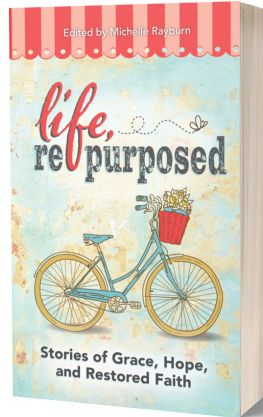


# Life, Repurposed: Stories of Grace, Hope, and Restored Faith

Stories Compiled and Edited by Michelle Rayburn

These and other guidelines and tools available at: [www.faithcreativitylife.com](http://www.faithcreativitylife.com)



**Pease read all guidelines prior to submitting a manuscript for consideration.**

## **Target Reader:**

Women ages 30-45 who believe their struggles are too big for God to fix or too hopeless for them to navigate past. This isn't only for believers; it's also for people exploring faith or struggling to believe.

## **Theme:**

The thread that ties everything together is how God turns trash into treasure. Borrowing from the popular trends of decorating with vintage junk, our stories show that flawed people can be used by God and that his power is made perfect in weakness.

## **Premise:**

This will focus on stories of everyday people where God's renovation is demonstrated in their before and after stories. These aren't necessarily dramatic, but they could be. Think more of how God changed an attitude or a circumstance in a way that helped you to mature spiritually, develop deeper faith, or discover a new purpose. Your journey can inspire others. Stories feature how our imperfections and struggles are part of how we learn and grow. The change in us points other people toward God and encourages hope. This is not a devotional but a Christian living book. It isn't a Bible study either.

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this book is to showcase how grace breaks the bonds of shame and regret and to help people discover joy in the middle of their own trials. Rather than featuring people who have it all together, it's really about how God shows up in the mess and makes us into people who look more like Jesus. Faith is a key thread, but stories shouldn't be preachy. Instead, they should draw the reader in and feel like a chat over coffee, and gently bring them to a point of application to the reader's life.

Humor that flows naturally is a big plus to engage the reader, but only if it isn't cheesy or contrived. I've chosen the age demographic based on the idea that this is when the real gritty stuff of life takes place. These are the years when women begin having children, making career decisions, and wrestling with what they really believe. Hearing the stories of others who have worked through it inspires hope and leads toward healing.

This book ties in with the message my *Life, Repurposed* podcast. It's a continuation of my humorous Christian living book called *The Repurposed and Upcycled Life: When God Turns Trash to Treasure*. This compilation is a way to feature the fabulous stories of others who have experienced transformation.

**There may be opportunities for some of the authors in the book to be interviewed on the *Life, Repurposed* podcast.**

**Details:**

I'm looking for first-person true stories of 1300–1900 words (includes the discussion questions) plus an additional bio of 50-75 words. (Please, no ghostwritten stories or as told to.)

You may submit **one** article, so please make it your best. If there are additional spaces left, some authors might be invited to submit a second article.

At the end of each chapter there will be a short section called “Renew and Restore.” Please include 2-3 short questions or creative activity ideas that will help the reader to apply the concept to their own life. This helps them to pause and reflect and engage and chose a next step. Use open-ended questions (see example in writing tips below).

**Sample topics:**

- Finding hope after experiencing a traumatic childhood.
- How God renovated your real-life mess.
- God showed up in a medical challenges and gave you hope and strengthened your faith.
- You doubted and wandered, but God's love brought you back.
- You processed through the junk heap of discouragement and then discovered God's plan B was even better.
- Your journey of finding healing after intense grief has given you new purpose.
- The way you accepted a new norm and moved forward after loss, chronic illness, etc. has given you a new ministry.
- God used financial challenges to teach you how to trust him to provide.
- You were once bitter but found pleasure in little things when life changed.
- Your flaws and “scars” are beautiful because God's grace covers them with the perfection of Jesus.
- You've discovered unexpected blessings in the midst of your life challenges.
- God renovated your mindset and showed you a different path that included joy.
- Your faith was restored because of something you never expected.
- You reclaimed hope when you thought it was gone forever.
- Something needed to be refurbished in your life in order to find peace.

