



ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Writing Spiritual Autobiography

Anonymous. "Writing the Spiritual Autobiography." 2004. http://highereducation.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/00725127/student_view0/additional_material-999/spiritual_autobiography.html#. Available as of December 4, 2009.

Part of the online resources for *Tell it Slant: Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction*, by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola, published by McGraw-Hill. It describes some different types of spiritual autobiographies and lays out some writing exercises.

Albert, Susan Wittig. "Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography: All the Way to Heaven." <http://www.mysterypartners.com/WritingReading/spirit.html>, 2000. Available as of December 4, 2009.

A part how-to, part spiritual autobiography written by a well known mystery author.

Andrew, Elizabeth J. *Writing the Sacred Journey: Art and Practice of Spiritual Memoir*. Skinner House Books, 2005. ISBN: 1558964703.

Patterson, Richard B. *Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography*. Allen, TX: Thomas More Publishing, 2002. ISBN: 0883474883.

This book is as much the author's own spiritual autobiography as it is a guide for writing one. There are no "exercises," simply questions for reflection at the end of each section along with space to make some initial notes right in the book.

Phifer, Nan. *Memoirs of the Soul: Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography*. Cincinnati, OH: Walking Stick Press, 2001. ISBN: 1582970807.

Leads the writer from subjects that are easier to write about to the more difficult ones. The author uses the analogy of a Labyrinth to describe the process. Each chapter has a theme, writing exercises and excerpts from real-life memoirs. There are tips and hints about writing and editing drafts as well as process for use in writing groups.

Sharing Spiritual Autobiography

Guerrero, Carmen. "Our Story And The Story." In *In Dialogue with Scripture*. 4th ed. New York, NY: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 1998.

Discusses the importance of sharing our stories in the context of community building. Also available on the web at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/50534_58279_ENG_HTML.htm, as of January 4, 2010.



Peace, Richard. *Spiritual Autobiography: Discovering and Sharing Your Spiritual Story*. Colorado Springs, CO: Nav Press, 1998. ISBN: 1576831108.

Designed as a guide for small groups to develop, write and share their spiritual autobiographies, this book can also be used by individuals. The first half of the book outlines the seven or more sessions for a small group (there is also a section at the very end of the book with additional notes for group leaders). The second half talks about the process of writing and learning from a spiritual autobiography.

Selected Spiritual Autobiographies

Augustine of Hippo. *Confessions*.
Malcolm Boyd. *Take off The Masks*.
Joan Chittester. *Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir*.
Nora Gallagher. *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith*.
C.S. Lewis. *Surprised by Joy*.
Thomas Merton. *The Seven Storey Mountain*.
Sarah Miles. *Take This Bread*.
Pauli Murray. *Song in A Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*.
Kathleen Norris. *Cloister Walk*.
Patrick of Ireland. *Confessions*.
Sidney Poitier. *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography*.
Teresa of Avila. *Autobiography*.

Other Resources

Books

Borg, Mary. *Writing Your Life: An Easy-to-Follow Guide to Writing an Autobiography*, Third Edition. Fort Collins, CO: Cottonwood Press, Inc., 1998. ISBN: 1877673072.

Based on the author's *Writing Your Life* classes for senior adults, this book takes the writer through a series of exercises in order to write an autobiography. It gives information on putting together an actual book, including binding, reproducing, and copyrighting it. It contains excerpts from writings of various class participants from over the years. It includes a basic time line. Although not specifically aimed at writing a Spiritual Autobiography, the exercises can be adapted for use in writing one.

Borg, Mary. *Writing Your Life—Autobiographical Writing Activities for Youth*. Fort Collins, CO: Cottonwood Press, Inc., 1998. ISBN: 1877673099.



Internet

Dickinson, Dee. "Graphics and Learning." New Horizons for Learning, 2001.
http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/graphic_tools/dickinson_graphic.htm. Available as of
January 4, 2010.

A variety of pre-writing exercises both to help trigger ideas and to organize your writing. It discusses Clustering, Spider Maps, Writing Charts, Concept Mapping, Fishbone Maps, Events Chains, and more.

Hampton, Jerry. "Group Dynamics and Community Building."
<http://www.community4me.com/ongoingindex.html>. Available as of January 4, 2010.

Guidelines and resources for small groups.

History Explorer. Includes Art History, Jazz History, and other specialized history timelines. Through 2000. <http://www.historyexplorer.net/>. Available as of January 4, 2010.

History World Timeline. Extensive links to documents related to each entry.
<http://www.historyworld.net/timesearch/default.asp?conid=1063>rack=ptha>. Available as of
January 4, 2010.

Info Please Year by Year. Through 2008. <http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html>. Available
as of January 4, 2010.

World History Timeline. The History Channel's History.com. It includes some popular culture. Through 2008. <http://www.history.com/wt.do>. Available as of January 4, 2010.

Small Groups.com. Organized by, and still affiliated with Christianity Today International (publisher of *Christianity Today* and ChristianityToday.com), it is still one of the best resource sites for small groups around. <http://www.smallgroups.com/start/>. Available as of January 4, 2010.