

Y05 — Going Live

They said yes. They saw the site, and they love it. Now comes the meeting where the thing on your screen becomes a thing on the internet - and two conversations that make this ministry what it is.

First, the rule that guards everything: their yes comes before going live. Liking the link you texted is not the same as saying yes, put this on the internet as our official website. So the first thing that happens is one more contact - usually your leader makes it, sometimes with you on the call - confirming three things. One, you want this live. Two, here is everything on it, look it over one more time and tell us anything that is wrong - a digit in the phone number, an old service time, a name spelled almost right. Three, is there anything you want changed before the world sees it? Fix whatever they mention; it usually takes the AI thirty seconds.

And during that same conversation comes the first of the two special asks. This one is called the powered-by ask, and I want you to learn it word for word, because it is a gift to YOUR ministry and the owner gets to give it. At the bottom of every site we build, there is one small line that says: powered by the youth of - your church - built free and kept online by donations to their ministry, with a link back to your church. Here is the ask: Would you like the bottom of the site to mention that it was built by our youth group? It links back to our church and helps people find out about what we do.

If they say yes - and almost everyone says yes, because people love telling this story - that little line becomes a quiet missionary. Every visitor who scrolls to the bottom of the bakery's website finds your church. Some of them click. Some of them show up. Some of them have a business with no website, and guess who they call. One line, at the bottom of someone else's site, working for your ministry

every single day.

If they say no, hear this clearly: the line comes off, completely, cheerfully, and the gift does not shrink one inch. The prompt book has the exact message to remove it. We never sneak credit onto someone's site. A gift with a hidden string is not a gift.

Then your leader does the actual launch. You will watch, and honestly it is a little anticlimactic in the best way - the work is saved, a couple of buttons get clicked on the hosting service, and a minute later there is a real address on the real internet with their name at the top. Before anyone gets excited, one of you runs the safety check one final time, and your leader pulls the site up on a phone - not the computer, a phone, because that is how most of their customers will see it.

Then comes the handoff, and do not skip this, because this is the moment that feels like ministry. Someone - ideally the kid who made the call - sends or tells the owner: your website is live, here is the address, it is yours. If you ever want something changed, here is the church's contact, and we will take care of it. You will get a reply to that message that somebody should screenshot for the youth room wall.

One question always comes up: what about the second special ask - the donation? Patience. That conversation deserves its own lesson, and it works best a little after the launch, when they have had time to see their site working and field the first wow, you have a website now from a customer.

Your build for this meeting: launch day itself. Confirm the yes, make the powered-

by ask and respect the answer, go live, check it on a phone, and deliver the handoff message. Then look around the room for a second, because your group just changed something permanent about your town.