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Direct Talk On What Produces Sales

By Joe Bingham

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I am now going to speak frankly and directly about what it takes to make money in an Internet business. Traditionally, that is not done, but I've pretty much had it with some of the 'traditions' of online business.

Many times during my first months on the Internet, I started to doubt whether I would ever make any money at it.

Every time I felt I was doing something that should get results, I'd learn another hard lesson about why what I was doing was NOT working.

It took about 4 months before I saw my first dollars, and even then they came few and far between. It took until my 7th month online before I actually turned a profit for the month. Since, I've maintained a profitable business.

Still, I have further goals to achieve before reaching the kind of money we all dream of making.

However, looking back now I can see just how much I have grown and learned. I was so stupid in my early days. It's no wonder I got little sales. Looking back at what I was offering, I wouldn't buy from me either!

I don't claim to be a 'guru' yet by any means, but I do now know a definite truth about the way the Internet works.

To make money, especially consistent money with repeat buyers,

Direct Talk On What Produces Sales

you must have a **UNIQUE WORTH**.

You have to offer what no one else offers or offer a similar but **BETTER** product or service than what others offer.

That sounds oversimplified perhaps, but think about it. When you make a purchase, you want to **KNOW** you are getting the best available, or at least the best available for the price.

That's how you treat other businesses because that's how you have always treated other businesses. You **DEMAND** a good product or service for a good price, **AND** you like to get it from where you

know you can **REGULARLY** find the best product or service for a good price.

That's the way you are as a consumer. That's the way **ALL** consumers are. So, just because you got on the Internet and heard promises of huge, instant riches, do you really think your business is going to be treated any differently?

No! You are just another business in an over crowded setting where regular consumers will blow right by you in search of something familiar with a good product at a good price.

UNLESS, you take hold of your business, **PERSONALIZE** it to stand out among the crowd, add extra features, group other opportunities to make your business unique, offer a better price on a known product, or create a better product.

Hey, this is what we all expect. That is the way businesses in competitive markets run. The Internet is an **EXTREMELY** Competitive Market.

You've seen all the claims about how many people are marketing online. You've seen them used as an example of how big your market can be. Well, guess what? That's also how big your **COMPETITION** will be!

What makes you think you can simply click your way into an affiliate program, slap out one ad, and wind up with a six figure residual income you can go play on for the rest of your life?

Oh yeah, all the ads that said you could, huh? Well, guess what? People **LIE** on the Internet. Yes, I'd dare say 95% of the ads you

see claiming you can make a six figure income are posted by people NOT making a six figure income.

Does this mean it's impossible? No! The Internet is a place of great opportunity. There are huge numbers willing to buy from you WHEN you offer whatever it is those huge numbers believe will be beneficial to them.

That is THE KEY to sales. You MUST offer something of unique worth that will benefit your buyers. From there you can learn how to get traffic to your site. From there you can learn how to write effective sales copy. From there you can learn how to retain customers and get repeat sales.

Until you have that desirable, beneficial, UNIQUE product, service, group of products, or presentation of products, however, sales will not happen.

That's not to say you can't make any money with affiliate programs, but what is it about using the basic affiliate classifieds leading to the basic affiliate web site that is going to make you unique among everyone else?

Nothing.

However, there are ways. Mostly in my articles I talk about running your own business. Next week, though, I'll go into specifics about working affiliate programs and different streams of income to gain profit.

The overall lesson here is a simple one, however. Seek to provide the same kind of quality, unique, worthwhile products or service that YOU demand.

Take a lesson from your own buying habits and apply it to what you are offering.

More related to affiliate program promotion next in this series.

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Use an 'Affiliate Network' to Boost Your Commissions

By David McKenzie

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Most affiliates concentrate exclusively on direct sales. For affiliates this means joining an affiliate program and marketing the product or service through their web site or via email. The affiliate earns a commission for every sale made.

Very few affiliates appear to focus on the 2nd tier.

Most good affiliate programs are 2 tier which means that as well as direct sales you can also build what I call an affiliate network'.

An affiliate network is the ability to get affiliates signed up under you and earn commissions on the sales that those affiliates make.

A common commission structure might be 25% for direct sales and 10% for indirect sales.

As an affiliate you can earn 25% on any sales you make.

Building an affiliate network means you can earn 10% on each sale that each affiliate makes. If you have 100 affiliates in your affiliate network then you can see that a few 10% commissions can quickly surpass the 25% direct commission.

If you have an affiliate network of 100 then you will probably only have 5 to 10 of those affiliates making money for you. The others will make nothing.

However those 5 to 10 affiliates can earn you much higher commissions than you alone can make with direct sales.

It is just like having your own sales force!

Only difference is it's not your product or service.

Becoming successful with affiliate programs need not be all that difficult. One way to make it easier is to build an affiliate network for each of your affiliate programs. It will certainly boost your affiliate commissions.

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