

This is part of a series of messages I wrote to encourage and equip new Online Missionaries.

Part 4 – How do I answer this one?

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THE TOP TEN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (Thanks to Dan Lee for compiling the list)

1. NO COMMENT

Use the standard reply. Don't assume the spiritual decision is genuine. Ask for clarification. Personalize your response by mentioning where they came from ("I've heard India is a beautiful country"). Keep it short and invite them to write back. Realize that only 10 to 25% will write back.

2. PLEASE SEND ME A BIBLE OR OTHER CHRISTIAN MATERIALS

Greetings,

I am glad to hear that you would like a copy of the WRITTEN Word of God - the BIBLE. What are you seeking from the Word? What do you hope to find? I wonder if you have also discovered a personal relationship with LIVING Word of God - Jesus!

As you set out to study the scriptures I would be happy to help and guide you - please let me know what questions you have.

Although we would like to help you with your request for resources, we are a web-based, non-profit organization and as such, we are unable to send either money or materials to you. However, here are links to some excellent free resources...

Bible Online: http://www.bible.org/page.asp?page_id=3086

Christian growth: <http://www.keystochristiangrowth.com/>

Look to Jesus: <http://looktojesus.com>

New Believer's Guide: <http://newbelieversguide.com>

You can also purchase materials at either of these links...

<http://www.campuscrusade.com/>

<http://www.biblesatcost.com/store/>

The Bible Society also has inexpensive Bibles and other materials for sale. Use this website to find their branch in your country:

<http://www.biblesociety.org>

Regards

John, Response Center Volunteer

3. PLEASE SEND ME MONEY (FOR WHATEVER REASON)

Send the standard reply. Add to the end:

Although we would like to help you with your request for resources, we are a web-based, non-profit organization and as such, we are unable to send either money or materials to you.

However, here are links to some excellent free resources...

Whatever you do, DO NOT send them money.

4. PLEASE HELP ME FIND A HUSBAND/WIFE/JOB ETC., OR PLEASE SPONSOR ME TO COME TO THE USA.

You expressed a real need in your life. I'm sorry we are not able to help you in this area.

(not a believer yet)

However, I do know that the only way you will experience God's peace and plan for your life will be to be reconciled to Him. You see, God loves you and wants to have a relationship with you.

However, this relationship has been broken by our sinfulness: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

Fortunately, God offered the solution to this problem by sending His son, Jesus Christ, into the world, to show us the way to God. When Jesus died on the cross, he received the penalty for our sins, giving us the chance to be forgiven of those sins.

But it's not just enough to know these facts. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, turning from our sinful lifestyle and trusting Him alone for forgiveness. If we do so with a sincere heart, He will come into our lives and make us His children, and give us a guarantee of eternal life with Him.

Please read this same message in your native tongue at www.4laws.com

(is a believer)

You expressed a real need in your life. I'm sorry we are not able to help you in this area.

However, I do know that the only way you will experience God's peace and plan for your life will be to walk in a right relationship with Him. Are you involved in a strong, Bible-believing church? It is there you can find fellowship with believers you can share these issues with and can give you wise counsel.

Also please look at our discipleship web sites, www.LookToJesus.com and www.iChristianlife.com.

Sincerely,

5. MY MARRIAGE IS FALLING APART/MY HUSBAND IS CHEATING ON ME/MY IN-LAWS HATE ME/ETC.

Pretty much the same as above. Express sympathy for their trials - tell them you'll pray for them (if you will). Maybe write out a prayer for them. **But point them toward Christ.** They have a felt need, but their REAL need is to know the Savior and enter into eternal life. Don't try to become a marriage counselor. If they do have real needs in this or some other area and you don't feel you are equipped to help them, we can try to refer them to specialists.

6. I'M CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE.

Reassign using the "Suicide" option. This sends to people skilled at suicide prevention counseling.

7. YOU CHRISTIANS ARE A BUNCH OF \$%(*@\$&; HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GARBAGE?

Respond gently in love. Ask why they are so mad at Christians. "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." – Prov. 15:1. Don't take it personally.

8. I'M ADDICTED TO PORNOGRAPHY/MASTURBATION/SEX/DRUGS/BOOZE/HOMOSEXUALITY

If a non-believer, point them to Christ first. If a believer, refer them to www.settingcaptivesfree.com who offers online Bible courses for these issues plus drug/alcohol/food abuse, gambling, homosexuality. There is also a Homosexuality group and a Pornography/Sex group you can reassign to if you don't feel comfortable responding yourself. We hope to have addiction groups on line soon.

9. HELP ME FIND A CHURCH

Use the Church Finder resources at www.GMOVolunteers.com under the "Resources" tab. If in the USA and you have time, you may want to use Google Maps to find a church close to them.

10. TOUGH THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Look it up at www.gotquestions.org . Copy and paste the answer into your reply, or give the URL. If you are theologically astute, answer from your own knowledge. Do NOT let yourself be drawn into lengthy theological discussions, especially with believers who disagree with our interpretations of scripture. This is not our calling.

If you really can't answer or find the answer, Reassign to the DTQ (Difficult Theological Questions) group. DO NOT use this reassign option for Difficult Life Issues; refer to answers to 4 and 5 above.

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If you are have questions about ARC or about your online ministry:

- Review the ARC TRAINING VIDEOS and MANUAL
- Check the Volunteer Website. (<https://www.gmovolunteers.com>)
- Ask your COMMUNITY LEADER. (In ARC Mail, click on SETTINGS > GENERAL for your Community Leader's name and e-mail address.)

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JOHN NICHOLSON

Online Missionary Training Coordinator