

Executive Briefs
On Selected Ministry-Enhancing Technologies

Freddy Cardoza, Ph.D.
Chair, Christian Education Department
Talbot School of Theology
Biola University

Table of Contents

ACS Technologies	3
Arena.....	5
Bible Explorer Software.....	6
Bible Works Bible Study Software	7
Blogs in Ministry	8
Church Community Builder	9
<i>Creative for Kid's</i> Jesus in Jeans Curriculum.....	10
E-Sword Bible Study Software.....	11
Fellowship One	12
<i>Group Publishing</i> Curriculum	13
<i>LifeBibleStudy</i> Curriculum	14
PowerPoint for Ministry	15
ProPresenter	16
Quick Verse Bible Study Software	17
<i>The ReThink Group</i> Curriculum.....	18
Servant Keeper.....	19
Tokbox	20
<i>Tru</i> Children's and Family Ministry Curriculum.....	21

White Paper

ACS Technologies

Description

ACS (Automated Church Software) Technologies is a church management software company offering many different types of software according to your church size and needs. Handling all of one's church's finances to membership attendance, making customized reports and keeping track of everyone in your church, missing newcomers' information is now a thing of the past with ACS' array of software suites. These software can handle, process, and help with online giving, giving statements, church membership, data security, volunteering, events, check in/out, outreach, contributions, groups, scheduling, room registration, and the ability to access this anywhere in the world via internet.

According to one's church size, need, and budget, there are different software suites: ACS Enterprise for Mega-Churches, in attendance of 1,000+ members per week, ACS for Medium to Large sized Churches, in attendance of 100-1000 members per week, and Membership Plus for small sized churches, in attendance of less than a 100 members per week.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

This church management software can be found on their website, www.acstechnologies.com, or via phone by 1-800-736-7425. The reason being is that there are many different modules, or programs, that manage different things. Such as online giving would be a module ACS Contributions whereas their Ministry Analyzer module is called ACS Report Designer and each one of them costs a different amount. The way to know is to talk with a ministry consultant that can be reached via internet or phone.

Membership Plus has two versions, standard and deluxe. The main difference between the two is that the deluxe provides non-profit fund accounting such as accounts, transactions, payees, etc. and a bit more scheduling options such as room assignments, equipment lists, event registration calendars, and so forth. The price for the standard version is \$279.95 (single user) and 379.95 for a multiple user program, with up to four people inputting data at the same time. ACS & ACS Enterprise is about \$295-995/module.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- This can streamline all church admin and information into one program, thus removing the need for multiple programs and suites.
- Any church leader or pastor can have immediate reports and handouts on important key information that they want.
- Organizing small groups, along with their contact info, is now easily identifiable and reachable through having all of the church membership on this program.
- Not one person will now be missed out on events, visitations, small groups, and anything else going on at the church due to effective and current communication.

- No longer does a single person need to be in charge of this daunting task of making this “program” or system from scratch, it’s already made and tailored specifically for your ministry.
- Have access to contributions, donations, offering, attendance, and almost anything else you want to check anywhere across the world as long as you have internet access.

White Paper

Arena

Description

Arena is a church ministry system by Shelby Systems that focuses on 4 C's to help build community: Communication, Connection, Coordination, and Creativity. With this in mind, it includes membership tools, tools dealing with groups, volunteers, promotions, church sports, communications, prayer, mission, web content, check-in, contributions, and room assignments.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

There are two versions of this software, Arena Select and Arena Premium. Arena Select is more the basic software, with limited tools and resources compared to the Premium which includes everything. To get the software, one must fill out a contact form online at arenachms.com/contact.aspx. It is quite pricy, however, being up to around \$35,000 annually or \$1,000/per month subsequently.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- You can make effortless mass emails and mass txt messages to your church members, enabling an easier time with events and campaigns with a greater turn out rate.
- Everyone who ever went to your church or is still attending knows you know that they exist. They can be individually given attention to if needed.
- Want information to show or to share with other staff? Arena can easily export loads of information into programs most church staff would have, such as Microsoft Word or Excel, Outlook, etc.
- You have the power of Shelby's Systems' Financial Suite, which will and can have data on your members.

