

First Baptist Atlanta/In Touch Ministries

First Baptist Atlanta and In Touch Ministries are two expansive facilities, covering twenty-one acres, located in Atlanta Georgia. The church (FBA) was established in 1848 and has a membership of more than 12,000 people.

Dr. Charles F. Stanley is the founder and president of In Touch Ministries, whose "In Touch" radio and television programs have been translated into more than 100 languages. He has also been senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, since 1971. He has twice been elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention and is a New York Times best-selling author.

Challenge:

Dan Hooper & Glenda Smith of Mobile Communications visited In Touch ministries to present them with information about a new technology called Moto-Trbo that could greatly benefit an organization of this magnitude.

Previously, In Touch Ministries and FBA had been utilizing two different analog systems with inefficiencies and limited growth. These systems did not meet their expectations for future expansion or provide necessary interoperability between their two different locations. They were constantly dealing with dead spots, and could not communicate from one facility to the other.

Because of the heavy traffic in both facilities, they needed an application that would enhance the ability to reach key personnel at all times and offer visitors a sense of safety.

Solution:

The Moto-Trbo solution answered their problems. They purchased two repeaters for each location and about 100 portable radios. Since Moto-Trbo repeaters have two channels (instead of the conventional one), the organization now has four different channels to work with. They are currently in the process of IP site connecting the two locations.

Benefits:

In order to produce their television program, In Touch Ministries has a Mobile Broadcast Center that also has a Moto Trbo Digital repeater. This vehicle can travel to any part of the country and with satellite internet connection interfaced into the Moto-Trbo repeater, any personnel carrying a Moto Trbo radio within two miles of the mobile can communicate with their facilities in Atlanta.

They are also in the process of hooking up 10 control stations throughout the First Baptist Facility that will be used to send emergency messages via panic alert buttons strategically located in key areas. This is a great safety feature. If an individual in the ticket booth, cafeteria, or bookstore, for example, feels there is a threat, he can press a button that sends an emergency text to designated portables. In this way, they are able to get assistance quickly and discretely.

Along with the four channels they can use simultaneously, they also have Digital simplex channels programmed in all radios. This enhances system redundancy and gives them the capability to communicate around the repeaters. If, for some reason, all repeaters were to fail, they can still communicate via the simplex channels. Communication among key personnel and first responders is paramount in order to provide safety and security to the employees and visitors.

Other Benefits of using MotoTrbo include the capability to turn a dial on their radio and communicate with the police. Interoperability allows two different technologies to communicate with each other, thus creating enhanced and more responsive communications.

Digital technology gives them extreme clarity—users will not have to repeat themselves due to static as it only recognizes one voice. Other noises are filtered out making communications clear.

The battery life of MotoTrbo is much longer because the digital technology does not draw on the battery as much as analog radios. These batteries will hold a charge up to 18 hours. The radios will operate throughout three eight-hour work shifts, rather than needing to be charged every eight hours.

Future growth potential is another benefit. MotoTrbo provides software enhancements as new applications come aboard, such as GPS, telemetry, work order software, text messaging, telephone interconnect, and many other capabilities. This system is designed to grow with First Baptist Atlanta and In Touch Ministries and helps guard against non-obsolescence.

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