Call for Submissions for a new Hot Apple Cider Book!

That’s Life! Communications is looking for true stories, fiction, and poetry for the next book in the Hot Apple Cider Books series.

Working Title:
Christmas with Hot Apple Cider (CHAC for short)

Eligible Writers:
Any Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who can affirm the Apostle’s Creed* (see below) is eligible to submit stories.

Book Specs:
This will be both an ebook and a trade paperback book (5 ½” x 8 ½”), and the appearance will complement that of the other Hot Apple Cider Books.

Target Audience:
The primary audience is Christian women and men 35 and up. They are likely married, with children, and involved in some area of church leadership. They probably have some post-secondary school education, work at least part-time, and are middle to upper-middle class. They come from a variety of denominations.

Our secondary audience is individuals of any age who might be given the book or who might purchase it because they are seeking spiritual guidance. For this reason, we want to avoid the use of “Christianese”—words or terms that have a specialized meaning to Christians or to specific denominations (e.g. “born again”).

Theme:
Our working theme is “Stories of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come.” (Yes, we kind of stole that from Dickens and Scrooge.) But we’re also considering “Christmas: Inside, Outside, Upside Down.” (Stolen from Stan and Jan Berenstain). Open to other suggestions, too. 😊
What we’re primarily looking for is a variety of true stories, fiction, poems, or even short dramas that have a connection to Christmas.

We’re not looking for retellings of Jesus’s birth or for stories that TELL us about the real meaning of Christmas, etc. We’re looking for stories that SHOW us what Christmas has meant, means, or might mean in the life of one or more real or fictional people.

To give a concrete example: “We don’t want a treatise on why it’s bad that Christmas has become commercialized, but we would be interested in a story about how someone was able to go beyond the commercialism to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas in a unique way.”

Also, the pieces don’t have to be focused on Christmas; just connected to it in some way.

Content:

1. Stories. We want a mixture of fiction (romance, mystery, fantasy, etc.), poetry, and personal experience, inspirational, or other nonfiction, but there has to be a story. People remember stories and anecdotes.

2. Honesty. We’re hoping for a mixture of humour and drama, but the overall feel needs to be “real” people and “real” life. Writing that is vulnerable and humble while still being warm and encouraging. Writing that emotionally resonates with the reader. You can use 1st, 2nd or 3rd person point of view. Also remember that the story doesn’t have to be your own first-person account of your own personal experience; we’re also open to writers who can tell other peoples' stories or co-write someone’s story.

3. Hope. It’s okay to tell a sad story or even a painful one. Not everybody loves Christmas. Some people hate it. We want to have a mixture of stories, some lighter and some heavier, so that we can come alongside many people and empathize with them however they might feel. But at the same time, we want to offer hope for tomorrow.

4. Canadian. The pieces need to be set in Canada or have a Canadian as a point of view character.

5. Unpublished. Only unpublished articles, columns, poems, or short stories will be used. That means it cannot have been published anywhere else, including on the internet. The only exception might be if it was published in a very small local newspaper or chapbook.

Length:
We won’t use more than 3,500 words per contributor. This could be one long item or it might be two or three shorter ones. You may submit up to 5 different items.

Payment:
Contributors will be given two copies of the book and a small one-time payment. They will also be able to purchase additional books at a good discount.
Timeline:

Selections: We plan to have all of the pieces selected by April 15, 2017.

Editing: We hope to have the editing process completed by the middle of July, 2017.

Publication: Our goal is to have both print and digital books available by October 1, 2017.

Blind Judging:
Do NOT put your name anywhere on the document itself. That way we can judge all pieces equally and not be swayed by who the author is. When we’ve chosen our pieces, we’ll match the piece to the name you put on the website form by its title. If for some reason you need to insert your name into the body of your piece, use a placeholder pseudonym for now.

Submission Guidelines:
We prefer MS Word so that we can use Track Changes in editing.

- Single space (not double)
- 12 pt Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins
- page number on the top right of each page.

Save each document by its title, e.g., JoyComesInTheMorning.doc.

At the top of your first page, list:
- Title of your submission e.g., People Matter Most (Note: DO NOT USE CAPITAL LETTERS – we have to retype them)
- Genre: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Drama…
- Word count

Leave two lines of space, then start your article/story/poem/etc.

Link to a PDF with our complete Hot Apple Cider Style Guidelines

Link to the form on our website where you should submit your piece/s:
http://thatslifecommunications.com/hot-apple-cider-books/hac_books_submissions/

Questions:
If you have a question we haven’t answered, email Les at thats-life@rogers.com.

Background:
That’s Life! Communications is a niche publisher committed to finding innovative ways to produce quality books that have a Canadian focus and offer entertainment, encouragement, and hope. It was founded in 2000 by Les and N. J. Lindquist in order to allow N. J. to have more
creative control over her own books. Between 2000 and 2007, they published eight books, several of which won awards.

In 2008, their focus expanded with a vision to help release the voices of Christians in Canada. In partnership with World Vision Canada and The Word Guild, That’s Life! Communications published an anthology of work called *Hot Apple Cider*, which featured 30 Canadian writers. That book achieved bestseller status and won several awards. The follow-up book, *A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider*, also won a number of awards and achieved bestseller status.

In 2013 and 2014, *Discussion Guides* for the first two Hot Apple Cider Books were released, along with a smaller, "sampler" book, *A Taste of Hot Apple Cider*. A much larger book, *Hot Apple Cider with Cinnamon*, which featured 60 Canadian writers, was published in the fall of 2015.

To date, the Hot Apple Cider Books have featured 100 writers from across the Canadian Christian community.

Sign up here for That’s Life! Communications’ newsletter.
[http://thatslifecommunications.com/subscribe/](http://thatslifecommunications.com/subscribe/)

*Apostle’s Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

* the universal church, and not any one denomination