

POTPOURRI FOR CHRISTIAN WRITERS

156 Ways to Reach Out with Writing

Janet Eriksson

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If you are a Christian with a passion for writing, there are so many ways God can use your writing to touch people's lives and further His Kingdom. The possibilities are as infinite as God is. Here are a few ideas to help you get started. It is my prayer that one or more of these ideas will lead you into some wonderful new experiences and relationships, as well as help you use your love of writing in effective and inspirational ways.

Read through this list until you find one idea that nudges you. Ask God to help you, and then follow His lead. If you want to immerse yourself full time into writing for outreach, start with the first idea that nudges you, and then move to the next. Most of all – enjoy this time of writing with God. Let Him stir your creativity and guide your path.

Following are 156 ways to reach out with writing. Why 156? That's one idea per week to last you three years. Or pick and choose. If you find just one and it leads you on a new adventure with God ... praise Him! Perhaps one of these prompts will inspire you to come up with other ideas too.

Go to the next page to begin your prompts.

156 Ways to Reach Out with Writing

1. Write a collection of devotional prompts for Christian writers, church school classes, small groups, and individuals.
2. Create a list of story ideas for Christian writers.
3. Describe different settings that writers might use in their novels and short stories, and gather these into a collection.
4. Write 365 prayers on a particular theme and put it into a booklet or calendar for daily prayer; the booklet can be sold to individuals or the calendar can be given to churches and ministries for their websites.
5. Write meditations on Bible verses and offer these to church school classes, small groups, or ministries; these are great for websites, or they can be incorporated into teaching materials; teachers can start or finish their class meetings with these meditations.
6. Write an article for your church newsletter.
7. Write a devotional and send it to *The Upper Room* – see their website for details on how to submit a devotional; read six months of a magazine’s issues before submitting a piece of writing to them.
8. Write an article and send it to *Guideposts* – see their website for details on how to submit an article; become familiar with their section, “His Mysterious Ways;” read six months of a magazine’s issues before submitting a piece of writing to them.
9. Write a series of Christian inspirational journal prompts; these will be helpful for individuals, as well as for any class or ministry that teaches journaling with God.

10. Write profiles of modern characters that writers might use in their novels and short stories, and gather these into a collection.

11. Write profiles of biblical characters that writers might use in their novels and short stories, and gather these into a collection.

12. Write hourly or daily prayer prompts to be added to a church or ministry website; these are simple, one-sentence prayers that cover a range of prayer needs for that ministry, church family, or community; these can be added to a Google calendar or to any other program recommended by the web designer. For examples, see our online prayer vigil for the local jail:

<https://hometownprayermission.org/2012/01/28/jail-prayer-vigil/>.

13. Write Prayers of Adoration (prayers that focus on God's attributes and the many ways we adore Him) and offer them to a church, to be used in worship services, for openings of classes and meetings, as instructional tools, etc.

14. Write letters of encouragement and hope to individuals in prison; contact the specific prison for information on how to send letters.

15. Ask your pastor, prayer team leader, or congregational care team leader if you can offer volunteer help by writing prayer letters to individuals who are sick or in need of encouragement; be sure to ask for any guidelines of what to say and what not to say, and ask the pastor or team leader to review your letters before mailing.

16. Write garden meditations or devotionals; you don't have to be a gardener to do this; just spend time in a garden, and God will open a whole new world for you to write about; people love reading these.

17. Journal with God (write questions for Him; listen for and write His response. Share some of these in a blog. Be careful to discern between God's voice, your own voice, and the voice of the enemy. Some of your journal entries will be for sharing; most will be just between you and God.

18. Create a website to share your writing with others; if you plan to publish a novel or a non-fiction book, you can use your website to provide creative content of interest to your readers; you can also add an online bookstore to sell the works you write – in book form or in e-book form; your online bookstore can be used to raise money for a ministry as well as to provide income for you as a writer – consider designating a particular e- book for a particular ministry and donate the profits to them, or give a percentage of all e-book income to a designated ministry; share something about the ministry on your website, so that readers will know who they are helping to support with their purchases.

19. Keep a journal of the changes God works in your life; or a journal of thanksgiving – reasons you are grateful; or a journal in which you write letters to yourself on good days, so that you can read them on bad days. Consider selecting a few journal entries to share with others on your website or in your church.

20. Write skits for children, write ideas for skits, or help children write their own skits; offer these to the children's or youth ministry at your church; or consider self-publishing them and making them available through your website, as individual skits and/or as collections of skits; you can even write and sell collections of skits on particular themes.

