

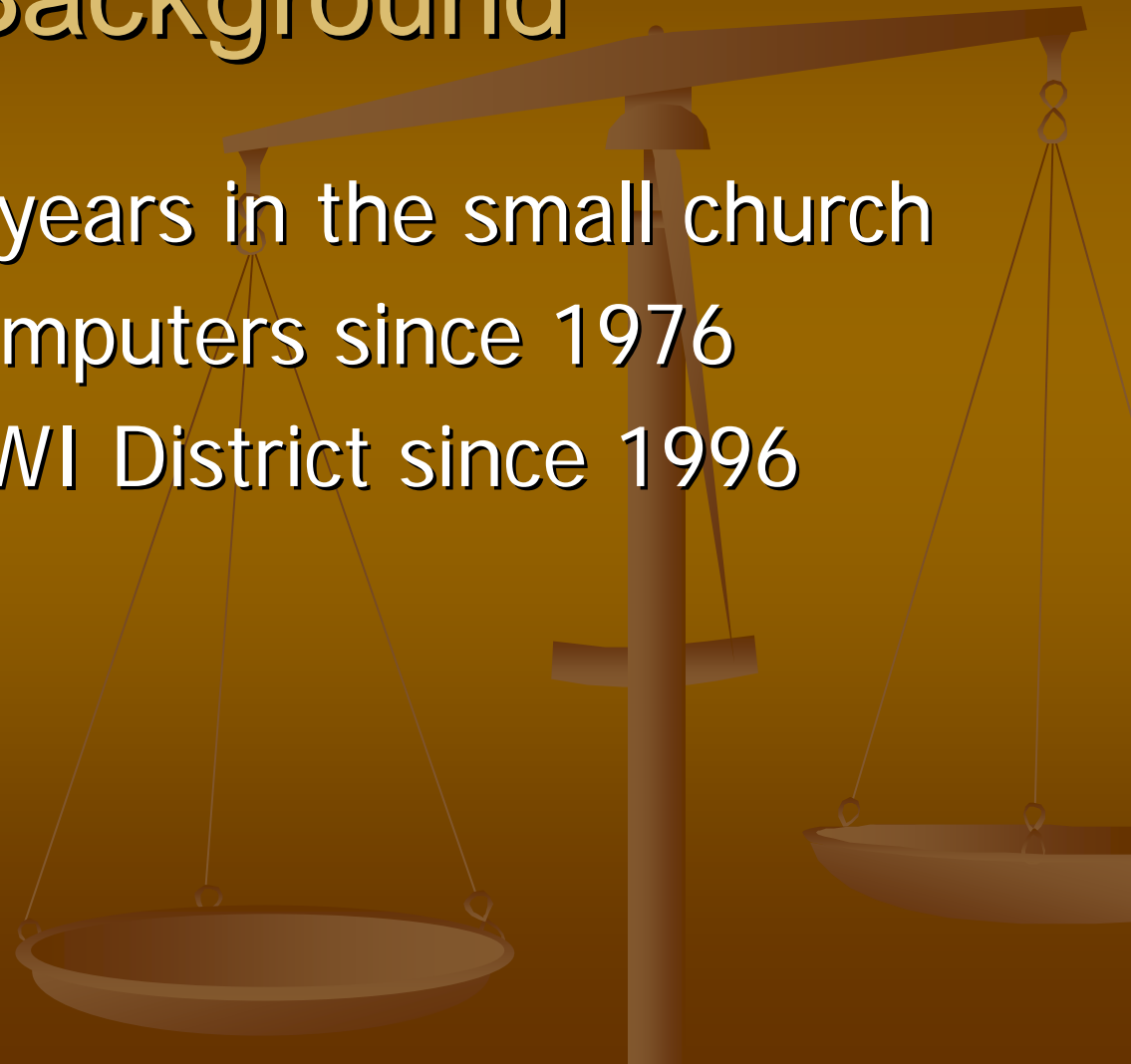


Using Internet Technology Effectively in the Small Church

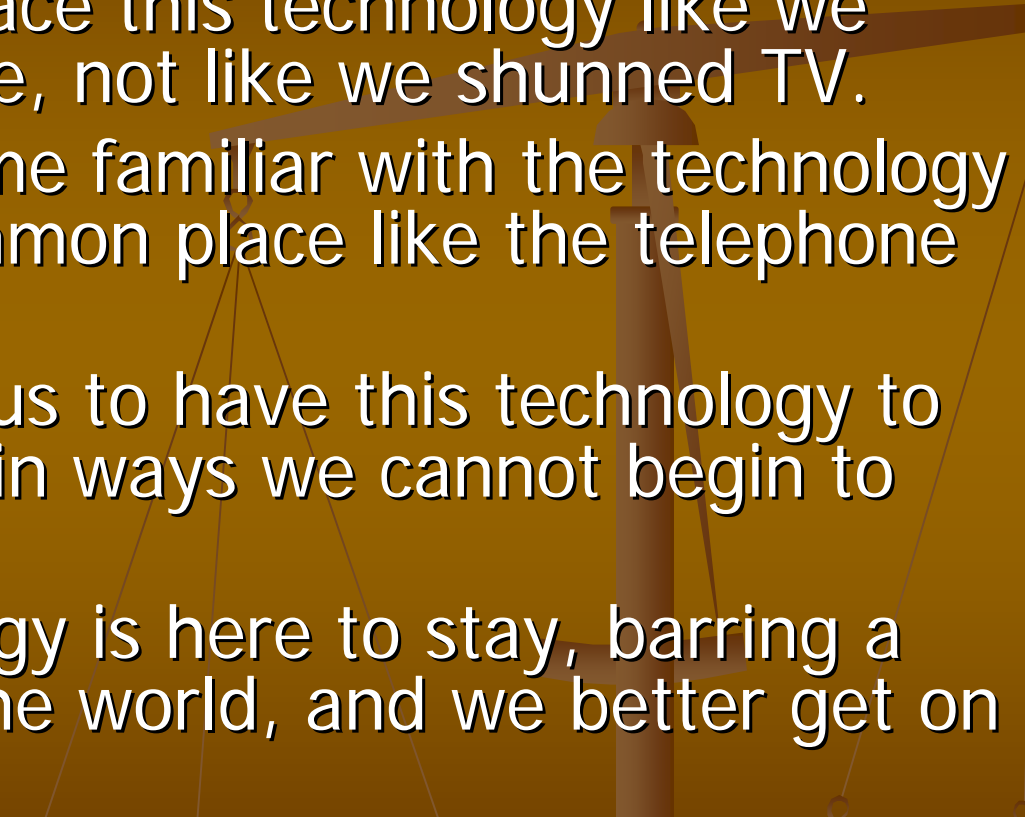
Presented by
Rev. Fred La Plante
fred3@aont.org

