

# Religious messages can be politely refused

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to “Happy Hindu in the Bible Belt,” whose Christian friends tuck religious pamphlets into holiday boxes of baked goodies in an effort to convert her, was off base. You advised her to ignore the brochures and enjoy the goodies — unless she had lost her appetite — in which case she should donate the treats to a shelter or take them to the office.

I disagree. That lovely lady should politely tell her friends that she likes her own religion and ask them to please stop with the religious literature. If they continue, she should end the friendship. If converting her is more important than her friendship, there IS no friendship. — BEEN THERE, TOO, IN BEND, ORE.



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

DEAR B.T.T.: Your answer is better than mine. Interestingly, “Happy Hindu’s” problem appears to be widespread. That letter brought in a bushel of mail. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am Jewish. A friend from college kept sending me “Jesus Loves You” Christmas cards. I told her it hurt my feelings that she didn’t respect my beliefs. I made it clear that I am Jewish and will always remain Jewish, as it is

my religious and cultural background.

Like “Hindu,” I know that some of these gestures are well-intentioned, but I would never dream of sending my friend Hanukkah cards. I send cards that say “Season’s Greetings” or “Happy Holidays.” It’s good to learn about other people’s beliefs and be open to them — but not when they’re forced on you. — JILL IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR JILL: I regret that I did not advise “Happy Hindu” to be as outspoken and upfront as you and “Been There.”

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to “Happy Hindu” offended me as a Christian. If the circumstances were different, would you tell me to ignore my Buddhist friends, but en-

joy their treats if I didn’t gag first? Why is evangelical Christianity the only religion we shouldn’t tolerate? — MARY S., ELLIJAY, GA.

DEAR MARY S.: It’s not. Anyone who proselytizes is treading on “sacred ground.” It’s regarded as offensive, even if it is heartfelt.

DEAR ABBY: Hard as it is to live with some evangelicals, they are easier to take than people who feel justified in resorting to violence against those they feel are “lost.” You have to understand that with evangelicals, it is an article of faith, and it’s their Christian duty to preach their version of the Gospel, especially if they care about you and are genuinely concerned about your soul. — DOLLY IN LACEY, WASH.

DEAR DOLLY: I am aware of that. A devout and very sweet lady once told me she was “sad” because she loved me and knew she wouldn’t see me in heaven. I asked her why. She said, “Because you haven’t been saved!” Once I got over the shock that her heaven was segregated, I assured her that even though I might not be in hers, she would definitely be in mine, so please not to worry any further.

DEAR ABBY: Many people have stopped me on the street or come to my door with religious tracts, so I had cards printed with the following: “I never told my own religion nor scrutinized that of another. I never attempted to make a convert, nor wished to change another’s creed. I am satisfied that

yours must be an excellent religion to have produced a life of such exemplary virtue and correctness. For it is in our lives, not from our words, that our religion must be judged.” (Thomas Jefferson to Mrs. H. Harrison Smith, 1816) — KAYE IN N.Y.C.

