

How to Build an Effective Website

For under a \$100



www.crosswalk.cc

- 1. Necessary Components:** three things to have a website
 - a. A domain name (a URL or address that's type into a browser)
 - b. A hosting package (a "mailbox" that holds your information)
 - c. Data – the information on the site (mail in the mailbox)

2. Getting a domain name and hosting package: To avoid a lapse in coverage and a transfer fee, the domain name and hosting package has to be purchased by the same provider. A reputable, inexpensive, user-friendly hosting site is www.GoDaddy.com. The basic package costs \$5/month and they offer excellent customer support. Email addresses with the domain name are included for free.
(mark.morrow@hotmail.com vs mark.morrow@crosswalk.cc)

3. Data: In order to avoid exorbitant design fees, followed by costly managing fees, one should acquire a program that facilitates easy creation and management. This way, one does not lose control of the information that appears on the sight.

- a. Templates:** professionally designed that allows plenty of customization can be purchased for \$50-\$100 at www.christiantemplatesonline.com. To get the Joomla 1.5 template, the cost is only \$50-\$100. These webpages are already professionally designed, but allow as much customization as the creator is willing to experiment with.

- b. **Free online managing software:** Go to www.joomla.com.
As easy to edit as a Microsoft Word document.
- c. **Free online image editing software:** Go to www.gimp.org.
Use to edit logos, web buttons, etc. (Can be used in other applications for the church as well.)

4. Web Designer: A pastor can design his own with the tools listed above, but we suggest recruiting a student under 20 years old. They tend to be more savvy with technology than adults.

The CrossWalk website featured above cost less than \$100 and was designed by a 21-yr-old college student attending the church. It was his first and only website he ever designed.

For any more questions, submit your request to www.crosswalk.cc.