

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

Here it is May already. Where did April go? Oh, yeah, I know: six nights for me at the wonderful Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. If you were there - wasn't it fantastic? And then later in the month I spent five nights in Wisconsin celebrating my mom's 80th birthday. We went to see Bobby Vinton (remember him? *Roses are Red My Love, Violets are Blue and Blue on Blue, Heartache on Heartache*). She's still getting around great and loved her marble cake with hot pink frosting. Yummy.

Each time I returned home I walked into my office to a stack of work that had piled up. It took days each time to dig out from under. I felt like I was behind an 8-ball--it was black and bleak and the darkness wore me down. But one morning I discovered I was rolling that ball and it was picking up speed. There was lightness and brightness just around the corner. I could feel it. I could taste it.

It was after the piles on my desk shrunk and that ball rolled out of the way that I realized this issue of Taylor's Tips had not gone out on time. I was feeling sad that I had let you all down. The weight of darkness tried to settle on my shoulders again and guilt reared its ugly head. Then I sat up straight in my chair, granted myself forgiveness for being late, and realized

WE ARE ALL DOING THE BEST THAT WE CAN.

I forget that sometimes, don't you?

In our writing world, people often do things we don't like:

- they don't respond in a timely fashion to email
- they forget to send something they promised us
- they don't communicate clearly.

Have you ever submitted a query by email, expecting to receive an almost immediate response, only to wonder weeks later if they even received it? Maybe you've submitted a book proposal and are waiting for the agent's or publisher's decision? How about sending in a story to an anthology only to twiddle your thumbs in despair wondering if they liked it?

Realizing that others are also doing the best that they can releases the tension I often feel when I think of them. I ask God to forgive me for being judgmental, and I grant forgiveness to myself. It isn't nice of me to think less highly of someone who is behind their own 8-ball. Many people are overworked. Budget cuts, layoffs, long hours at the job leave little time to do all that is on someone's plate. Good intentions may be there, but time just runs out. Like it did for me.

"Look in the Mirror Instead of the Magnifying Glass"

Susan Jeffers wrote that in *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*. When I remember to do that, all things come into focus. When I'm on the waiting side of the fence, It's easy to judge others, but then I think about the times I've made others wait for me (like you with this issue, or my family when I call out, "Just a few more minutes, Honey" as I furiously type out the last paragraph on a page or a chapter in my book). Many of you might be behind your own 8-ball at this time. Money is tight, you might be working long days, there's little time to devote to writing, and your family wonders when you might make some money from this "hobby" as they call it.

- Won't you join me in allowing yourself (and others) to **DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN.**

Shrug off your feelings of guilt or inadequacy. Lighten your load. Who do you need to forgive today? Maybe, like me, you should start with **YOU** and decide to let yourself off the hook for thoughts or actions you have performed. Give your imperfections over to God. Let them go. When we do that, we have more room to also forgive others. Don't you think?

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

Antelope Valley Christian Writers' Conference -- This conference will be held May 15 & 16 with a "blue-ribbon panel of distinguished speakers," (the director's words -- not mine). I'll be speaking twice on Saturday the 16th. Other instructors include: Susan Titus Osborn, Tim Riter,

Sharon Elliott, Kathy Ide, and more. The fee is reasonable, so come on down! Check it out: www.avwriters.com. FYI: The Orange County Spring Writer's Day was cancelled for today, May 2nd, due to low registrations. If you were planning on attending that one, Antelope Valley would be the next closest event and right around the corner. Hope to see you there!

New website: www.bjtayloronline.com - Stop by often to my site for the latest and greatest information for writers and friends. In the near future I'll be posting photos and information from Mount Hermon, possibly even a video clip from my classes. Keep in touch and let me know what you like when you visit the site.

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Author of :

“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”

Available on Amazon.com or <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4099-7>

*Visit my new and improved website: www.bjtayloronline.com.

P.S. Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends. If they'd like to be added to my list, they can email me at bj.taylor@verizon.net. You can also opt out of Taylor's Tips at any time. Just send me an email with “remove” in the subject line.