



Gary Wheeler Author News October 2025

The Cadillac of Transportation During Jacob Rush's Time.

Transportation is an essential part of modern life. We need to go somewhere to get things (or have someone bring them to us) or visit family. Of course, during the time of my “Messengers” series, a horse was your primary mode of transport. But there were advances .



Last week, I went back in time to the era and rode on the “General Harrison,” a working canal boat at the [Johnston Farm Museum](#) in Piqua, Ohio, on what once what the Miami and Erie Canal. It spanned 274 miles from Lake Erie to the Ohio River on the western side of Ohio. There was also one in the middle of the state called the Ohio and Erie Canal .



What would it have been like back then? For one thing, smooth! Floating down a canal had to have been more

comfortable than on the back of a horse or in a wagon. You traveled faster: two-three miles per hour (speed limit was four). You’d travel 15 miles per day, stopping occasionally to go through a lock that would raise or lower the boat. There were even aqueducts, where the canal traversed OVER a creek or river. Canals were an incredible feat of engineering.

A canal boat has appeared a few times in “The Messengers” and will show up once again in “Evolution,” the next book in the series. I wonder what will happen to Jacob on his travels.



Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. *Psalm 37:7 (NLT)*

Behind the Scenes

I'm in a quandary! Or maybe I'm a little attention deficit. Regardless, I don't know which way to go. Let me explain.

I've allowed myself to get distracted in my writing. Typically, when I send a book off to my editors, I start writing the next one, which gets paused when the first book returns and goes through the final edits for publishing. After that, I pick up where I left off.

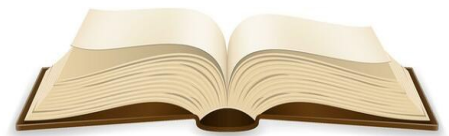
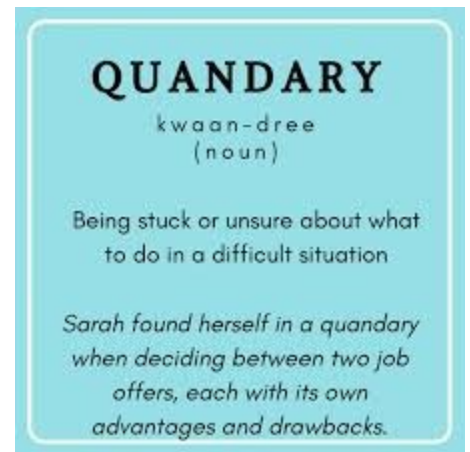
Well, because of some writer's block on one—OK, two book starts—I now have the beginnings of five books:

1. **The Messengers: Evolution:** I have 7 chapters written, but I am stuck trying to figure out the next step in Chapter 8. This was initially meant to be the next book published.
2. **Little-Known Heroes of the Bible:** About half of the first edit has been written. I thought I would release it before "Evolution," but Myra talked me out of that. Plus, I've hit a block in it as well.
3. **The Year with Jesus:** This is going to be a 365-day devotional that moves chronologically through the life of Jesus. I'm excited about this project, but I know it's going to take at least a year to write.
4. **Where No One Would Think:** This is a murder/mystery novel that I've been thinking about for a few years. I spent a couple of hours working on it during Annual Conference.
5. My newest distraction: **a World War II novel.** This is certainly the shiny bobble right now. I have a very interesting plan for it, with action, relationships, and the pursuit of peace. And part of it will be set in my hometown because of a tidbit of actual history.

Where do I go next? I've been praying about it, but I don't have clarity.

What do you think?

[Leave me a comment.](#)



Books I've Read Recently:

- ["The Signal"](#) by John Sneed. Book 1 of "The Delphi Group" series (Christian Sci-Fi)
- ["Her Traitor's Heart"](#) by Colleen Hall (post Civil War Christian romance)
- ["The Phantom"](#) by Nathan Burrows. Book 5 of "The Preacher" series (Action Suspense)

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

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