White Paper

Bible Explorer Software

Description

Bible Explorer is Internet based and can be used for both Mac or PC. It is important because it can be used to build all aspects of a Bible study lesson for any setting and age group. It can be purchased online in a hard disk form. The bible study software includes tools such as commentaries for different books of the Bible as well as different translations of the Bible. The software can be used to locate any specific passage from the Bible when the individual is preparing a Bible study lesson plan. The individual using this software will be using it to prepare and have major resources for a Bible study lesson. It is important to use Bible study software because it helps bring all the resources from commentaries for the passages and the entire topical passage look up is useful when planning a Bible study lesson. Not only does this software help with passage look up and word studies, but the individual will also be able to organize discussion groups for the Bible study using this specific tool.

Locating and Acquiring This Resource

Bible Explorer is available online at hthbible.com. Another way would be through a software store or a Christian bookstore. There is also a Bible Explorer Limited edition on sale for \$14.95 for additional Bible translations and 121 handpicked reference works.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- This is an amazing resource to start a discipleship course for the leaders in the church who want to teach the Word of God.
- The age group that will be able to use it is the teaching staff of the church or any student starting from high School all the way to college.
- The best using age group would be College and above since that is when most Students begin to teach or learn Bible study lessons in depth.
- The type and size of the church does not matter; the important thing is having a group of people who are interested in making these resources useful.
- It will make ministry better because it is another tool that any teacher can lean on for accurate passages to teach the Word of God.

White Paper

Bible Works Bible Study Software

Description

Bible Works is very popular in the churches especially for Sunday School Teachers. Bible Works is not only useful for Bible study planning in the church, but is also useful for seminary students who are writing papers. Bible Works has 190 plus Bible translations in about forty different languages. This software can run on Mac and PC computers. The software can be used for grammatical referencing as well. Bible Works software is a great tool to have as a foundation of referring back to scripture and looking up different passages for different reasons in the Church.

Locating and Acquiring This Resource

The website for this software is bibleworks.com. This website provides information about the software and clearly gives direction on products and prices. There is also a pdf brochure that you can download off of the website to get further information about the software. It is \$349 for the full DVD version of the software, but the ministry discount brings the price down to \$250. It can be downloaded as well however most people purchase the DVD full version. The great advantage of the DVD version is that you can take it with you without having to carry your computer or laptop with you. The DVD can be used for the church and on more than one computer in the church.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- The group that will be able to use this software would be the older groups in the church who are involved in ministry or attending seminary.
- The age group would begin from a college level and beyond.
- The size of the church does not matter since this software is general and can be used outside of the church as well.
- For this specific software the specific group would be seminary students and those who are teaching and disciples in the church.
- It is important to have very resourceful software available to those who are ministering in the church and to those who are in seminary to become pastors and disciples in the church because this resource is a tool to really learn the Word of God and learn about what God is teaching us in the Bible.

White Paper

Blogs in Ministry

Description

A blog is a type of website where individuals post regular entries about events, their life, their political opinion, or other material such as graphics or videos. Entries are usually displayed in reverse-chronological order. In other words, the most recent post appears at the top of the webpage. Most blogs allow visitors to leave comments and messages.

