DISTRIBUTED TO MULTIPLE GL ACCOUNTS	■	■		■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	A SINGLE CHECK OR CHECK RUN CAN POST AGAINST MULTIPLE FUNDS	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	CAN PARTIAL PAY INVOICES; BALANCE REMAINS PAYABLE WITH SAME INVOICE #	■	■		■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	CAN AUTOMATE RECURRING ENTRIES	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	CAN VOID CHECKS WITH OPTION OF REOPENING THE INVOICE	■	■					■	■		■	■		■	■		
PAYROLL/HUMAN RESOURCES	ANNUAL 1096 & 1099S	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	PURCHASE ORDER TRACKING (AUTHORIZATION, BUDGET & GL INTERFACE)	■	■					■		■	■	■		■	■		
	PAYROLL WITH MINISTER'S SALARY CAPABILITIES (HOUSING, SECA, ETC.)	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	CAN ALLOCATE A PERSON'S PAYROLL & BENEFIT COSTS ACROSS MULTIPLE DEPTS	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	TIME CLOCK INTERFACE		■								■						
	PAYROLL ACH DIRECT DEPOSIT	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	ACCURUES VACATION & SICK TIME BY HOURS WORKED OR PAY PERIOD	■	■		■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	HIRING & TERMINATION PROCESS & DOCUMENTATION W/ DATABASE-DRIVEN SELF-AUDIT	■												■	■		
	VACATION SCHEDULER WITH SCHEDULE VIEW BY DEPARTMENT	■								■	■	■		■	■		
	TRACKS & STORES IMAGES OF HR FORMS		■		■			■			■	■		■	■		
	TRACKS EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE RECORDS	■								■	■	■		■	■		
	STATE & FEDERAL TAX TABLES ARE MAINTAINED BY SOFTWARE PROVIDER	■	■		■			■	■		■	■		■	■		
	ALL FEDERAL & STATE PAYROLL TAX FORMS	■	■		■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AUDIT	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES (PART 1)

		ACS	BLACKBAUD CHURCH MANAGEMENT	BREEZE CHMS	CANABAWORKS CHURCH MANAGEMENT	CCIS SHIELD CHMS	CDM+	CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER	CHURCH WINDOWS	CHURCH360+	CHURCH MEMBER LINK	CHURCHTEAMS	CHURCHTOOLS	CHURCHTRAC SOFTWARE	COMS AND EFA FOR WINDOWS	DONARUS CHMS	DONATION AND ACCOUNTS	EXCELLENT CHURCH MANAGEMENT	FATHEFUL STEWARD
ACCESS & SECURITY	HAS AN OPEN API FOR CUSTOM INTEGRATIONS																		
	CAN CREATE CUSTOM WORKFLOW PAGES TO SIMPLIFY USER EXPERIENCE & FOCUS																		
	CONGREGANT ONLINE ACCESS CAN BE TIED TO FACEBOOK OR GOOGLE CREDENTIALS																		
	CONGREGANTS/DONORS CAN UPDATE THEIR PROFILE DATA																		
	CONGREGANTS CAN SET WHICH OF THEIR ONLINE DATA IS PRIVATE																		
	FIELD-LEVEL ACCESS/ENTRY SECURITY																		
	MAINTAINS TRANSACTIONAL DATABASE OF WHO MADE CHANGES																		
COMMUNICATION	TRACKS & USES PEOPLE'S PREFERENCES FOR TEXT MESSAGES, MAIL, EMAIL																		
	CAN SEND INDIVIDUAL TEXT MESSAGES WITHOUT KNOWING CARRIER																		
	CAN SEND INDIVIDUALLY-ADDRESSED MAIL-MERGED BULK EMAIL																		
	EMAIL CAN HAVE MULTIPLE ATTACHMENTS																		
	SYSTEM INTEGRATES W/ OUTLOOK CONTACTS & TASKS FOR STAFF FOLLOW-UP																		
	LINKS TO CONGREGANTS' SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS																		
	CONSTANT CONTACT AND/OR MAILCHIMP INTERFACE																		
MOBILE & WEB	DATA IS ACCESSIBLE IN REAL-TIME VIA IOS & ANDROID MOBILE DEVICES																		
	HAS MOBILE (RESPONSIVE WEBSITE) INTERFACE																		
	HAS MOBILE APP																		
REQUIREMENTS & CAPABILITIES	MULTIPLE CONCURRENT USER ACCESS																		
	WEB BROWSER INTERFACE																		
	INCLUDES A USER-ACCESSIBLE, CUSTOMIZABLE REPORT SYSTEM																		
	DATA IS ACCESSIBLE & FULLY EXPORTABLE IN MULTIPLE FORMATS																		
	EXCEL PIVOT TABLE INTERFACE																		
HOW HOSTED	GRAPHICS-CAPABLE DASHBOARD WITH DRILL-DOWN CAPABILITIES																		
	CAN RUN ON MINISTRY'S SERVER																		
	CAN RUN HOSTED ON CHMS PROVIDER'S SERVER																		
	ALL DATA TRANSMISSION BETWEEN CHURCH STAFF/CONGREGANTS & HOSTED DATABASE IS ENCRYPTED																		
HOW HOSTED	CHMS PROVIDER HOSTING DATACENTER IS CERTIFIED TIER 3 OR HIGHER																		
VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >																			

