

Affordable Technology: Maximizing Impact on a Shoestring

In today's world, technology plays a vital role in our lives, especially affecting how we serve our communities. Acquiring the latest and greatest technology can be expensive, especially for organizations with limited resources. Furthermore, not every ministry requires state-of-the-art tech. This presentation explores strategies for maximizing impact with affordable technology choices.

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The Importance of Understanding Your Community's Needs: Sometimes No Technology is the Best Technology

Community Engagement

Who are your neighbors? What do they need? Saying hello, hosting community events and meetings provides valuable insights. Referrals are still the #1 way people learn about you.

Online & Hybrid Events

Does it make sense for your congregation to live stream? To do anything online? Is a hybrid environment useful to your congregation? Choose technology that serves you, not the other way around.

Collaboration

Partner with other community organizations to share resources and expertise. Use search and AI to find similar organizations. Change is faster when we work together.

Examples of Inexpensive or Free Software

1 Projection

Proclaim, ProPresenter, EZ Worship and others have 14-day free trials. Most of these offer inexpensive (\$13/month or so) subscriptions.

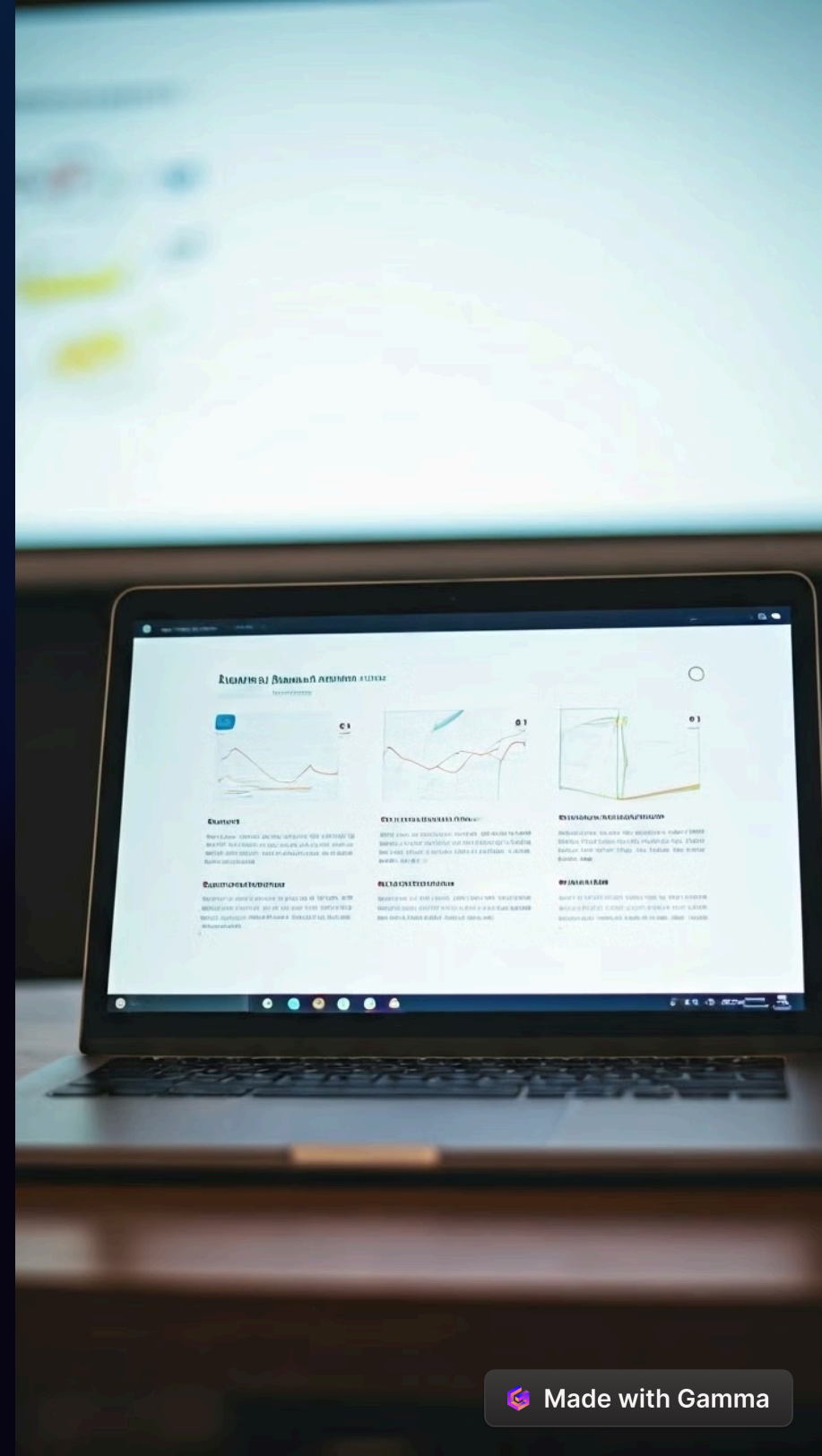
2 Accounting

Cloud-based platforms like ChurchTrac are free for basic needs and often less than \$25/month for a complete church management and accounting package.

3 Worship Planning & Team Management

Consider free trials of commercial software like Adobe Presenter or Microsoft PowerPoint to assess their suitability.

Worshipplanning.com allows your team to collaborate from anywhere and integrates with Proclaim and other projection apps. But much of the same functionality can be accomplished with free Google apps!



Avoiding the Trap of Overbuying Technology

1

Needs Assessment

Prioritize the essential technologies required to achieve your goals and serve your community.

2

Cost Analysis

Compare prices, features, and long-term costs to ensure you're making the most cost-effective choices. Sometimes the cheapest choice isn't necessarily the best in the long run.

3

Scalability

Select technology that can scale with your organization's growth and evolving needs. Use as much cloud-based software as possible.

Identifying the Essentials for Serving Your Community

1

Communication

Begins with your neighbors, who will help spread the word about your ministry both in the neighborhood and online.

2

Data Management

Simple spreadsheets and databases can help organize and manage data related to community needs.

3

Project Management

Basic project management tools can facilitate collaboration and streamline project execution.



Strategies for Optimizing Limited Technology Resources

Training and Support

Invest in training sessions to empower staff to use technology effectively.

Collaboration

Partner with other organizations to share resources, software licenses, and expertise.

Open Source Alternatives

Explore open-source software options that offer free and powerful functionality, e.g. Google Docs instead of Microsoft Word.

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Conclusion: The Power of Purposeful Technology Choices

By making purposeful technology choices, you can maximize your impact and serve your community effectively.

Prioritize the needs of your community and ensure that technology empowers your work.

Smart and strategic technology choices can help you stretch your resources further.

With the right technology, you can achieve great things in serving your community.

