

# **Keep the Faith talks to Enakeno Ogbo (Keno) founder of Spiraluniverse to find out what Spiraluniverse is all about, how Keno thinks it will benefit the Christian community and what plans she has for the future.**



**C**harged with the mission to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature (Mat 16:15) the internet is one of the most powerful tools available to Christians today, as it enables Christians to connect with people across denominations, cultures, racial divides and the world to fulfil their mission and spread the goodwill message. Keno is one individual who has taken this mission seriously. She is the brains behind the online Christian network Spiraluniverse.

When talking to Keno you cannot help but get swept along with her enthusiasm as she speaks openly about her Spiral mission. Incidentally the root word for enthusiasm is *en theos* which means 'in spirit'. The vision for Spiral is very much tied into the person Keno is.

Eleven years ago she came to the UK from Nigeria. This was the first time she had lived in a multi cultural society so she was eager to make connections with Christians outside of her culture. With such a diverse range of people in the UK she was eager to find out the places where Christians, irrespective of denomination, meet up. She was disappointed to find no discernible place or avenue where she could connect with other Christians. Even in looking for Christian flatmates, she visited six different churches to post notices. With this gap in Christian communications, the seed for Spiraluniverse was born.

### **The Spiral name**

When asked how the name Spiral came about, Keno smiles as she recalls her childhood. It was the obvious name for two reasons, firstly because as a child she always liked the idea of being part of a 'no limits' galaxy/universe. Secondly, unlike a circle, a spiral is not closed and there is always room for one more. It is never ending.

### **What is Spiraluniverse and who is it aimed at?**

The last census showed that 80% of the UK identified themselves as Christian but statistics also show that only 6.3% go to church so Keno sees Spiraluniverse as an evangelical tool. It is not delivered on a purely spiritual level as the objective is to engage with everyone who can identify with the word 'Christian'. The online description clearly identifies this mission: "Spiral Universe is the online community directory and networking forum designed to boost business, social and spiritual interaction and networking"

It uses a free classified adverts service as a medium to encourage people on different levels to connect across the faith, denominational and cultural divide; providing a forum for the sharing of information, highlighting issues and

celebrating successes. You can post information about services, businesses, events, accommodation, friendships, jobs, social action, missions, things to buy or sell and even dating.

Keno is keen to point out that Spiraluniverse is first and foremost a vision and not a business. Spiraluniverse is essentially about bringing people together and encouraging connections. And in doing so it uses its platform to promote and raise the profile of the work and vision of its members.

The approach to developing the Spiral community may be different from other Christian networks but there is something 'Jesusesque' about this approach. Keno believes that by linking with worldly things and engaging with people where they are, it is similar to what Jesus did when he spoke to the masses all of which has one key purpose to take them one step closer to the gospel.

Spiral aims to create a positive experience of the Christian environment by sharing faith in non 'Christianese' and in answer to critics about content control, the Spiral team police the site to ensure that content is in keeping with the mission and vision of the Spiral brand.

Spiral content is generated by members themselves and by the Spiral Team who produce two Spiral guides a year on topics as diverse as single Christians and gun and violent crime as well as featuring ordinary Christians (a combination of leaders and everyday Christians) that are doing extraordinary things; exploring what they do and what drives their passion

As membership continues to grow so does the vision for Spiraluniverse and Kenos excitement as she shares a few from the long list of things she wants to share with the Christian world. Spiraluniverse will continue to develop new and innovative ways to support Christian understanding, unity and communications.

Keno is dedicated to realising her vision spending hours on the computer each day and as a visiting lecturer on Entrepreneurship, she believes that there is the seed of something great on the inside of all of us.

She is motivated by the knowledge that as she takes each step towards fulfilling her vision God gives her new ideas and new connections. She has a vision for Spiraluniverse that takes in China, Africa, Russia and the rest of the world. She knows that it is a huge vision but she also knows that with God at her side 'all things are possible'. For more information visit [www.spiraluniverse.org](http://www.spiraluniverse.org) Carol Pyke

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