

# FAITH MATTERS

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## YIELDING TO JESUS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

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I am no expert on social media, but I have been riding this dragon for a while. I hope my personal experience may in some way inspire your social media efforts toward evangelization within your unique and God-given sphere of influence.

If you are Christian then you know people around you are either waiting, watching or wondering. We are not all Evangelists, but we are all evangelists. Yielding to Jesus in social media through our unique talents and gifts will enable us to be His mouthpiece in a world deafened, and increasingly deadened, by fear, anxiety, and uncertainty.

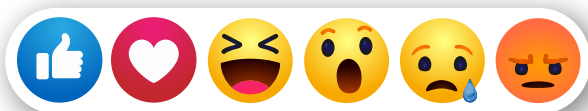
Evangelization through revitalization works wonders. A beautiful sister in the Lord with the gift of encouragement posted this to social media one day when I was feeling rather defeated. A timely reminder, in the right place at the right time. Before bed I gave it all away to God. I woke up the next day filled with hope and a peace that surpassed all understanding. I was

dripping with gratitude when I posted this, and my testimony forward, to encourage others.

Another dear sister, with the gift of music and encouragement posted this.



I was in a slow-moving Walmart line. The baby behind me was crying, the Mama anxious, frowns. What felt like the whole human gamut of discouragement and frustration was like a sitting, sweaty elephant in the room. I opened my Facebook app and this was the first post I saw. I felt compelled to play it, full volume, sans ear-phones. There were some strange looks, but I pretended not to



notice. Soon the baby stopped crying and people started smiling among the rows, the tension lifted, the cashier looked less haggard, and actually mouthed ‘thank you’. When the song finished, I was amazed by a palpable feeling of good will in the air. It then struck me; we shift the atmosphere so the Lord can shift hearts.

One of my strongest gifts is hospitality, with a side of pastoring. During this time of corona-isolation I began a private Facebook group for women [Women of Joy] centred around friends of my parish. This private group did not really take off. But through it I had initiated a Bible study in a break out group which did serve a number of us quite positively. We developed relationships, encouraged and ministered to one another in deeply touching ways we could not have foreseen.

There is a place in the social media experience for each person to exercise their unique God-given charisms for the building up of the Kingdom. If nothing else, you can promote an event or post a Scripture verse—His word can breathe life through Twitter too.

Ask the Lord daily to bless your social media posts, that they would edify, encourage, and inspire. Social media is a creative medium in which the Lord reaches out to a lost, hurting world while shaping and molding us to become more like Him. I try to remember that every victory I claim in Jesus reminds the enemy that he is already defeated. Social media can make that happen in stereo, exponentially. Jesus revealed the Father; as we walk in the Holy Spirit we reveal Jesus, and there is always someone watching. Let’s give them Jesus.



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#### TRY TO

- Maintain a clear head in the siren call for a negative response. St Francis rolled naked in a thorn bush to resist temptation, perhaps you can just turn off your phone until your blood stops boiling.
- Maintain a culture of honour and respect, even as you challenge.
- Think regularly about your social media strategy through the lens of evangelization. This effort will spill over and assist your evangelization efforts in other areas of life.

#### TRY NOT TO

- Call someone names no matter how justified you may think you are. We cannot express virtue with hostility.
- Douse your non-believing friends with doctrine, save it for a coffee date when tone and body language will assist your delivery. Mix it up and be real.
- Call out a brother or sister on social media (use a private message), I can tell you from personal experience this may end badly.







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