CHMS FEATURES COMPARISON GUIDE

INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES (PART 2)

Click on the company name with a * to read more about it. →

		FASTFUND ONLINE	FELLOWSHIP ONE	FLOCKBASE SOFTWARE	ICONGMO	IGLESIA EN CONEXION	IGLESIA HOY	MINISTRY TRACKER	MINISTRY PLATFORM	PARISH DATA SYSTEM (PDS)	POWERCHURCH	REALM	SAGE INTACT	SERVANT KEEPER	SHELBYNEXT MEMBERSHIP	SHEPHERD'S STAFF	TOUCHPOINT
ACCESS & SECURITY	HAS AN OPEN API FOR CUSTOM INTEGRATIONS		■	■				■	■	■		■	■	■			■
	CAN CREATE CUSTOM WORKFLOW PAGES TO SIMPLIFY USER EXPERIENCE & FOCUS						■	■	■			■	■	■			■
	CONGREGANT ONLINE ACCESS CAN BE TIED TO FACEBOOK OR GOOGLE CREDENTIALS							■	■			■	■	■		■	
	CONGREGANTS/DONORS CAN UPDATE THEIR PROFILE DATA		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CONGREGANTS CAN SET WHICH OF THEIR ONLINE DATA IS PRIVATE		■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	FIELD-LEVEL ACCESS/ENTRY SECURITY		■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	MAINTAINS TRANSACTIONAL DATABASE OF WHO MADE CHANGES	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
COMMUNICATION	TRACKS & USES PEOPLE'S PREFERENCES FOR TEXT MESSAGES, MAIL, EMAIL	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CAN SEND INDIVIDUAL TEXT MESSAGES WITHOUT KNOWING CARRIER			■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CAN SEND INDIVIDUALLY-ADDRESSED MAIL-MERGED BULK EMAIL	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	EMAIL CAN HAVE MULTIPLE ATTACHMENTS	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	SYSTEM INTEGRATES W/ OUTLOOK CONTACTS & TASKS FOR STAFF FOLLOW-UP											■	■	■			
	LINKS TO CONGREGANTS' SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS		■				■					■	■	■			
	CONSTANT CONTACT AND/OR MAILCHIMP INTERFACE	■			■			■	■		■	■	■	■			■
MOBILE & WEB	DATA IS ACCESSIBLE IN REAL-TIME VIA IOS & ANDROID MOBILE DEVICES	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	HAS MOBILE (RESPONSIVE WEBSITE) INTERFACE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	HAS MOBILE APP		■		■				■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
REQUIREMENTS & CAPABILITIES	MULTIPLE CONCURRENT USER ACCESS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	WEB BROWSER INTERFACE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	INCLUDES A USER-ACCESSIBLE, CUSTOMIZABLE REPORT SYSTEM	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	DATA IS ACCESSIBLE & FULLY EXPORTABLE IN MULTIPLE FORMATS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	EXCEL PIVOT TABLE INTERFACE	■	■					■	■			■	■	■			
	GRAPHICS-CAPABLE DASHBOARD WITH DRILL-DOWN CAPABILITIES	■	■			■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HOW HOSTED	CAN RUN ON MINISTRY'S SERVER			■		■		■	■				■	■	■	■	■
	CAN RUN HOSTED ON CHMS PROVIDER'S SERVER		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	ALL DATA TRANSMISSION BETWEEN CHURCH STAFF / CONGREGANTS & HOSTED DATABASE IS ENCRYPTED	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	CHMS PROVIDER HOSTING DATACENTER IS CERTIFIED TIER 3 OR HIGHER	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
VISIT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE >		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