There are many different types of blogs. Blogs can be personal, such as an ongoing diary or commentary by an individual. They can be used for business purposes. Some blogs are divided up by genre where they focus on a particular topic, such as water skiing or music. Other uses are to document an important event in their lives or to feel connected to a community, to voice their opinion, political or otherwise, to those who will listen. Some use blogs to document hobbies or as a discussion board.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

Setting up a blog can be complicated, but there are some useful tools on the Internet. If you're willing to pay for a blog site, you must first choose a good domain name; godaddy.com is one website you can use. Find a cheap and reliable web host; one particular website is WebHostingBuzz.com. A start up plan costs \$5, although the more expensive plans can be purchased. To write your blog, you can install software from wordpress.org for free. On particular website, www.howtostartablog.org, gives a step-by-step instructions on how to start up a blog and use WordPress. A free, although less customizable website you can also use is blogger.com.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- Blogs are used by people of all ages. Therefore, each age range in the church could benefit from blogs. However, there will be more traffic in blogs by those who are 25 to 40.
- Blogs are useful for quick announcement at churches that are personal and relevant.
- Blogs can be used by each ministry in the church to keep that group up-to-date with upcoming events.
- Blogs are useful if there is an upcoming decision that needs to be made at the church and the pastors and elders wish to hear from the entire congregation.
- Blogs can be used in small groups if the pastor wants to give a brief introduction to each lesson for the evening or a lesson plan. This is especially true for sermon-based small groups where you want to stimulate discussion during the week.
- Pastor could blog about their thoughts, vacations, and joys so that the congregation can get to know them better. This would be most valuable in large churches where spending time with each member for an extended period of time is nearly impossible.

White Paper

Church Community Builder

Description

Church Community Builder, or otherwise known as CCB, is a church management software, or as they describe it, a church ministry system (ChMS). It is a web-based program. Attendance for regular services as well as one-time events can all be seen and tracked by CCB and other features are a secure check-in system for children, proper networking and assimilation for those you reach and are new to the church, member involvement tools to volunteer matching systems, and much more. With resource management, tools for leaders, event management, pledge management, family and individual profiles, role-based admin, and even access to CCB on your mobile phone, CCB is the go-to program for all your church needs.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

CCB is divided into three options, Essential, Standard, and Deluxe. You can reach them via internet or phone of which all of their information can be found on their website, churchcommunitybuilder.com or by phone at 1-866-242-1199. Prices are only available through contacting the company.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- There is such a wide array of available options through CCB. The functions mentioned in the first paragraph were features listed in the Church Management section. There are community tools and also Website Integration tools as well. Such as group calendars, event notes, discussion boards, event registration, picture directories and even a personal calendar.
- Online giving and payments, group/ministry finders, forms and surveys, public church-wide calendars, and church website integration all lead to a much more happy, and well-informed congregation. It not only benefits staff but the church as a whole in tangible ways.
- There is no need to be tired in orienting new staff or volunteers, tired group hierarchy charts for different departments
- Management becomes a breeze, as all you do is tell them what you know, they do the rest. Making detailed reports for analysis are now too easy with CCB.

White Paper

Creative for Kid's Jesus in Jeans Curriculum

Description

Creative for Kid's Jesus in Jeans curriculum is written to help kids to think, get kids to be engaged and understand what God has to teach them through the Bible and how that relates to daily lives through application. Every lesson involves components to help children think about the scripture of the day, including small group time, worship, game and story time to zero in on the day's message, application time, and concluding with small group time and prayer.

The quarterly materials are available to download and include a teacher's guide; focus stories, to engage the children in the Bible and scripture; focus frames, an object lesson dealing with the verse of the day; focus facts, emphasizing the main point of the day; focus verses; large and small group activities; prayers to close each session; a list of supplies; 12 power points with teaching aides; 12 drama skits; and monthly questions and answers with suggested games to help children review their lessons at the end of each month.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

The above resources can be found at creativeforkids.com. The curriculum can be downloaded or ordered in print format and purchased for one quarter or for an entire year. Prices range from \$159.96 to \$759.96, with the download format being significantly cheaper, although there are no refunds available for the downloaded version. Once subscribed, you will be granted unlimited access to your Jesus in Jeans Curriculum.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- JESUS IN JEANS shares Jesus' life and teachings with kids, 1st - 5th grade, in a relevant way that will help them relate to him and apply his truths to their everyday life. The end result being that they grow strong in body and wise in spirit, living a balanced daily life in the grace of God.
- It is best suited for churches that utilize a Large Group/Small Group Sunday school model.
- Jesus in Jeans can also be used for homeschooling and as a resource to parents
- Kid will learn practical spiritual truth that keep them happy and healthy
- Children will be able to experience the captivating power of God and learn life lessons that will help them refuse temptation and accept the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Children will learn about love, trust, and obedience turning them away from sin allowing them to be transformed by the Holy Spirit and live a Christ-like life.
- Children will learn the essential principles of scripture in a new and relevant way.
- The Jesus in Jeans curriculum is based off of Luke 2:40 "There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him."
- They also offer design services, architectural services, concept development, logo design, character development and design at: creativeforkids.com/webapp/design-studio.