21. Write a booklet of family devotionals.

22. Write a booklet of family prayers and prayer activities.

23. Write a booklet of family Bible activities.
24. Create children's Bible activities and gather them into a book; you might decide to publish or self-publish the book, or you can make it available as a gift to your local children's ministry.
25. Create teen Bible activities and gather them into a book; you might decide to publish or self-publish the book, or you can make it available as a gift to your local youth ministry.
26. Write and share your testimony with as many folks as possible.
27. Consider using your Facebook status to share mini-devotionals of several sentences each day; and/or use your status to share God sightings or scripture meditations.
28. Ask any local organization that works with elderly individuals if they will allow you to come in and write stories or spiritual legacies that those individuals would like to share; give the completed stories to the individuals so they can share them with their families.
29. Write song lyrics – even if you don't think you can.
30. Write your own psalms and share them with others.
31. The next time you go on a mission trip or participate in a local mission project, consider writing devotionals based on the experience, and/or consider keeping a blog.
32. Consider writing a "how-to" article for a free e-zine – just to help others learn how to do something that you find easy; e.g., how to re-pot a plant; how to set up a fish aquarium; how to bake cookies; etc. As you write, pray for those who will read your article to be blessed in their new activity.

33. Set up your own blog and write in it at least once a week.
34. Create a blog on a particular theme, write for it, and invite others (who you trust) to contribute their thoughts.
35. Help a church group or ministry write and put together a devotional booklet; these are great for church activities, special seasons, fundraising, awareness, encouragement, instruction, thank-you's to donors and volunteers, or just for sharing with family and friends; to minimize costs, these can be published online.
36. Write for your local newspaper; if you live in a big city, find a small niche newspaper that accepts freelance articles.
37. Write Bible studies focused on a particular theme.
38. Continue this list of prompts on how folks can reach out and share their writing; make your own recommended prompts available to other Christian writers; write articles to share with other Christian writers on how you turned one of these prompts into an activity (be sure to cite this e-book and its web address if you refer to one of these prompts in your article).
39. Create resources that encourage and help folks learn how to grow in their prayer life.
40. Write life stories for others – help them put their experiences into words to share.
41. Write spiritual legacies; Google this term to learn what it entails.
42. Interview ministry leaders in your church or community; ask if you can share the published interview with others; or turn the interview into an article and ask permission to share; or ask if they need the article for their own website. Be sure to let ministry leaders know you can help if they are asked to write an article.

43. Write about glimpses of God in your community and/or collect and edit God stories from folks in your community; ask permission to share these on a website.

44. Write stories to share what God is doing in your community and find appropriate groups to share them with, for encouragement and celebration.

45. Keep a blog of God sightings.

46. Work with the children's minister at your church to set up a place where children can write (with your help) their God sightings.

47. Create a collection of conversation openers with God, to help folks begin, grow, or recharge their prayer life.

48. Ask the Sunday school or small group curriculum supervisor at your church (or pastor of spiritual formation, if you have one; or your pastor, if at a small church) if you can write or help write material for Sunday school classes or small group meetings. Even if this is not an option, you never know where this conversation will lead, or what doors this will open, once they know of your writing interests.

49. Write reflection/discussion questions for a popular Christian book and make this available to church book clubs and small groups; if you do this within a church family, be sure to go through the proper authority.

50. Write class material for youth, based on popular Christian books. Offer it to the books' authors, as well as to your local Sunday school and youth program leaders.

51. Write a Bible study, meditation, or devotional collection on the names of God.

52. Keep a list of words that describe God and share it with others; use this as inspiration for devotional writing and/or encourage others to do the same.
53. Take one of the old Church creeds, like the Nicene Creed, and write your own reflections and meditations on each line; see if your church pastor would like to incorporate this in any teachings or curricula.
54. Write reflections on old hymns and pray about where to share them.
55. Offer to write invitations to events in your church or community.
56. Offer to help plan and write the content for ministry and/or church websites.
57. Offer to write the content for ministry event postcards.
58. Write a monthly highlight, to share with your congregation or small group members, about individuals or families who are new to the church.
59. Offer to write bios for folks in ministry.
60. Offer to help with blogging for a ministry in which you serve.
61. Write and share a list of community prayer needs – for the community as a whole, e.g., prayer for safety on the roads, prayers for improvement to a children’s rec center, prayers for first responders, prayers for all who are struggling with cancer, prayers for local schools, etc.
62. Write a prayer calendar for your church; include a daily prayer prompt (a simple, one-sentence prayer on a particular topic) and add some inspirational prayer material for those wanting more.
63. Report or write highlights on Christian group events in your community; pray about where and how to share your reports.

