



life® **TOOL TIME**

Number 17

Tips, tools, and timely tidbits to make your publishing job easier

Why publish? If you ask that question of 10 people, you will most likely get 10 different answers. Some will say, "To get rich." Others will say, "To become famous." Still others will respond that they were "driven" to it, or it was their "passion." Writers, educators and motivators write and publish materials for many reasons. Let's take a look at two reasons why you, as a missionary, may want to consider publishing.

1. You can no longer find copies of a certain book to purchase. You have a course

to teach, and the book you want to use is "out of print." You can solve this problem in one of two ways. You can search the listings of various booksellers to see if anyone has the book still in stock and order a supply. This can often provide a temporary solution. Or if you find

Why Publish?



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holder responds to the request. The actual production time Life needs to reprint a book is only 3-4 weeks, so you can see that much of the time required is dependent on the copyright holder.

2. You have original material you would like to publish.

This may be a Bible course, a teaching or seminar series, or even a book that you would like to distribute while visiting your supporters.

In this case the process depends on you, the author. Some people feel very comfortable writing and are able to rapidly

convert their thoughts to written text. Others find it very difficult. Most of us fall somewhere in between these two extremes.

If you find it difficult to get your ideas down on paper, try recording your thoughts on tape and ask someone to transcribe the information. Or request a recording of a seminar or church service where you spoke and type a transcript of the information. Then find an editor to help you transform the text into a good manuscript. Once you have the material in digital form, it must be formatted and sent to a printer.

If you need assistance in

any of these steps, Life can either advise you or assist you in finding individuals to handle the portions you find difficult. Life can publish books in runs as small as 25 copies or as large as millions of copies of a single title. Let us be of assistance to you and your project. Just consider Life Publishers your publishing department down the hall. Feel free to e-mail me at Bruce@LifePublishers.org at anytime.

If you are looking for additional information about becoming a Christian writer, here are a few Web sites you might like to check:

- www.christianwritersguild.com/
- www.mounthermon.org/writers/index.html
- www.writetoinspire.com/
- www.sandiegocwg.org/

You might also find the following books are useful. They can be obtained via the Internet at Amazon.com or from other booksellers:

Introduction to Christian Writing by Ethel Herr

Getting into print: Solid help for Christian Writers by Sherwood Eliot Wirt

Christian Writer's Manual of Style by Robert Hudson, Bob Hudson

Christian Writers' Market Guide 2005 : The Reference Tool for the Christian Writer (Christian Writers' Market Guide) by Sally Stuart

there is no longer a reliable source for the book and you still want to use that particular title, then your next option is to reprint. Here are the steps you will need to take to reprint.

a) Contact the copyright holder directly and request reprint permission, and then reprint the book yourself.

b) Ask Life Publishers to request the reprint rights. Once these are obtained, you can either co-publish the book with Life or ask Life to publish the title for you.

Getting a title reprinted usually takes from three to nine months or longer, depending on how rapidly the copyright



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