



# Guidelines for **WRITERS**

Christian Fiction and Biography  
For Children & Teens





## Our Goal

Because our God speaks to us through His Holy Bible, we are rightly called “a people of the Book.” We desire to develop in our children a love for and understanding of the written word, ultimately helping them love and understand God’s Word.

We aim to produce well-written books for readers of varying abilities and interests—books excellent in every facet of their presentation.

## What to Submit

- ▶ **Christian fiction and biography for children and teens**
  - Manuscripts should reflect the highest Christian standards of thought, feeling, and action.
  - Main characters should be fully developed.
  - Plots should have plenty of action.
- ▶ **Manuscript Lengths**
  - Ages 6–8: 8,000 to 10,000 words
  - Ages 9–12: 30,000 to 50,000 words
  - Young Adult: 40,000 to 60,000 words

## How to Submit

- ▶ Include a cover letter telling us your target audience and your professional background.
- ▶ Include five chapters and a brief synopsis of the rest of the book.
- ▶ Send a typed or computer-printed submission. Double-space and number your pages consecutively throughout.
- ▶ Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct postage if you want your manuscript returned.
- ▶ Expect a response within twelve weeks.

## Is It Ready to Submit?

- ▶ Is the theme strong enough to support a book-length manuscript?
- ▶ Are the facts carefully researched?
- ▶ Is the point of view consistent?
- ▶ Are your characters fully developed?
- ▶ Does your main character have a clearly defined goal he or she is trying to achieve?

- ▶ Is the plot organized, building to a natural, effective climax?
- ▶ Is your plot or theme unique?
- ▶ Is the language appropriate for the age of the intended reader?
- ▶ Are there books in the market similar to yours?

## Tips

- ▶ Know what we publish. Many manuscripts, such as drama and romance, are outside our publishing plan and we cannot accept them.
- ▶ Understand that we use in-house authors for
  - short stories
  - picture books
  - rhyming text
  - poetry
- ▶ Remember our market is not open to stories that include
  - profanity or minced oaths
  - characters who engage in unscriptural activities without a biblical consequence
  - magic
  - witchcraft
  - time travel
- ▶ Consider writing first chapter books for beginning readers.
  - Audience: 6–9 years old
  - Content: exciting plot, uncomplicated story, vivid characters
  - Length: 4,000 to 10,000 words. Keep high interest words necessary to the story, but omit adverbs and adjectives.
  - Vocabulary: 6- to 9-letter words
  - Syntax: short, simple sentences with just a few longer sentences interspersed among them
  - We are not currently accepting picture books.

- ▶ **Submit appropriately. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts by**
  - phone
  - fax
  - e-mail
  - audiocassette
  - computer disk
- ▶ **Please do not expect a lengthy response. There are agencies that provide an evaluation of submitted works, but we do not have the staff to offer that service.**

## **Our Acceptance Procedure**

- ▶ **Your manuscript will be reviewed by qualified readers and our trade division editors.**
- ▶ **Based upon their favorable response, your manuscript will be recommended to our Editorial Committee.**
- ▶ **The Committee reviews will be evaluated and a decision will be made about acceptance. You will be contacted as soon as a decision is made.**
- ▶ **The manuscript editor will work with you to produce a final manuscript that fulfills the vision you and your editor have for your book.**
- ▶ **JourneyForth is dedicated to excellence in children's literature. We provide competitive fees or royalty rates, professional illustration and design, and marketing from a company that has long been a leader in Christian publishing.**

**Please mail your manuscript to**

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Greenville, SC 29614



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