



Gary Wheeler

Author News

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My First Writer's Conference

There are pros and cons to self-publishing. It allows people like me to get their book(s) out. But with about 7,500 e-books coming out on Amazon EVERY DAY, it's very difficult to get noticed. Not all of us are a famous celebrity, and selling to your family and friends only get's you so far.

It was a Friday morning. I was studying and brainstorming ideas from a book on marketing, when it suggested, "Attend a Writer's Conference." Honestly, I hadn't thought of that, so I googled "Christian Writer's Conference." Lo-and-behold, the only one near me during 2025 was happening in seven days!



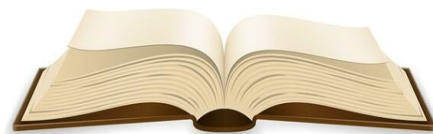
Fast forward a mere week. I attended the [Taylor University Professional Writers Conference](#), along with close to 120 other attendees from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and as far as Texas and Colorado.

Our keynote speaker was [Zena Dell Lowe](#) (and her dog Lulu), who initially challenged us with the question, "Why the World Needs Your Story?" I attended the "Marketing, Money, & More" breakout sessions, won a free book, met with a literary agent, and got to know some fine folks who simply what to share a message God has given them.

I believe without a doubt God led me to that event. Just another step on this writing journey.

Current Book in Process:

"A New Home" has one final edit; I'm going to read ever word aloud to myself! I'm also waiting for potential approval by a literary agent.



Books I've Read Recently:

- ["Within and Without Time"](#) series by D. I. Hennessey (Christian Mystery Thriller).
- ["Mystery Babylon"](#) series by Jamie Lee Grey (Christian fiction, End Times).
- ["Backyard Starship"](#) series by J.N. Chaney & Terry Maggert (Sci-Fi action).

How Can You Help:

- Pray
- Go to my [website](#) or [Amazon](#) page.
- Tell someone "Go to [garykwheeler.com](#)"

Isaiah 25:1 (ESV): O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

Behind the Scenes

They say everyone has a book within them. That was true for me, but it took several decades to realize exactly what that was. Since the day I discerned God had made me a storyteller, I have been driven to share the messages He has given me.

That doesn't mean it's easy. Far from it. The process of writing a book is long and difficult. In my brief five years of writing nine books, I've learned a few things about getting the book out of your soul and into a bound copy on a shelf.

Clarity: Having a clear vision of what you want to write is essential. Over the decades, I wrote a handful of ideas for books, but they didn't have enough vision. Even today, I have notes on potential stories that are simply kernels of ideas, but they have gotten no further because there's not enough clarity. That doesn't mean you have to have every detail figured out, but a clear start and end point, plus some ideas in between, is a must.

Discipline: Here's the hard part: putting words on paper. Dreaming of writing a bestseller is fun, even exciting. Going to the moon captivated a nation, but it took great discipline from astronauts, engineers, manufacturers, even politicians, before Neil Armstrong could plant his foot on its surface. So, it is with a book. You must be disciplined to accomplish greatness.

Effort: This is related to the previous. Beyond discipline, you need the effort. An estimated 400,000 people worked overtime for many years before the moon landing. For me, I have a goal of writing 500 words per day, or 3,000 words every week. So, for a 250-page, 90,000-word novel, that means 30 weeks just to write the first draft. The effort must be there.

Calling: Of course I would mention this. Every potential author must ask themselves, "Why am I doing this?" Maybe you want to record the story of your family for later generations, or you have a desire to cheer up a child or encourage a teenager. You might be like me; I want to spread the word of God everywhere I can. Your calling will dictate how far and how fast your book becomes reality.

Next month, I will detail my process for writing. Until then:

Dream big and be a blessing!



My purpose: *To glorify God in everything I write, and encourage people to grow closer to Jesus Christ.*

Keep up with all the news and books:

www.garykwheeler.com

