

The choices you made in the cafeteria resemble the money choices you face today.

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Video memorials offer lasting eulogies

Combining photos and music on a DVD or tape is a comforting service for the bereaved.

By Neal Gandler
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Alan Naumann left a full-time ministry 17 years ago, but he's still doing pastoral work, most of it in his video-editing suite.

Although he is a volunteer preacher at a small Minneapolis church, he makes his living as a videographer. Naumann's work includes shooting videos

of weddings, events, industrial videos and commercials. But what has made him successful is "memorial" videos — five to six minutes that review a dead person's life in 30 photos, music playing softly as one photo dissolves into another.

"My whole philosophy of life has been one of service," said Naumann, 59, formerly pastor of an Evangelical Free Church in

Minneapolis. "My background definitely has helped. I know the importance of an attention-grabbing introduction, and I know the importance of pacing."

His business, Video Home Services/Memory Vision, has evolved from videotape to DVDs and has grown to production of more than 200 memorial videos a year.

In addition, Naumann sells a two-disk set teaching other videographers how to create similar products. It's called "Parental Videos: Business Everlasting."

Beyond knowing the importance of sensitivity when dealing with the bereaved, he knows the technology — how to stream video over the Internet, restore photos for a memorial video, edit photos and music onto a DVD, and do it all in 24 hours.

Or sometimes less: Last week, he produced a video for Becky Bauer of St. Paul in a little more than 14 hours.

FUNERAL continues on D6:
— Initial memorial video costs \$125; added copies are less.



Alan Naumann of south Minneapolis edited a group of photographs to be used in a memorial video for the family of a St. Paul man who recently died.

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