

## MAKING AMENDS

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Making amends when one has done wrong can take many forms. In my case the only option available is to work in the area of "crime prevention".

To seek, in other words, to help others avoid being victimized.

For after all, there can be no criminal if there is no victim.

(To which statement a common response is to decry "victim blaming".

But the fact remains - If you leave the keys in your car - why shouldn't you be held responsible for soliciting a criminal act? The theft of your car.

So it is with any criminal act. The victim misplaced their trust at some point and provided an opportunity for someone to do them wrong.

Or as the scripture puts it - someone places a stumbling-block in another persons path (Romans 14:13), and that person makes a bad choice. A choice they would not have considered if the victim had not given it to them.)

One project that I have wanted to pursue for some years is the making of crime prevention videos. A project that I have been unable to do anything with because I have no contacts in the video industry. Or with a college/university that has a film school.

The concept is simple enough. A short video that illustrates how a crime came to be done with a voice over at the end pointing out that the crime could have been prevented.

Here is an example.

A driver pulls into a store parking lot and gets out, leaving the key in the ignition and the motor running. The driver trots into the store and quickly picks up an item and takes it to the check-out counter. While this is going on an unidentified



able person approaches the car and gets into the drivers seat. While the clerk is processing the purchase the car owner looks out to the car - and sees it being driven off. The car owner runs out of the store hollering at the thief as the car quickly disappears. A voice over says - "Don't be a victim, don't promote a crime."

This takes only one camera. Filmed when it is cold, at night, so that the exhaust fumes from the running engine create a cloud.

There is, obviously, a large number of videos that could be made under this "Don't..." message.

Unfortunately, it looks like they will continue to remain merely good ideas.