DEAR KAYE: I agree with his timeless and profound conclusion.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUESDAY EVENING										FEB. 4, 2003									
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30									
2	PBS	Nova The battle between Boeing and Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. (N) (U)				Independent Lens “Mag-gie Grows” (U)	News	Being Served	Charlie Rose (N) (U) (U)										
3	IND	★★★ “Lethal Weapon 4” (1998) (PA) Mel Gibson, Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh battle Chinese mercenaries. (U) (DVS)				(:40) ★★★ “Above the Law” (1988, Drama) (PA) Steven Seagal, Henry Silva, Pam Grier. (U)	News (U)		(:35) Night-line (N) (U)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (U)									
4	ABC	8 Simple Rules	According to Jim (N)	Life With Bonnie (N)	Less Than Perfect (N)	NYPD Blue Spowicz suspects a cop. (N) (U)	News (U)	(:35) Night-line (N) (U)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (U)										
5	HBO	(5:00) ★★★ “A Stranger Among Us” (1992) (U)	★★★ “Powder” (1995, Drama) Sean Patrick Flanery, (N) (U)	★★★ “Guardian” (1995, Drama) Sean Patrick Flanery, (N) (U)	★★★ “Judging Amy” (1995, Drama) Sean Patrick Flanery, (N) (U)	★★★ “The Majestic” (2001, Drama) Martin Landau, Laurie Holden. (N) (U)	News (U)	(:35) Late Show (N) (U)	(:37) Late Show (N) (U)										
7	CBS	JAG “Each of Us Angels” (N) (U) (DVS)	Guardian “Understand Your Man” (N) (U)	Guardian “Understand Your Man” (N) (U)	Guardian “Understand Your Man” (N) (U)	Guardian “Understand Your Man” (N) (U)	News (U)	(:35) Late Show (N) (U)	(:37) Late Show (N) (U)										
8	NBC	Fear Factor “All Female Show” (N) (U)	Frasier (N) (U)	A.U.S.A. “Pilot” (N) (U)	Kingpin “El Velorio” (N) (U)	Kingpin “El Velorio” (N) (U)	News (U)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (U)	(:37) Late Night (N) (U)										
11	TVLND	Brady	HappyDay	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver (U)									
12	ESPN	Winter X-Games Day 6.	College Basketball Florida at Kentucky. (Live)	College Basketball Florida at Kentucky. (Live)	College Basketball Florida at Kentucky. (Live)	College Basketball Florida at Kentucky. (Live)	LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program									
13	FOX	American Idol (iTV) The first group performs. (N)	24 “Day 2: 6:00-7:00PM” (N) (U)	24 “Day 2: 6:00-7:00PM” (N) (U)	24 “Day 2: 6:00-7:00PM” (N) (U)	24 “Day 2: 6:00-7:00PM” (N) (U)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (U)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (U)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (U)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (U)									
15	MAX	(4:50) ★★★ “3000 Miles to Graceland” (2001) R	★★★ “New Best Friend” (2002) Mia Kirshner. Premiere. (R) (U)	★★★ “New Best Friend” (2002) Mia Kirshner. Premiere. (R) (U)	★★★ “New Best Friend” (2002) Mia Kirshner. Premiere. (R) (U)	★★★ “New Best Friend” (2002) Mia Kirshner. Premiere. (R) (U)	★★★ “A.I.: Artificial Intelligence” (2001) Haley Joel Osmert. A robotic boy that feels love years to be real. PG-13	★★★ “A.I.: Artificial Intelligence” (2001) Haley Joel Osmert. A robotic boy that feels love years to be real. PG-13	★★★ “A.I.: Artificial Intelligence” (2001) Haley Joel Osmert. A robotic boy that feels love years to be real. PG-13	★★★ “A.I.: Artificial Intelligence” (2001) Haley Joel Osmert. A robotic boy that feels love years to be real. PG-13									
