

**Title: Social Networking For Your Church Web Site**

**Subtitle: Web Technologies**

**Second Subtitle: #0 What Churches Need to Know About Social Networking**

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Summary: What do you know about Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Orkut, Myspace, and other social networking sites? Do you know how to leverage these sites in your ministry? What are they, at what they are, why they are significant to your church web presence and how to use them, and others using these Internet applications.

You may have heard of them, you may even have tried out 1 or 2, but do you know how to impact social networking sites have on your church? Maybe from Facebook, you have a better perspective:

- More than 100 million users log on to Facebook at least once each day
- More than 3.5 billion minutes are spent on Facebook each day (worldwide)
- More than 20 million users update their statuses at least once each day
- More than 1 billion pieces of content (web links, news stories, blog posts, photos, etc.) are shared each week
- More than 850 million photos uploaded to the site each month
- About 70% of Facebook users are outside the United States
- More than 40 translations available on the site, with more than 50 in development

**Get the picture?**

Making the move to the Internet was probably difficult enough, but now you're making the move to extending your web presence to social networking sites will be much less difficult. First, let's go over the basics - social networking sites have very little structure. No committee deciding what to publish online or to moderate what someone posts. No hierarchy, everyone has an equal voice. Social networking sites are like a church school reunions or a church potluck - lots of conversations and connections. It can seem chaotic and insignificant to a casual observer, but to the participants it's a vital part of their lives.

**How it works:**

- People create personal accounts
- They begin posting about themselves
- They connect with other people they already know, or share common interests
- They interact with each other
- And, they continue to post about themselves and interact with each other

**What it isn't**

- A substitute for your church web site
- Something to be done as an afterthought

Something to be ignored or approached casually

You've gotten this far, why not take it a little farther?