My Background

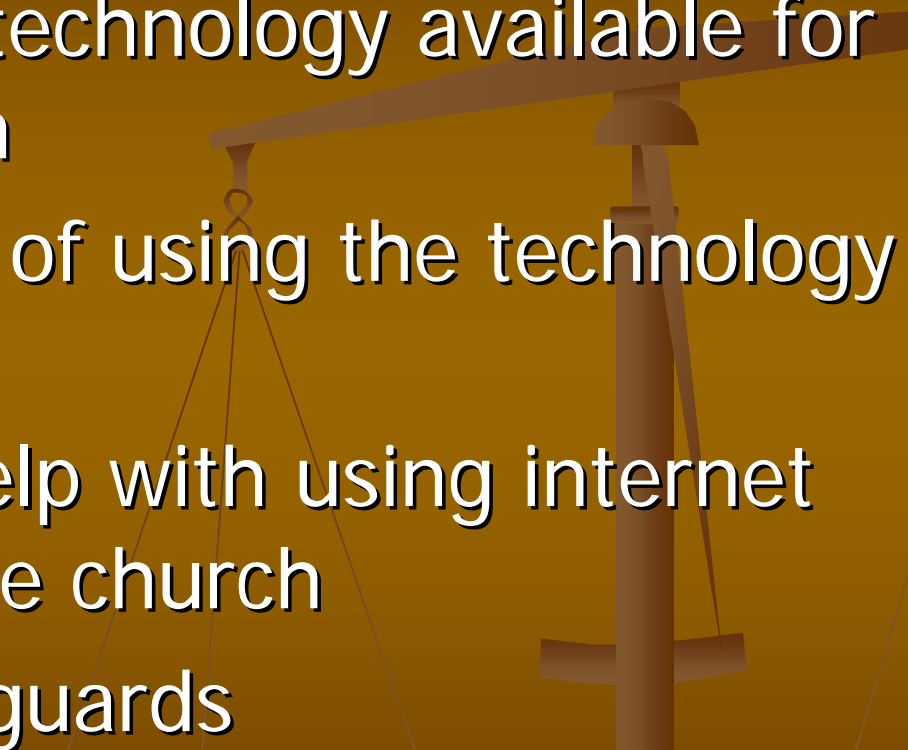
- Pastored for 17 years in the small church
- Working with computers since 1976
- Webmaster for WI District since 1996



I believe

- -we need to embrace this technology like we have the telephone, not like we shunned TV.
 - -we need to become familiar with the technology so it becomes common place like the telephone and TV.
 - -God has allowed us to have this technology to reach the masses in ways we cannot begin to imagine.
 - -Internet technology is here to stay, barring a major change in the world, and we better get on the ball using it.
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What is ahead in the next hour

- An overview of technology available for the small church
 - Some principles of using the technology for ministry
 - Sites that will help with using internet technology in the church
 - Dangers & Safeguards
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Technologies Available

- Email
- Web sites
- Blogs
- Podcasts
- IM
- Video casting
- RSS
- Photography
- Others?



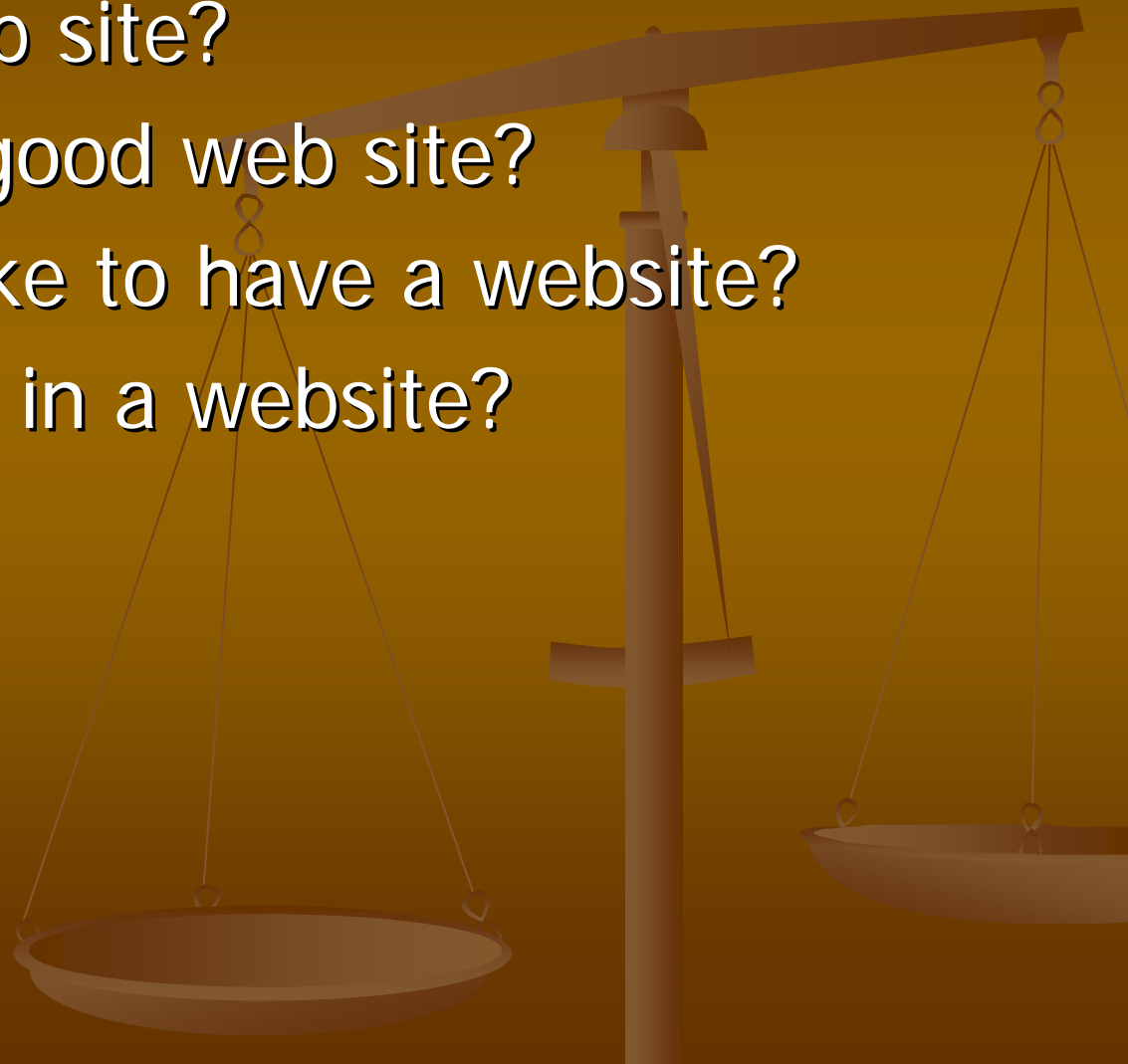
Blogs

- What is a blog?
- Why blog?
- How do you get started?



