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Hermits Need Not Apply

By Pat Marcello

Are you too shy to strike up conversations with other people? Hmm... What about email, surely

sending someone an email isn't terribly daunting, right? It is? Well, then you're in the wrong business. Network marketing means just what it says. You are a network marketer. That means you need to network, and if you don't do that most important thing, you'll never succeed.

Traffic exchanges are a good place to start honing the art of becoming a good mentor. In most exchanges, when you get a referral into the program, you are notified by the site's admin. This is great because you can take immediate action to assure that you remain on your recruit's mind. If you can't do it immediately, be sure to respond to this alert within 24 hours. Send your referral a private message, if this feature is available at the traffic exchange. If not, send an email, an IM, or even call them on the telephone. I know this isn't everyone's choice, but it works even better than mail. Yet, if you insist on sending a written message of some type, there are dos and don'ts.

In your welcome message, do be sure to thank the person for joining you in the program. Point out places where new members will find help regarding the site, such as to a tutorial or an FAQ section. Tell the person that you will be happy to help, if he or she still has questions, and provide your contact information.

The more ways you give people to reach you, the better. Give them your email address, your IM address, and even your telephone number. If you're reticent about doing that, maybe your cell phone number would seem better. Just remember, you can always change a number, but most folks who call you are just looking for guidance in their own online careers. They're in search of a beacon. You can be that beacon for them, if you don't abuse the privilege.

Sponsors who send an ad for another program in their messages are spamming, pure and simple. Don't do it. Aside from it being against the terms of service in a majority of exchanges, it's just rude. Offer help and guidance and that person will probably join your program anyway, just because you've taken your time to be helpful.

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I can't tell you how many emails I've had, telling me that, "I joined Program XYZ, and my upline sponsor said she'd call, but never has," or "I never knew I had an upline sponsor in XYZ." Well, it's a shame you weren't that person's upline sponsor in that traffic exchange, huh? You probably will be in others, if you just give him or her a little support. It's a cold, cruel World Wide Web out there, folks. Be kind to others, and you are sure to succeed.

Pat Marcello has been building big downlines and has made lots of friends through traffic exchanges. For more tips, visit her at OVMarketing (

<http://ovweb.net>

),

<http://OVEDiting.com>

,

<http://OVBlogger.com>

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My Career As A Hermit

By David Leonhardt

"Work from home. Make big bucks in your pajamas." - typical work-from-home ad.

Quick. What do writers, stay-at-home parents and online marketing geeks have in common? I mean, besides insanity? They are all hermits.

The typical writer locks himself up for years brooding in a dark room, surfacing only long enough to find out who this year's American Idol is. This solitary brooding is supposed to help him develop a keen sense of the human condition.

Stay-at-home parents are prisoners in their own castles, as each child has a different toilet schedule. And a different nap schedule. And a different tantrum schedule. By the time they are all buttoned up in their snowsuits and hopefully not needing the bathroom in the next fifteen minutes, the stores are all closed.

Online marketing geeks sit down to their computer screens in the morning. When they look up, they wonder how it got so dark. The next time they look up, they wonder how it got so light again.

What a sad bunch. What a sorry lot. Who would take on such careers?

I would.

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I'm a writer. I'm a Stay-at-home Dad. I'm an online marketing geek. I'm ... Super Hermit!

"Get dressed."

"Why? Don't you like my pajamas anymore?"

"You have to go out."

"What?! Why would I do something so radical?"

"It's Tuesday. You have a big outing."

"Tuesday? Tuesday? What's Tuesday?"

"Garbage day."

In the country, three minutes to the road and back with the bags, then again with the recycling, qualifies as a big outing for a professional hermit. In fact, that's more time than most couples spend each week being a couple.

If this sounds like just the kind of self-inflicted bliss you've been itching for, there are a few things you should know before making the big career switch.

A dedicated hermit often skips a shower. Sometimes, the hermit gets away with it. To help the hermit remember when shower day arrives, there is a simple four-part clinical procedure: Lift arm. Insert nose. If you faint, it's time to shower (when you regain consciousness). If you don't faint, schedule a shower — as early as next week, if you have an opening.

Personally, I apply a simple rule of thumb. As long as I spend more time showering each week than I spend taking out the garbage, my wife probably won't divorce me. Unless I forget to take out the garbage...again.

Here are a few more tips for shower-challenged hermits everywhere: Wear cologne. Lots of it. Your partner will think you did it just for her. Or him. Or it. If you wear enough, the kids might even let you out. Wear many layers of thick clothes. Warning, if you live in Edmonton or Moscow this might force you to open all the windows to keep from smelling even worse. If you live in Dallas or Delhi, it might force you to close all your windows to keep from smelling even worse. Eat garlic for breakfast. If that doesn't work, eat garlic for lunch, too. And for dinner. And for dessert. Nobody will notice your shower schedule, and the kids will definitely let you out.

We professional hermits also lose touch with our friends.

"Hey David. How have you been? It's Al."

"Al? Al who?"

"It's Al. Your friend."

"I have a friend?"

If working in your pajamas appeals to you, perhaps to avoid being the next victim of the "What Not to Wear at Work" TV crew, a career as a professional hermit is your ideal gig. Pick up a pen and paper, get yourself a second-hand computer, or borrow some kids.

If you barricade yourself in your house long enough, you can enjoy your very own life of abnormal isolation and solitude. And everyone will know just what to buy you for Christmas - pajamas.

David Leonhardt writes the Happy Guy humor column:

<http://www.thehappyguy.com/positive-thinking-free-ezine.html>

and A Daily Dose of Happiness:

<http://www.thehappyguy.com/daily-happiness-free-ezine.html>

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He also wrote Inspiration & Motivation To Go

<http://www.thehappyguy.com/l/daily-motivation-inspiration.php>

and The Get Happy Workbook:

<http://www.thehappyguy.com/happiness-workbook.html>

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My Career As A Hermit

The Work-from-home Fashion Primer

Work-from-home Office Policies

Homemade Beauty Recipes

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT MUGWUMPS

Success Secrets

BEFORE You Borrow Money

Starting a Successful Retail Business

Competition Commando

Mail Order in the Internet Age



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