

## TAYLOR'S TIPS for a more productive you...

Dear Friend,

At the end of last month we talked about planning for this new year. How's that going for you?



Many of us start off strong, me included. I was high on goals, striving forward with vigor, excited about my plans. I sat high in the saddle, and I rode toward my dreams.

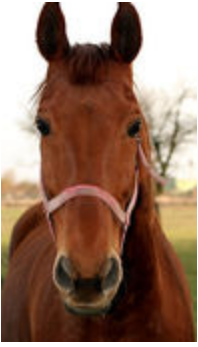
Then life happened. Things got in the way. My washing machine broke and I found myself at the laundromat. The computer at the office acted up and we spent days working out the glitches. I felt stymied in a book project and wasn't sure which way to turn so I stalled and did nothing.



I was getting bucked off the horse. My course was altered. It was no longer an easy ride. All my well-thought-out plans weren't working.



And one day I crumbled. A two-day migraine made me want to close my eyes and curl up in a ball. It felt like nothing I did mattered. The horse had succeeded in throwing me to the ground. I wanted to give up.



I contemplated my future, and realized there were still eleven months of the year left. I haven't blown it. I've lost a little ground, but there's still plenty of time to achieve those goals I set for myself. I looked at my horse straight on. Yes, I've had a little setback. And yes, life does get in the way sometimes. But I'm reevaluating, recalculating, revisioning.



I'm back in the saddle. I hope you'll join me as we ride toward our goals.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

### *What's Happening...*

Serious about being a writer? Check out these great conferences to help you to get on your way (and ride that horse to your dreams):

**Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference** April 15-19. This is the place *Where Writers Come to Grow*. Network and build your skills in this fabulous conference setting of majestic redwoods in the mountains just outside San Jose. <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

**OC Christian Writers Conference** - April 29 and 30 at Mariners Church in Southern California. Get ready for a great event that will knock your socks off. There are writing contests, mentor workshops, a meet-and-greet with faculty, 27 classes, and editors, award-winning authors, and literary agents to interact with. **Note:** The Fiction workshop has five spots left -- the Memoir Writing workshop has only two spots left. **ALSO**, on the website look closely at the 1st Annual Memoir Writing Contest to be judged by Mick Silva. **Deadline is February 28th to submit your material.**

### **Memoir Writing Contest**

\$475 Cash Prizes, and

1st Place Winner Meets with Editor or Agent

With a lot to offer, be sure to check this conference out.

Early Bird Special: save \$35 if you register before Feb. 15.

[www.ocwf.org](http://www.ocwf.org)

*Follow your dreams...*

***B.J.***

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