

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



Dear Fellow Writer,

Last month I talked about **Trick or Treat**. This month, let's talk **TURKEY!** But not turkey as in the edible kind, the kind of turkey where we get real.

Let's face it. This is a time to be thankful, right? And we are (see below for a list of my favorite things). But there are also things that bug us, things that maybe we thought would be different by now? I can name a few for me, and you can probably add a few for you. Let's see, for me there's the fact that I didn't make nearly as much money as I did last year in sales from my writing. I was hoping for a good year, but it didn't happen (and not for lack of trying). Then there are the markets that I submitted to that seem to be dragging their feet. The ones I haven't heard back from on whether my submission is a go. It's so hard to wait! And then there's my first fiction work that is out there being pitched by my agent. I had hoped by the end of summer I'd hear something positive. Nope. Okay, maybe it will be a birthday present in October? Didn't happen. Maybe word will come down by Thanksgiving? Nothing.

So there are lots of things in my writing life that I wish were different. But you know what? I can't change a one of them. I pray every day, though, for the following things:

- **PATIENCE**
- **GUIDANCE**
- **ACCEPTANCE**

I pray for **patience**, because that's what we need in this industry. I pray every day for God's **guidance** to keep submitting my work to places where it might be published so I can bring in some sort of paycheck for all my efforts. I pray for **acceptance** that God might have other plans in mind for me as I wait. Is this when I should be spending time with family? Is it a time to indulge in simple pleasures instead of frantic pursuits? I have to listen closely for God's direction, but when I do listen, I am guided.

Maybe there are things unrelated to your writing life that you also wish were different. Sometimes, me too. Like I wish my entire family lived close by so we could enjoy the holidays all together. I wish the people I do spend time here with at holidays would do things differently sometimes. But instead of getting upset at how things are not the way I want them, I apply the principles above and somehow things work out for the best!

So **Happy Thanksgiving!** Make the best of what you have on your plate today! (pun intended)

I promised you a list of my favorite things. Here's what I'm thankful for (try making a list of your own!):

- a great marriage to a wonderful man
- fabulous children who even call me sometimes for love-life advice
- grandchildren who email and share their hunting experiences out in the wild woods in Wisconsin
- my dad, who passed away in 1997, but who I know watches over me from heaven
- our business that brings in needed money
- simple pleasures like flavored coffee and hot chocolate with mini marshmallows
- silly Christmas songs (i.e., Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer) which makes my brother and me laugh
- mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- coconut cream pie
- God, who is always on my side.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

Speaking Engagements Ahead...

January 21st Kingfield Church in Aliso Viejo has asked me to speak to the moms program. We'll be talking about "How to Stay Positive In a Negative World."

February 10th Mission Hills Community Church has asked me to speak to the MOPS group. We'll also be talking about "How to Stay Positive In a Negative World."

Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference March 26th to 30th. Start saving your pennies and quarters (and dollars and fives and tens) in an envelope and mark it "My Writers Conference 2010." Ask for contributions for a Christmas gift. This will be the best present you give yourself: a time to network with other writers, meet editors face-to-face, even have one-on-one appointments with agents, all included in the cost of the conference. Check it out.

<http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Follow me on Facebook. I'm listed as B.j.Taylor (little j).

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