

# LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

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## KUDOS

Steve

I have not done this kind of thing before, and maybe I should have, but, I would just like to drop you a line and say how much I enjoyed your March issue. I have been with IFC for a number of years, and the March issue was my first for CCMag. I like the layout, articles, and the use of .pdf files. I can download an article (which I did, as follows) and have it available on my computer.

The primary reason for writing is the article by Mr. Kevin Purcell entitled "Your Best Sources for Support When Things Go Bad". I think this is one of the best articles I have read in a long time. The article was easy to understand, its advice simple and straight forward...

I just want to express my appreciation, and that I am looking forward to future editions.

**Maurice**

## About the Spam Rant

Hi Steve,

I am a Christian and Software developer from Perth, Western Australia. I develop the "SmartRoster" software, mainly for scheduling ministers in church services.

Anyway, I've been a subscriber to your online mag for a while now. I just wanted to write that I thought your March 2006 issue was excellent. I was particularly impressed by your description of the Spam problem. Since my software provides the ability to send parishioners their roster/schedule/reminders by email I have had great difficulty explaining to some customers why some of the emails to AOL addresses do not get through. I'd like in future to forward your description of the issue to them to educate them about the problem, if that's OK with you.

Thanks again for helping keep the Christian community apprised of internet-related issues. It's a "brave new world" out there in cyberspace, with some incredible opportunities but also appalling dangers. It's not just about convenience. People are being hurt.

God's blessings,

**Tim Jansz**  
**Davallia Technology**

Steve:

I REALLY appreciated your editorial about SPAM. Good thoughts and an argument well articulated. Keep up the good work.

**Reuben Wilbur, Treasurer**  
**Missouri Conference United Methodist Church**

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Hi Steve,

I want to thank you for ranting on about SPAM. I am a technology instructor and website designer and I learned a few things from reading your article that I will pass on to my students (realtors).

I have received SPAM emails that have gone to great lengths to disguise key words in the body to prevent filters from blocking them. What appears in the body may contain invisible letters (white text on white) to change the spelling. Even more devious is the use of ASSCII codes that cannot be blocked by filters. Unfortunately I did not save one to share with you.

I also listen to you on WRMB radio when I get the chance. Keep up the good work!

May God bless you and your ministry.

**Domenic Caloia**

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Hello Steve,

Just wanted to say well put on the Spam Reporting end.

On another note, we have found a spam/virus filtering service that does an awesome job of filtering spam without many of the drawbacks of most spam filtering solutions. The service is called Spam Soap ([www.spamsoap.com](http://www.spamsoap.com)). Our IT team has basically stopped receiving help requests/complaints about spam since we implemented about a year ago.

Regards,

**Joel Schuler**  
**IT Administrator**  
**Hume Lake Christian Camps**

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Steve

Thanks for your article on not reporting spam. You are

basically correct in what you say - AOL and these other services are ruining the Internet quite frankly. It's time Christians mobilised against these self-appointed guardians of the Internet.

Thanks for getting the ball rolling.

Alan

Steve,

While I appreciate your perspective, I'm unconvinced that reporting spam will increase the likelihood of having to pay to get bulk emails through. You may well be right, but you give little support for your claim, especially since AOL has said that they will not charge non-profits.

My rationale for reporting spam is not to stop it at the source—I know that's not likely—but to help my email software better identify spam so that it goes to the spam folder and stays out of my inbox.

Dan Butcher

Steve,

I just read your article **STOP REPORTING SPAM!**

Your recommendation really only makes sense if one is using a stupid provider like AOL who decide for you what's spam and what even gets to your inbox. I wouldn't want to use a provider like that!

People should use other providers or switch to something like gmail for their email service to avoid such treatment. For me, spam is still filtered, but I have a spam folder where the filtered messages are kept, so that I can access them and decide that something is not spam after all. Google just uses something reported as spam or messages from the spam folder reported as Not spam to improve the filtering into that Spam folder.

So the real recommendation shouldn't be to not report spam but instead get a provider where the people know what they are doing and realize that blocking of IPs and such will not have the desired effect and where people can still have access to every single message that is delivered to their address.

Swantje Willms

## Suggestions for Improvement

Hi Steve,

Thanks for all the work you and your son do on the magazines. I really like the fact I can subscribe to a magazine I do not have to worry about what I will see or read when opening Christian Computing or A/V. I don't know may magazines I can have that assurance. Your work has not gone unnoticed or appreciated.

My suggestion is to high light, the download the whole magazine, by changing the color of the type to red. It can be hard to locate this when viewing the opening of the email.

Thanks for considering this idea.

Eric

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