



ENABLE
WEBINAR
SERIES

Strategic Planning for Ministry

4 HIDDEN WAYS TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS
YOUR MINISTRY

Our Presenter

James Grissom

James has been with Enable Ministry Partners for 3 years. His role as Senior Engineer and Strategy Consultant is to help design and implement projects that help churches improve the usage and reach of technology for ministry. Before joining the team, he served in Christian Higher Education for 11 years as an instructor, technician, and IT manager. His degrees in history and theology have helped shape his love for research and collaboration, skills that are indispensable in the realm of technology. He lives in Waxahachie, Texas with his wife and son.

**How many of you have a specific
budgetary process in your church for
technology?**

Let us know in the Q&A!

"LIKE" if your answer is yes.

**How Does
Technology Impact
Your Ministry?**

4 OF THE HIDDEN (or often missed) WAYS TECH IMPACTS MINISTRY

1. Interactive Participation
2. Communications
3. Engagement
4. Safety and Accountability

HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY IMPACT YOUR MINISTRY?

1. INTERACTIVE PARTICIPATION

- Wi-Fi - Do your guests need it to fully engage in on-campus ministry operations?
- YouVersion Bible app
- If you had to sell tickets for a ministry event on-site, could you?

HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY IMPACT YOUR MINISTRY?

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- How are people getting word about the ministry/relational opportunities, activities, and events at your church?
- Is your phone system still helping your ministry efficiently and effectively?
 - Is it easy to place, receive, and transfer calls?
 - Always evaluate (and re-evaluate) your technology to make sure your investments still represent good stewardship
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many re-evaluation opportunities
- How many people read your emails or visit your website?

HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY IMPACT YOUR MINISTRY?

3. ENGAGEMENT

- Is it effective? How have you gauged/tracked that? (ChMS, teaching tools, platforms for ministry, etc.)
- Attendance tracking
 - Is your ChMS meeting your needs in this way?
 - Classroom manager on an iPad?
- Small Group/education participation
- Small group/education materials (ie. RightNow Media)
 - How does this work in the classroom space? ie. Do you use computers in the rooms, AppleTV/Roku, etc.

HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY IMPACT YOUR MINISTRY?

4. SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Do you have an effective Child Check-in process?
 - Is your Wi-Fi adequate for mobile check-in?
 - Manned stations with ethernet
- What does your volunteer safety training process look like? (MinistrySafe)
- Camera systems (technically not IT, but it does have to be integrated into the network)

Strategic IT Budgeting

NOT ALWAYS EASY, BUT SO WORTH IT

TECHNOLOGY HAS A DEFINED LIFECYCLE

- Workstations (3-5 years)
- Servers (5-7 years)
- Network Gear (8-10 years)
- Printers & Copier leases

START EARLY & BE PREPARED

- Get a quote
- Regularly re-evaluate your technology solutions - make sure you still need it or that the solution still makes sense
 - Software Subscriptions – paying “just because you did last year” can turn into a money hole
 - Communicate clearly with all departments/ministries that anything that requires a computer or an iPad, etc. to run needs to be discussed as part of technology budgeting
 - To avoid double purchasing, it is essential that someone has an overall picture of the larger church-wide technology plan
 - Buying in volume can save money
- Proactively discover new needs

BUILDING PLANS

- SO IMPORTANT: Technology must be included from the beginning of building plans – not tacked on as an add-on at the end!
 - Church plant
 - New mobile campus
 - New location or expansion
- Spin off: start the non-profit application process as early as possible to ensure all possible savings.

OFFICE 365

- Cloud-based collaboration system
- IRS non-profit as an individual or larger denominational body
- ALL basic services are free!
- Very friendly to religious organizations

Strategy Beyond the Spreadsheet

The Balance: Stewardship & Effectiveness

- A strategic plan for technology is about more than just budgeting or money. It is about how all of these tools can impact your ministry!
- Who is in charge of making sure technology is not forgotten about when discussing ministry goals and needs?
- Stewardship – you don't have to have the “latest and greatest.” You simply need to discover the best way to meet your ministry needs and stay faithful to the vision God has given your church.
- Does it seem like the desire to be a good steward is holding you back from your technology goals?
- Technology is how our world works and it can be SUCH a catalyst for impactful ministry.

Q&A

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO
ASK OR SHARE?

We'd love to hear your questions and thoughts.

Resources for You

www.enableministry.com/blog

Strategic Planning for Ministry:

<https://enableministry.com/2020/06/11/staying-ahead-of-the-curve-strategic-planning-for-ministry/>

How to Create a Church IT Budget:

<https://enableministry.com/2019/11/13/church-it-budget/>