



AVKO Educational Research Foundation Newsletter

News from AVKO

January 30th, 2009

Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Book of the Month](#)
- [PayPal](#)
- [QuickStart](#)

In This Issue

- Featured Article: Editing Religion Out of the Dictionary
- New Article: Dictionaries
- Live Help Online
- Affiliate Articles
- AVKO Goals
- AVKO Needs Volunteers
- January's Savings
- Resources Reviewed

Editing Religion out of Children's Dictionaries

When she consulted the 2007 edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary, she was surprised that the words "moss" and "fern" were no longer in the dictionary. That made her curious about what else had been omitted. So she compared the 2007 edition to the six previous editions and what she found "horrified" her.

Gone were words like "coronation," "willow," and "goldfish." In their place were words like "MP3 player," "blog," and "biodegradable."

Not surprisingly, words reflecting Britain's Christian heritage were especially hard hit: "abbey, altar, bishop, chapel, christen, disciple, monk, nun, pew, saint," and "sin" were all axed. Even

Dear AVKO Subscriber:

We are excited to announce that we have added a Live help feature to our website. Chat with someone live via the internet and get your questions answered instantly.

There are also only 2 days left for the [January book of the month](#) special on *Get Outta My Face*, *Get Offa My Case*

A preview of Februrary's book of the month special: the special will be on [Individualized Keyboarding](#).

Get your questions answered live online

AVKO has launched a new support feature to make our customer service even better. You can now chat live with an AVKO representative via our Live Help feature. Simply navigate to <http://www.avko.org/livehelp> to see if an AVKO representative is online to answer your questions. If one is not available, you can send an e-mail from that screen as well. Soon we will have links on the website to access this feature.

This is especially nice for those AVKO who are overseas and do not have the ability to use the toll-free number (1-866-AVKO-612 = 1-866-285-6612).

We can answer accounts payable/receivable, membership, customization, curriculum, and other customer service or general questions via this feature.

AVKO Needs Volunteers Like YOU!

AVKO needs volunteers like you to do a whole host of things, including quality control, help with word of mouth marketing, creation of curriculum, providing more resources to other homeschoolers and educators, etc.

Christmas took a hit: "carol," "holly," and "mistletoe" were removed.

In their place, kids got "tolerant," "interdependent," and "bilingual."

Saunders is concerned that eliminating "so many words associated with Christianity will have a big effect on the numerous primary schools who use it."

That's exactly the idea. The head of the children's dictionary at Oxford University Press admitted as much. She said that "the environment has changed." "We are also much more multicultural," she added. And she said that "people don't go to Church as often as before" and "our understanding of religion is within multiculturalism."....

[----> Continue Reading](#)

New Article on AVKO.org: Dictionaries

- Different types of Dictionaries
- AVKO reference materials
- How to use a dictionary
- Online resources

[Continue Reading Article](#)

If you are interested in helping out in any way that you can, please visit our [Volunteer page](#). These are just a few of the countless ways that we could use your help. Note that many of these possibilities can be done from your own home, with access to a computer and the internet.

New Homeschooling and Dyslexia Articles

TopsyTechie, a homeschooling mother and online writer from Time4Learning.com. She has submitted three articles to us regarding homeschooling and dyslexia. Check them out on our [Articles](#) page. If you would like to contribute articles about homeschooling or develop curriculum, worksheets or resources for educators, reply to this e-mail or consider becoming a [Volunteer](#).

Goals for the next 3 months, 6 months

As 2009 is the 35th anniversary of AVKO Educational Research Foundation, we can't help but be a little nostalgic and also look to the future. You can look forward to some exciting events and specials to commemorate our 35th anniversary. But...we also have many goals for the near and long-term future. Here are some of our goals for the next 3 and 6 months.

3 months:

- Gain another 100 members
- Gain 10 new distributors
- Gain 350 new newsletter subscribers
- Raise \$3500 in donations for the development of new and betterment of existing AVKO materials and resources.
- Gain 25 new volunteers
- Increase our (free) educational resources by 30%
- Increase 25% in web traffic, 200% in bandwidth (number of MBs downloaded)

6 months:

- Gain another 200 members
- Gain 25 new distributors
- Gain 650 new newsletter subscribers
- Raise \$5000 in donations for the development of new and betterment of existing AVKO materials and resources.
- Gain 45 new volunteers
- Increase our (free) educational resources by 60%
- Increase 50% in web traffic, 400% in bandwidth (number of MBs downloaded)

How can you help us achieve these goals? [Get Involved](#), [Donate](#), Tell your friends about our website and resources, [contact us](#).

Reminders from Last Time

New video clips online:

Video clips of the two [AVKO Videos](#) are now available on the website in addition to the full videos. These clips are important sections of the videos that give you the gist of what the videos are about and show you some of the highlights.

The New Get Involved Section:

Looking for a way to volunteer and help others learn to read and spell? [Get involved!](#)

Popular Workshop Resources Now Available:

Get your [workshop handouts](#)
[Listen to full workshops](#) by Don McCabe (Mp3)

Discounts available for Clearance Items

AVKO has many of our materials available for discounts of 40-55% off because they are previous editions, slightly damaged, or the books have since gotten a new binding/cover. View the [Clearance Items](#) today to get a steal!

January's Book of the Month

January's [Book of the Month](#) is [Get Outta My Face, Get Offa My Case](#), a book designed to teach anger management and self-monitoring through careful examination of speech, body language, and emotion. Receive a 10% discount on this book if you are not a [member](#) of the AVKO Educational Research Foundation or 32.5% if you are a member.

See the [Book of the Month](#) page for more information.

Sincerely,

Brian McCabe,
Operations Manager,
AVKO Educational Research Foundation

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