White Paper

E-Sword Bible Study Software

Description

E-Sword Bible Study Software is an Internet-based software that provides an opportunity to bring more resources for Christian scholars and others. It is an electronic edge to using the Bible and finding passages from the Bible and other sources. It connects you to many different passages and translations of the Bible as far as many other things as well. There is an amazing dictionary source on the software that can be used when putting together any topical Bible study lesson. It matters and makes a difference to learn about how important it is to fully prepare a Bible study lesson and its tools like this one, which allow us to do that in our ministries.

Locating and Acquiring This Resource

E-Sword Bible Study software is available at e-sword.net. This site will direct you straight to the electronic journals that are available to download on this site. The website is absolutely free and open to anyone who can access the website and download the software. The website gives clear directions in the tabs of the home page which show you exactly where to go to download the different software.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- The church will be able to use this software in any ministry.
- The size and certain type of church can vary for this product.
- The ministry will be able to grow in resources for teachers and pastors
- All the church members can use this software; it is not only available to the teachers or those working in ministry all of us as Christians are entitled to study the Word of God in depth.

White Paper

Fellowship One

Description

Fellowship One is a web-based church management software by Fellowship Technologies. Focused on membership and attendance related information, it is used to help track, invite, and record information on one's church members. From facilitating small groups, to checking in children, to bulk emails to every church member, to spiritual gift profiling for members, this program is designed to match all of your church's membership data needs. Being web-based, this program is accessible via your mobile phone.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

To find this church management software, it can be found at fellowshiptech.com. The price varies based on church size and different editions. Church size classifications are new church plant, 1-249 members (weekly attendance), 250-499 members, and 500+ members. The editions are Starter, Growth, Growth Plus, Standard, Standard Plus, and Enterprise.

For new church plants, for one whole year (12 months) any edition of Fellowship One is absolutely free! For a church size of 1-249 members, prices range from \$20/month-\$110/month. For a church size of 250-499 members, the price range goes up, starting from \$40 for Starter to \$220 for Standard Plus. For a church size of 500+, the price is only available through a customer representative.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- You can focus on the people you are serving, more than worrying about inputting all the data and making up charts and graphs for annual reports. You can let the software take care of the nuisances and you can take care of the people in your church.
- You can have a 360 degree profile of each member, especially in regards to families as a whole and in small groups.
- You can see as a lay leader, pastor, or newcomer what groups are available, how to reach them, all online. As the volunteers and leaders continue to input information, you as their supervisor can monitor attendance, prayer requests of members, and group health.
- You can be sure to know that every child in your church is safe and can only be picked up by someone who is safe, thus ensuring peace of mind and of money (when it comes to legal complaints/claims).
- You can easily manage the information and communication ability of 1,000's of small groups.

White Paper

Group Publishing Curriculum

Description

Group Publishing creates biblically based curriculum centered on activities that help families experience God's Word and live it out. Therefore with *Group's* curriculum, families aren't idly taking in the lessons God has for our lives, they're living it out. Of *Group's* Sunday School Curricula, there are 5 offered in electronic format that truly help families of all ages form authentic relationship with Jesus and learn to follow him.

