Computers and Communications Technology Blessings!

By Sam Beatty, President, Automation Concepts Company and His Staff Members

Computer and communications technology could be looked upon as one of the many blessings given by God to us. They are both tools that can multiply to many times the speed of what our own hands can do, both in creativity and in our productivity.

The Fear Factor – Many people have technophobia, or in other words, fear of using technology. This fear is very real in many people we have encountered in over 13 years of business. The issues that cause fear with the use of technology can be easily overcome with good training and assistance from a knowledgeable and honest consultant. Just remember, technology is a creation of man, and while it can break or be used for bad purposes, it is not a living and breathing thing! No one needs to worry about what it will or will not do, nor its feelings or well being! It is to be used, and the more it gets used to accomplish the tedious and costly tasks of your every day life, the more time and resources you will have to put toward good things.

Some of the many blessings that are realized today through computer and communications technology are:

The Internet, permitting instantaneous access to information and resources on just about anything and everything.

For example, you can find the electronic version of this publication by going to www.churchguide.com, and do other things like setting up electronic mail for daily devotionals from your favorite pastor!

Software, tiny, step by step processes that are followed in an extremely rapid fashion (millions of steps per second), built into complex sequences to accomplish productive, real world tasks. For example, an Internet web browser like Internet Explorer is a software application that allows you to view information, communicate, and do activities such as online shopping with other people and businesses around the globe. This software application works very quickly to present, interact, and transmit back and forth the information needed by both parties. There are hundreds of thousands of software applications like this running on computers all over the world, accomplishing millions of productive tasks at any point in time. Truly an amazing blessing!

Personal Video and Voice Communications, allowing us to interact with anyone else in the world in "real" time. This requires both ends to have compatible technology, and both parties need to be on a broadband connection with unrestricted access to these forms of communication. Rather than typing a letter and mailing it, waiting a

Computer Communication...

few weeks for it to reach its destination, and then waiting weeks for the other party to respond, we now can communicate with our friends, families, and business associates with live video and voice, internationally, almost as if the other party were in the same room.

Online Transactions, allowing efficient use of our natural resources to obtain almost anything we need and also, to accomplish other financial transactions without ever having to leave our desks.

Electronic mail, the instantaneous ability to communicate with someone else in writing. Very much the same as real time voice and video and important where written communications are needed for archival and legal purposes. In addition, Email is a tremendous blessing for time-shifting to avoid the interruptions that in person, and real-time voice and video communications may pose.

Tele-Commuting, the process of accomplishing useful, and productive work for pay, from pretty much any place on the planet you have a computer and Internet access. Businesses should, and a lot do, encourage and utilize this wonderful technology to reduce the use of natural resources used for commuting to and from places of business. Reducing consumption therefore reduces pollution and damage to the environment, and will go a long way to preserve the nature of the planet which God put us in

charge to take care of. Reducing the overall time necessary to get back and forth to work also leaves more time for parents to be with their children and people in general giving their time and resources to help others in need!

For example, a one hour local meeting 10 miles away, face to face vs. video teleconference via Internet on computer

Travel = .60x20 miles round trip - $12 vehicle
expenses (not including cost of your time to maintain it)
Time = 40 minutes round trip = .67hrs*$25/hr =$16.75
Total Waste = $28.75, an additional **57%** expense to meet in person, not considering the damage of the extra pollution put into our environment.

This is strong encouragement for all of us to think about how to engage computers and communications technology wherever possible in our everyday lives to reduce wasted time and use of our God given natural resources.

We need not fear the use computers and other forms of technology nearly as much as fearing our own lack of being good stewards of our planet. Computers and communications technology are one of the best ways we can be positive and low-impact inhabitants, while continuing to enjoy our blessings of creativity and productivity.

COMPUTER SERVICES