

Gary Wheeler Author News September 2025

[“A New Home”](#) has now been published. Here is an inside look at the new book:

Nerdy Stuff: It wouldn’t be me if I didn’t share info no one cares about:

- **Structure:** The book is 324 pages long, has 20 chapters, and contains 116,162 words. It is written in the first person and covers a year in the life of the main character.
- **Time:** I began writing on August 22, 2024, and finished the first draft on April 4, 2025. That calculates to 506.63 words per day—above my goal! It took 139 days to complete the edits and rewrites.

Inspiration: I drew from the people and places of my past:

- **Location:** While Gunther is a fictional town, the places within were inspired in Logan, Ohio. The parsonage and the church are the structures that formerly were the Immanuel UMC (though the sanctuary comes from the former downtown building of the Versailles UMC in Versailles, Kentucky). Charlie’s medical practice is from a building across from the parsonage that at one time saw patients.
- **Characters:** You want to know who comes from whom! Despite what you think, **Dave** is not entirely me; I wish I could come up with sarcastic witticisms. **Dalton** is a combination of Barney Fife, the son of a sports personality I’ve met, plus anyone who is naïve, yet has a big heart. While **Nash’s** bulletin signing was something that happened to me, the stuffed dog was an actual story from my brother-in-law Carl Lamb. (Lord, have mercy!) **Sylvia:** She is a creation based on a story from Tom Hanover. She’s one of my favorite characters. I don’t know where the **Reiser sisters** came from; only once was I pursued unwantedly by a woman during my widower years. **Isabel** is a waitress at a fish restaurant outside of Lakeside, Ohio. **Zander Young** comes from a funeral director I once worked with.
- **Stories:** They came from experiences of pastors, plus some imagination.

I hope you enjoy “A New Home.” Make sure you write a [review](#)!



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

Let the whole world bless our God and loudly sing his praises. Our lives are in his hands, and he keeps our feet from stumbling. *Psalm 66:8-9 (NLT2)*

Behind the Scenes

What is it like to publish a book? Allow me to focus in this issue on the emotional process one goes through.

Imagination: You've had an idea floating around in your head for a long time. Snippets of phrases, ideas, characters, and plots captivate you. They invade your dreams, your waking moments, even when you are in the shower. Like wanting a baby, you imagine the end goal in spite of, or in ignorance of, the hard work that lies ahead.

Doubts: Amid your creativity will come the uncertainty. "I can't do this?" "Who would ever want to read anything I wrote?" Doubt will be there, but it must be vanquished. It is like a sticky piece of tape on your finger, so cast it off deliberately and forcefully.

Courage: It takes courage to write a book. First, to start, then to plow through the process, and finally to set it free to the public for their opinions. Do you think it was easy for the band Queen to release "Bohemian Rhapsody?" Who would think to create a six-minute song (twice as long as any other pop song) that opens a cappella, becomes a ballad, then operatic, followed by a hard rock part, and ends in reflection? That was, and is, unheard of, but they had the courage to put it out there.

Weariness: Writing and editing are not for the faint of heart. It requires hard work and persistence. The hill to climb can seem too high to mount. Fatigue stops many would-be authors from finishing their book.

Trepidation: Once you have a draft, you worry about what your editors and beta readers will say. Will they laugh at your premise, conclusions, and how you consistently substitute "their" for "there"? Your book is your baby, reflecting your inner soul, and it's scary to let anyone see inside.

Finally, **elation!** It's done. All the hard work is now solidified into something you can hold. Your name is on it. It's real, not the dream you've had for months, maybe years. It will be a source of entertainment and information, as well as inspiration to your family, friends, even strangers. "Dad/Mom/Brother/Sister/Grandpa/Grandma/etc. wrote a book!"

Congratulations! You've made it through the turmoil and the triumphant of writing a book.



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

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