Group considers their learning approach to be "R.E.A.L." This stands for relational, experiential, applicable, and learner-based. All of *Group Publishing's* Curriculum allows students to engage and interact with one another while they learn, experience the lesson through hands-on activities, apply the lessons because learners should not simply take information in, but actually use their hands in action because students learn in a variety of ways, and this is why *Group* uses a variety of teaching styles to draw people closer to Jesus.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

The above resources can be found at sundayschool.group.com. The Pricing Varies Depending on the curriculum, with electronic leader guides, weekly lesson guides, and electronic sheets available. If all 12 quarters of Hand-On Bible Max are bought at one time the cost is only \$299.98 which could save you \$300. With "Hands-On Curriculum," "Hand-On Bible Max," "Faithweaver," and "Kids Own Worship," you can sign up for standing order benefits at shop.grouppublishing.com/sop/default.asp. With standing orders, you get free ground shipping on quarterly curriculum, free quarterly order reminders, online order management allowing you to adjust and change your order at any time, and check your orders from your own computer. There will also be quarterly discounts offered to you through the mail.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- The five different curricula charted below can be used for different age groups, but are primarily geared toward family ministry. Faithweaver meets the needs of all ages. All the curricula work well for children. Rooted work well for adults and youth.
- *Group's* curricula meets the needs of middle-to large sized churches because of their large/small group components; however the curriculum can be modified to fit the needs of smaller churches
- *Group's* curricula works well for children's and family ministry because it explores the fullness of the Bible.
- It enhances the relationships and faith of families as a whole
- Parents and children will be able to go home and discuss what they have learned as a family.
- Families will be able to live out the Gospel in the image of Christ.

White Paper

LifeBibleStudy Curriculum

Description

LifeBibleStudy is an electronic Bible study curriculum that presents a strong biblical curriculum for adults. LifeBibleStudy is electronic and delivered online. One can access their LifeBibleStudy account at home, from work, or on the road 7 days a week, and 24 hours a day. The curriculum is easy to use and meets the needs of different small groups or Sunday school classes as well as offers a variety of study durations depending on how long a particular study group may meet. LifeBibleStudy presents real life application studies as well as curriculum that will allow teachers and students to explore the Gospel as well as allow students to discover the promises God has for them allowing their relationship with God to become authentic. All the studies allow for groups of all sizes to discover a true understanding of the Gospel and discover how we all fit into God's master plan for his creation.

What's helpful about LifeBibleStudy is that it offers detailed studies on issues that adults face and studies that relate to students allowing them to learn how to apply scripture in their personal lives and be transformed by the Word of God through the affirmation of "Eight Essential Truths about God." LifeBibleStudy also offers customizable plans that fit any age group, group size, or various learning styles.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

This resource can be located via the web at lifebiblestudy.com. The pricing for curriculum depends on how many students are enrolled in a class. To determine your price, first determine the average number of group participants, including teachers, who will use LifeBibleStudy. Then look on the next page under "Average Group Attendance" to find your price. This price includes online access to lessons, maps, commentary, timelines, and more for the administrator and every teacher. If you purchase the web license and books at the same time, you will get discounted prices on both. Look for the Web & Book Combo prices.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- LifeBibleStudy Curriculum is best for adults ages 18 and Up, and can be used in a church of any size from 5-1,000 plus members in many different ministries.
- Using the LifeBibleStudy curriculum will help adults to apply the Word of God in an authentic way as well help adults to investigate and discover key principles laid out by God.
- LifeBibleStudy also offers flexible scheduling, and leaders will be able to set their own start dates. Leaders can choose which lesson to skip, postpone, or delete.
- LifeBibleStudy also offers a built-in communication component that enables leaders to communicate with one or all teachers using one simple step. Leaders will be able to post events, announcements, encouragement notes, etc. using this tool
- The Class management component allows teachers to update teacher info and communicate with substitute teachers.
- There are also printable resources offered such as maps, teaching plans, and activities.

