

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

Published weekly by a group of God's people in the Monrovia community and meeting at:
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<http://spreadingtruth.org>

deserve protection. Just the intimation that someone has made another person "feel minority" is enough to create suspicion of wrongdoing and/or generate sympathy.

3) **Assert that religion doesn't belong in public.** "M" argued that "religion is not a community event." People post to Nextdoor about many of their interests or needs, but religion is not allowed? Those hostile to the Christian's faith want to minimize the influence of the Bible, to keep religion confined to private forums.

4) **Accuse Christians of being racists.** Racism is a "cardinal sin" in our culture; if you want to paint anyone in unpopular colors, call him a racist. It doesn't matter if race is even involved in the conversation – just the charge is sufficient to intimidate many.

5) **Portray Christians as "freaks," "fanatics" or extremists.** Characterize them as a "cult." Cults are bad; everyone knows that. It is curious that, of all the messages posted on the subject of the Bible study invitation, all the extreme ones were posted by "M"! Although "F" was critical of "M," she did not call him names or question his motives. More than one post, including mine, simply advised him that he was under no obligation to attend any Bible study.

The objective of people like "M" is not simply to pursue their own religious beliefs; the Constitution guarantees them that right. Their objective is to "hush" those who want to express their faith in the Bible, their faith in Christ. They don't want Christians to share their faith with others.

And they have been successful in many arenas. The expression of religious faith has been expelled from the public schools. Public or government buildings are supposed to be free from any trace of religious connection. In recent times, those in the military have had to "hide" their faith, lest someone complain that rank was being used to intimidate others into accepting "religious faith." Many Christians have been silenced by the strategies that I have described.

I was informed by email that my post had been "reported" for violating Nextdoor guidelines and removed. The guideline that I had "violated" was: "Don't Use Nextdoor as a soapbox." Go figure. I don't know who "reported" my post, perhaps "M," but the entire conversation thread was deleted by the app "leads."

Bible Challenge Question - Answer

He asked Jesus to heal his servant who was "sick and at the point of death" (Luke 7:2). Actually, the centurion made his request of Jesus through the elders of the Jews who praised the centurion as a "worthy" man and one who had been benevolent toward the Jews of the community. Even Jesus praised the man for his faith, noting that "not even in Israel have I found such faith." This was a Roman soldier who had benefited greatly from his posting in Palestine!



Volume 10, Number 8

February 19, 2017

Silencing Christians

By Allen Dvorak

I recently joined a neighborhood organization. This organization uses an Internet app called Nextdoor. This particular organization is called Nextdoor Blake Station. There are hundreds of "neighbors" from various subdivisions who belong to the organization.

Most of the posts are about lost dogs, suspicious characters on some street, or some piece of furniture that has been put on the side of the road and is free to anyone who wants it (you never know when you might need a recliner with a broken spring), etc.

A little over a week ago, someone ("S") posted about an upcoming Bible study. It was a simple invitation to a Bible study, nothing more. Almost immediately, "M" posted a message, telling "S" that she shouldn't try to force her religion down his throat. According to him, her post made him feel like a minority. He told her that she shouldn't post about religion because Nextdoor is a community app, not a religion app (his post has been summarized because it was apparently quickly deleted by either "M" or one of the "leads," those who monitor the app for inappropriate posts).

I had never posted anything publicly, but I posted the following:

"Thank you, S--, for providing others with the opportunity to study the Bible...if they want to.

To M--,

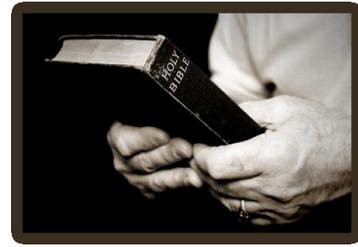
No one is forcing his religion down your throat or anyone else's. If you don't want to attend a Bible study, don't go. This app is about community interests and religion happens to be the interest of many in the community."

Another individual, Greg, also responded in a positive way to the original Bible study invitation. But "M" wasn't finished. His next post was the following (I have not edited this post or any other in any way; this is exactly the way that they were written. Hopefully the reader can understand what was intended).

"Actuuly Mr allen and Mr Greag, THIS IS NOT A RELIGION APP. Its a neighbor app and there are neighbors with diffrent believes that feel minority with people trying to spread the word so they can go to heaven if there is such a thing.

Faith as Trust

By Allen Dvorak



Jesus described the faith of the disciples in the boat as _____
 _____ (Matthew _____).

James described the man who prayed with doubts as a
 _____ (James 1:5-8).

James' comments about faith and obedience:

1. 2:14-17 - _____
2. 2:19 - _____
3. 2:14-24 - _____

Two Illustrations of great trust:

1. _____ (_____)
2. _____ (_____)

Saving faith is more than just _____;
 it is a _____ that _____.

And without _____ it is impossible to please him, for whoever would
 draw near to God must _____ that he _____ and that he _____
 _____ those who _____ him.

-- Hebrews _____; ESV

“Circumstances don’t determine character – they reveal it.”

-- Unknown

“As you wander through life, brother, whatever be your goal, keep
 your eye upon the donut, and not upon the hole.”

-- sign in the Mayflower Coffee Shop, Chicago, IL

Keep your religion to your self and away from my
 kids and others. Religion is NOT a community
 event. To each his own. Dont advertise about
 your religion event in a community app.”

I didn't post any additional messages, but others
 did. One woman in particular, “F” defended the
 right of “S” to post her Bible study invitation. “M”
 responded to “F” as follows:

“Well then your racist religion freak.”

and later,

“Your are racist”

and,

“F--, im calling it as it is. This not a religion app
 and it is not a rwligion community. Stop being a
 racist toward people with other religions.”

Some others posted as well, either asserting the
 right to post the initial invitation or expressing
 their support for religious freedom. “M” didn't
 receive their sentiments well, posting the
 following:

Bible Challenge Question

What request did the centurion
 at Capernaum make of Jesus?

The answer to this question is on the back page.

“This is like a cult. A bunch of religuos peope
 trying to spread thiere belive in a community
 app that has nothing to do with the community
 unlesbyour the same teligioun. Shame on you
 pepple for that”

and

“And the religuos fanatics came out of the closet.
 Shame on you”

The last post of “M” was the following:

“No, its a shame to use a community app to
 push thiere believe on other. Again, its not a
 religion app.”

So why are you reading about an Internet tiff?
 “M” used several common strategies of those who
 oppose religious faith, particularly that of the
 Christian.

1) **Attack the motives of people of faith and
 imply that they are failing to respect the
 religious freedom of others.** An invitation to
 study the Bible is supposedly an effort to cram
 one’s faith down the throats of others! If there
 is anything that will rile the American public, it
 is the idea that someone is trying to infringe on
 their constitutional freedoms. The charge to “keep
 your religion away from my kids” is a nice touch;
 most people respect a person who “protects” his
 kids. In this case, “M” was protecting his kids
 from the danger of religion.

2) **Assume minority status, whether you are or
 not.** Current public opinion is that minorities