COVID-19 IS CHANGING THE WAY BELIEVERS CONNECT

What Happens When the Church Is Forced to Innovate

by Leah Davenport

When it comes to adoption of new communication technologies, the church has typically been at the forefront. The first book ever printed on Gutenberg's press was the Bible, after all. Beginning in the 1950s and '60s Billy Graham took the format of the tent revival global by utilizing satellite broadcast technology. A cursory glance at the app store or Youtube will yield dozens of Bible reading apps, plans and sermon podcasts. And yet until recent events, churches still revolved mostly around the weekly rhythm of in-person services on Sundays and weeknight Bible studies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust humanity—and the church—into a new and unprecedented reality. More than 3 billion people worldwide have been told to shelter inside and distance themselves from anyone who is not a part of their household. This "new normal" has forced the church to change the means by which she cares for her people. A silver lining that could be drawn from the pandemic is that it has arisen at a time when technology has enabled humans to connect through a myriad of digital channels: video conferencing, social media, group

chats, live streaming and more.

Church leaders are having to switch from becoming organizers of in-person gatherings to daily online teachers and media producers. Older congregations that were previously resistant to taking services online or utilizing social media have been goaded by necessity to learn those mediums.

Following the first week of shelter-in-place orders across the country, church leaders convened in a thread on the Church Communications Facebook group to share what they learned about conducting church solely online. One user wrote, "We learned that if people are motivated to commune, they'll learn new technologies to do it! We had all ages participating in Zoom rooms. So encouraging to see our older folks willing to try new things."

Another observed, "We learned that online church doesn't have to look like in-person church. We shot videos in closer, used more intimate, comforting surroundings, and tried to make sure everyone made eye contact with the camera. In the end our 'worship service' lasted 35 minutes, but it felt right."

Other forms of technology are helping churches

engage their congregations in this new all-digital form of human connection. At a time when they can't physically pass the offering plate, churches are encouraging their congregants to enroll in online giving, recurring giving being the most preferable option as it creates predictability and stability when everything else seems uncertain. Before the pandemic, churches with a smaller percentage of their budget coming from recurring online giving have had to rethink their strategies (something that will continue to change the longer people are told to stay home).

Church management systems enable staff to check in with individual people using personalized links sent via email. ChMSes with mobile-first design like [TouchPoint](#) enable churches to embed live streamed services and downloadable resources that empower families to connect at home, or in virtual groups.

Churches have always been organizations centered around innovative uses of media to share the gospel and connect people. The early church met in private homes, face-to-face with their congregants. In the COVID-19 world, we've oddly returned to that format, just mediated through digital channels. Eventually, the church will meet corporately again. Until then, how will she adapt to the new normal?



Leah Davenport serves as a Marketing Manager for [TouchPoint Software](#), a church management system based in Dallas, Texas.

