



fellowshipTM
TECHNOLOGIES

Accelerating The Dynamic ChurchSM

The World's First Enterprise Church Management Solution

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I recently had a unique experience. I spent the day reviewing a new Church Management solution, and then visited the church that inspired it. Fellowship Technologies bills its product, Fellowship One, as a Church Management Solution (CMS) - built for a church, by a church (Fellowship Church) – and from my perspective, both the church and the product are impressive!

If you have heard of Fellowship Church, in Grapevine, Texas, and its pastor Ed Young, then you might make the mistake of thinking that Fellowship One is not for you unless you are a fast growing mega-church. After all, Fellowship Church is only 14 years old, and now has around 18,000 join them for services each weekend. Yet, read on and discover that Fellowship Technologies is not just about providing services and solutions for large churches, but for churches of all sizes, even church startups!

Fellowship Technologies does not sell software, but rather offers an Internet-based ASP (application service provider) solution for churches to use to manage a variety of church operations. The database is not installed on your computer, but rather is accessed via the Internet. With an ASP, church staff and key volunteers have access anytime, anywhere, to their data as long as they have

Internet access. Fellowship Technologies provides and manages the entire back-end resources such as the data center, updates, servers, OS licenses, etc. And, because Fellowship One is browser-based, access is acquired through an easy-to-use web design that is intuitive and makes managing your church as easy as buying a book from Amazon.com.

With an ASP solution, security of your database, including backups and data integrity, is the responsibility of Fellowship Technologies. Because they have the responsibility of maintaining such a high level of security, your data security is actually much higher than what most churches

can afford, including what a church as large as Fellowship Church was using before Fellowship Technologies. See the side bar in this article to see the steps Fellowship Technologies takes to ensure your church data is secure.

When I first started Christian Computing Magazine in 1988, I really wanted to call it the “Shepherd’s Staff,” but the name was already being used by another publication. The reason I wanted to use this name for the magazine is because I have always seen the computer as the modern equivalent of the staff used by the good shepherd referred to by Christ in John 10. Interestingly, when talking with Jeff Hook, CEO and President of Fellowship Technologies, he began to share how they had designed their solutions around the same concept. I could hear the excitement and vision in his voice as he described their mission in providing more than a great database, but also process-based services that help a church effectively care for people, efficiently manage resources and enable real growth. They refer to it as “accelerating the dynamic church.”

Fellowship Technologies’ features are broad and deep. Of course, a complete review of any service of this scope would be much larger than a magazine could publish. However, some of their key features include:

- People management
- Contact management
- Volunteer management, with gift-
edness tracking
- Contribution management;
- Ministry management, including
small groups
- Activity management
- Activity check-in with real-time at-
tendance tracking
- WebLink – that links a church’s
web site to the back-end system to
share the database for things like
event registration, online giving and
volunteer applications.

The activity check-in with real-

time attendance tracking is really im-
pressive. Fellowship Technologies
has developed a check-in process that
allows their system to be used any-
time a service or activity is con-
ducted at the church. Easy-to-use
touch screen monitors are positioned
at common check-in points, such as
entrances and preschool sign-in ar-

eas. Within a matter of seconds, a
volunteer can check-in an entire fam-
ily and record their attendance. At the
same time, contact data can be modi-
fied or flagged if a family’s informa-
tion has changed. Because individu-
als actually come into direct contact
with the system, data is easily kept

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Fellowship Security

Fellowship Technologies adheres to the most rigorous industry standards for enterprise-class security and hosting. This includes up-to-date firewall protection, intrusion detection systems, SSL encryption and other security technologies.

Physical security. Our production equipment is located at a world-class data center in Dallas, Texas with controlled 24-hour access, specialized HVAC, fire suppression and multiple independent power backup supplies and diesel generators. Only authorized personnel have access to the data center.

Network Security. The entire network is protected by firewalls and monitored by intrusion detection systems. Inside the firewalls, the systems are safeguarded by multiple network address translation, port redirection and other IP addressing schemes. Fellowship Technologies proactively monitors and analyzes all system logs to identify security threats.

Data Encryption. Fellowship One uses the strongest encryption products to protect customer data and communications. All data transferred over the network uses SSL encryption backed by 128-bit GeoTrust digital certification. Users can only access Fellowship One with a valid username, password and church code combination, which are encrypted via SSL while in transmission and encrypted within the database as well.

Data Management. All data entered into and stored within Fellowship One by a customer is owned by that customer. That means no one, not even Fellowship Technologies employees, has access to your data unless authorized by you.

Application Security. Our integrated application security architecture prevents any Fellowship One customer from accessing another’s data. This security model is reapplied with every request and enforced for the entire duration of a user session. Countermeasures to application-level threats such as buffer overflow, cross-site scripting, SQL injection, and canonicalization have been addressed in Fellowship One.

Reliability and Backup. All networking components, web servers, application servers, database servers, and load balancers are configured in a high-availability configuration using redundant components. All customer data, up to the last committed transaction, is automatically backed up to disk and tape. Backups are stored offsite to allow full recovery in case of disaster.

current. And for kids, the security aspects enforced by the system are sound, yet convenient. Name tags can be printed and parents and children are code-matched on the spot.

