Adding Security and Communication to Churches

THE SCENARIO

There was a network of churches in the southern region of the US that were part of the same congregation. Entrances were kept unlocked during normal hours, which allowed the public to enter at will. Unfortunately, church members and visitors were experiencing a surge of violent acts against them, ranging from disgruntled disruptions to violent shooters. Anyone with malicious intent could randomly walk into any one of their churches and wreak havoc or create chaos. This concerned the congregation to the point where they began locking all entrances 24/7.

Keeping church entrances locked during normal hours had a downside; they became less accessible and welcoming to the public. People could not simply enter these churches anymore. They now had to wait for someone from the congregation to let them inside. Even worse, visitors who knocked for access would interrupt important sermons or events taking place.

The congregation wanted a quick and simple way to allow authorized members to enter their networked churches. More importantly, they wanted to identify and record any visitors before unlocking the entrance without interrupting those already inside.

THE SOLUTION

The church congregation selected a combination of an IP video intercom and an access control system. Congregants could enter their respective churches by using their authorized codes.

A full-time administrator was assigned to answer door station calls when church access was requested. Having one person screen calls for all locations eliminated daily interruptions.

When the public requested access using a door station, the video camera recorded the interaction. Not only did the video intercom deter criminal activity with its recording capability, but it also allowed staff to discreetly determine a visitor's intent before unlocking the entrance.
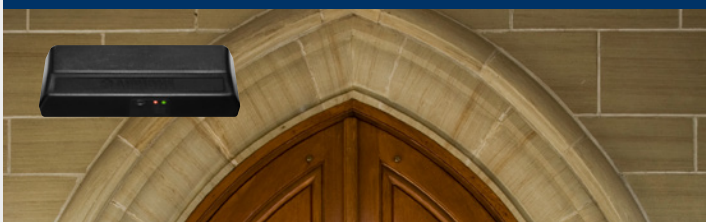
With recording capabilities, the IP intercom deterred criminal activity while allowing staff to identify anyone who requested access.

Entrances (Outdoor)

Congregants could easily access their respective church using authorized credentials, while public visitors could be identified with the video intercom before staff unlocked the door to let them inside.

Administrator Desk

THE BENEFITS

- Exterior keypads and authorized credentials gave personnel a convenient way to unlock the entrance, allowing them to quickly access their church

- IP video intercom provided a method for the public to request access

- Recording interactions at the entrances helped deter vandalism and other criminal violence

- Public visitors were safely screened by staff before allowing them inside to worship or participate in any church activities

- Having a full-time administrator dedicated to answering calls from visitors at any church location eliminated interruptions while still being accessible to the public

Entrances (Indoor)

System Configuration Example

Aiphone Components

IP Video Door Station x 12

1-Gang Bluetooth® and NFC™ Reader with Access Keypad x 12

IP Video Master Station x 12

System Management Software x 1

PoE Access Controller x 12

Application was for a network of 12 churches within the same shared network. Diagram represents the church with the administrator who screened visitors.

Entrances (Outdoor)

Entrances (Indoor)

Compact controller was easily installed near the door.

Equipment Room

PoE Switch

Administrator Desk

Before granting access, visitors could be screened and recorded using the master station.

User-friendly software provided flexible options with a modern interface.

PC

Visitors could request access using the door station while the keypad made it convenient for congregates to enter their church using authorized credentials.

Explore *more* unique possibilities on our Solution Showcase page.

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