16	TNN	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Blind Date	Taboo (N)	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.	★★ “Bloodsport” (N) (U)										
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (U)	Smart Guy (U)	Sister, Sister (U)	Even Stevens (U)	Sister, Sister (U)	Lizzie McGuire (U)	★★★ “Selma, Lord, Selma” (1999, Drama) Mackenzie Astin. (U)	Teamo Supremo (U)										
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (N)	“Betrayed: A Story of Three Women” (1995) (U)	“Betrayed: A Story of Three Women” (1995) (U)	“Betrayed: A Story of Three Women” (1995) (U)	“Betrayed: A Story of Three Women” (1995) (U)	Golden (U)	Golden (U)	Nanny (U)	Nanny (U)									
20	USA	★★★ “Caddyshack” (1980) Chevy Chase. (U)	JAG (N) (U)	JAG (N) (U)	JAG (N) (U)	JAG (N) (U)	JAG (N) (U)	JAG (N) (U)	Nash Bridges (U)	Nash Bridges (U)									
21	SHOW	(4:30) “Antitrus” (U)	★★★ “Keep the Faith, Baby” (2002, Drama) Harry Lennix, Vanessa Williams. iTV. (N) (U)	★★★ “Keep the Faith, Baby” (2002, Drama) Harry Lennix, Vanessa Williams. iTV. (N) (U)	★★★ “Keep the Faith, Baby” (2002, Drama) Harry Lennix, Vanessa Williams. iTV. (N) (U)	★★★ “Keep the Faith, Baby” (2002, Drama) Harry Lennix, Vanessa Williams. iTV. (N) (U)	★★★ “Down to Earth” (2001, Comedy) Chris Rock. iTV. (N) (U)	★★★ “Down to Earth” (2001, Comedy) Chris Rock. iTV. (N) (U)	Filmmaker Showcase (U)	Filmmaker Showcase (U)									
22	TMC	(:15) ★★★ “Out of Sync” (1995) L.L. Cool J. An alcoholic DJ falls for a drug dealer’s girlfriend.	★★★ “Luck Numbers” (2000, Comedy) John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth. (N) (U)	★★★ “Luck Numbers” (2000, Comedy) John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth. (N) (U)	★★★ “Luck Numbers” (2000, Comedy) John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth. (N) (U)	★★★ “Luck Numbers” (2000, Comedy) John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth. (N) (U)	★★★ “What’s the Worst That Could Happen?” (1999) Patrick Warburton. (N) (U)	★★★ “What’s the Worst That Could Happen?” (1999) Patrick Warburton. (N) (U)	★★★ “What’s the Worst That Could Happen?” (1999) Patrick Warburton. (N) (U)	★★★ “What’s the Worst That Could Happen?” (1999) Patrick Warburton. (N) (U)									
23	MTV	Crashers	I Bet	True Life (N)	Direct Effect (N)	Prime Time Players (N)	Prime Time Players (N)	Prime Time Players (N)	Prime Time Players (N)	Prime Time Players (N)									
24	DISC	Ultimate Guide “Big Cats”	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)	Hotel Iguana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)									
28	TNT	Law & Order “Passion”	Law & Order (N) (U) (U)	Law & Order (N) (U) (U)	Law & Order (N) (U) (U)	Law & Order (N) (U) (U)	Law & Order “Trophy”	X-Files (N) (U) (U)	X-Files (N) (U) (U)	X-Files (N) (U) (U)									
30	FXSP	See This	Nuggets	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Denver Nuggets. (Live)	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Denver Nuggets. (Live)	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Denver Nuggets. (Live)	Rocky Mt. 54321	Rocky Mt. 54321	Rocky Mt. 54321	Rocky Mt. 54321									
32	FAM	★★★ “Joe Versus the Volcano” (1990)	Who’s? Who’s? (U)	Who’s? Who’s? (U)	Who’s? Who’s? (U)	Who’s? Who’s? (U)	700 Club (U)	Caroline Rhea Show (N)	Caroline Rhea Show (N)	Caroline Rhea Show (N)									
33	NBC	News (U)	Ent. Tonight	Fear Factor “All Female Show” (N) (U)	Frasier (N) (U)	A.U.S.A. “Pilot” (N) (U)	Kingpin “El Velorio” (N) (U)	News (U)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (U)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (U)									