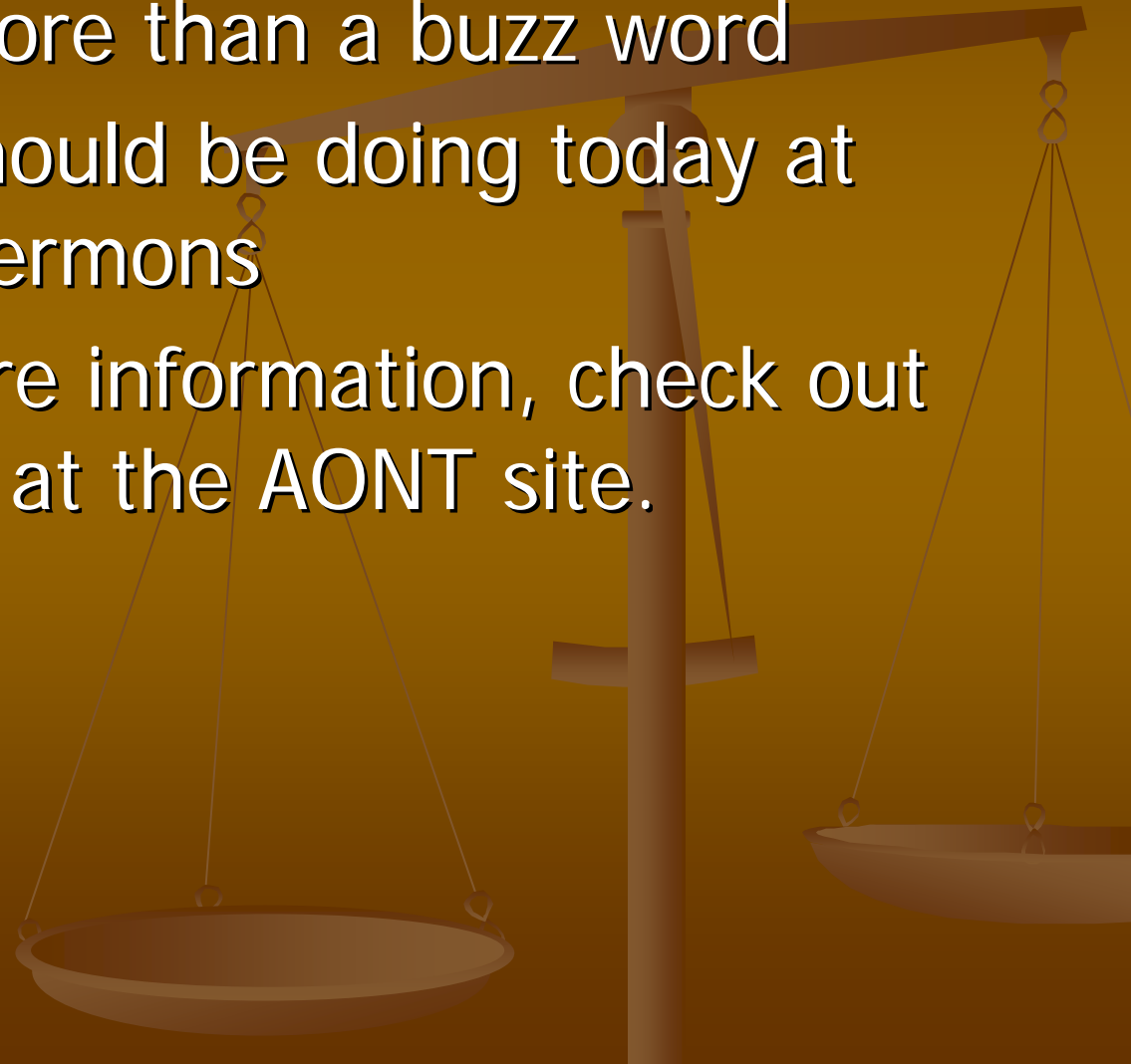
Web Sites

- Why have a web site?
- What makes a good web site?
- What does it take to have a website?
- What should be in a website?



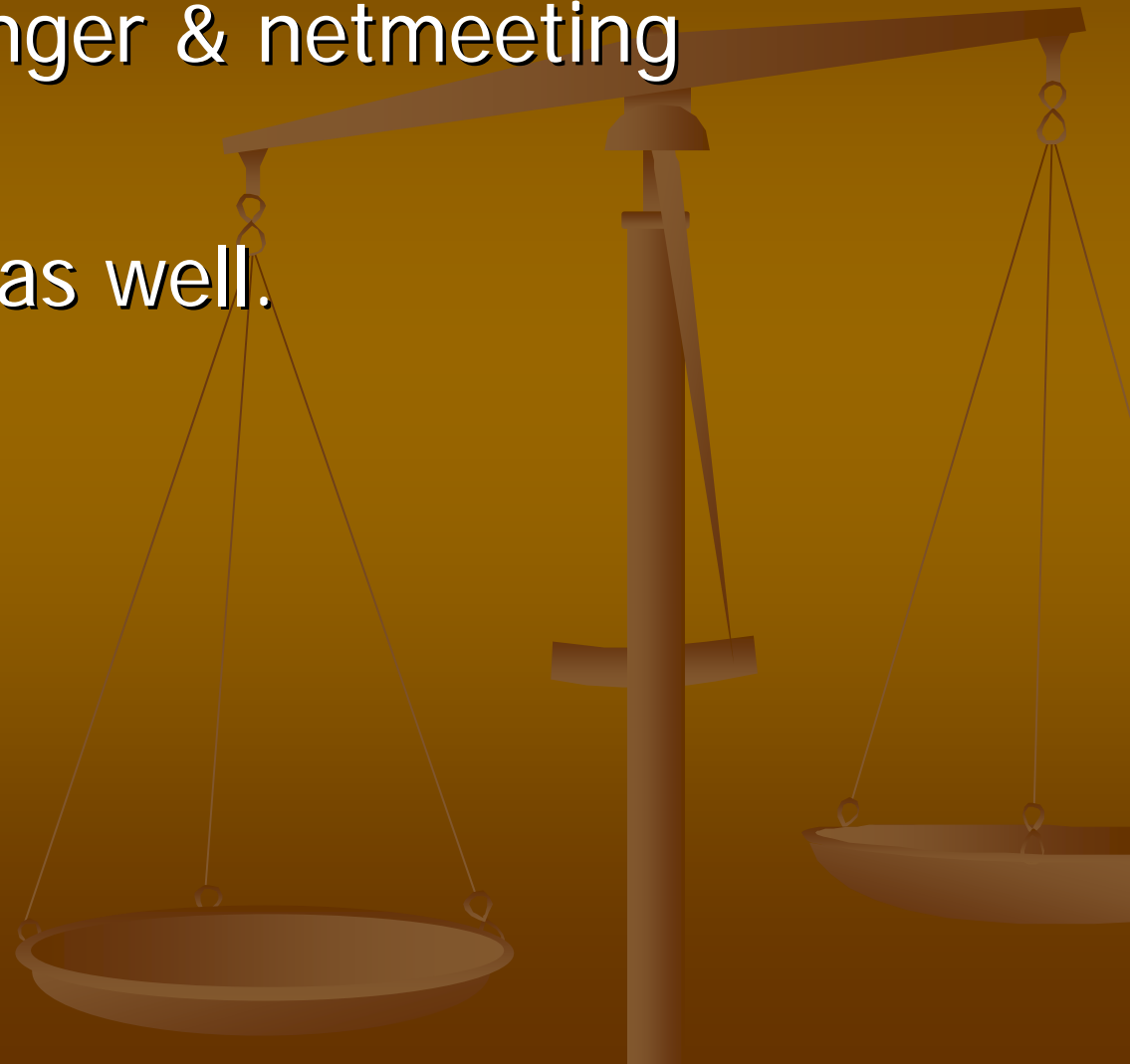
Podcasts

- Podcasting is more than a buzz word
- It is what we should be doing today at least with our sermons
- If you want more information, check out the information at the AONT site.