**Tentative Timeline:**

Deadline for submission is January 8, 2021. Earlier is better! We will cut off submissions early if all slots are filled.

- You will be notified of acceptance no later than January 26, 2021.
- You'll receive a PDF of your chapter to proof no later than February 26, 2021 with any changes/corrections to be submitted within 10 days.
- The book will have a soft launch online March 18, 2021 in time to order copies for Mother's Day.
- Your author copies will be shipped to you the week of March 20, 2021.
- We will have an online launch party celebration on April 12, 2021.

**Rights and publishing:**

Submissions for *Life, Repurposed* are one-time rights to be published in a print paperback book and in an eBook. You may use your submission elsewhere, since the rights to your piece are yours. You may use a previously published article or blog post as long as you own the rights for using it and if you edit it to fit the audience for this book. Contributors will receive a contract that spells out rights and permissions.

If your submission has been published elsewhere, please specify this in the email body when you send it.

This will be published under the imprint owned by Michelle Rayburn: **Faith Creativity Life Books**. It will be available for sale on Amazon and other online retailers in the print form, and in Kindle for the eBook.

**Compensation:**

There is no financial compensation for submissions, but each contributor will receive 5 copies to sell or give away. These will have a retail value of approximately \$74.95.

Contributors will also have the ability to place orders for cartons of books in multiples of 20 (20, 40, 60, 80, etc.) at a wholesale price of 50% off the cover price plus actual shipping costs. Those will be direct shipped from Amazon to the author after payment is made to Michelle Rayburn via a QuickBooks invoice. Wholesale re-orders will be available to contributors as long as the book is in print.

Example: \$14.99 cover price. Authors purchase books at \$7.50 each plus shipping. If an author purchases 20 books at \$7.50 each (Approximate cost of \$163 with shipping), they can re-sell them at speaking events or to friends and family for a total of \$300. This would earn them a profit of \$137 on those 20 books.

Authors will have a bio appearing at the end of their chapter (not at the end of the book), and they may also include a link to their website in that bio (or to **one** social media platform).

## Promotional Opportunity:

Contributors have the option of purchasing a full-page ad featuring a cover image of one of their books (or a collage of a couple). In the back of the book, there will be a section featuring books written by the contributors to this book. For the cost of \$50 (a full spread is available for \$100), an author or publisher may purchase a feature page with:

- up to 100 words about the book, series, or upcoming books (written by the author and provided with the ad request)
- a link to their website or the page where someone can purchase the books
- and up to three images (must be provided in hi resolution and may be a 3D image, but must be book covers)

This page will be in grayscale in the print book and might be in color in the eBook. You will supply the image(s) and text, and Michelle will create the page. You will proof the ad before publication. We have the right to refuse advertising that doesn't fit with this project.

Sample ad available at [www.faithcreativitylife.com](http://www.faithcreativitylife.com)

To request more info about purchasing an ad, please **send an email to [submissions@faithcreativitylife.com](mailto:submissions@faithcreativitylife.com)** with “Advertising” in the subject line.

## Supporting a Cause:

- 10% of the royalties from the Amazon sales of the book (print and eBook) will be donated to Destiny Rescue ([www.destinyrescue.org/us/](http://www.destinyrescue.org/us/)), an organization that is committed to rescuing kids from sexual exploitation and helping them stay free. Since 2011, they have rescued more than 5200 people enslaved around the world, helped keep hundreds more from entering the sex trade through various human trafficking prevention programs, ensured justice for those who have been wronged, and raised awareness.
- Authors are welcome to make additional donations or help to spread the word about the fundraiser. See our progress here: [go.destinyrescue.org/liferepurposed](http://go.destinyrescue.org/liferepurposed)

## Submission Guidelines:

Manuscripts will be reviewed for consideration and authors will receive one of three responses:

- 1) An acceptance along with a contract.
- 2) A request for further edits before receiving a contract.
- 3) A thank you for submitting, but we don't think the piece is the right fit.