64. Talk with the children’s minister at your church about ways you can interview and write articles and highlights on the community and school activities and achievements of the children in your church, and discuss safe ways to share these with the children, parents, and other church members.
65. Ask a church ministry leader if he or she needs anything written, and offer to write it.
66. Create a devotional booklet as an outreach project for a community organization; help others in the organization learn how to write devotionals so that all may contribute to the booklet; encourage some to help with illustrations, proofreading, formatting, and putting together the booklets.
67. Create a devotional booklet for a church ministry; help others in the ministry learn how to write devotionals so that all may contribute to the booklet; encourage some to help with illustrations, proofreading, formatting, and putting together the booklets.
68. Offer to write brochures for ministries; this might start out as volunteer, and it might grow to become a source of writing income for you; you might build a freelance writing website around your ability to do this; ask those for whom you’ve volunteered if you can list them as references or showcase their brochures on your website.
69. Help create and write resources for community mentoring programs.
70. Create a “Celebrate God Today” website – just to share with others; pray about what to include as content.
71. Write prayer cards to hand out at God’s prompting.
72. Write prayer cards for community businesses; hand them out and let them know you are praying for them.

73. Write stories and Bible meditations (with Scripture verses) to go with family recipes; share them with family members, with your church family, and/or on a website; encourage others to do the same, and put together a recipe collection for a church group; these can be offered as a gift or used as a fundraiser.

74. Think about how a Bible passage or collection of Bible verses might remind you of a favorite meal. Write about it and share it with others, to encourage seeking spiritual nourishment and comfort from the Bible.

75. This is a fun exercise for children – Read a Bible story to them; ask them to imagine if they were there at the time of the story and were running a food, beverage or other merchandise kiosk, what would they offer and why; help them interact with the story and tie their reasons into the story; help them write up what they've shared with you.

76. Write words of hope and offer them to those who need them.

77. Write words of healing and offer them to those who need them.

78. Write your own letters of encouragement, in the style of the epistles of Paul, and make them available to individuals who need encouragement, or share them on your website.

79. Write a list of uses for Bible salutations and make the list available to those who might use them.

80. Write a list of uses for Bible benedictions and make the list available to those who might use them.

81. Write a series of devotionals based on Bible salutations.

82. Write a series of devotionals based on Bible benedictions.

83. Write a series of meditations on Bible salutations.

84. Write a series of meditations on Bible benedictions.
85. Write a collection of devotionals based on Bible genealogy lists.
86. Ask your pastor if you can help write the liturgy that's used in one of your church services; do some research ahead of time and write some sample material to share with your pastor.
87. Write a collection of greetings for opening a worship service; make this available to smaller churches and/or to Sunday school classes or small groups.
88. Write a collection of benedictions for closing a worship service; make this available to smaller churches and/or to Sunday school classes or small groups.
89. Write a collection of corporate prayers for those helping to lead worship services.
90. Write prayers to fill one hour of prayer; Google for some examples of how to fill an hour of prayer, e.g., praise, thanksgiving, confession, forgiveness, petition, Scripture, etc.
91. Write "Learning to Pray" prayers for adults.
92. Write "Learning to Pray" prayers for children.
93. Write a collection of "Calls to Worship" and make this available to those who help plan worship services, especially at smaller or newer churches that lack funds for resources; and/or ask your pastor if he or she is interested in using some of these.
94. Write a collection of "Responsive Readings" and make this available to those who help plan worship services, especially at smaller or newer churches that lack funds for resources; and/or ask your pastor if he or she is interested in using some of these.

95. Offer to write up church announcements.
96. Offer to type song lyrics into PowerPoint for worship services.
97. Help folks write their testimonies.
98. If you enjoy historical research, write a guide booklet about the history of a particular Bible passage, and make it available to individuals who are writing a novel or short story about this passage, and/or make it available to church school classes or children's/youth ministries to help with interactive lessons, and/or make it available to church drama groups; you might even create a website and specialize in providing historical Bible guide booklets for purchase.
99. Write historically-based fictional accounts of biblical places; these can be great material for children's/youth ministry leaders and for Christian drama groups.
100. Write fictional conversations of servants in Bible times; pray about how to share these.
101. Write meditations on the New Testament for new believers who want to get to know Jesus better.
102. Write meditations on first encounters with the Gospel of John for new believers or not-yet believers.
103. Write words for an inspirational PowerPoint – work with a photographer to create a slideshow to share with others.
104. Write children's Bible stories – work with an illustrator.
105. Write modern-day renditions of Bible stories – for adults, children, teens, and/or new believers.