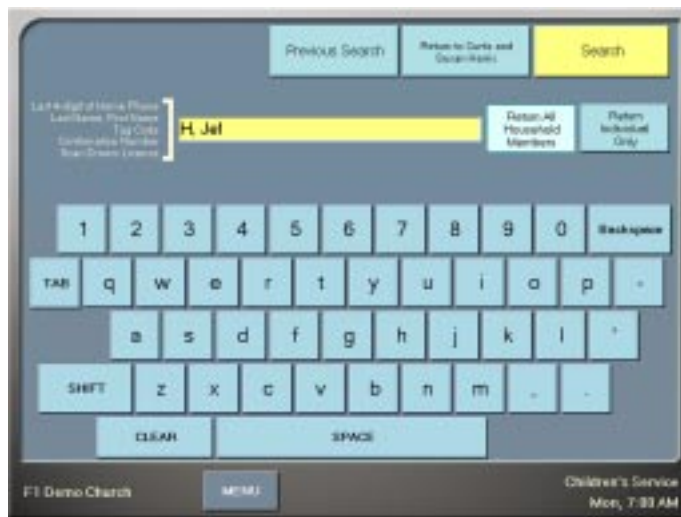
Fellowship One is built around the belief that efficient processes are vital. Fellowship Technologies believes that if a church can gather data in a fast, yet easy method, then use of that information can help a church grow. As a church grows, it becomes much more important to track data concerning people's needs and to have efficient processes. Yet, too many times, smaller churches do not examine their processes and the inherent inconveniences and inefficiencies are part of what stunts its growth to the next level.

Fellowship Technologies has been perfecting church processes at Fellowship Church for almost four years. It has been only within the last year that Fellowship Church actually spun out Fellowship Technologies as a separate company to allow the software to be made available to other churches. As established, Fellowship Technologies is a separate company from the church and the church is just one of its large customers. I was surprised to learn that they are not just marketing their services to large mega churches, but rather they have created a variety of different pricing plans and modules so that churches of all sizes can take advantage of different aspects of their services.

Fellowship One has some powerful data management features, easily allowing the splitting of records or combining households. Of course, they are able to do all of the things you would expect them to accomplish such as membership reporting, contribution records and postings, etc., but one of the features I was es-

pecially impressed by was their contact manager. Once again, IF you have good, current data, then you can use the information to use it to increase communication and connectedness.

One of the challenges of any church moving to the web is keeping the data used by the web site synchronized with your church manage-



Screen Shot of Check-in Screen

ment system. Fellowship Technologies' product WebLink allows a church to easily use the back-end database for things like online giving and reporting, activity registration, small group management by lay leaders and online volunteer applications. With the complete system, a congregation member can actually register for an activity via the web, go to the church and check-in to an activity without any administrative processing by church staff. As a church conducts more activities, this can be a real time saver. To see these features in action, check out www.dynamic-church.com.

I discovered that a church right down the road from me was a current user of Fellowship One. So I contacted Glenn Robuck at First Family Church in Overland Park, Kansas. First Family is one of the fastest growing churches in the United States. I asked Glenn why his church had chosen Fellowship One. He re-

sponded, "We chose Fellowship One because it gave us the best ability to better serve our own congregation as well as visitors by being able to quickly record their data, respond to trends and react to needs."

I wanted to talk with someone who was on the complete other end of the spectrum, and so I asked Fellowship Technologies to get me in touch with one of their smallest customers. They put me in touch with a startup church plant, New Day Christian Fellowship, in Aurora, Colorado. Pastor Michael Green shared with me that while they are too small to use the check-in services of Fellowship One, the other modules are flexible enough that while they work well for mega churches, they also work just great for their small church. While Michael's church is very small at this time, he believes that using

Fellowship One will be a vital tool to helping his church achieve rapid growth. He also had great praise for the customer support he has received since becoming a customer. This was encouraging since it was obvious that Fellowship Technologies is just as dedicated to serving the needs of a small startup as they are a large established church.

If you are looking for a new solution to managing your ministry, you need to check out Fellowship Technologies. Their services have a fresh look, are easy-to-use, and yet are powerful enough to help operate one of the largest churches in America. It really is the modern day shepherd's staff, helping the church keep track of their members with current, up-to-date information with a host of tools to help use that information to increase service and connectedness.

For more information, contact Fellowship Technologies at their web site at www.fellowshiptech.com.

If You Want The Best Church Management Software, Stop Buying Software.

INTRODUCING

One  FELLOWSHIP

The World's First Enterprise Church Management SolutionSM

As a pastor or leader, you know that technology can help your church drive the vision. Yet the complexities of buying, installing and managing software solutions can quickly tax your resources. Now you have a better choice - Fellowship One. It's the same technology that enables Fellowship Church to manage over 17,500 weekend attendees with over 1000 volunteers each week. With growth of an amazing 4,500 members in just the last 18 months.

This fully integrated solution covers every aspect of your ministry including people, staffing and volunteer management, contributions, event registration and activity check-in with real-time attendance tracking - and all information and data seamlessly integrates with your public web site.

All these features are totally scalable to meet the needs of any size of church - from 200 to 20,000. And because Fellowship One is an ASP-based solution, you don't have to invest precious church resources in costly software installations and IT management expertise.

Stop shopping for software
Start growing with the right solution.
Call us at 1-866-383-2437
or learn more at www.fellowshiptech.com

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