

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

Dear Friend,

I just returned from a fabulous five days at Mount Hermon. Oh my gosh--the food, the classes, the worship services, the redwood trees, the talented authors, the publishers all joyfully meeting with attendees, the agents open and receptive to hearing about writers' work. It was phenomenal. (Next year's dates: April 15-19)

If you were in either of my classes: "Writing for the Guideposts Contest" or "Writing Personal Experience Stories That Sell," I applaud you, because the theme of this newsletter is something my mentor Kay Marshall Strom asked me years ago. We were having lunch together and I poured out my enthusiasm over the book I was writing: how intriguing it was, how far I was, how I knew it would change the world! (Well, okay, I wasn't that over the top, but close.) She listened, asked questions, then when I finally ran out of breath, she looked up from her salad and said:

### WHAT ELSE ARE YOU WORKING ON?

I almost choked on my grilled chicken breast sandwich. "What?" I managed to say.

"What other things are you writing?" Kay said sweetly.

"I'm not doing anything else. This book is what I'm working on."

"You should think of getting published in magazines or newspapers or anthologies. It will impress a publisher who looks at your book proposal."

I balked. How could I find time to look for markets for shorter stories, let alone write those stories, and then submit them? I was writing a book! She was asking me to have....



### OTHER IRONS IN THE FIRE

Many years later, after that wonderful but shocking lunch, I have built a diverse writing career. I've been published in so many places I've lost count. Kay was right. And that book I was working on way back then? It still hasn't been published. If that was all I'd been doing, I'd be sitting here with no publication credits at all.

I encourage all of you to stretch a bit and explore options for publication. Maybe you're writing the next breakout novel, or the biggest nonfiction book that will hit the shelves, but if you've got a life (which I know you have), then you've got stories. Keep "cooking" up the ingredients to add to your list of publication credits. I know you can do it.



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Happy writing and blessings on your work.

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

*Writer's Day Conference-OC Christian Writers Fellowship* Twenty workshops, three keynote speakers, individual consultations, hosted author/editor lunch tables--all of this in one day: Saturday, May 1, 2010 at Mariner's Church in Irvine, California. Check it out for more information. [www.ocwfw.org](http://www.ocwfw.org)

*Antelope Valley Christian Writers' Conference* Whether you are an absolute beginner, a seasoned professional, or somewhere in between, this may be for you. Interact with professional writers and editors and attend workshops. Complimentary refreshments, continental breakfast, buffet lunch will be provided. May 14-15, 2010 in Lancaster, California. Look it up for more information. [www.avwriters.com](http://www.avwriters.com)

***Follow your dreams...***

***B.J.***

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