

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 23: Please Help Me Financially

At some point, you might receive an email from a Muslim or other internet contact with a personal request, such as asking you for financial help. It's good to keep in mind that even if someone is asking for money, we can still share the gospel with him or her! When people visit an evangelistic website and email us—whatever their motives—it's an open opportunity for us to share our message of hope with them.

What do you do if you receive an email in which the person asks you for money? This is a difficult issue to address, but it would be good to keep a few principles in mind:

1. It is important to remember that we don't know everything that is going on in the life of the person who asks for money. For example, why isn't this person asking his or her family for help? In South Asian culture, everyone usually has other people in their family or community to whom they can go for money or help. Why is he or she asking *you* for money? Could it be that it's because you're weak and vulnerable? Or maybe they've broken relationships with the people they would normally ask for money? This may not necessarily be true in any given situation, but the point is that you don't always know the whole story even if you think you do.
2. It would be good to encourage the person to seek help locally. You could suggest this in your email. They could ask the local church or mosque for help – or their family members, friends, or local “connections.” In South Asian culture, any of these people would normally be able to help out someone in need.
3. Many Muslims and others perpetuate the rumor that Christians provide jobs or money for converts. If an internet contact asks for money or a job in exchange for converting to Christianity, it is good to be sympathetic to his or her plight—maybe he or she is out of work and has to provide for his or her family—but to remind them that following Jesus is a heart issue. God is not interested in our external “conversion” to another religious community but rather that our hearts follow after him. In a respectful way, we should strongly refute the idea that someone would “change religions” for money. This is not what Jesus was about and it is not what we are about either.
4. Pray for the person and their need, and tell him or her that you're praying for them in their situation.
5. The GMO policy regarding this issue is to remind the seeker that we are solely an online ministry helping people to know God better. It is against GMO policy to give any

financial or other material assistance to the seekers you are involved with. Ask your Community Leader if you have any further questions.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org