



A Writing Chat with Jerry

JERRY B. JENKINS
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS
G U I L D

APRIL 2012

Prayer Request

I believe in the power of prayer, though I confess this has been the weakest part of my spiritual life. Too often when I promise to pray for someone, I do it once and forget it. Thus I am hesitant to ask others to pray for me.

But here I am. As I face the most ambitious writing task of my life—a two-volume novel on the life of the Apostle Paul, each title consisting of about 150,000 words (750 pages of manuscript)—I am asking you to consider praying for me regularly or when you think of it.

The project will be written for Worthy Publishing, and they want it to be epic—different from the usual biblical novel. That’s why it’s so long and will be written in the first person from the main character’s viewpoint. The working titles are *I, Saul* and *I, Paul*.

This will require more research than I have ever done for fiction.

Fortunately, I am being aided in this by Pastor James MacDonald, who is giving me access to all his research for a current sermon series on Paul. He will share cover credit, and I get the fun part—the writing.

The first manuscript is due August 1.

I always come to the keyboard fully aware of the poverty of my personal resources. I don’t mean to sound falsely humble. I have devoted my entire adult life to honing my skills and polishing my craft. Yet there is a huge gap between my abilities and what is needed to make such an important work communicate spiritually.

I will come to the work prayerfully every day, and if you send me your email address, I will regularly keep you posted on my progress.

Are you willing to come alongside?

Thank you in advance.

To join in prayer for Jerry and this project, send your email address to: jerry@jerryjenkins.com

IN Print



Guideposts published my article, “A Recipe for Healing—How a Wife’s Cooking Helped Fight Her Husband’s Illness.”

Dwan Reed
Apprentice, Spring TX
Mentor: Jeannette Littleton



My story, “He Is Able,” was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Answered Prayers* in October.

Michele Huey
Mentor, Glen Campbell PA

Worship Smith

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Roses and Writing

By Sandra Aldrich



The blizzards that usually charge into my area of Colorado each spring haven't shown up yet. So today, I'm looking out my window and into my yard where buds appear on my rose bushes.

Yes, I grow roses in Colorado's high altitude. When I moved here, folks told me my gardening plan wouldn't fit this climate. And decades before that, folks told me not to dream about writing. Well, I do grow roses in Colorado and I am a writer. So I'm pondering what these activities have in common. Both require:

Work: I wish I could write novels as easily as I can verbalize their plots. And I wish a little effort stirring the soil in my garden would result in beautiful blooms.

Patience: Neither well written books nor flowers are produced as quickly as I'd like.

Acceptance: What takes me months to write can be read in two evenings. And the plants I tend for weeks produce blooms lasting just a few days. But I willingly accept both realities.

Healthy surroundings: Just as the rose bushes need to be in untainted soil to produce blooms, I need an uncluttered office to be productive.

Vigilance: I fight tiny insects that pull health from the rose bush canes. In the same way, I fight the aphids of self-doubt and procrastination that pull health from my writing.

Trimming: I prune dead canes for the growth of my rose bushes, just as I must trim sluggish words from my manuscripts.



Nourishment: Rose bushes need water, sunshine, and nutrients for health. In addition to physical sustenance, I need daily spiritual food—Sunshine—

which comes through prayer and God's Word.

Neither roses nor books will blossom in my world unless I take action.

Sandra P. Aldrich is President and CEO of Bold Words, Inc and a Christian Writers Guild mentor. Her 500-plus articles have appeared in Focus on the Family, Moody Magazine, Today's Christian Woman, Discipleship Journal, and others.

Rose image: dan / FreeDigitalPhotos.net



My articles, "Fishy Perspective" and "The Lion and the Bear," were published in the spring issue of *The Secret Place*.

Caroline Holzberger
Word Weaver, Fort Worth TX



I recently won first place in food and restaurant writing and second place in travel writing for non-daily papers in the San Diego Press Club's 38th Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards.

Christy Scannell
Mentor, San Diego CA



When God Makes Lemonade has accepted a story I submitted, and I have had other articles published in *Kid's Ministry Ideas* since finishing my Guild course.

Kim McKinney
Writing Essentials, Monroe WA
Mentor: Julie-Allyson Ieron

Guild News

Does Your Writing Lack Muscle?

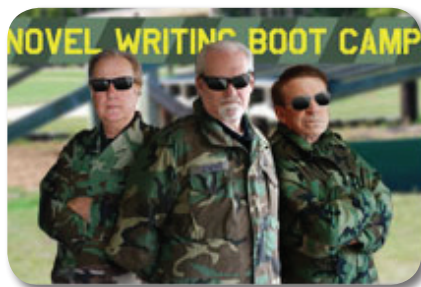
If your novel was a guy on a beach, would he get sand kicked in his face?

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Drill Instructor Jerry B. Jenkins has enlisted two of his best cohorts to help him run recruits through the paces for the June 1-2, 2012 camp at the Cliff House Hotel in Manitou Springs CO.

McConnell says boot camp, while demanding, was also motivating.



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Drill instructors

Jerry B. Jenkins is a Christy Award-winning author with sales of more than 70 million copies—including the Left Behind series. Twenty of

his books have reached the *New York Times* best-seller list.

James Scott Bell is a best-selling suspense writer and former fiction columnist for *Writer's Digest*. His *Plot & Structure*

and *Revision & Self-Editing* are two of the most popular writing books.

Dennis E. Hensley is a columnist and contributing editor for *Writer's Journal* and *Advanced Christian Writer*. Doc is the author of more than 50 books and more than 3,000 articles, and is a university writing professor.

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"Speak Your Silence," a personality profile, was published in the *Urban Liaison* and "God Loves When Life Hurts" has been accepted by *War Cry*.

Tammy Langley
Apprentice, Nampa ID
Mentor: Judy Bodmer



I am editing *Beyond Bath Time*, a book for Moody Publishers and recently wrote a set of 10 devotionals for *God's Word for Today*.

Jeanette Littleton
Mentor, Gladstone MO

JERRY B. JENKINS
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Writing for the Soul Broadmoor 2013

Coming to Your Senses

By Deborah Raney



The six senses can enrich your novel and allow your reader to live in your story world.

Sound

The most obvious use of sound is in your characters' voices—your dialogue. But background noises are also important. Close your eyes. What sounds might you hear in your setting?

Sight

Before characters speak, readers need to visualize them in their settings. He ran a well-manicured hand over the mahogany desk, and punched the intercom button. With 13 words, we see a well-to-do businessman in a large, metropolitan office, with a secretary.

Smell

How many places can you identify by smell? Use what you know to create your setting. The pungent rubbing alcohol stung her nostrils.

Taste

This sense can convey not only pleasure, as in savory, mouth-watering food, but also emotion, such as the bitterness of bile rising in one's throat.

Touch

Giving your scenes literal texture helps your novel become figuratively textured as well. Your characters have sensitive skin and fingers. Use tactile sensations—the velvety softness of a baby's skin—to add depth.

The Sixth Sense

This sense, more than the others, can make your characters real. In the inspirational market, this is often God's still, small voice. More universally, it might be the conscience. Whatever form it takes, that sixth sense incorporates levels of complexity, intensity, and mystery.

Deborah Raney's first novel, A Vow to Cherish, inspired the World Wide Pictures film of the same title. After All, the final book in her Hanover Falls series, released in May 2012 from Howard/Simon & Schuster, and she is currently working on a standalone novel. Deb will teach Writing Women's Fiction and The Perfect Word at Writing for the Soul in 2013.

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—for the—
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February 14–17, 2013
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Colorado Springs, Colorado



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