

SILVER LININGS



CHRISTIAN CHURCH(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

PSWR OLDER ADULT
MINISTRY COMMITTEE
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HOW TO STOP FRUSTRATING ROBOCALLS

“Is there anything I can do to stop perpetual robocalls? It seems like I receive five to ten calls a day on my home and cell phone, and I am tired of it!”

This question was posed to Jim Miller, Editor of Savvy Living. He responded to this question with the following information in the March 16, 2019 issue of this periodical which is provided to your Editor through the weekly newsletter of Chapman University. If you have problems with robocalls, the article which follows should be of help to you.

“Robocalls make up around 50% of all phone calls today, and it is only getting worse. Americans were hit with 26.3 billion robocalls in 2018, a whopping 46% increase from the year before. Fortunately, there are a variety of tools available today that can help reduce the number of calls you receive. Here are five steps you can take to solve the problems you’re having with robocalls.

1) Register Your Numbers

If you have not already done so, the first step is to make sure your home and cell phone numbers are registered with the National Do Not Call Registry. While this will not stop illegal robocalls, it will stop unwanted calls from legitimate for-profit businesses who are trying to sell you something. Be aware that political organizations, charities and survey takers are still permitted to call you, as are businesses that you have bought something from or have made a payment to in the last 18 months. To sign up, visit DoNotCall.gov or call 888-382-1222.

2) Home Landline Tools

To stop robocalls on your home phone, set up the ‘anonymous call rejection’ option. This is a free landline-calling feature available through most telephone companies. It screens out calls from callers who have blocked their caller ID information. To set it up, you usually have to dial *77 from your landline. Note, however, that different phone services may have different procedures to set up this tool. Call your telephone service provider to find out if they offer this feature and, if so, what you need to do to enable it.

Another solution is to sign up for Nomorobo, which is a free service for landline phones that is provided through a VoIP landline carrier. Nomorobo uses a ‘simultaneous ring’ service that detects and blocks robocalls on a black list of known offender numbers. While it is not 100% foolproof, it is an extra layer of protection.

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To sign up or see if Nomorbo works with your phone service provider, visit Nomorobo's website.

3) Cell Phone Tools

To stop unwanted robocalls and texts to your cell phone, ask your carrier about caller ID options that identify, filter or prevent calls that are not legitimate. For example, AT&T provides their subscribers a free app called "AT&T Call Protect" that has automatic fraud blocking and suspected spam warnings. It also allows you to manually block unwanted calls. Verizon is now offering free spam alerting and call blocking tools to their users. T-Mobile provides free "Scam ID" and "Scam Block" to combat robocalls and spam. Sprint customers can sign up for its "Premium Caller ID" service for \$2.99 per month to guard against robocalls and caller ID spoofers.

4) Call Blocking Apps

Another way to stop robocalls on your smartphone is with call blocking apps. These apps can identify who is calling you and block unwanted call that show up on crowd-sourced spam and robocaller lists.

Some top call blocking apps for I Phone and Androids include Nomorobo, Hiya Caller ID and Spam Blocker and Truecaller. Nomorobl costs \$2 per month. Truecaller and Hiya apps are free to use, but offer upgraded services for \$2 or \$3 per month.

5) Spam Proof Phones

There are also phones you can buy, like the Samsung Galaxy S. Samsung Note or Google Pixel phone that have built-in spam and robocall protection in place. Samsung's Smart Call feature flags calls it suspects are spam, while Google Pixel phone have built-in spam protection. With this feature, users that have caller ID enabled will receive a warning if a suspected spam calls or robocall is received.

GRANTS FOR SENIOR ADULTS IN THE PSW REGION

For many years, the Older Adult Ministries Committee, has overseen the distribution of funds available to Senior Adults affiliated with congregations in the Pacific Southwest Region. They continue to do this at most, if not all, of their meetings.

1. The grants are given for 1 year at a time.
2. The grants are renewable if the need still exists after 1 year, or even multiple years after a person has begun receiving a grant.
3. The maximum amount of these grants is \$500 per month.

If you are a Senior Adult affiliated with a Disciples' congregation in this Region and you have financial needs, contact the Regional Office to get the packet of materials explaining the grants that are available and the information you need to apply for said grant. If you are a Pastor serving a congregation in the PSW Region, and you know of one, or more, Senior Adults in your congregation who could benefit from additional financial resources each month, you may obtain an information packet about this program from the Regional Office to share with him, her, or them.

FEATURED HYMN

"WOMAN, WEEPING IN THE GARDEN, WHO HAS PUSHED THE STONE ASIDE? WHO HAS TAKEN JESUS' BODY; JE-SUS CHRIST, THE CRUCIFIED.

WOMAN, WAITING IN THE GARDEN, AFTER MEN HAVE COME AND GONE; AFTER ANGELS GIVE THEIR WITNESS, SILENTLY YOU WATCH THE DAWN.

WOMAN, WALKING IN THE GARDEN, JESUS TAKES YOU BY SUR-PRIZE; WHEN THE GARDENER CALLS YOU, 'MARY' FAITH AND JOY MEET IN YOUR EYES.

WOMAN, WEEPING IN THE GARDEN, WEEP FOR JOY, FOR YOU HAVE SEEN JESUS, THE MESSIAH, RISEN; CHRIST, OF WHOM THE PROPHETS DREAM.

WOMAN, DANCING IN THE GARDEN, FIND THE OTHERS AND PROCLAIM CHRIST IS RISEN AS HE PROMISED; TELL THE WORLD HE KNEW YOUR NAME."

THE TEXT AND TUNE OF THIS HYMN, BASED ON JOHN 20:1-18, WAS WRITTEN BY DAN DAMON IN 1991.

IT IS NO. 223 IN THE CHALICE HYMNAL. ASSUMING THAT YOUR CONGREGATION DOES NOT KNOW THIS HYMN, THEY MAY ENJOY LEARNING IT AS PART OF THEIR CELEBRATION OF EASTER, 2019.