



Dipping the Quill

Writing News from Author J.D. Winger

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This year is half over. Half over! Already? How did that happen? Seems time is moving faster than I am these days. I'd better get busy.

It's been a hectic couple of months for me, but activities are coming to a grinding halt for the next few months. I finally had surgery on my left shoulder June 18th; complete with anchors placed, tendons and muscles repaired, and lots of *clean up* in the joint. In four to six months, healing will near its completion and it'll be time to repair my right one. In the weeks leading up to surgery, I realized I needed to get a summer's worth of work done around the ranch. It required lots of long, hard days, but things are ready for summer at the Cross-Dubya ranch.

Other daily chores, including feeding the livestock, lawn maintenance, etc., all require help from friends. I'm grateful for my neighbor who comes and feeds each morning, the young man from church who pitches in with everything else, and especially for all the prayers. My wife Diane gets the greatest thanks. She's carrying far more than her share of the burden right now. More than a partner and primary caregiver, it feels as though she has to *mother* me; helping with bathing, dressing me, and cutting my food into bite-sized pieces.

I'm not sure how I can ever repay this debt of gratitude, but will sure try. The nice part is seeing how much she loves me as she cares for me with tenderness and kindness; even when I'm "Captain Grumpy Pants" when in pain. What I am more certain of than ever before is that God blessed me with a wonderful helpmate and my dearest friend when He brought us together.

As you might expect, my writing volume has decreased in the past couple of weeks. Typing using two fingers of one-hand has diminished my 120 words per minute keyboarding skill. Now, it seems the keys are much farther apart and I'm making ten times as many mistakes. By the time I get a sentence typed, I've lost my train of thought. I'm hoping things improve by mid-July. I've got a manuscript to finish a final draft on and a proposal to submit.

In the past two months, two articles were published and a second book released. A blessing indeed. In May, *Regifted Grace* magazine, a new ministry and publication focused on encouraging families and caregivers impacted by long-term illness, featured my article "Finding Grace." It honored me to be the feature article on the magazine's cover; and I hope to be a regular contributor to this God-honoring ministry.

June brought the inclusion of "My Father's Arms", a short devotional and poem, in the Summer 2019 edition of *Reach Out Columbia* magazine. I received a complimentary copy from the magazine's editor and sent it to my sister in Massachusetts. She read it aloud at our dad's ninetieth birthday party. They told me it brought lots of tears. An unexpected blessing to show others the impact he's had on our family. On June 20th, *Feed Your Soul with the Word of God* released and is available on Amazon. My contributed Bible Study, "Effective and Fervent"; examines the impact prayer can have in our lives. I pray many of you purchase this compilation for your personal study or as part of a group Bible study. With thirty short studies by twenty six different authors, *Feed Your Soul* offers something to help every Christian deepen their understanding and strengthen their relationship with God.

No word yet on my manuscript selected to go before the Publications Board of a noted Christian publisher. I've seen new contracts signed recently by other authors with that publisher, and Satan keeps holding up flags of doubt. Until I hear from the publisher, I'm staying the course

and praying His will be done. *The Chrysalis of Christ—Transforming Your Life through Faith* will be published, somewhere and in some form, when God puts it where His plan for it determines. Until then, I'm moving forward in His calling for my life.

My website (www.jdwininger.com) gets lots of visitors and wonderful comments. I'm not doing as great a job of converting visitors to email subscribers but we're working on it. We're doubling the number of subscribers every sixty days this year, but when you start with only friends and family it seems I have a long way to go. We'll get there together with your continued support and prayers. I appreciate how many of you 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 writing friends.

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. With summer's arrival here in Texas, things are getting dry and crispy. I prayed for God to stop the rain this spring, now I'm like Elijah and praying for a little of it to return. Please stay hydrated, safe, and prayed up this summer. I also hope you stay tuned to see how God will use my meager offerings next.

God's blessings...



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