106. Write inspirational cards for craft tables or yard sale tables.
107. Write Bible word games for Sunday school classes.
108. Write letters to elderly individuals in your community and/or to folks who are homebound.
109. Write letters to homeless children and find an organization that will share your letters; and/or write letters to children in hospitals, and ask the chaplain's office if they will share them with families.
110. Write letters of encouragement and love to children in detention centers; contact the individual detention center for permission and instructions.
111. Write letters to individuals in rehab and live-in recovery programs.
112. Write "Dear Friend" letters, by topic, e.g., depression, addiction recovery, etc. and make these available on your website. You can write the letters *to* a fictional friend who is struggling, as encouragement; and/or you can write the letters *from* a fictional friend who is struggling, as awareness.
113. Write a list of prompts to help a writer create fictional characters.
114. Write a list of prompts to help a writer create fictional settings.
115. Write a collection of prompts of Bible questions that a writer can respond to.
116. Write a collection of themed questions (e.g., questions on forgiveness) that a blogger can respond to; sometimes bloggers find it easier to respond to questions on their theme than to pull ideas out of the air, so to speak.
117. Interview ministry leaders in your church, to publish as a straight interview (with their permission).

118. Interview church class members (adults, teens, children) for a project that would be helpful to them.

119. Interview ministry leaders or participants (with final approval by the leader) in your community, concerning their ministry activities, and pray with them on how and where best to publish these interviews.

120. Write descriptions of upcoming community events for a community calendar or to post on your own website; offer these to local community organizations and ministries for their websites as well.

121. Write descriptions of upcoming church events and make this available to the church staff for a newsletter, bulletin, website, etc.

122. Offer to proofread your church bulletin or newsletter.

123. Start a local Christian writers' group.

124. Offer critiques for other writers – in your community, or online.

125. Participate in a group that offers writing challenges, like <http://www.faithwriters.com>.

126. Write book reviews.

127. Write movie reviews.

128. Write theater play reviews.

129. Write letters to missionaries.

130. Write a descriptive list of community Christian resources and make this available to churches and ministries.

131. Write a descriptive list of community Christian service resources and embellish with a personal touch, e.g., interviews, an account of your personal visit, etc.

132. Write a descriptive list of regional Christian resources for homeless individuals.

133. Write a descriptive list of regional Christian rehab/recovery resources.

134. Keep a blog of your daily God sightings.

135. Keep a journal of what you and God are working on today – some to share in a blog; some just for you and God.

136. Do some travel writing – in general, to help others and to share about a favorite place.

137. Do some travel writing – detailing God's handiwork in that place.

138. Do some travel writing – focusing on the needs of the community, for individuals looking to visit and volunteer.

139. Do some travel writing – incorporating prayers for the community.

140. Do some travel writing – highlighting Christian activities in the community.

141. Do some travel writing – including the sharing of God sightings in the community.

142. Do some travel writing – focusing on family fun, to help vacationing families have a great experience and to share the family-friendly atmosphere of a favorite place.

143. Do some travel writing – focusing on kid-friendly activities, to help parents and to share about a favorite place.
144. Do some travel writing – focusing on pet-friendly places, to help pet owners anticipate and enjoy a great vacation to one of your favorite locales.
145. Write about how to start a new hobby or activity after divorce.
146. Write about how to start a new hobby or activity after children leave the nest.
147. Write about how to start a new hobby or activity after the death of a spouse or loved one.
148. Write how-to articles on practical issues (e.g., caring for an automobile; buying and installing a new deadbolt lock; changing an air conditioner filter; preparing a casserole; planting a vegetable garden) for those recently alone.
149. Write inspirational words or prayers for church calendars, bulletins, newsletters, websites; you can create your own website and specialize in making this type of content available.
150. Offer to help ministry leaders plan and write the content for their personal, inspirational website (in addition to their ministry website).
151. Create your own themed website, to inspire, encourage and/or help others.
152. Create your own Christian writers' website.
153. Create your own online newsletter.
154. Offer to email daily writing prompts to subscribers; be sure to use the subscriber list only for that purpose.

155. Offer to email daily devotional writing prompts to subscribers; be sure to use the subscriber list only for that purpose.

156. Offer to email daily encouragement for Christian writers to your list of subscribers; be sure to use the subscriber list only for that purpose.

This is just the beginning. As you begin to share your writing, God will lead you to new creative ways to touch people's lives and to further His Kingdom through your writing and through helping others to write. Enjoy it – this is so much fun!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janet Lynn Eriksson is a Christian writer and missionary of prayer in Dahlonega, Georgia. The author of three books, *I Choose Life*, *Renewing*, and *It Takes a Spark*, Janet leads the Hometown Prayer Mission and Hometown Prayer Academy online and volunteers with The Center for Inner Healing, Inc. in her community. She has created the Christian Writers' Studio to encourage Christian writers as they travel this amazing journey with God. She would love to hear from you at janet.e.writer@gmail.com.