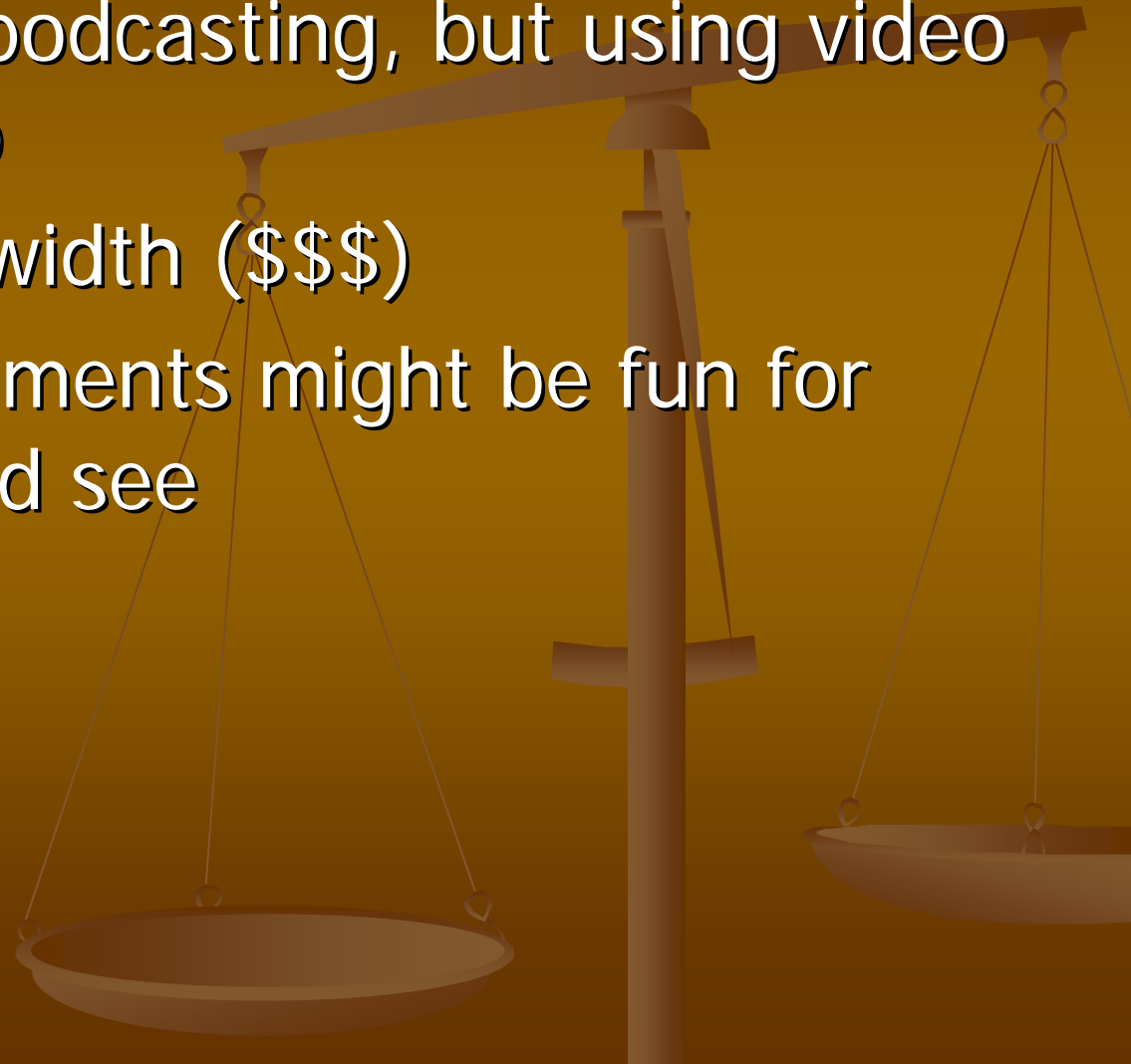
Conferencing

- Via MSN Messenger & netmeeting
- Via skype
- Other methods as well.