34	NICK	Sponge	Ginger	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)	Coach (U)	Coach (U)	Cosby									
36	A&E	Biography: Raymond Burr: TV Legend	Cold Case Files A murder victim’s niece starts an advocate group. (N) (U)	Cold Case Files A murder victim’s niece starts an advocate group. (N) (U)	Cold Case Files A murder victim’s niece starts an advocate group. (N) (U)	Cold Case Files A murder victim’s niece starts an advocate group. (N) (U)	Third Watch “Superheroes” (N) (U)	Biography: Ricardo Montalban: Pride	Biography: Ricardo Montalban: Pride	Biography: Ricardo Montalban: Pride									
38	SCIFI	X-Files “Miracle Man”	X-Files “Shapes” (U)	X-Files “Shapes” (U)	X-Files “Shapes” (U)	X-Files “Shapes” (U)	Dream	Crossing	Twilight Z. (U)	Twilight Z. (U)									
39	TLC	While You Were Out “Texas: Rambler Road”	Home Again (U)	Home Again (U)	Home Again (U)	Home Again (U)	Beware! Bad Drivers “Driving Lessons” (U)	When Fun Turns to Fear “Pure Adrenaline” (N)	Ultimate Ten Unexplained Mysteries (U)	Ultimate Ten Unexplained Mysteries (U)									
40	FX	24 (N) (U)	Buff Vampire	Buff Vampire	Buff Vampire	Buff Vampire	★★★ “Executive Decision” (1996, Suspense) Kurt Russell, Halle Berry. (:01) ★★★ “How to Marry a Millionaire” (1953) (:01) “The Verdict”	★★★ “Executive Decision” (1996, Suspense) Kurt Russell, Halle Berry. (:01) ★★★ “How to Marry a Millionaire” (1953) (:01) “The Verdict”	★★★ “Executive Decision” (1996, Suspense) Kurt Russell, Halle Berry. (:01) ★★★ “How to Marry a Millionaire” (1953) (:01) “The Verdict”	★★★ “Executive Decision” (1996, Suspense) Kurt Russell, Halle Berry. (:01) ★★★ “How to Marry a Millionaire” (1953) (:01) “The Verdict”									
45	FMC	(:01) ★★★ “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes”	Anna	Star Dates	Wild On...	Wild On...	Howard S. (U)	Howard S. (U)	Wild On...	Wild On...									
49	EITV	Carmen Electra: THS	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)	Must See Egypt	Must See Egypt	Secrets (N)	Secrets (N)									
51	TRAV	World’s Best	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)	World’s Best (N)									
53	WB	Friends (N)	Everybody-Raymond	Gilmore Girls “Dear Emily and Richard” (N) (U)	Smallville “Rush” (N) (U)	Smallville “Rush” (N) (U)	News (U)	Will & Grace (U)	Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond									
54	ESPN2	College Basketball	NBA Fast Break Tuesday (N)	NBA Fast Break Tuesday (N)	NBA Fast Break Tuesday (N)	NBA Fast Break Tuesday (N)	Bodybuild	Interruption	NBA 2Night (U)	Bill Walton									
58	HIST	History Undercover (U)	Deadmen’s Secrets Air-craft explosion. (U)	Deadmen’s Secrets Air-craft explosion. (U)	Deadmen’s Secrets Air-craft explosion. (U)	Deadmen’s Secrets Air-craft explosion. (U)	Infamous Murders	Infamous Murders	History Undercover (U)	History Undercover (U)									
59	HLTH	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies	Health Specials (N)	Health Specials (N)	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies	Bodies									
60	UNIV	Las Vías del Amor	Entre el Amor y el Odio	Entre el Amor y el Odio	Entre el Amor y el Odio	Entre el Amor y el Odio	P. Impacto	Noticiero	En las Mejores Familias	En las Mejores Familias									
62	HGTV	House	Interiors	Room	Decorating	Decorating	House	Interiors	Room	Decorating									
99	WGN	★★ “B.L. Stryker: Carolanne” (1989, Mystery)	News (N) (U)	Justice	Rockford Files	Heat	Justice	Rockford Files	Heat	Heat									