TouchPoint was birthed out of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, with a vision of being built by the church for the church. A Pursuant Group company, TouchPoint serves hundreds of churches. The web-based, mobile-first solution helps churches move believers toward maturity by supplying tools that engage and connect people to community.



Church Management Software that grows with you.

TouchPoint Software partners with you to engage your people, resource your mission, and grow fully devoted followers of Christ.

Visit touchpointsoftware.com/features to learn more about our features and integrations.

CHMEETINGS COVERS THE SEVEN FEATURES NEEDED IN EVERY CHMS APP

How Technology Is Effective in Church Administration

by Christian Meetings

Church leaders must fulfill their role and be always prepared to serve the needs of their members. A good church leadership should be completely aware of what's happening with their people.

Digital technologies fill the gap between church leaders and their members by helping the leaders collect members' information and store it all in a single database. Planning and organizing the worship services, attendance, church events (and registrations forms), servants' tasks, announcements, small groups management, contributions and online giving are all perfectly managed as well.

Technology is simplifying church management, enhancing the way church leaders, congregations, and ministers and staff care for the flock of God.

THE GOOD CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOLUTION SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

1. Easy access to member data:

Church management technologies have a common feature that allows the church leader to store important information about each member in a single (cloud-based) database, so leaders can easily access any needed data—from anywhere.

2. Effective communications:

Every church leader should have the ability to communicate quickly with members in an affordable and easy way. Church management solutions could be integrated with many

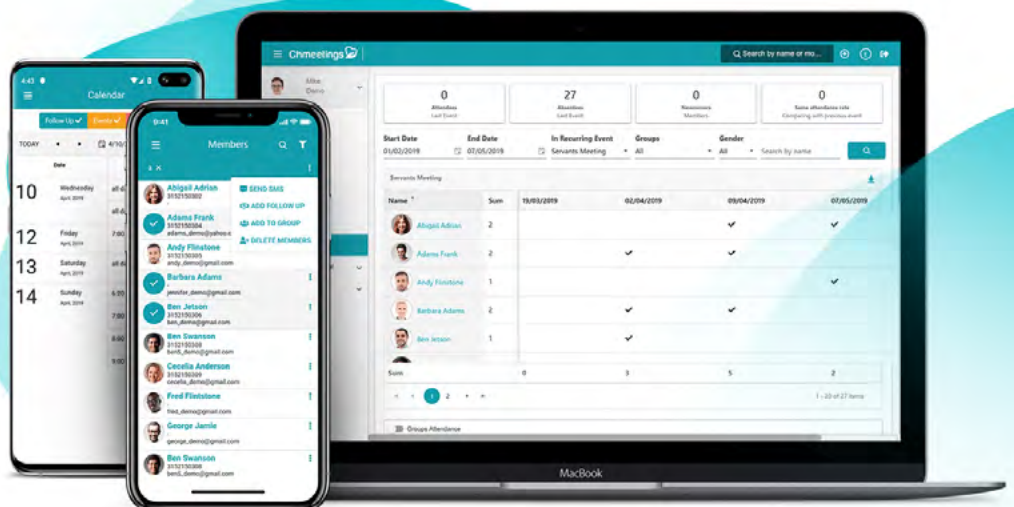
communication platforms, enabling users to send text messages from their PCs, laptops or smartphones. This keeps church members (and volunteers) always connected with their church, notified of the activities and events, and even confirms their participation when needed. Emails push notifications, and even voice messages are available to speed up the collaboration between all church members.

3. Following up:

The leader should have the ability to track members' attendance, make a report of those who are no longer attending frequently, and plan with the staff to keep in touch with these members by using different types of follow up.

4. Event planning & organizing:

Leaders could easily schedule and plan upcoming services, activities and events like Sunday School, Bible study, youth camp, volunteer meetings, music rehearsals or concerts, and even fundraising activity directly by using the church management solution.



5. Reports:

Church leaders can effortlessly use ChMS apps to create any kind of report, with accurate information to be analyzed to take the needed actions accordingly.

