



Bridge Book Awards
P.O. Box 743
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009

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For immediate release

BRIDGE BOOK AWARDS FOR NEW BOOK PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED

October 22, 2010—As a collaborative effort to generate dynamic book proposals and publications from aspiring authors, the General Church of the New Jerusalem and the Swedenborg Foundation, publisher of the theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg, are pleased to announce a new competition, called the Bridge Book Awards. The authors of the winning proposals will receive a cash award in the amount of \$1,500, be honored at an awards ceremony, and be guaranteed a review by the Swedenborg Foundation Press editorial board with the possibility of publication. Three runners-up in each category will also receive a cash award of \$500 each and possibility of review for publication. The deadline for proposal submission is February 1, 2011.

This first annual contest for the Bridge Book Awards will seek book proposals in the following four categories this year; topics may change in coming years. Although the categories are specific, the types of book within each category are not. Genres and formats as varied as inspirational gift books, guidebooks, scholarly research, illustrated books, and both fiction and nonfiction will be considered. The categories are:

The Afterlife—understanding concepts of heaven and hell, and the impact on our daily lives

Living a Spiritual Life—focusing on spiritual practices, relationships, marriage, and the workplace

Biblical Commentary from a Swedenborgian/New Church Perspective—illuminating Bible stories from knowledge of the internal sense

Swedenborg for Dummies—explaining theological concepts in an accessible and relevant way

Because of the growing interest in the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and increasing enrollment at Bryn Athyn College, whose curriculum is based on New Church teachings, the Swedenborg Foundation and the General Church are eager to publish books that are relevant, accessible, and theologically sound. All proposals are valued, and varied perspectives are welcomed. The final selections will be based on a combination of potential usefulness to new readers of Swedenborg, creative interpretation, quality writing, and contemporary relevance.

For further information about the contest and awards, go to www.swedenborg.com or www.newchurch.org where forms for submitting proposals can be downloaded. You can also request proposals from Kristine Medley at Kristine.Medley@newchurch.org or 267-502-4901. If there is enough interest, we will offer a proposal writing workshop to assist interested participants at Bryn Athyn College in early December. To express your interest, please contact Kristine Medley and keep checking the websites listed above for updates.



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ENTRY FORM

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have also included the following: (Instructions can be found on next page.)

___ **Query letter**

___ **Chapter outline or synopsis**

___ **Sample chapters**

For further information contact: Joanna Hill, 610-430-3222, ext 12 (jhill@swedenborg.com) or Kristine Medley, 267-502-4901 (Kristine.Medley@newchurch.org). All participants will be notified when their entries have been received.

BOOK PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for joining this exciting new venture of sharing the teachings of the New Church, along with your passion and creativity, with today's world. This application will not only guide you in the writing of your proposal for the Bridge Book Award, it will also help to turn your ideas into a proposal that can be submitted to other publishers as well. This could be the beginning of something wonderful for you and for all the people who could potentially be reading your book!

Besides giving us your contact information, you will be writing a query letter, which is basically a one page pitch (proposal) of your idea. You will also include a chapter outline for a non-fiction proposal or a synopsis of the story if your book is fiction, Finally, you should include one to three sample chapters. Basically, you will be telling us how you see your book meeting the needs of today's market for spiritual literature.

The best way to prepare for putting your proposal together is to take the time to form your ideas on paper. Writing an outline or a brief synopsis for yourself will help you solidify what you want to communicate to us. After that, writing one to three sample chapters not only helps the publisher see what kind of writer you are, but also helps you form your ideas for the future. Writing a book starts with an idea, and the rest flows from there, like a stream winding its way down a mountain pass. Hold on for the ride.

BOOK PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Proposals are due by February 1, 2011. They should include:

- 1. Entry form**
- 2. Query letter**
- 3. Chapter outline or synopsis**
- 4. One to three sample chapters**

Send book proposals by February 1, 2011, to:

**Bridge Book Awards Team
P.O. Box 743
Bryn Athyn, PA 19009**

You may also send submissions via email to Kristine.Medley@newchurch.org.

Query Letter

A query letter is a one-page letter that pitches your idea to our team, or to the editor of a publishing company. The letter should be addressed to the Bridge Book Awards Team at the mailing address listed above. The query letter tells us/the editor briefly what your book/book idea is about, how it will be of interest to the reader, and why you think this would be an appealing book in today's market. It will also give your potential publisher a sense of your writing ability.

Helpful Guidelines for query letters:

- Limit your letter to one single-spaced typewritten page.
- Grab the editor with a strong opening paragraph about your book/book idea.
- Show how you plan to develop the structure and content of the book.
- Indicate your connection with the material (expertise, personal experience, etc.).
- Show the team/editor why this book will be of interest to readers today.
- Close by asking your book to be considered for publication (standard practice)
- Include your contact information.

Chapter Outline or Synopsis

If you are proposing a non-fiction book, you will be submitting a chapter outline. If you are submitting a proposal for a book of fiction (story), you will be submitting a brief synopsis of the story in place of an outline.

Chapter Outline

If your proposal is for a non-fiction book, provide an outline of how you will set forth your content. Providing chapter titles followed by a paragraph or two of what will be in each chapter will help you form your ideas, and help us see in more detail what you have in store for your reader. The outlines should be short and concise. You don't have to write the book at this time; just set down your ideas in a few lines.

Example:

You Can Believe!

Introduction

- A. Why people have a hard time with church.
- B. There is a different way of approaching religion.
- C. What you will find here is a combination of fresh ideas and my personal journey, which I share with you from the heart. Enjoy.

Chapter One – Who is God?

- A. Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we can have.
- B. Unhealthy ideas of God.
- C. God is Love
- D. God is Divinely Human
- E. The Trinity Explained
- F. Why God Came to Earth as Jesus Christ

And so on . . .

Synopsis

The synopsis tells the story of the novel in a few brief pages. While some publishers like to see the completed novel, many publishers ask for the story to be condensed into two single-spaced typewritten pages. For the purpose of the Bridge Book Award, please submit just two pages. Longer submissions will not be considered.

Sample Chapters

All publishers want to see sample chapters. Don't let this scare you from entering this contest. We are suggesting one to three chapters mostly to give you an opportunity to dive in for yourself. Take part of the subject you are interested in and flesh it out for the reader. Going from forming an idea to splashing your ideas on a page is how dreamers become writers, how writers become authors, and how authors start the journey towards writing a best-seller.

Send book proposals by February 1, 2011, to:

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The entry form, query letter, outline or synopsis, and one to three chapters, should be put in one 8 ½ by 11 envelope and mailed to the above address.

You may also send submissions via email to Kristine.Medley@newchurch.org.