Lilies & Light

ENewsletter

December 2025

Lily of the Valley Publishing
www.mylilyofthevalley.org
"Christ-Centered Publishing with a Purpose."

So, God is Prompting You to Write About Your Controversial Testimony

by Joy S. Taylor

Before you start, pray; and pray again. The ramifications of what you write are far-reaching. I started my journey to publishing my story with a strong sense that God was telling me it was time to start working on putting the pieces together. I started the project only after confirmation from three godly people who stood by me in prayer.

The circumstances in this particular period in my life swirled about an unexpected event in my church that left me shaking my head in disbelief, anger, and hurt. I set about discovery of how I got to that point, what happened around me and to me, and what it meant. It was more of a healing effort than regurgitation of what I saw and heard.

I used the techniques I learned in over ten years of recovery leadership. I decided to delve into the church history and of the main people involved to see what I could find. I didn't know where I might end up, so I started with a vague outline of chapter titles and filled in the blanks with all the pertinent facts and analysis that I could. What began as an inventory of happenings and characters ended up a published account of a painful and complicated church split. A View from the Pews - The Inside Story of a Broken Church grew from the original question of how did we get here into the greater question of what does this teach us about protecting the church going forward.

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Merry Christmas Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

Thank you for taking the time to connect with us through our, "Lilies & Light" E-newsletter! We would love to hear from you, and this month, we are accepting entries for:

"What Christmas Means to Me"

Tell us of the Lord's goodness and faithfulness in your life and how He continues to bless you. What are some ways He reveals His nature even more during the holidays?

email your entry to:
publishing@mylilyofthevalley.org

Entries will be shared on our Facebook page, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a free book from our LOTV Bookstore!

Entries due by Dec. 21st, 2025

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6

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(cont.)

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Write out why you want to put your testimony into book form. Who might you need to warn that you are making it public? Whose permission do you need to get for the information you put into your book? Are you using song lyrics? Portions from other books, articles or Scripture?

This is a non-fiction piece you are writing, so stick to the facts. You can come to your own conclusions and ask your readers to do the same, but you may not make anything up. Document every premise you put forth with studies and supportive articles by experts. Cite each one carefully, including interviews and quotes you use from them.

I've come up with eight helpful steps to creating your non-fiction controversial writing.

1. *Organize your main points.*
2. *Support each one diligently.*
3. *Sketch an outline of chapter titles in such a way you can move them around for fuller explanation or for better transition between them.*
4. *Think about how you will approach telling your story. Concentrate on your perspective, because others may see events differently. That is where controversy comes in.*
5. *Does it flow easily in a chronological manner?*
6. *Do points from different chapters overlap? Explain the connection between them as you write.*
7. *Organize the book structure. How can you put the chapters together so that they present the information in a format the reader easily understands?*
8. *Hire a good editor.*

Be prepared to be your own best marketer for your work.
Will you need to support your reasoning for writing the book? Yes.
Will you lose friends who support the other side of the controversy? Perhaps.
Will you receive criticism? Be ready. Prayerfully consider the points of critiques to see if they should lead you to change your viewpoint or something in your writing style.
Remember, the controversy sparks interest in your book.

To read more by author, Joy S. Taylor, visit her website at:

www.joyinverse.com

A Different Kind of Christmas

by Elizabeth A. Knox

I thought at first I was just acting out. I thought I was projecting my sadness and grief onto our community in response to a couple of painful family experiences that recently happened to my husband and me. I felt nervous and even asked my Pastor if it was okay to host a community-invited Thanksgiving meal at our church. I had a knot in my stomach as I created and posted the event on Facebook and then shared it. In the days to follow I was bombarded with negative thoughts:

What if no one comes?
What if I'm a boring host?
What if the turkey is dry?

I can literally imagine Jesus with His palm over His face saying, "How long am I going to have to deal with your lack of faith?" (Matt. 17:17)

Twenty people came in person and seven others were fed a meal at home.
I could have been boring, but I loved like I haven't loved in a long time.
The turkey may have been a little dry, but I don't think it mattered one bit.

It was one of the best Thanksgivings we have ever had, and it wasn't anything we did...it was the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus clearly said in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I with them"

Sorrow was transformed into joy.
Tears were dried by love.
The darkness of loneliness was driven out by the Light of the Lord.

It's going to be a different kind of Christmas for us this year, for sure. I just dropped in to let you know that He *can and will* transform this season, if you'll *let* Him.

Please don't spend your holidays alone. There are still people in this world that want to love you for no other reason than to make sure you feel loved. Pray to the One who loves you the best first, then ask Him to bring people into your life that will love you the best way they can.

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We hope you've enjoyed this edition of Lilies & Light! Please add us to your prayer list that the Lord will use us for His glory and honor in all we do. To learn more, visit our website at: www.mylilyofthevalley.org