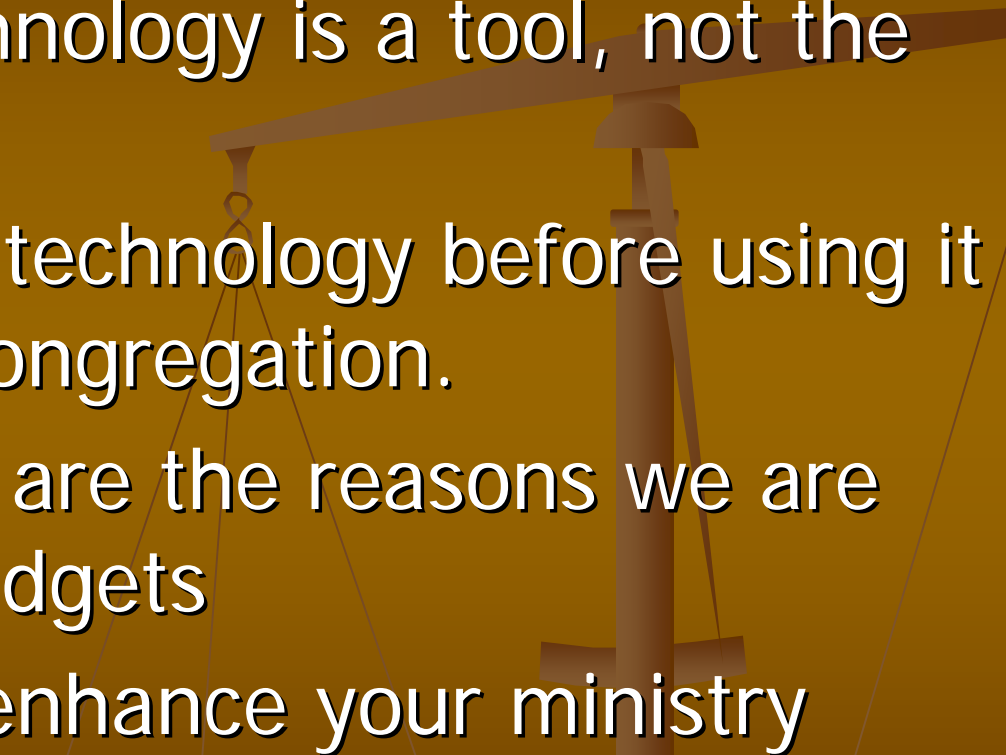


Video Casting

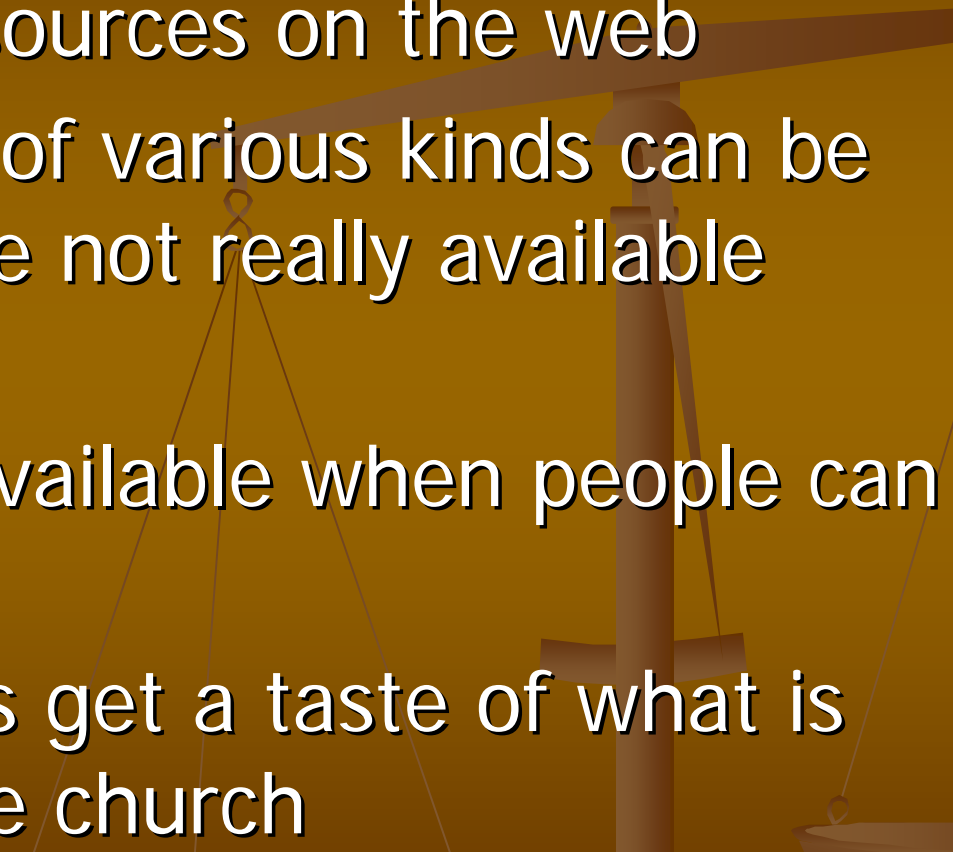
- Very similar to podcasting, but using video as well as audio
- Very high bandwidth (\$\$\$)
- But in short segments might be fun for people to do and see



Principles for using the technology

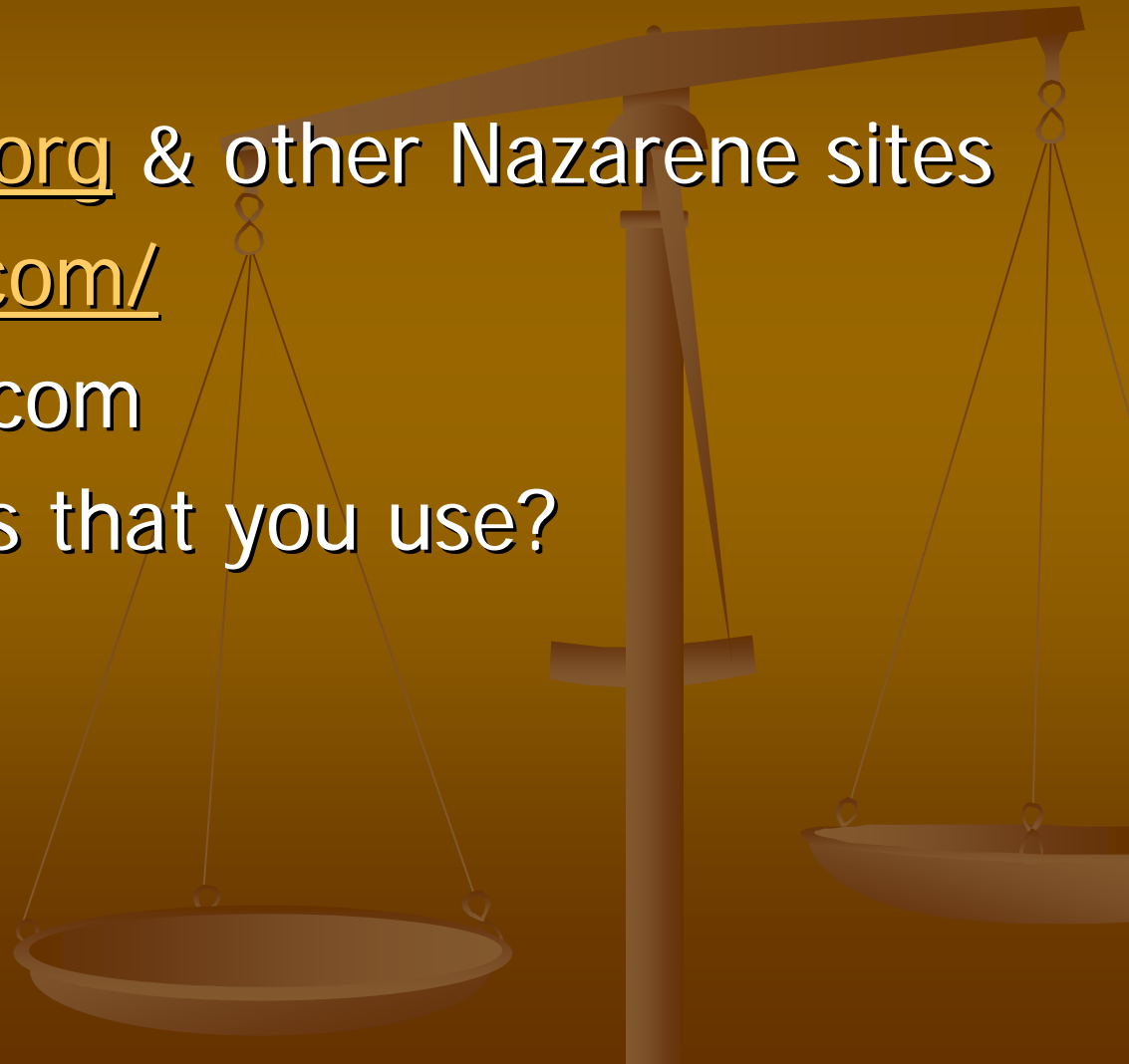
- Remember, technology is a tool, not the message.
 - Get used to the technology before using it in front of the congregation.
 - People and God are the reasons we are here, not the gadgets
 - Let technology enhance your ministry
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How IT can enhance ministry

