



# *Dipping the Quill*

*Writing News from Author J.D. Winger*

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Who hit the pause button? As the COVID-19 pandemic hit full stride in March, it seems it has placed the entire world on “Pause” for a few months. With shutdowns, furloughs, work stoppages, both our personal and professional lives have experienced significant upheaval. What they touted as “sacrifice for a few weeks” has turned into what seems an endless cycle of fear, relief, repeat. And as soon as you think the worst is over, here comes rioting, money shortages, and indecision.

What a crazy time to be a writer. With planned writers' conferences canceled, rescheduled, or eliminated, it has drastically altered the typical publishing paradigm. Instead of seeking agent representation, submitting book proposals, attending conferences with their pitch sessions and networking, many are wondering what the “new normal” will be, and when it will arrive. Not that I’ve done nothing in the past few months. Like many of you, I’ve discovered the joy of Zoom meetings (about six each week these days) and other virtual ways of staying connected to friends, family, and colleagues.

One enjoyable part of this break is spending more time at home. Besides more family time, it was easier being here for the full calving season, hay baling, and getting some projects done around the ranch. We continue increasing the number of subscribers to our Around the Cross-Dubya blog and this newsletter. Platform growth, the number of connections I make with people interested in what I have to write and say, continues to be an area of focus. My weekly

appearances on PJNET TV ([www.pjnet.tv](http://www.pjnet.tv)) on Thursday evenings help me polish my speaking ability and reach new audiences.

With all the pandemic clamor and political/social unrest, people seem busier than ever. Making time to read a blog post can be a burden for some. In July, I started providing audio transcriptions of my weekly blog posts. This gives my readers an option to listen while performing other tasks. While still fine-tuning the technology behind it, overall comments have been positive.

New writing ideas haven't been as plentiful, and I don't feel I've been as productive in my writing as I would like, but every step forward is progress. In the past two months, I've had several articles published online and in magazines; and I've been working on outlining several new writing projects. I've also been blessed to be featured as a guest blogger on several highly visible blogs by writing friends. Moving forward, I continue to refine, polish, and revise my book proposals, one sheets, and other collateral information for completed manuscripts. This ensures the manuscripts I'm seeking publishing for will be ready when the industry starts accepting submissions again.

I continue pursuing my writing goals, which remain using the gifts God has blessed me with making the impact He has planned for them, for His glory. I'll close by extending my continued thanks for your interest, encouragement, and support of my Christian writing. I pray your families remain in good health and that things return to some semblance of normalcy again soon for all of us.

*God's blessings...*



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