

What's It Like to Use Shelby Arena?

[Mount Paran North Church of God](#) in Marietta, GA is a large, thriving ministry that focuses on its members and spreading the word of God. Shelby's Marketing Manager, [Maggie Canady](#), sat down to talk to Mount Paran North's IT Director, Ed Stone, about what it is like working with Shelby's Arena software and how it has made a difference in his work. When he isn't spending time with his family, reading a book or watching a good movie, Stone is at the church making sure everything is running smoothly.

When asked how Arena has helped in the IT Department, Stone said that he really loves that it integrates so easily with the church website. "We are really starting to see the power in letting people sign up for an event online where everything is available to us and can be followed up on. We chose Arena because of the ability to customize it, as well as the ability to do our reporting the way we want to do it," he said.



Mount Paran North Church of God in Marietta, GA

Stone also mentioned that Mount Paran North uses out-of-the-box reporting from Shelby, as well as additional custom reports developed by the church. "We also use Arena's 'Query to HTML' module and some of the Arena dashboard tools right on our church's website," said Stone.

One of his favorite things about Arena is the Community. This online community connects users of Arena so that they can communicate, ask and answer questions, and provide tips about the software. In one part of the interview, Stone states, "To help give feedback on future features and to get together with the rest of the community to discuss the software has been priceless to us."



Ed Stone

Much like the Community, Arena users have Support available to help them if they need to speak to an Arena-trained professional online or over the phone. "Support has also been priceless. Usually we try to get to the Community first to see if we can find the answers there, but it's nice to know that Support is available at a moment's notice when we need it."

Before we wrap this up, we want to be sure and share an interesting fact about Mr. Stone. Years ago, he came on board at Mount Paran North by working in one of their outreach ministries that involved a Christian band who needed back-up screamers on two of their albums. Since the musicians didn't want to hurt their voices, they had some of the Mount Paran North office staff, including Ed Stone, come into the studio and do recordings. "I can now say that I'm a background screamer on a couple of Christian albums," he joked.

It is always fun to get to talk with and learn more about our customers, and this interview gave us a great opportunity to do that. If you have any questions about Arena or any other Shelby software, please call (800) 877-0222 or email sales@shelbyinc.com.