White Paper

PowerPoint for Ministry

Description

Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2010 is a multi-functional program that allows the presenter to create stunning presentations that incorporate video and PowerPoint animations to one's preference. PowerPoint has two views for the presenter, when using an alternative/secondary screen. When the presenter has PowerPoint running on two separate screens, the presenter can either have it so that they are looking at the same exact presentation as the audience, or they may choose the "Presenter View" allowing the presenter to scroll up and down the entire presentation, without changing what the audience is looking at. During the presentation, PowerPoint also has many different functions that allow the presenter to highlight specific information and points without having to create it before hand. PowerPoint also allows the presenter to gain everyone's attention by completely blanking out the screen, making the screen white or black with the touch of the "B" or "W" key. The presenter also can time his entire presentation allowing it to run on its own, without anyone moving the presentation back and forth.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

Microsoft Office Suite 2010 can be purchased at any electronic or office retail store; such as Office Depot, OfficeMax, Staples, Best Buy, and etc. The Microsoft Office main website also offers the buyers the same products on their website and has special deals for college students. The price ranges from \$69.99 to \$699.99 depending on what packages you buy.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- PowerPoint offers a wide variety of tools to use for the church and can be used for all age groups. The adults and youth can use this program to present lyrics, sermon key points, announcements, and other media-related material. Children Ministries can use this to make their sermons more interesting by creating animations and short clips for the children to see.
- Pastors for all age groups can use this program to clearly state their message and can use its various tools to emphasize what they want their audience to know.
- Although PowerPoint does not have as many functions as ProPresenter, PowerPoint still allows the presenter to edit their slides to a certain extent, without having to exit the presentation. However, this function is only possible on Windows and not on Mac.

White Paper

ProPresenter

Description

ProPresenter uses five different layers per slide in order to have smoother transitions and multi-functionality. The five layers consist of: Props Layer, Slides Layer, Video Playback Layer, Live Video Layer, and Background Color. The Props Layer is the topmost-layer of the output screen. The props layer may include a logo on the lower right of the screen or even messages, such as childcare announcements or car-lights being on announcements. This layer does not interfere with any of the other layers, therefore can be moved accordingly. The Slides Layer is the most fundamental element of ProPresenter. This layer consists of most of the information that the presenter has readied, such as; song lyrics, sermon notes, videos, links, etc. The Video Playback Layer is one of my favorite layers. This layer consists of two layers; the backgrounds and the foregrounds. The background layers are videos or still images that are played in the background underneath the layers above. The background layer also allows the slide to have moving backgrounds even if the slide information is not moving at all. The Foreground layer consists of any of your multi-media video or image elements. This layer allows the background to do its function while the slide layer displays its information. The video playback layer is useful because one can change the slide's backgrounds during the presentation without it affecting the information at all.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

This program can be downloaded as a demo or purchased for \$799 at RenewedVision.com. This program is compatible for both Mac and PC and is a very simple program to use, but has many functions. One would also need a projector setup in order to use this program to its potential.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- ProPresenter can be used for all age groups, however, it would be most effective to use for the adult and youth ministry. Due to its multilayer function that allows the service to go uninterrupted, ProPresenter can truly shine in a mega-church setting.
- ProPresenter has a function that allows short messages to be displayed on the bottom of the screen, scrolling from the left to the right side of the screen. ProPresenter also has a function that would organize all the information of the church members.
- ProPresenter doesn't just organize the names of the people by number, but also saves and organizes the lyrics for songs, Bible verses, and other data that one could reuse.
- ProPresenter also has add-ons that can be downloaded on their website. Some of these add-ons include Bibles and backgrounds ideal for church use. Instead of having to type the entire bible, one would be able to conveniently place the passage for that service with ease, even if the pastor suddenly changed the passage or wanted a passage on the screen but it wasn't typed up.

White Paper

Quick Verse Bible Study Software

Description

Quick Verse has many resources and tools to build a Bible Study. It is Internet based but can also be ordered in a hard disk form to be delivered to the customer. This software has bible translations, commentaries, study guides, dictionaries, and more. The importance of all of this is the use it is put to in the ministries of different churches. Every single individual in the church can use these resources to grow in learning the Word of God. The study guides that this software offers can be used for the teachers but can also be used for the students in the church. Anyone who is interested in studying the Bible in depth can make great use of this program.

