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State native co-creator of BuyFromAChristian.com

By Alyssa Loy
Staff Writer



A few years ago, [Brad McMullan](#) bought a car over the Internet. Unfortunately, the sale turned out to be a scam, and he was conned out of \$20,000.

It was this experience, as well as the voice of God, that drove the Oklahoma native and [University of Oklahoma](#) graduate to create the new e-commerce Web site, [BuyFromAChristian.com](#).

"God has really put this Web site on my heart for many years, and I just never acted on it. And then last year in September, I could not sleep because He just kept putting it on my heart," said [McMullan](#), an Emmy Award-winning news reporter who serves as media minister for a church in Jackson, Miss.

[McMullan](#) said he shared his idea with longtime friend [Philip Chustz](#), and the two agreed there was a need for Christians to be able to support other Christians in e-commerce.

The two launched [BuyFromAChristian.com](#) in February.

The concept of the Web site is similar to [eBay](#): People buy and sell new and used items such as clothing and shoes, automobiles and pottery.

However, unlike [eBay](#), [BuyFromAChristian.com](#) is not an auction.

Another major difference is the Web site's emphasis on tithing, a biblical concept encouraging Christians to give 10 percent of their income to the church.

"It costs 25 cents to list an item, and then 3 1/2 percent of the final sales price goes to [BuyFromAChristian](#)," [McMullan](#) said. "We take 10 percent of those two numbers and donate it to the person's church."

Because the money goes to the church of the seller's choice, he said the sale is more personal than other organizations that merely donate money to the church as a whole.

While the Web site was originally designed to be an e-commerce spot for Christians, [McMullan](#) said, "It's an all-encompassing Web site."

[BuyFromAChristian.com](#) does provide an advertising outlet for businesses that want to designate themselves as Christian. The cost is \$20 to be listed as such, and 10 percent of that cost is again given to the church of each business's choice.

[McMullan](#) said the site also seeks to spiritually nurture visitors by accepting prayer requests and by featuring a Bible search engine and a daily devotional.

"We just want to make a good Christian company," said [Chustz](#), who is the Web site's chief executive officer.

[McMullan](#) and [Chustz](#) were each quick to attribute the Web site's success to God.

The pair said they did not want to send out fundraising letters or take out a loan when they started building the site. They didn't have to.

"We had talked to a lot of people that really believed in the site, and by the time it launched this year, we had the site completely paid for — no loans — and we never sent out a fundraising letter," [McMullan](#) said.

[Don McMullan](#) of Norman, the site's human resources director and [Brad McMullan's](#) father, said many people have aided the project.

"Everything has been built through people being moved to help," the elder [McMullan](#) said. "They've been moved by God to do this, and we just watch it happen."

[Brad McMullan](#) and [Chustz](#) said they see enormous potential for the Web site, which has now had more than 100,000 page views since its launch date.

One recent addition to the site is the garage sale function, which allows members of a church to post items for free, and 100 percent of the profit goes to that church.

"Hopefully, this will be a thing that will allow churches to be able to raise whatever money they need," [McMullan](#) said. "You don't have to do a car wash anymore or anything like that. You can do it all online."

Related Information



[BuyFromAChristian.com](#), launched in February, is designed as a ministry for Christians and non-Christians to engage in friendly, honest e-commerce. Oklahoma native and University of Oklahoma graduate [Brad McMullan](#) is co-creator of the Web site.

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He said he hopes that as [BuyFromAChristian.com](#) grows, the company will be able to open offices across the country, particularly one in his native state of Oklahoma.

Yet, he said no matter how much the site expands through the years, the ultimate purpose of [BuyFromAChristian.com](#) will remain the same.

"It's our goal to hopefully have this Web site be a ministry for Christians out there and for people that don't know the good news about [Jesus Christ](#)."

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