- Lots of good resources on the web
 - Communication of various kinds can be done which were not really available before.
 - Information is available when people can get it
 - Letting outsiders get a taste of what is happening in the church
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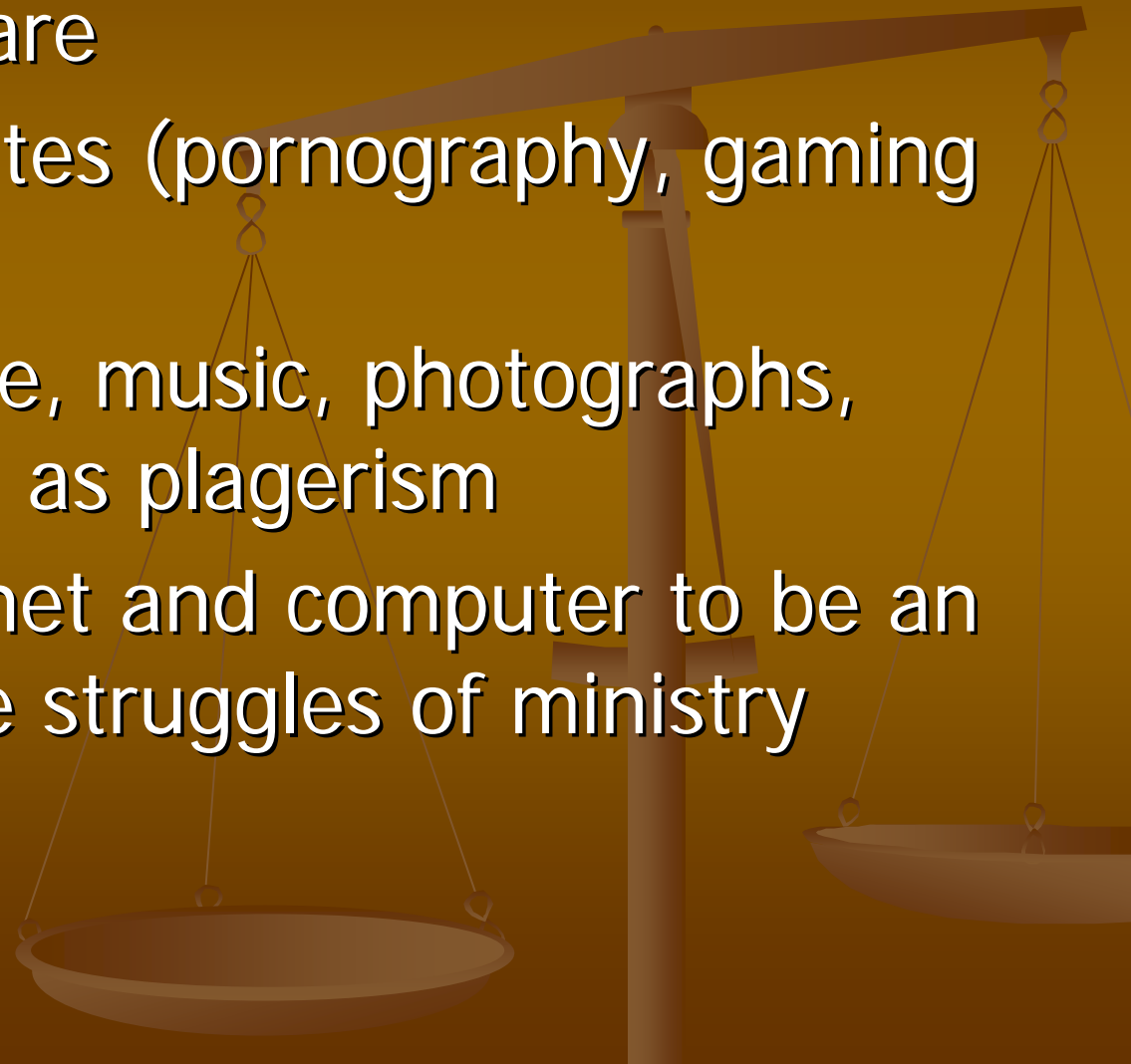
Some helpful sites

- www.aont.org
- www.nazarene.org & other Nazarene sites
- www.mmiblog.com/
- www.textweek.com
- Any special sites that you use?



Dangers

- Viruses & spyware
- Inappropriate sites (pornography, gaming sites)
- Pirating software, music, photographs, etc. Also known as plagerism
- Using the Internet and computer to be an escape from the struggles of ministry