Locating and Acquiring This Resource

This software is available at quickverse.com. Quick Verse products range in price from \$25 to \$600, depending on how much software and which tools you will purchase. The software is available for PC, Mac computers, and Smartphones. It also comes for different age groups, which is a big advantage to all churches.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- Anyone in the church should be able to use this software very easily.
- Any age group can be a part of using and learning this software since the software is available for children as well.
- The size of the church is not relevant because the resources that come from this software are so unlimited that it can work with all church sizes.
- The type of church is also irrelevant for the use of this software because it is not important as long as the common interest of all these churches is studying the Word of God.
- Bible Study is very important in a church setting especially during weekly ministries in the church that is when this resource comes into play and helps teachers with Bible study planning and learning.
- This software will make the ministry better because it is a new opportunity to grow as disciples and learn and teach the Word of God.

White Paper

The ReThink Group Curriculum

Description

The rethink Group is all about thinking of the color orange, and repositioning the lampstand back in its proper place. The lampstand is the church, and this is why the rethink group designates its color as yellow. In turn the church is to partner with families, the people who will be a light to the next generation by rekindling the heart of Jesus back into children and youth, and this is why their color is red. Churches at the least get 40 hours with children and youth a year while parents have 3,000 hours of teachable moments with their children.

Therefore the ReThink Group is in place to partner with parents by thinking “Orange.” “What if church leaders and parents synchronized their efforts to fuel wonder, discovery and passion in the next generation?” By combining the influences of the “light of the church” and the “love of the family” thinking Orange will bring a generation to God through the partnership of church and family with a greater force than either could have alone.

The ReThink group has developed curricula for preschoolers through college aged students to explore the love God as well be able to see themselves through the image that God has created his children uniquely to be. Their elementary curriculum is called “252 Basics,” and their middle and high school program is called “XP3.”

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

The above resources can be found at whatisorange.org. The pricing varies depending on the curriculum and what materials are included. The curriculum is web-based and once purchased can be downloaded. The primary user is also able to create multiple user accounts. Once subscribed, you’ll receive your own Orange Specialist who will answer any questions you may have and guide you through the online curriculum tools.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- *First Look* is for Preschoolers, *252 Basics* is for Elementary Aged Students, and *XP3* is for Jr. High and High School Ministry
- All three curriculums are customizable and can be tweaked to fit your ministry needs for churches of all sizes
- *First Look*, *252 Basics*, and *XP3* will save you time shopping around for resources.
- The curriculum is based on sound Biblical principles that don’t change
- ReThink Group is all about partnering with families acknowledging that parents have far more time to spend with their children than children’s and youth pastors.

White Paper

Servant Keeper

Description

Servant Keeper is a church management software from Servant PC Resources Inc, which manages memberships, builds and merges groups, takes weekly attendance, create statements/reports, can mass email/mail, track offering contributions and even has a pictorial directory of everyone in your church.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

Servant Keeper 6.0 currently is \$499.00 (+\$7.00 shipping if bought online). For smaller churches, there is a small church version which is essentially the same thing but can only track up to 50 families for \$250.00 (with a \$7.00 shipping rate). You can find this product at their site, servantpc.com/servant_keeper.htm or via phone at 1-800-773-7570.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- Managing and tracking information on your members, from contributions to their attendance, getting them involved and plugged into small groups is no longer the back aching job of the pastor or secretary, we can all take joy as Servant Keeper does the hard work.
- Ability to print out directories and even picture directories easily because you already have everyone's information.
- There is no more need to count heads during services, all you need is Servant Keeper, it will do those menial tasks for you.
- Need the information on other applications? That can easily be done as Servant Keeper can easily export its information.

