

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

Dear Friend,

Got plans for the holiday? A backyard BBQ? A family get-together? Traveling?

Or will this be just another day where you sit at your computer, sign in to email, do a little Facebook, Twitter, work on a manuscript?

After remembering why we have this day of reflection and saying a prayer or two...

Maybe you'd like to join me in doing **THREE THINGS** this Memorial Day holiday:

TURN OFF



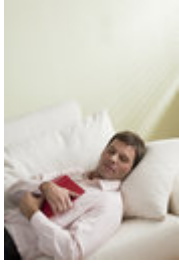
Turn off the computer, the television, even your cell phone. Listen to the quiet serenity around you. Hear the birds chirping? The radio playing oldies you can sing along to? The sound of your loved ones voice?

TUNE IN



My husband swears he can listen to me and to a sporting event on television at the same time. I can't do that. Take calls on a cell phone while visiting with someone? Unthinkable to me. How about working on the computer while talking on the phone? I've done it, but I know the other person can hear the annoying *click, click* of the keys. Take time to connect with loved ones or friends face-to-face.

TIME OUT



I've decided that it really is okay to take a day off. I give myself permission -- on holidays especially -- to rest and relax and rejuvenate. I can do the revisions to my chapter the next day. I can re-read a story for *Chicken Soup* later that week. I can do the loads of wash on Tuesday, grocery shop on Wednesday, pay bills Thursday.

When I go back to work the day after a holiday, I want to feel like I had a full day off. I can only feel good about it if I really did **TURN OFF**, **TUNE IN**, and **TIME OUT**.

Have a GREAT weekend.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

Extraordinary Answers to Prayer a *Guideposts* series is looking for stories for Volume nine "Closer to God" (deadline July 1) and Volume ten "The Power of Praying Together" (deadline August 15). Prefer stories between 1,000 to 2,000 words. Email Jeanette Littleton at incredibleprayers@earthlink.net for full guidelines, inquiries and submissions.

Guideposts Writers Workshop Contest runs every other year and this is YOUR year to enter that true, first-person story (yours or someone else's), up to 2,000 words. Needs one spiritual message with scenes, drama and characters. Winners attend a week-long seminar in Rye, New York (all expenses paid) on how to write for *Guideposts*. www.guideposts.org Check it out. Even if you've entered before, do it again. It took me *eight years* before I won a spot. Don't give up!

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

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

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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.