



BROADCASTERS

2.1

PASTOR

Robert Smith

Seashore Church, Bro. Raymond Tyler Jr has a Sunday morning show in Atlantic City NJ

2.2

CHURCHES THAT ARE BROADCASTING ONLINE

Ephesus, Richmond, VA (<http://churchpond.com>)

First Paterson Church, Paterson, NJ (<http://churchpond.com>)

Hillcrest Church Port Murray, NJ (<http://churchpond.com>)

Metropolitan Hyattville, MD (<http://www.praizevision.com>)

Miracle Temple Baltimore, MD (<http://www.praizevision.com>)

Mt. Olivet Camden, New Jersey (<http://churchpond.com>)

Pine Forge Church, Pine Forge, PA (<http://www.praizevision.com>)

Sharon Church, Baltimore, MD (<http://www.praizevision.com>)

IF YOU USE A WIRELESS MICROPHONE THIS IS A MUST READ

Quick note from TFWM Audio Advisor, Vance Breshears:

While there are many topics that would be worth writing about, probably the most pressing current issue in our industry involves wireless microphones and potential interference problems with a new generation of personal wireless broadband devices. These devices are currently being developed and are designed to work in the 700MHz band. Just this past November, the FCC has, in principal, approved the unused portions or "white spaces" within this band for these not-yet-developed personal devices. While these devices are supposed to be "smart" and use only frequencies where they will not interfere with any local digital TV broadcasts, they could, potentially interfere with wireless microphones programmed in these frequencies.

The White Spaces Coalition (WSC) is made up of heavy hitters including Microsoft, Google, Dell, HP, Intel, Philips, Earthlink and Samsung, among some other anonymous companies. Obviously the audio industry is a small speck on this large conglomerate radar screen. This is an issue that had not been resolved and might someday sneak up and surprise some people when they suddenly have issues. But it is not all doom and gloom and Y2K all over again. Many wireless microphones don't work in this part of the spectrum and some of those that do may still work ok. But nobody really seems to know for sure because the devices aren't yet fully developed.

This is an issue that will require wireless users to stay informed and see how things play out. For more detailed information or to find out the latest updates, check your favorite wireless microphone manufacturer's website as well as other industry organization websites including www.infocomm.org. Several of the wireless manufacturers are talking about potential rebate or buy-back programs so do the

research and figure out the best course of action for your systems.

full article can be found at: www.sound-technology.com

What happens to existing wireless equipment in houses of worship after February 19th, 2009 - do churches have to buy all new gear?

Chris Lyons: As the auctioned portion of the spectrum gradually begins to be used in 2009 and beyond, some users operating on frequencies above 698 MHz may begin to notice interference. Newer frequency-agile systems can (in some cases) be retuned to lower frequencies that are in the TV band; older fixed-frequency systems will probably need to be retired. The FCC has not made a decision regarding new devices operating in the White Spaces, so the impact on wireless systems operating below 698 MHz is not yet clear.

Rob Rothschild: That will depend on their location and on the UHF bands they are currently using. Wireless mics in the 700 MHz band will need to be either modified or replaced, and it is quite possible that mics using the rest of the TV bands will experience unpredictable interference. Users who have already moved to alternative bands are immune to the TV-based problems found in the UHF bands.

If you or your church have a broadcast ministry or would like to start a broadcast ministry please contact Pastor R. Reeves at rreeves@myallegheycast.com

Q&A

White Spaces and Wireless Microphones Panelists:

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After the auctioning process, what are some examples of the new devices that will be operating in the Auctioned Spectrum (above 698 MHz) frequency band?

Lyons: Most of the auctioned spectrum was purchased by national or regional service providers who plan to use it for mobile data devices (laptop wireless access cards, etc.) or mobile video (such as Verizon's Vcast service and Sprint's MediaFlo service). Most of these services will not "go live" until late 2009 or early 2010.

Savanyu: Part of the 700 MHz band is allocated for public safety communications. The other blocks will likely be sold to communications companies and data networks looking for spectrum to be used with wireless broadband networks.

What are some resources available to churches that can help them sort out their own specific concerns?

Rothschild: The FCC web site has plenty of information, including channel allocations by geographic territory, but it is difficult to use. Their DTV site (<http://www.dtv.gov/>) is

somewhat easier. Some wireless manufacturers have information on their web sites, while others appear to be ignoring this issue.

Ciaudelli: The frequency finder on www.sennheiserusa.com. Also our help desk at any of our offices worldwide.

Lyons: Houses of worship should take inventory of their wireless gear and investigate the local DTV channel plan that will take effect in February 2009. Then they should discuss options with the manufacturer and the company that sold and/or installed the equipment. Due to the wide variety of equipment in use and the different spectrum usage patterns in different parts of the U.S., every user's situation is somewhat unique.

Are wireless microphones going to become illegal or stop working in 2009?

Winkler: This is unclear at the moment. Earlier language from the FCC indicated that they expected the auctioned spectrum to be "vacated by current users". However, low-power TV broadcasts like repeaters, etc. appear to be waived. Our interpretation now is that the FCC has softened their view on this and just like today, where wireless mic users are not supposed to interfere with TV broadcasts, we'll probably see similar language.

Are other bands (like 900 MHz or 2.4 GHz) available for use by wireless microphones? What other kinds of devices operate in those bands?

Lyons: Wireless microphones are permitted to operate in several different frequency bands, including 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz. These bands are also used by a wide variety of consumer, commercial, and industrial wireless equipment, from wireless security cameras to Bluetooth headsets to WiFi hotspots. The "wireless population density" of these bands is actually much greater than the TV bands, even with the addition of new device.

Keep Updated

Make sure to keep checking all of the resources provided by these manufacturers, new posts on the FCC's site, related blogs, etc.