

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



Dear Fellow Writer,

One of my goals for 2008 was to have professional photos taken for my website and for conference directors to use in brochures or online. It was the coolest experience. I had my hair done first by my beautician, then drove to the photographer's studio where she did my makeup. Then she shot more than a hundred pictures. I've never looked that good in pictures before! Of course, it helps that she "touches up" the photos to make you look extra special good. Needless to say, I love her.

We're about to turn our calendars forward to 2009 so it's a good time to talk about two things: 1) goals and 2) help from others.

GOALS:

Every year at this time I take down my "Goals" sheet off my file cabinet where it's been hanging all year. It was a visual reminder of what I wanted and how I was progressing in achieving those goals.

Now, I have a new sheet on the file cabinet labeled: [Goals for 2009](#). On it, I list things like how many *Chicken Soup* books I want to get stories into, how many proposals I want to get out this year, how many conferences (and which ones) I want to attend, how many stories I want to publish in *Guideposts* and *Angels on Earth*, and anything else I can think of related to my writing. What I love the most is that every time one of those goals is achieved, I bring the sheet down, highlight the goal in bright yellow, and then tack it back up. I LOVE that part!

Have you put your goals down on paper yet?

HELP FROM OTHERS:

I didn't achieve that good photograph all by myself. Sure, it's me—but I had a little help. First, my hairdresser. I always look good when I come out of there. Second, the photographer did my makeup, adding more than I usually wear to make it stand out in pictures. I found out you need to do that so you don't look washed out – who knew? Then, she posed me in flattering ways and took a gazillion shots, all so that I had a handful that turned out great.

So what help do we need from others when we write? You are the master of your emotions and your skills. You craft a creative piece that you love and it is totally you. But could you use a little help to make it really, really good? How about your writers group to help catch grammar or punctuation mistakes or to add a different word choice to make the writing have more zing? I love all three of my groups as much as I love my hairdresser! How about taking some classes to make sure the formatting is correct when you submit? I still learn things at every class I attend. How about a conference where you can learn from professional instructors all the latest and greatest tips for success?

Have you availed yourself of the help you need to further your writing career?

GOALS and **HELP FROM OTHERS** – a **WINNING COMBINATION** for 2009.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

April 3-7, 2009 – Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference is fast approaching. Have you checked out the website? <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference> Look for the little red “**here**” and click on it to see all the latest and greatest on the faculty that will be in attendance and the wonderful major morning tracks of instruction. This is one conference worth every penny. ☺

Later in April 2009 – This is the month my mom turns 80. I've set a goal to fly to Wisconsin to spend time with her to celebrate her big event. It's on my calendar and I'm planning for it. Even social events need to be planned for. I've already started checking into airfares. They're cheaper now than they were a few months ago. Go figure!

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>

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