WEDNESDAY EVENING										FEB. 5, 2003	
		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
2	PBS	Queen's Concerts: Party at the Palace (N) (U) (U)				Gaelforce Dance (N) (U)		News	Waiting for God (U)	Charlie Rose (N) (U) (U)	
3	IND	Seinfeld "The Nap" (U)	Seinfeld (U)	Ripley's Believe It or Not! (N)	★★★ "Lionheart" (1990, Action) (PA) Jean-Claude Van Damme, Harrison Page. (U)					Worst-Case Scenario (N)	
4	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez (N) (U)	Bachelorette (N) (U) (U)	Celebrity Mole Hawaii (N) (U)		News (U)	(:35) Night-line (N) (U)	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (U)		
5	HBO	"Monkey-bone" (U)	(:45) ★★★ a bittersweet	"Moulin Rouge" (2001) Nicole Kidman. A writer shares romance with a nightclub diva. (N) (U) "PG-13"		★★★ "Shallow Hal" (2002, Comedy) Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black. (N) (U) "PG-13"					
7	CBS	Price Is Right Million Dollar Spectacular (N)		60 Minutes (N) (U) (U)		48 Hours Investigates "Murder in Monaco" (N)		News (U)	(:35) Late Show Kelsey Grammer. (N) (U)	(:37) Late Show	
8	NBC	Ed (N) (U) (U)		West Wing "Inauguration" (N) (U)		Law & Order A vigilante priest kills a drug dealer.		News (U)	(:35) Tonight Show (N) (U)	(:37) Late Night (N)	
11	TVLND	Brady	HappyDay	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver (U)	
12	ESPN	College Basketball			College Basketball North Carolina at Duke. (Live)			Sportscenter	College Basketball		
13	FOX	That '70s Show (N)	American Idol (N) (U)	Bernie Mac (N) (U)	Cedric the Entertainer (U)	Fox Report With Shepard Smith (U)		LAPD: Life on the Beat	LAPD: Life on the Beat	Paid Program	Paid Program
15	MAX	(4:30) "Colors" (1988)		★★★ "Driven" (2001) Sylvester Stallone. A former racer returns to the sport to help a rising star.		★★★ "The Fifth Element" (1997, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis, Ian Holm. (N) (U) "PG-13"					Time Machine
16	TNN	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Blind Date	Taboo (N)	Blind Date	Star Trek: Next Gener.		★ "Death Wish II" (N) (U)	
17	DISN	Boy Meets World (U)	Smart Guy (U)	Sister, Sister (U)	Even Stevens (U)	Sister, Sister (U)	Lizzie McGuire (U)	★★★ "Airborne" (1993, Comedy) Shane McDermott. (U) (U) "PG"		Teamo Supremo (U)	
18	LIFE	Unsolved Mysteries (N)		"Malpractice" (2001) Stephanie Zimbalist. (U)		Golden		Golden	Nanny (U)	Nanny (U)	
20	USA	★★★ "Bloodsport" (1988) Premiere. (U)		★★★ "Kickboxer" (1989) Premiere. (U)		Nash Bridges (U)					
21	SHOW	(4:35) "Blue Sky"	Filmmaker Showcase (U)	★★★ "Strange Relations" (2001) Paul Reiser. A leukemia patient searches for his birth parents. (N) (U)		★★★ "Father of the Bride Part II" (1995, Comedy) Steve Martin, Diane Keaton. (U) (U) "PG"					
22	TMC	"Wonder Boys" (N)	(:45) ★★ "The Woman Chaser" (1999) Patrick Warburton. (N) (U)	(15) ★★ "The Virgin Suicides" (1999) James Woods, Kathleen Turner, Kirsten Dunst. (N) (U)		★★★ "Ghost World" (2001) (U) (U)					
23	MTV	Crashers	I Bet	True Life (N)		Direct Effect (N)		Prime Time Players (N)		Cribs (N)	
24	DISC	Ultimate Guide "Big Cats"		Hotel Igwana Hotel pamper reptiles. (U)		Swift Water Rescue (U)		Search for Lewis and Clark (U)		Unsolved History "Boston Massacre" (N)	
28	TNT	Law & Order "Paranoia"		★★★ "Jumanji" (1995) Robin Williams.		Law & Order (N) (U) (U)		X-Files "Blood" (N) (U)			
30	FXSP	See This		Rocky Mt.	FOX One 54321	Best Damn Sports Show Period (Live) (U)		Rocky Mt. 54321			
32	FAM	"Time Share" (2000) Nastassja Kinski. (N) (U)		Whoose? (N) (U)		Whoose? (N) (U)		700 Club (U)		Caroline Rhea Show (N)	
33	NBC	News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N) (U)	Ed (N) (U) (U)		West Wing "Inauguration" (N) (U)		Law & Order A vigilante priest kills a drug dealer.		News (U)	(:35) Tonight Show
34	NICK	Sponge	Ginger	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers (N)	Cheers (N)	Coach (U)	Coach (U)	Cosby	Cosby
36	A&E	Biography: Ricardo Montalban: Pride		American Justice "The Preppie Murder" (N) (U)		City Confidential "Spokane" (U) (U)		Third Watch "Thicker Than Water" (N) (U)		Biography: Ricardo Montalban: Pride	
38	SCIFI	Beyond Belief		★★★ "The Fly" (1986) Jeff Goldblum. (N) (U)		Dream		Crossing		Twilight Z. Twilight Z.	
39	TLC	While You Were Out (U)		Home Again Home Again (U) (U)		Scotland Yard: Tales From the Black Museum		Monster Machines: Miners (U)		Junkyard Wars (U)	
40	FX	Married... (U)	Married... (U)	Buffy Vampire		Buffy Vampire		"Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" (U)		Cops (U)	
45	FMC	(:01) ★★★ "Leave Her to Heaven" (1945)		Rank		(:01) Hour of Stars		★★★ "The Entity" (1982) Barbara Hershey.			
49	EITV	Winona Ryder: THS		Rank		R. Witherspoon		Howard S. Howard S.		Anna Star Dates	
51	TRAV	World's Best (U)		World's Best (N)		Nature's Fury		World's Best (U)		World's Best	
53	WB	Friends (N)	Everybody-Raymond (U)	Dawson's Creek "Clean and Sober" (N) (U)		Angel "Souless" (N) (N)		News (N) (U)		Will & Grace (U)	Everybody-Raymond
54	ESPN2	NBA Basketball: Nets at 76ers		Deadmen's Secrets (U)		Modern Marvels "High Tech Sex" (U)		Death of Marilyn Monroe (U)		Japan's Mysterious Pyramids (U)	
58	HIST	Doctors Diaries (N)		Workout Bodies		Health Specials (N)		Doctors Diaries (N)		Workout Bodies	
60	UNLV	Premio lo Nuestro 2003		Honrando lo mejor de la música latina.		P. Impacto		Noticiero		En las Mejores Familias	
62	HGTV	IFalls	Restore	Country Kitchen		Collector Collectors		If Walls		Restore Country Kitchen	
69	WGN	★★★ "B.L. Stryker: Auntie Sue" (1989, Mystery)		News (U) (U)		Justice		Rockford Files		Heat	