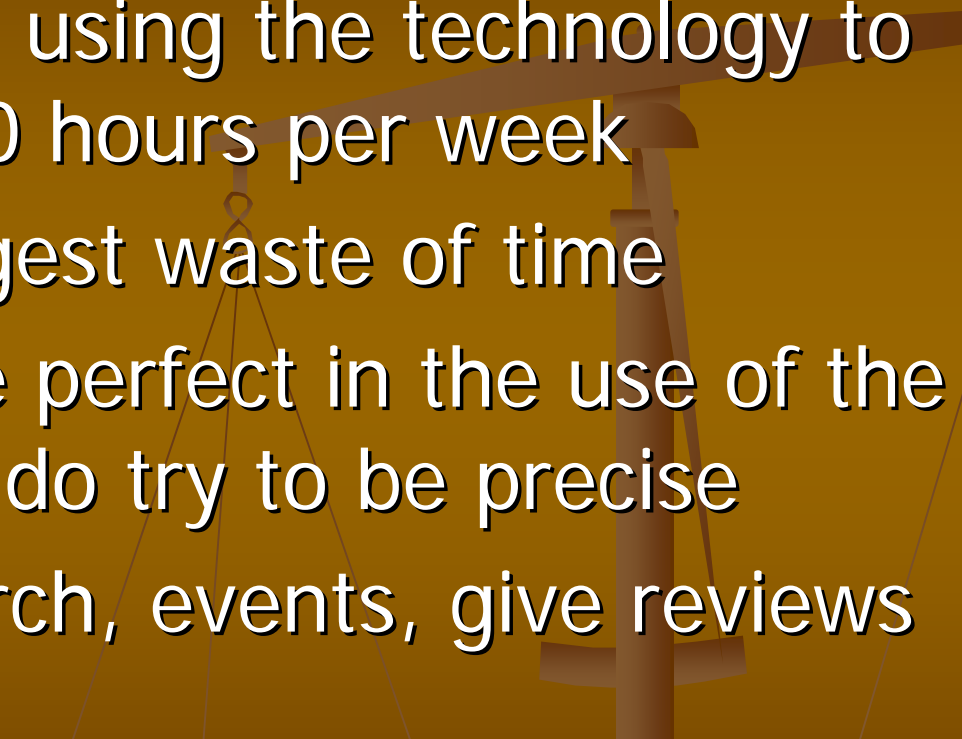


Safeguards

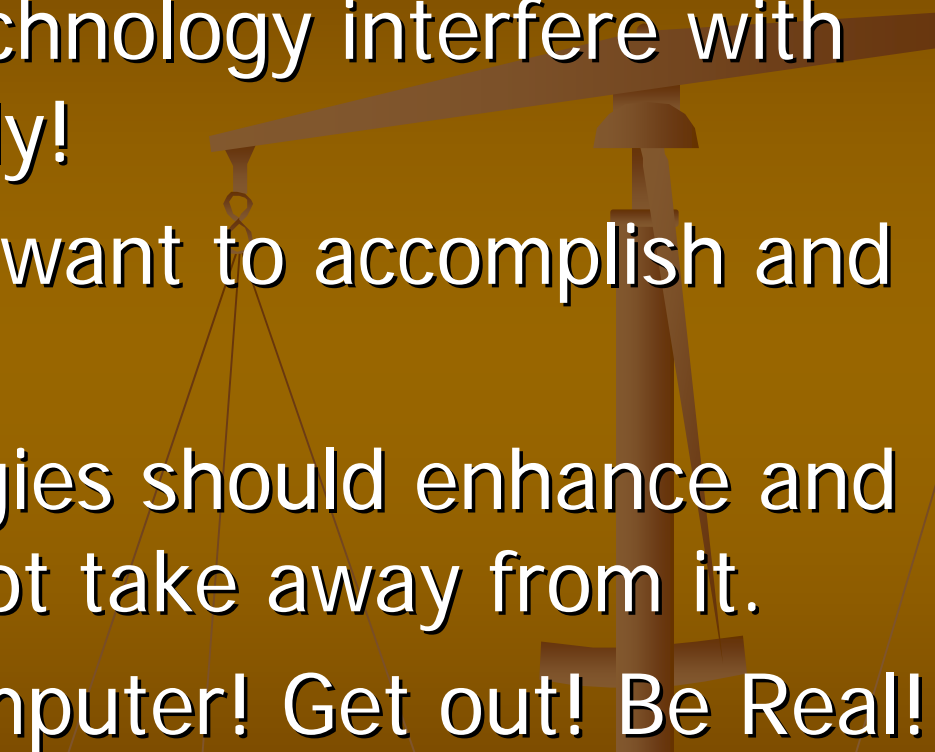
- Virus protection
- Spyware protection
- Content filters for pornography & gaming sites
- Accountability system & in use!



Some random thoughts and insights

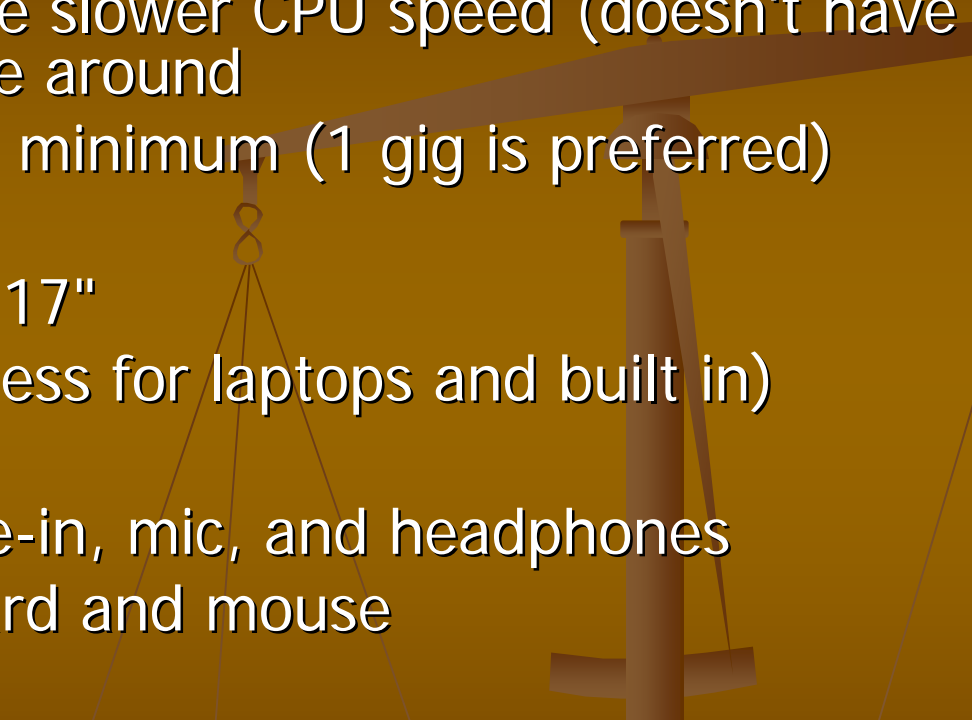
- Limit time spent using the technology to no more than 20 hours per week
 - Email is the biggest waste of time
 - Don't seek to be perfect in the use of the technology, but do try to be precise
 - Blog your research, events, give reviews of activities
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More random thoughts

- Don't let the technology interfere with ministry or family!
 - Know what you want to accomplish and have a plan
 - These technologies should enhance and help ministry, not take away from it.
 - Turn off the computer! Get out! Be Real!
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Recommendations

