

LogosGiving

A simple way to get set up to provide online giving for your membership!

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Recently someone told me about an experience when he was a small boy in which he overheard his grandfather and some men from church (the Elders) stewing about the fact that people were starting to put paper in the collection baskets. Later in life he figured out that they were talking about checks. The concept of putting checks instead of cash in the giving baskets was revolutionary and the leadership needed to get used to the “emerging trend”. The emerging trend for today is online giving!

I remember hearing that a survey done two years ago discovered that most people under the age of 35 preferred to use debit cards instead of cash or checks. Just three years ago, when my son Mike moved to Kansas City from Orlando to come to work for CCMag he was frustrated. It seemed that in Orlando he could use a debit card for everything including purchasing lunch at a fast food chain, whereas in Kansas City he could not. Now the mid-west has caught up with the coasts, and you can now use a debit card to do about anything... purchase food, swipe your card, buy groceries, swipe your card, buy something at Wal-Mart, swipe your card, buy a quick hamburger, and swipe your card.

Recently I heard that this preference is no longer equated with adults under the age of 35, but most adults now prefer to use their debit card for purchases, and most prefer to pay their bills online. They comfortably pay bills “online”. House payments, car payments, insurance, etc., can all be scheduled and paid via the Internet. In fact, it would be hard to find a bank that didn’t offer free Internet checking and online bill paying. Yet, while every other aspect of our society has moved to this new way of exchanging money, there seems to be one segment of our society

that seems to resent this trend. That segment is the church.

In my opinion, people that are Internet comfortable ought to be able to tithe in the same comfortable way that they do with all other aspects of their everyday life. There are reasons why the rest of society has moved to this style of commerce. It is easy, it is convenient, and it is

time efficient (which is a vital aspect in today’s busy world.) And it is time the church caught up with this method of doing business and receiving contributions.

God doesn’t need our money to do anything! He is all powerful and if we think He needs our meager contributions to

support His ministry we are woefully misinformed. On the other hand the Bible tells we need to give. It’s a strengthening part of our faith. As ministry leaders we need to help people

Continued on page 13



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with this prescribed part of our faith. The easiest way to accomplish this task nowadays is to be sure the church can respond to the "online" emerging trend.

There are several ways for churches to get set up to receive online giving. This month, I want to talk about a new service offered by Logos Management Software. Logos has recently launched their Logos Online Manager, giving churches using this new service a secure and easy-to-use Web site that allows your contributors to make donations to your organization. Logos Online Manager offers more than just online giving. They also offer a new service for churches enabling them to offer Payroll Direct Deposit. However, I want to review the LogosGiving aspect that is now available with their Logos Online Manager service.

LogosGiving is a fully integrated contributions processing and donor suite. The service provides a secure Web site that your members can log into anytime, anywhere that they have an Internet connection. Users

can make specific donations on a per-visit basis, or can set up automatic withdrawals from their accounts to insure that they meet their tithing commitments by giving on a regular basis. Organizations can provide the option of credit card or bank withdrawal. They can also define any number of different funds to which people can contribute, so whenever a member logs in, they can split their donation into the desired different accounts. The service also allows the user to view their giving history and print an up-to-date giving statement at any time.

If your church is using Logos II Church Management the information is automatically updated, saving your staff from re-entering data, a great time saver! And the information is secure. When you are entering and viewing Online Giving information, you are using secure servers. Logos uses 128-bit SSL encryption when you are submitting your information via the Web site. This ensures that while the information is being transmitted to them, no one can see it.

128-bit encryption is the strongest, most secure form of encryption generally utilized in Internet browsers in North America.

They also use database encryption to encrypt all critical information (such as card numbers and expiration dates) that is then stored in secure databases which also have a level of security around them as well (firewall protection) which means they are not directly accessible to the Internet.

Some of the benefits of Logos-Giving include the fact that the service is all online, so you do not have to purchase any new hardware or software. Real-time reports are available anytime, and people can make their donations anytime, anywhere. Logos promises fast, easy startup, and promise that no long-term commitments are required. You pay as your people use the system so there are no monthly fees.

For more information on Logos Church Management or LogosGiving or any of their other products or services, visit their Web site at www.logoslb.com.

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