



For Immediate Release

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## **New Entries Sought for Second Annual Bridge Book Awards**

**November 1, 2011**—The General Church of the New Jerusalem and the Swedenborg Foundation, publisher of the theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg, are pleased to announce the second annual Bridge Book Awards competition.

The Bridge Book Awards were created to encourage new writers to explore the ideas of Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772). Interested authors should submit a query letter, outline, and sample chapter for their proposed book, which will be evaluated by a panel chosen by the competition organizers.

Three winners and three runners-up will be chosen for this second annual contest. Winners will receive a cash prize of \$1,500; runners-up will receive \$500. All winners will be honored at an award ceremony and have their entries considered for possible publication by the Swedenborg Foundation Press editorial board.

**The deadline for proposal submission is February 1, 2012. Winners will be announced in April 2012.**

### **Suggested List of Genres and Topics**

#### **Genres:**

Fiction

Nonfiction

Memoir/Autobiography/Biography

Young Adult

Humor

#### **Topics:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Inner Meaning of the Bible                                 | 7. Spiritual Practice                   |
| 2. Correspondences  | 8. Hospice/Bereavement/Life Transitions |
| 3. The Complementary Nature of the Masculine and the Feminine | 9. Giving Hope in an Unstable World     |
| 4. Relationships  | 10. Autobiography (of a Swedenborgian)  |
| 5. Finding Your Unique Purpose                                | 11. Inspiring the Next Generation       |
| 6. Healing the Inner City                                     | 12. Topic of your choice                |

Because of the growing interest in the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and increased student body at Bryn Athyn College, whose curriculum is based on Swedenborg's theology, 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 of writing, and contemporary relevance.

**For further information about the contest, go to [www.swedenborg.com](http://www.swedenborg.com) or [www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org). Forms for submitting proposals are available in downloadable form.** You can also request entry forms from Alexia Cole at 610-430-3222, ext 15 or [pubasst@swedenborg.com](mailto:pubasst@swedenborg.com).

If there is interest, there may be a proposal-writing workshop to assist interested participants at Bryn Athyn College in November and/or December.

Contact Alexia Cole or check the websites for further information.



Swedenborg Foundation, 320 North Church Street, West Chester, PA 19380

The authors of three winning proposals will receive a cash award, be honored at an awards ceremony, and be guaranteed consideration by the Swedenborg Foundation Press editorial board with the possibility of publication. Three runners-up will also receive a cash award and possibility of consideration for publication.

**The deadline for proposal submission is February 1, 2012. Announcement of winners will be in April 2012.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the genre and topic for your entry:

**Choose a genre:**

- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Memoir/Autobiography/Biography
- Young Adult
- Humor

**Then choose a topic:**

1. Inner Meaning of the Bible
2. Correspondences
3. The Complementary Nature of the Masculine and the Feminine
4. Relationships
5. Finding Your Unique Purpose
6. Healing the Inner City
7. Spiritual Practice
8. Hospice/Bereavement/Life Transitions
9. Giving Hope in an Unstable World
10. Autobiography (of a Swedenborgian)
11. Inspiring the Next Generation
12. Topic of your choice (indicate)\_\_\_\_\_

All participants will be notified that their entries have been received.

**Book Proposal Instructions**  
**Bridge Book Awards**  
Swedenborg Foundation, 320 North Church Street  
West Chester, PA 19380

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 guide you to write the proposal that will help our team decide who our contest winners will be. Since we have followed the guidelines used by publishers today, you can use a tailored version of this proposal if you choose to send it to any one of the variety of hungry publishers looking for just the kind of submission you have written. This could be the beginning of something wonderful for you and 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, a chapter outline for a nonfiction book or a synopsis of the story if your book is fiction, and the option of one to three sample chapters. Tell us how you see your book addressing the eager market that is out there today. This is often included in the query letter.

The best way to prepare for putting this package 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, if you choose, 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 books 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, 2012.** They should include:

1. A query letter
2. A chapter outline or synopsis
3. One to three sample chapters (optional)
4. Entry form

The book proposals should be sent to:

**Bridge Book Awards Team**  
Swedenborg Foundation  
320 North Church Street  
West Chester, PA 19380

Submissions can also be sent via email to [pubasst@swedenborg.com](mailto:pubasst@swedenborg.com)

## 1. 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 Book Proposal Team at the mailing address 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, why you think this would be a marketable book in today's market. Most of all, it reveals your writing ability and enthusiasm.

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.

## 2. CHAPTER OUTLINE or SYNOPSIS

If you are proposing a nonfiction book you will be submitting a chapter outline. If you are submitting a proposal for a book of fiction (novel), instead of an outline you will be submitting a brief synopsis of the story.

*If your proposal is for a nonfiction book, you will prepare an outline of how you will proceed with setting forth the content of what you wish to communicate to your reader. Chapter headings are a good way to do this. Titles of chapters, 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. Don't write the book, just set down the ideas, in short sentences, on a few pages.*

Example:

### **You Can Believe!**

Introduction

- A) Why people have a hard time with church
- B) There is a different way of approaching religion.
- C) My personal journey

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

*If your proposal is for a fictional book (novel), instead of a chapter outline you will be submitting a brief synopsis of your story. 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 contracted to two single-spaced, typewritten pages. This is also a good practice for the writer, before sitting down to create the novel, tightening up the story and getting a good feel for where it is going. Please submit a two-page synopsis of your work of fiction you'd like to propose to us as a future novel.*

### **3. SAMPLE CHAPTERS (optional)**

All publishers want to see sample chapters to ascertain your writing ability. 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 your subject you are interested in writing about and flesh it out for the reader. Going from forming an idea to splashing your ideas on a page is how dreamers become writers, and how writers become authors, and it's even how authors start the journey to become best-sellers. You can do it! It's not required for this contest, but it will help you along your way toward publication, and help all of us in taking that step toward getting good bridge books into readers' hands because you are showing you are serious about your proposal and your enthusiasm to turn your dream into a reality.

#### **Send us the package:**

The query letter, the outline or synopsis, perhaps one to three chapters, and the envelope can all be put in one 8 ½ by 11 envelope and mailed to us at:

#### **Bridge Book Awards Team**

Swedenborg Foundation  
320 North Church Street  
West Chester, PA 19380.

You can also send electronic submissions to the publications assistant at [pubasst@swedenborg.com](mailto:pubasst@swedenborg.com)

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