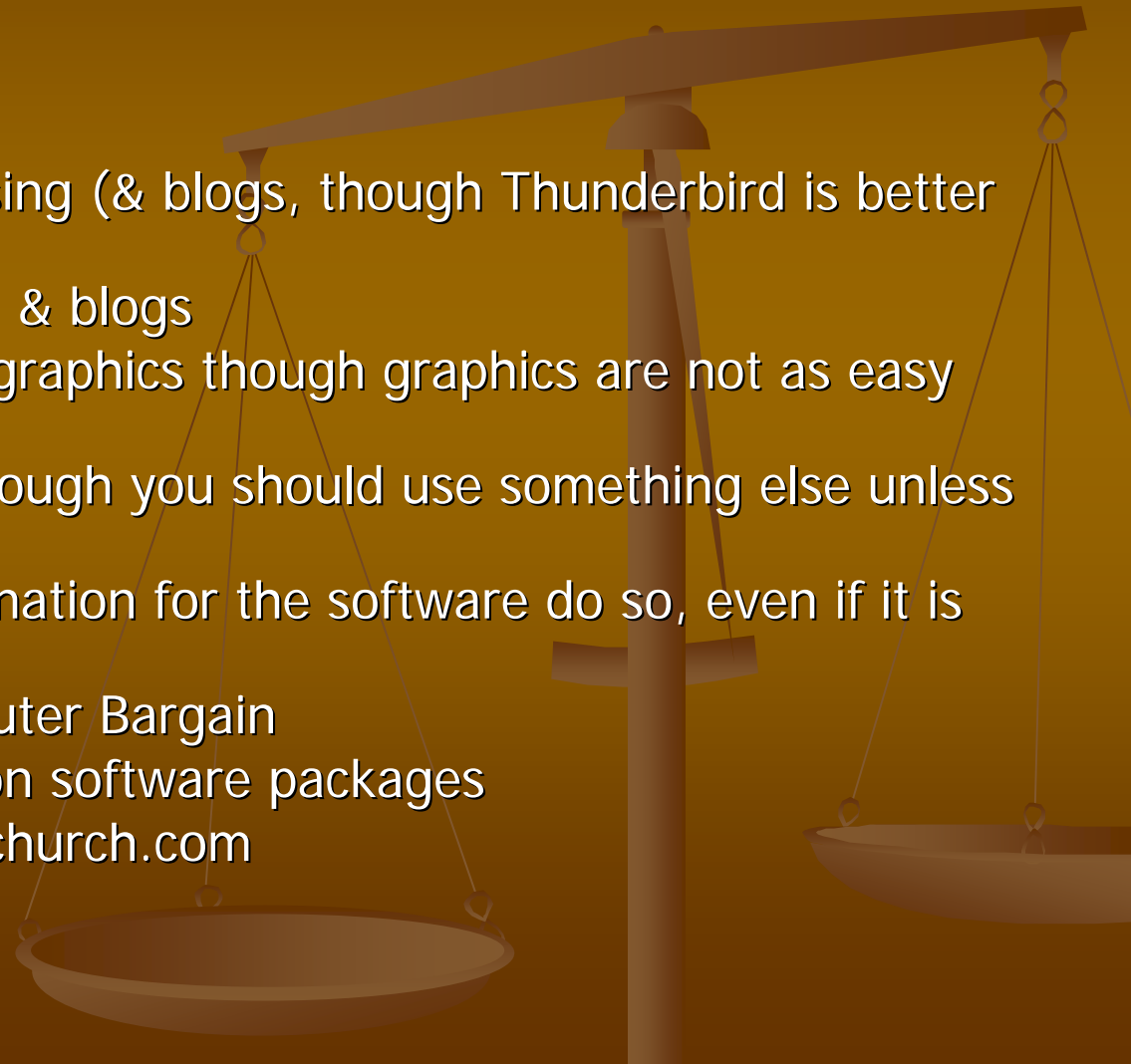
■ Hardware

- A PC or Mac with the slower CPU speed (doesn't have to be the fastest one around)
 - 512megs of RAM as minimum (1 gig is preferred)
 - 80 Gig HD
 - Flat screen monitor 17"
 - Network Card (wireless for laptops and built in)
 - DVD reader/writer
 - Sound card with line-in, mic, and headphones
 - Comfortable keyboard and mouse
 - USB Key drive
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Recommendations

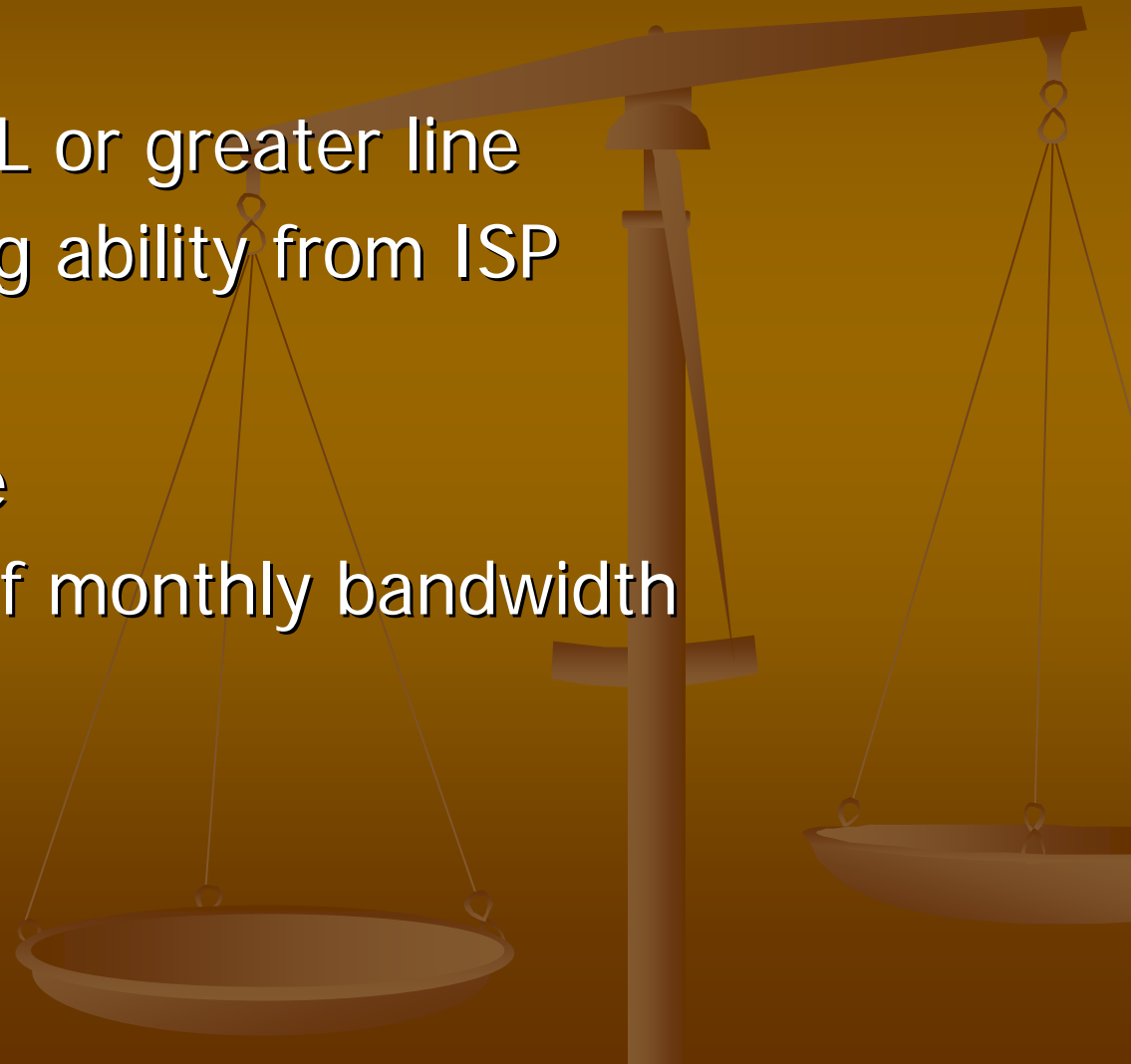
■ Software

- Open Source
- Office like programs
- Firefox for web browsing (& blogs, though Thunderbird is better suited)
- Thunderbird for email & blogs
- Gimp for Photos and graphics though graphics are not as easy as it looks
- Nvu for web pages though you should use something else unless you are a techie
- If you can make a donation for the software do so, even if it is only \$1
- Use Consistent Computer Bargain
- Can get good prices on software packages
- Use xwatch from xxxchurch.com



Recommendations

- Internet
 - Try to get a DSL or greater line
 - Look for filtering ability from ISP
- Website
 - Enough storage
 - Good amount of monthly bandwidth



Recommendation

- Blogging, Podcasting, Video casting
 - Starting doing it
 - Get at least a Blogger.com or Wordpress.com account
 - Wordpress on your own site is better, imho

