

# CHRISTIANS IN BUSINESS

## Singles

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“most vulnerable” population in Sin City and she’s eager, through the Canyon Ridge Christian Church ministry she leads, to help them avoid sin and learn everything they need to know about relationships from God.

Tonkin has been leading the singles ministry, which targets 54 percent of Canyon Ridge’s approximately 6,000 members, since January 2009. Though the fulfillment of her “vision, call and gifting” has admittedly been a challenge in an all-volunteer ministry with one of the highest turnover rates for leadership (singles don’t often remain single forever), she has felt empowered and encouraged by the fruit of seeing countless single, divorced and widowed Las Vegans engage in a “good, safe and God-honoring life.”

Tonkin, divorced in 2004, found herself assisting the leadership of a start-up singles ministry in Monterey, CA toward the end of that year. She calls that time “God’s preparation” for the work she does now. She moved to Vegas in November, 2006 and searched for a church with a singles ministry. She instead found small groups for singles at Canyon Ridge and quickly progressed, on a God-led time schedule, from group leader to gatherings director to the leader of a massive ministry for thousands of unmarried single adults.

She gives her time, and by all accounts a great deal of it, to develop the branches and leadership of a ministry that works to keep single Christians involved in the church community. “Being alone is not God’s plan for us,” Tonkin proclaimed.

The ministry provides opportunities to Care and Connect (connecting with every single single at Canyon Ridge), Outreach and Missions (an opportunity to immerse oneself in service), Gatherings (fellowship with fellow singles) and more.

Developing a successful singles ministry has taken “time, effort and discernment,” according to Tonkin who is working to raise up leaders and help teach that being a single Christian, as opposed to a secular Christian, means having a focus on “God’s heart, word and call to honor Him with our entire selves.” She said she seeks short-term commitments for a myriad of volunteer opportunities and longer agreements for leadership roles as

she works to serve as many singles as possible.

Purity is an important and fundamental issue for the Canyon Ridge singles ministry. Each January, for the past four years, the group has held a multi-church purity event, each with its own theme and milestone commitment. For 2011, Tonkin said the focus will be “Wrapped in Purity.” Another priority for the ministry, according to Tonkin, is reaching out to and connecting with single parents. She tries to do so with family-friendly and no-fee events.

With so much to distract singles from a God-glorifying life in Las Vegas, Tonkin feels passionate about providing as many opportunities as possible for singles to live in community with other singles and Christians. “The enemy is trying to trip us up,” Tonkin said of her fellow singles. “God wants us to help get everyone out of the bondage of loneliness and the crazy insane search of trying to fill a hole that truly only He can fill,” she said.

Tonkin works tirelessly with her team of volunteers to involve singles in service to the community because they have “more time and more opportunity” and will grow as future partners and leaders in that context. She also counsels everyone who isn’t married to consider themselves as single until they are wed, reminding them that God doesn’t view committed relationships the same as the bond of marriage. The singles Tonkin ministers to are asked to remain pure and in humble service until they walk down the aisle.

Knowing that the single community in Vegas is vulnerable to sin, Tonkin is now also efforting to connect with other churches and other single ministries throughout the valley. Canyon Ridge recently hosted a singles-focus lunch with various Christian leaders and Tonkin hopes to do much more. “God is calling us to be shepherds of the flock,” Tonkin said, “and the flock most in need are the singles in Vegas.” Tonkin envisions not only an exchange of ideas and resources between singles ministry and spiritual leaders, but also a monthly roundtable to discuss singles-related issues.

For more information about the Canyon Ridge singles ministry or to contact Tonkin, please visit <http://www.canyonridge.org/singles> or email Tonkin at [ctonkin@canyonridge.org](mailto:ctonkin@canyonridge.org).

## Excellence in the Marketplace

By Coylette James  
Special to The Answer

There is no mediocrity in God. We have been created in His image and likeness; therefore, there should be no mediocrity in us.

When we accepted Christ as our lord and master, we were born again and through that rebirth, all the mediocrity of our past life should have died with our old self. I believe that many of you have not come to terms with the fact that God almighty has birthed in you a spirit of excellence. It is obvious that you have not tapped into this yet because; some of you are still operating with a spirit of mediocrity in your businesses.

Every aspect of our lives is a direct reflection on our Father God. We are so quick to put on our Jesus pin or wear our cross around our neck to shout to the world “we are Christians,” but what do our actions say.

Oh yes we have stopped cursing, and we no longer flip the person off who cut in front of us in traffic, but what do our actions say in the marketplace. As workers, or entrepreneurs are we exemplifying a spirit of excellence?

What is mediocrity? MEDIOCRE, Being of a middle quality; indifferent; ordinary; as mediocral intellect. Let’s think about this, if the God of the universe created you in His image and likeness, I would say there is nothing ordinary about you. And since the word of God says you were fearfully and wonderfully made, somehow being of middle quality doesn’t quite fit your description.

God expects us to operate in a spirit of excellence because He is a God of excellence and He

dwells in us. What is excellence? EXCELLENT,

Being of great virtue or worth; eminent or distinguished for what is amiable, valuable or laudable; as an excellent man or citizen; an excellent judge or magistrate.

It is imperative that you understand that as a child of God it is expected of you to go the extra step in all you do. Just doing what everyone else is doing is not enough. Because of your spirit of excellence, all you do should outshine the rest. Now please recognize, this is not to give you the big head nor is it just to impress others. It is because God is using you to establish His kingdom on earth and therefore you are to operate in kingdom principles.

We have all prayed the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven”. If God is an excellent God, and Heaven is a place of excellence, then in order for His Kingdom to be established on earth, we must operate using the principle of excellence.

In your businesses, offer your customers’ superior goods and customer service; Quality over quantity. On your jobs, don’t wait to be asked if you see something that needs to be taken care of, just do it and with a smile. People will take notice of your excellent spirit and God will be glorified.

Minister Coylette James is the Founder and Chairman of God’s Marketplace Ministries. An author and minister who tours the country conducting Kingdom Empowerment Seminars teaching Christians how to incorporate the Spiritual things of God with the Natural things of Business to achieve Supernatural Success. See the website for more information [www.godsmarketplace.ning.com](http://www.godsmarketplace.ning.com)



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