

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



Dear Fellow Writer,

Okay, I'm smiling in that photo above, but it's not always easy to smile lately. There are so many things that can get us down--loss of jobs, dwindling retirement investments, sporadic sales to publishing markets, higher taxes, cold and long winter days--you can probably add to this list. One of the things I strive for in this newsletter is to not only give you some nuts and bolts help with your writing career, but to also help you with the emotional end of it. And that's where Zig Ziglar comes in.

**Your success and your happiness start with you.** Zig Ziglar

I have a flip calendar on my desk that has been there for probably 15 years. It has daily motivational thoughts by the one and only Zig Ziglar. I know it's not always easy to stay positive, and lately it's been getting harder. Heaven knows I've had my rough days, like when you think you have a sale and it gets cut from the book in the final run, or what looked promising when you met with an agent or publisher turns out not to be. So then I do this:

If you want more confidence in your life you must look to the small successes you have achieved and nurture the images and feelings that those victories have brought you. Zig Ziglar

I bring out my Published Work Binder and flip through the pages to see what I have had published over the years. I look at the goals sheet on my file cabinet and see that yes, I have accomplished a little bit already this year. I pat myself on the back and keep moving forward. *Thanks, Zig, for the motivation.*

The key is not to give up. I know you hear that every day, but it's true. Don't give up on your dreams, don't give up on yourself. Hang tough.

Some people succeed because they are destined to, but most people succeed because they are determined to. Zig Ziglar

He's right. You must have determination to succeed. Many people will give up in this tough economy. But you won't. You will smile, stay positive, look at each success you have had, be proud of your accomplishments, and you will forge on. Things will get better.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

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

**Antelope Valley Christian Writers' Conference** -- This fourth annual conference will be held May 15 & 16 with a "blue-ribbon panel of distinguished speakers." I put that in quotes because those are the director's words -- not mine. I happen to be one of those speakers (it feels good to be called blue-ribbon and distinguished!). Others include Susan Titus Osborn, Tim Riter, Sharon Elliott, Kathy Ide, and more. I'll be conducting a workshop in the morning and again in the afternoon on the 16th on "Writers' Groups That Really Work." It's a reasonable fee to attend this event. You might want to check it out: [www.avwriters.com](http://www.avwriters.com). I'd love to see you there.

**Spring Writer's Day-Orange County Christian Writers Fellowship** – This one-day conference is fabulous. Held May 2 at Mariners Church in Irvine, the conference director, John DeSimone, along with the staff, do an excellent job of bringing top quality notables for your learning experience. James Scott Bell, Brian Bird, Kathi Macias, Janet Thompson, and again, little ole me. I'll be conducting a workshop on "Building Your Portfolio." A nice surprise for this year -- they've lowered the registration rate. Hooray! Check out the website for more information: [www.occfw.org](http://www.occfw.org). I hope to see you there.

**Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference** – My last reminder that the conference is just over a month away. Dates: April 3-7. Check out the website and sign up. This one holds a WEALTH of information all the way from learning the craft in numerous workshops to free critiques to meetings with editors and agents. I've been attending this conference for 10 years.

This year I'll be on faculty as the rep for *Guideposts* magazine. Come and enjoy the San Jose mountains, breathe in the fresh air, and add to your writing toolbox. You can't go wrong with this one. <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

*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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