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Christians, the Minority

By Joyce C. Lock

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It was recently published that the Christian Community is taking over the net. I thought, "Yes! It's about time they noticed!"

But, sadly, another report came. It said that Christians have used the Internet to single-handedly restore the love for poetry. But, it has not reached the lost world.

Perhaps, the Christian Community became the minority because of our own doing. We were called to be in the world, without being like the world, to be a testimony in the midst of them – not to separate from opportunity to minister to the world (Philippians 2:15), except in the event of an evil we need to personally get away from. How can they, otherwise, hear?

Scripture makes reference to sowing beside all waters, Isaiah 32:20.

A way that applies for writers is to submit writings to whomever is interested (the highways and byways of the Internet), with the exception of X-rated sites. The only reason for eliminating those is because writings would be perverted, wherein God wouldn't get the glory. Though, we can still sow beside those waters, without going inside. Go to the highways and hedges, where others dare not tread.

One way writers can compel them, via the Internet, is to include a link to more of their writings, which will draw some to where they can further be ministered. Utilizing your talents, you might have other ideas.

There is neither Jew or Greek, bond or free ... red, yellow, black or white ... Protestant, Catholic, Indian, Hindu ... they're all trying to find their way to God. All things were created by Him and for Him. Our God is the God of the corn, of the wheat, of the rain ... the one in whom all things consist! But, Jesus was an anti-religionist. He went directly to the source because THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.

Regardless of what another faith believes (if our writings do not create offense), we can cross religious barriers to submit to them ~ until we all come into unity of faith. Likewise, we can share their

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non-offensive writings, because, however we serve, it is still the same God. No one religion has all the answers. If we separate from everything not like us, we lose the opportunity to learn from other faiths, also.

We stand sure on what God has revealed to us, unwavering. Though, if we keep an open mind, we just might find that there is more to God than any of us had considered.

Another verse refers to our freedom in the inhabitable part of the earth, Proverbs 8:31. If a site offers Halloween stationery, it is my conviction to not download those. But, if you want to be legal about it and dismiss the rest of their wonderful creations, you'll miss a blessing. God created all things, the part that is habitable (as a testimony to Him) we can use.

However, there was an occasion wherein I was even able to use skeleton stationery, as it fit a writing against the hazards of drinking. We limit God when we tell Him what He believes before we hear it from Him. There is a habitable part.

Early Christians didn't want to give up their festive traditions. Thus, those that could be turned into a blessing for God were adapted, converting to Christian Holidays.

We still have that option, today. Whatever Satan meant for evil, God means for good. If we don't see the connection of how to use evil for good, we're free to move on. In such case, we either aren't listening or God may not be calling us to it. But, if we see the connection, we're free to walk in the Spirit; following Christ.

Being that not everyone is a writer, your opportunities may be different. We're not all called and gifted in the same way or to the same things. But, to keep an open mind until we've heard from God, our ministry can reach more for the Lord. That is the key.

If you want to build a ministry that will withstand the Gates of Hell,
Seek the Master Builder.

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Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:
except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.
Psalm 127:1

<http://our.homewithgod.com/heavenlyinspirations/heavenlyinspirations-intro.htm>
This writing may be used in its entirety, with credits in tact,
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In addition to being a published author and poet, Joyce C. Lock created the religion column, "Christianity Made Simple" for Peru Daily Tribune, continues to write inspirational articles for area newspapers, and shares further in online and e-mail ministries.

Christian Debt Management

By Talbert Williams

Many Christians are uncomfortable with the idea of having debt, and having debt that is out of control makes the situation even worse. Many Christians feel that it is simply unacceptable to owe money, even for something as fundamental as a mortgage or an automobile. Other Christians feel that debt for living expenses is acceptable, provided that such debt is not "excessive."

Each individual's beliefs are their own, but no one enjoys being indebted to anyone else. A relatively recent development in the financial assistance industry is the introduction of debt consolidation and credit counseling firms that specialize in helping Christians with manage their problem debt.

Agencies that specialize in helping Christians with their problem debt are aware of these concerns, since such agencies are usually founded and operated by people who are Christians themselves. These agencies can assist with debt consolidation, and help their clients establish a schedule for debt repayment while still taking into consideration issues such as tithing.

In addition, some agencies can also provide spiritual counseling that may help their clients work through various issues relating to problem debt. All of this is done in a way that tries to be consistent with the teachings and precepts established in the Bible.

Most creditors are aware that debtors who enter a debt consolidation or credit counseling program are doing so in good faith and fully intend to pay their debts. Many creditors become more willing to negotiate more favorable repayment terms to such clients in hopes of avoiding the significant expenses of turning delinquent accounts over to collection agencies or waiting out the often drawn-out process of bankruptcy filings.

Those agencies that are experienced in assisting Christians with their problem debt are aware of these things and they have experience negotiating with creditors in order to work out a favorable settlement for their clients. They can help renegotiate loans, reduce interest rates, establish a more favorable repayment schedule or perhaps help you obtain a debt consolidation or home equity loan.

Many, if not most, of these firms work as nonprofit agencies; they are in business for the sole purpose of assisting other Christians to get their lives back in order.

If you are a Christian with a debt problem and you would feel more comfortable doing business with others who share your faith, you may wish to consult with a debt agency that specializes in helping other Christians.

Talbert Williams offers debt consolidation, debt reduction, credit card debt referrals and advice. For more information, articles, news, tools and valuable resources on debt solutions, visit this site:



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