

Renewed Christmas Blessings

Short Stories, Poems, and Heartfelt Essays

A compilation by Michelle Rayburn and friends

These and other guidelines and tools are available at: www.faithcreativitylife.com



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

Target Reader:

Women who seek comfort, inspiration, and renewed Christmas spirit amid the challenges of everyday life that might make the holidays especially difficult. They are also readers who look for thoughtful gifts to encourage others.

Back Cover Description Draft:

Renewed Christmas Blessings is a heartwarming anthology from many contributors that weaves together the magic of the holiday season with tales of hope, resilience, and faith. Whether you're cozying up by the fireplace or seeking the perfect thoughtful gift, this book showcases a variety of captivating voices that will inspire and uplift.

Inside, you'll discover:

- **Enchanting Short Stories:** These stories beautifully showcase God's transformative power and grace, reminding us that even in the darkest times, light can shine through.
- **Hilarious and Heartwarming Moments:** Experience the wonder of Christmas through hilarious and heartwarming stories, where laughter and joy abound, reminding us not to take life too seriously.

- **Poetry of Illumination:** Delight in poetry that illuminates the profound connections between Christmas, hope, and a transformed life.
- **Personal Experiences and Relatable Insights:** Journey with individuals as they share their personal experiences of finding purpose and renewed faith during the holiday season.
- **God's Work in Tough Moments:** Find comfort in reminders that even in life's toughest moments, God is at work and blesses us with indescribable peace and joy.

Renewed Christmas Blessings is the perfect gift to inspire perseverance in the difficulties and celebrate the true significance of Christmas. Delight in creative expressions that touch your heart and embrace the magic of the holiday season as you discover hope, faith, and love in unexpected places. Through these stories, essays, and poems, let the true spirit of Christmas shine brightly in your heart.

Details:

All books in the Life Repurposed Compilation series include some sort of repurposing, regeneration, and renewal theme that helps people find hope in the trashy stuff of life. Look for ways to tie that in without being overdone. A little thread is good.

This compilation will include a blend of short fiction, first-person essays, and poetry with the purpose of producing a wonderful gift book. Absolutely no AI generated stories or poems. Include humor wherever it feels natural.

First-person true stories of 1300–1800 words. (Please, no ghostwritten stories or as told to. Must publish using your real name.)

Short fiction of 1300–1800 words. (Must publish using your real name.) Fiction will be labeled as such.

Poetry may include narrative poems that tell a story (may be rhyming or not), free verse, clever humor (think limerick or lyric poetry).

You may submit multiple pieces for consideration, but there is no guarantee of being published.

U.S. authors only.

Timeline:

Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2023. Absolutely NO late submissions.

- You will be notified of acceptance no later than October 15, 2023.
- You'll receive a PDF of your chapter to proof by November 1, 2023 with any corrections to be submitted within seven days.
- The book will have a soft launch on the week of November 15, 2023.
- Your author copies will be ordered for you during the week of November 15, 2023. (They take approx. 2 weeks to arrive.)
- For the launch, we will have a 12 Days of Christmas promo (details to come)

Rights and publishing:

Submissions for *Renewed Christmas Blessings* are one-time rights (whether reprint or new) to be published in a print paperback book and in an e-book with the possibility of an audiobook. You may use your submission elsewhere since you own the rights to your piece. 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 on the submissions form.

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 e-book.

Contributors will have a bio appearing 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).

Compensation:

Each contributor will receive 2 free copies.

Wholesale Purchasing:

Contributors may purchase books at a wholesale price of 50% off the cover price plus 10–12% shipping. Orders will have a minimum purchase of 10 books.

Those will be direct shipped from Amazon to the author after payment is made to Michelle Rayburn via a credit card. Wholesale re-orders will be available to contributors as long as the book is in print. Orders take approximately 2 weeks to arrive.

Example: \$15.99 cover price. Authors purchase books at \$8.00 each plus shipping. They may re-sell them at cover price and earn a profit or price them as they wish.

Marketing and Publicity:

Publicizing the book is a team effort. Authors will receive graphics or Canva templates to share on social media or promotional materials. It is understood that if you submit to the project, you agree to share about the book on your social media channels and email list.

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 to check for typos. Writers must follow the writers' guidelines and format as requested to be considered for publication.

All submissions will be sent via a Google Form where there is also a box to upload your Word Document.

[Submissions form for Renewed Christmas Blessings](#)

(also linked at www.faithcreativitylife.com)

Document Setup:

- Download the FCL Books Word template document from the submission guidelines at 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.
 - Indent the first line of each paragraph .3 **using the paragraph formatting and not tabs or spaces at the beginning of paragraphs.**
 - Use only 1 space after a period, despite what your typing teacher told you.
 - Insert your name and email in the header of the document. (See sample.)
 - Insert your name below the chapter title exactly as you'd like it to appear in print.
 - Include a bio of 50–75 words at the top of every submission (see Word template).
 - Please **do not** use bullet points in your story. But do insert subheadings to break up nonfiction chapters or use *** to indicate a scene break in either nonfiction or fiction.

Editing Notes:

- 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 lowercase.
- If you quote any Scripture, the **New Living Translation** is the translation of choice. 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.
- If used, please put Scriptures in quotation marks as run-in citations 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).
- Please check to make sure small caps stay on LORD if you insert a verse.

Tips for Making Your Submission Stand Out:

- Follow the guidelines for submission.
- Show vulnerability and authenticity.
- Make your writing engaging and help the reader feel part of the story.
- Be creative and fun in titling your chapter.
- Use clever subtitles throughout your nonfiction 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 a story in a way that connects with a reader's emotions; make them laugh, cry, get chills.
- Start with a strong hook. Do not give away the ending in the opening!
- Know where you're going with your story and artfully unfold it.
- Avoid controversial issues, political topics, or denominational topics.
- Share specifics, rather than generalizations. Unpack it for the reader.

If you haven't been able to find the answer to a question in this document, please send an email to michelle@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 copyeditor, cover designer, and typesetter for other authors. She has won multiple awards for her books. *Life Repurposed*, the first compilation she published in 2021, received honorable mention in 2022 for the inspirational gift book of the year in the AWSA Golden Scroll Awards. *Life in the Estrogen-Free Zone*, a book for boy moms came out in 2023, and has been well-received. Learn more about Michelle at www.michellerayburn.com or about Faith Creativity Life Books at www.fclbooks.com.