



Dipping the Quill

Writing News from Author J.D. Winger

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It's been a busy two months. Between consulting work (thank you Lord for your provision), attempting to stay one or two months ahead on my blog posts, devotionals, and other writing, I've stayed busy. On with the news!

Near the end of March, I received a full manuscript request for my first nonfiction book. Its working title is *The Chrysalis of Christ—Transforming Your Life through Faith*. Having submitted the book proposal in late summer 2018, taught me how important patience is in the publishing process. I've long said "God will place my writing where He wants it, when He wants it." While that's easy to say, I have to admit, it's difficult to practice. The adage of *no news is good news* is true, as it took eight months to move to the next step in the selection process.

In April, I learned the Acquisitions Editor will present my proposal to the Pubs Board for the publisher they represent. I compared that news to making the "Short Go" at the rodeo (not that I ever have). With this, my manuscript made it through what I consider being the first two stages of selection for publishing. I'm sure more savvy writers can explain this in more precise terms, but I see Stage One as surviving the Book Proposal review. If I generate enough interest, I advance to the next stage.

Stage Two is a full manuscript submission. I think for any first-time writer, the full manuscript shows your ability to complete a project and make the entire manuscript "read worthy." I should point out that although I've written lots and published multiple times, this is

my first nonfiction book offering with my name on the cover. If an Acquisitions Editor takes the time to read the entire book, and still wants to publish you, then you've made Stage Three (the Finals). This means they believe in your writing enough to use one of their precious *silver bullets* to pitch your book to the Pubs Board for selection and a potential publishing contract.

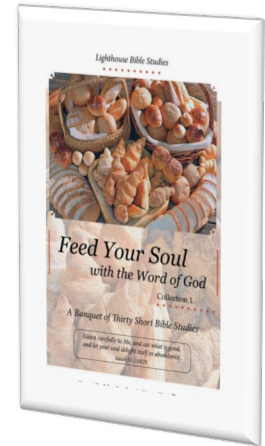
I have no statistics that shows the magnitude of this, but I can compare it to a government proposal, of which I've done thousands. A government agency releases a Request for Proposal under full and open competition, which means anyone can bid. In the publishing world, each publisher has submission guidelines you must follow like when preparing a government proposal. In the writing world, I can only guesstimate that any publisher receives hundreds of proposals per year. After proposal submission, the proposals get evaluated and they establish a competitive range. This is a much smaller subset of those proposals submitted. In effect, they whittle the proposals down from hundreds to a few dozen.

In government proposals, Discussions take place at this point. This is comprised of clarifications or requests for additional information. When they receive requested information, another evaluation takes place and they pare the number of potential awardees down even more; often from dozens to a select few. They present those few (typically one or two from each Acquisitions Editor on the team) to the Pubs Board, who makes the source selection decision. Survive this stage and the likelihood of a publishing contract improves. In the proposals world, where I spent much of my career, we called this Probability of Win (Pwin). I view *The Chrysalis of Christ* as having a Pwin of about thirty percent. Then again, I'm forever an optimist.

Whatever happens with *The Chrysalis of Christ—Transforming Your Life through Faith*, I will survive—believing God will place it where He wants it, when He wants it. I am continuing

work on my next manuscript, *What Love Does—A 31-day Devotional for Caregivers of Aging Parents*. I'm gathering data to support a book proposal; hoping to submit in the July timeframe.

I learned I'm included in an upcoming release from our friends at Lighthouse Bible Studies. I'm a contributing author to a new Bible study compilation entitled *Feed Your Soul with the Word of God, Collection 1*. This new book, releasing in June 2019, includes thirty different Bible studies by authors who contribute to *Refresh Bible Study Magazine* and other compilations by this God-honoring publisher.



I'll place ordering information on our website's My Writing page as it becomes available. Our *tribe* continues growing with each passing month. In fact, www.jdwininger.com has had visitors from fifteen different countries to date. I appreciate so many of you who share my *Around the Cross-Dubya* blog posts each week on your social media feeds. My best marketing tool is each one of you. Your willingness to share my info with others is so appreciated. Each morning I say a prayer for my readers, visitors, and friends. My growing number of writing friends is a great source of inspiration for me. I pray I might say or write something to encourage each one in their journey.

Also learned one of my devotions, with a poem, entitled *My Father's Arms*, will be in this summer's edition of *Reach Out Columbia* magazine. I hope some of my South Carolina friends will save a copy for me and perhaps email me a scan. It's always fun to see your name on a byline. Last, I just discovered a new ministry and magazine published by my friend Mrs. Cheryl Crofoot Knapp, the award-winning author of *Undefeated Innocence*. It's called *Regifted Grace*. Its focus is on caregivers and family members of those suffering through a long-term

illness. I've submitted an article I hope worthy of inclusion in this exciting source of inspiration and encouragement for caregivers.

Well, that's it for now friends. I'll sign off and get back to my real job; taking care of Ms. Diane and all the critters running around the Cross-Dubya ranch. Stay dry, stay well, and stay connected to God.

God's Blessings...



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