6. Forms:

Forms allow churches and ministries to create custom forms for all aspects of church life. Submissions could be linked with a person's profile. Forms could be used in event registration, feedbacks, surveys or polls.

7. Contribution and online giving:

The church leader should have an accurate and secure way to manage and track the contributions and online giving, plus the ability to create the reports in just a few steps.

You will find all seven of these features and even more in [ChMeetings App](#), the easiest and most affordable church management solution on the market. It's a cloud-based solution used by more than 3,500 church leaders. It is available on Web, iOS and Android.

FinancesOnline awarded this app both the 2019 Rising Star and 2019 Premium Usability awards. It was also named the *Top Rated Church Management Software* by Softwareworld, and received a rating of 4.7 out of 5 on Google play and the App store.

[ChMeetings](#) will help you handle all the essential needs of your church management operations, and save time and effort to be used in guiding your followers on their path to spiritual growth with God.





The most affordable and easy to use Church Management Software

Available on Web, iOS and Android



Church Administration Simplified

Easy and professional application to organize Members, events, attendance, follow-ups, contributions, online giving, forms, member access, and more.

[Get started for Free](#)



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A NEW APP UPDATES A USEFUL SKILL

“My Sermon Notes” Makes Note-Taking Digital

As church leaders, we are constantly searching for the most effective way to disciple our congregation. Discipleship is at the core of everything the church does. How do church leaders utilize technology to set church members up for success and encourage them to dive deeper into the Word?

It's no secret that taking notes is a practical and simple way to absorb content and stay tuned in. When it comes to fill-in-the-blank notes, there are a few reasons to consider offering them.

Fill-in-the-blank notes help your congregation stay engaged.

Some members will take notes on their own, but some members may not take notes unless they are encouraged to do so. Offering digital fill-in-the-blank notes gives your congregation an easy way to get involved while giving them a chance to take additional notes if they choose. Actively taking fill-in-the-blank notes is a way to keep your brain listening and ready to hear the next point.

When your congregation is fully tuned into your sermon, they will have a greater chance of remembering it as they go about their week. Not only that, recalling the message is a critical step in discipleship because it allows members of your congregation to apply it to their daily lives.

Digital fill-in-the-blank notes create the ultimate

note archive.

When someone is thinking about a sermon you preached a few months back, they can simply pull up their sermon notes and reflect on it. This becomes most practical when offering a digital solution where users can search for past sermon notes and find them instantly.

Digital fill-in-the-blank notes also create an archive for church members watching replays of old sermons. Now, they can follow along and take notes from the comfort of their home—even for sermons that are months old.

NOTE TAKING IS COOL AGAIN

It may seem like note taking is a dead practice, but that doesn't have to be the reality. With smartphone use becoming the new norm in church services, digital note taking is trending. Congregants are turning to the Bible app on their phone to follow along with the sermon, and digital fill-in-the-blank notes would enhance their experience.

Whether it's through a church app like My Sermon Notes or a fillable PDF file, there are many options for digital fill-in-the-blank notes. Solutions like My Sermon Notes also generate a downloadable PDF file for those who prefer to take notes on paper.

DIGITAL FILL-IN-THE-BLANK NOTES UNLOCK FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

When you encourage church members to download an app to take weekly fill-in-the-blank notes, users are getting used to opening your church app regularly. This unlocks many possibilities for further engagement. These same users may be inclined to give on the app or sign up for events during the announcements portion of your service.

Since church members have already downloaded your engagement platform to take notes, they automatically have access to other features you may offer, such as push notification announcements or interactive prayer requests.

If you're searching for a digital solution, the My Sermon Notes app offers interactive fill-in-the-blank notes that are cloud-synced between devices. My Sermon Notes also has a fully customizable Church hub with a connection card, interactive prayer requests, push notification announcements and more. It's a simple way to get your church members involved in a powerful engagement platform.



**Fill-in-the-blank
sermon notes
+
customizable
church app**

**Get started at
mysermonnotes.com**

SHARE MinistryTech

by CHURCHLEADERS

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