All submissions will go through an editing process, and the author will have the opportunity to view a PDF proof before it goes to print. Writers will be asked to follow the writers' guidelines and format as requested to be considered for publication.

Send your submission to [submissions@faithcreativitylife.com](mailto:submissions@faithcreativitylife.com) with “Life Repurposed Chapter Submission” in the subject line. Attach the Word document. Within several days you will receive a simple reply that says your submission has been received and you will be notified later about acceptance one way or the other.

### Writer's Guidelines:

- Download the sample document from [www.faithcreativitylife.com](http://www.faithcreativitylife.com)
- Submissions must be in a Word document with the author's name included in the title of the document. Set up Word with:
  - Times New Roman 12 pt. font.
  - 1-inch margins all the way around.
  - Double space the document to make it easier on our editor's eyes.
  - Indent each paragraph .3 using the paragraph formatting and not any tabs or spaces. Those make lots of work for the typesetter.
  - Use only 1 space after a period, despite what your typing teacher told you in 1985.
  - Insert your name and email and the date of your submission in the header of the document. (See sample.)
- Please **do not** use bullet points in your story. But **DO** insert subheadings in the chapter (approximately 3–5 in the chapter).
- You may use em dashes without a space on either side.
- Try to avoid using ellipses if possible.
- Please follow the guidelines of the *Christian Writer's Manual of Style* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* when self-editing your work.
- Deity pronouns (him, he, me, my, his, you, your) are lowercased.
- All submissions must use the **New Living Translation** for Scripture quotes. Suggestion: check BibleGateway.com to make sure you're using the most recent version in your quotes. Copy and paste is the best way to ensure accuracy.
- Please put Scriptures in quotation marks with the reference following the quote (no long block quotes).

Example: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
- When you copy and paste anything from the web or another document into your Word doc, please do not keep formatting from those other sources. Choose the "keep text only" option when pasting.
- Please check to make sure small caps stay on LORD if you insert a verse.

### Tips for Being Included:

- The main focus needs to be on the solution. The goal is to present victory, how you learned or were transformed.
- Includes enough back story to paint a clear picture, but not so much that we don't get to the hope part.
- Please **do** use excerpts Scripture but weave it into the story in a way that it doesn't sound like an exegesis of a passage.
- Have a clear takeaway or point and don't meander.
- Stories show vulnerability and authenticity.
- The writing is engaging and helps the reader feel part of the story.
- Authors follow the guidelines for submission.

## Writing Tips:

- Be creative and fun in titling your chapter.
- Use clever subtitles throughout your chapter to break up the text and capture the reader's attention.
- Use dialogue to show rather than tell.
- Use creative nonfiction techniques to tell a story and capture the reader's interest.
- Show your personality in your bio.
- Write with the reader always in mind. The book is for them, even if it's your story.
- Tell your story in a way that connects with a reader's emotions.
- Start with a strong hook.
- Know where you're going with the takeaway of your story.
- Write from the heart.
- Avoid controversial issues, political topics, or denominational topics.
- Share specifics, rather than generalizations.
- Avoid words or phrases that readers might not understand if they aren't regular churchgoers.
- Use open-ended questions at the end of the chapter. These can't be easily answered with yes or no. Example:
  - Closed – Have you ever experienced something like this?
  - Open – Think of a time when you've experienced something discouraging. What is your typical response and how would you like to change it?

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If you haven't been able to find the answer to a question in this document, please send an email to [submissions@faithcreativitylife.com](mailto:submissions@faithcreativitylife.com)

I look forward to seeing your contributions!

Michelle

## About the publisher of this project:

**Michelle Rayburn** is a successful indie author and is a copy editor, cover designer, and typesetter for other authors. Her award-winning first book has remained in the top 100 for Christian humor books on Amazon. She speaks for writer's groups and conferences and is passionate about helping new authors get a start. Her first published chapter in a book was in a collection of stories in a popular brand of compilations. This is an opportunity to see other authors grow their product line for speaking events and to collaborate with other writers. Learn more about Michelle at [www.michellerayburn.com](http://www.michellerayburn.com).