White Paper

Tokbox

Description

TokBox is a simple, affordable group video conferencing solution that has many applications in modern ministry. It connects with other congregations, to bring remote members in to a service, meeting or seminar or simply to bring your whole congregation together. Video chat provides face to face with up to 20 people at once. Video Meeting is for more formal meetings with an agenda. Video conference is for interacting with a larger audience. There is no need to download for these resources. It is possible to do live video conferencing with 20 people. Both Video meeting and conferencing can be promoted via Facebook, Twitter and more. They can import contacts and do text chat. They search and share YouTube videos. Both video meeting and video conferencing schedule and invite in advance and customize meeting URL. They upload and share presentations and documents. They manage participants and all media and record a video welcome for participants. It is easy to set up all media in advance and dial-in number for phone participants (11 cent per minute). Video conferencing adds an audience of up to 200 people. It brings audience members on-screen, allows audience to submit video questions and manage everything from off-screen.

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

One of the reasons TokBox is so affordable is that it requires no expensive hardware. Everyone can participate directly from their laptop without the need to download or install anything. Video Chat is free. Video meeting is \$12.99 per month and has a free 30 day trial. Video conferencing is \$39.99 per month and also has a 30 day free trial.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- With video meeting, you can have **twenty video participants at once**:
- If you're getting a group together and you need to manage the conversation, you can silence participants until you are ready for their contribution and even remove them if they are disrupting the meeting.
- With video conference, the **presenter is on-screen**, and the **audience off-screen**. If there are only a few people who need to be seen and heard, they can be off-screen and everyone else can watch from the audience. If someone in the audience has to something to add, they can be brought on screen.
- The audience can ask questions either in advance, or during the call and the videos can be played for everyone to watch.
- Church can provide lectures, teaching series, counseling, worship services through TokBox.
- Church can build online learning community around the world using TokBox.

White Paper

Trû Children's and Family Ministry Curriculum

Description

Trû is a vibrant curriculum and ministry empower by family to spiritually form the hearts of children from preschool through high school. It has been created to spark the interest of God in Christ and equip a new generation in His likeness as well as support parents and ministry leaders in their ministry to children and youth. *Trû* currently has curriculum for two age groups, Preschool and Elementary.

TrûWonder is designed for preschool and kindergarten children to engage in discovering who the wonder of God is allowing them to explore, respond, and be blessed in an interactive environment. *TrûStory* is crafted to tell God's Redemptive Story as it applies to elementary-aged children allowing them to anticipate, celebrate, respond, and be blessed in an interactive environment. Both curricula equip parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers for their elementary children through a take-home called "Homefront Weekly."

Locating or Acquiring This Resource

The above resources can be found at tru.davidccook.com. Included in the *TrûWonder* and *TrûStory* packages are: 1 Year Membership, HomeFront Family Curriculum, HomeFront Weekly Take-Home Cards, Worship Music Downloads, Worship Resource Downloads, and Background Track MP3s.

Prices range from \$600 to \$1800, based on the number of students and the number of users. The curriculum is web-based and once purchased can be downloaded. The primary user is also able to create multiple user accounts. Once subscribed, you will be granted unlimited access to *Trû* resources immediately and will be able to download your lessons. A *Trû* Welcome Kit will be shipped to you upon purchase.

Using This Resource in Ministry

- *Trû* Curriculum is best suited for churches that utilize a Large Group/Small Group Sunday school model.
- Spiritual development can and will begin from an early age with parents as the primary nurturers of their children's faith.
- *Trû* resources support both the church and home with a focus on knowing God personally, igniting a passion for Christ, learning to listen to His Spirit, keeping biblical content true to context, and cultivating a concern for people's needs in our communities and the world.
- The *Trû* curriculum emphasizes that Spiritual formation is built upon a regenerated life in Christ, with its foundation in the Word of God, and capitulating the activity of the Holy Spirit.
- The developers of *Trû* believe that 'spiritual formation,' 'sanctification' and 'discipleship' are equivalent terms with the same aim as that of Paul in Colossians 1:28-29, "...that we may present everyone mature in Christ."