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VOICÉ

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EXCLUSIVE
Interview with Best
Selling Author
TRICIA GOYER

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ON THE COVER
TRICIA GOYER

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Meet Tricia Goyer

Best Selling Christian Author

Introduction

Tricia Goyer has written more than fifty books, including novels that delight and entertain readers and non-fiction titles that offer encouragement and hope. She has also published more than 500 articles in national publications such as Guideposts, Thriving Family, Proverbs 31, and HomeLife Magazine.

Goyer's fiction and non-fiction books have won awards from the American Christian Fiction Writers and Mt. Hermon Writers' Conference. She is also a two-time Carol Award winner, as well as a Christy and ECPA Award Nominee.

Tricia has authored several books on family and parenting, as well as co-written with Max Lucado and Robin Jones Gunn. She collaborated with Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges for Lead Your Family Like Jesus, published by Focus on the Family/Tyndale.

Tricia's contemporary and historical novels feature strong women overcoming great challenges. She recreates historic wartime eras with precise detail through perseverant and comprehensive research. Tricia speaks to groups interested in these eras, with the intention of preserving and honoring the memory of the men and women who served.

She is a beloved author of Amish fiction, as well, writing the Big Sky and Seven Brides for Seven Bachelors Series.



Tricia Goyer

Interview

Q Hi Tricia thank you so much for participating in this interview for our readers. Firstly can you tell me how you came to know the Lord Jesus Christ?

I love sharing this story. Both my mom and grandmother became Christians when I was in 2nd grade, and we started going to church after that. I loved God, but when I got into my teen years I chose to go my own way. My selfish desires led me down many wrong paths and I found myself pregnant at 17-years-old. I dropped out of regular high school because I was so ashamed. I spent most of my days sleeping, watching television, and watching my belly grow bigger and bigger.

It was during that time my mom and grandma's Bible Study group reached out to me. They invited me to Bible Study, gave me a baby shower and loved me—even during times I wasn't very kind to them. I remember thinking, If these women love me this much, maybe God does too. So when I was 6-months pregnant I dedicated my life to Jesus. I prayed, "If you can do anything with my life please do." He's done amazing things!

Q. How did you get started in writing? Was it something you always wanted to do or something that you had to work at?

It began when I met Cindy Martinusen Coloma in church, over twenty years ago. Cindy was also a young mom. We got to know each other, and Cindy told me about her dream to write. Something struck a chord in me. I had grown up loving to read, but I never considered writing. We encouraged each other. We attended our first writer's conference in 1994 at Mt. Hermon Christian Writer's Conference in Northern California. I was 22 years old and pregnant with my third child at that first conference. I loved all the workshops, meeting other wanna-be writers, and wonderful editors. Everyone was so encouraging!



Writing was something I definitely had to work at. I started by writing magazine articles, and then work-for-hire projects, and then finally my own books. I received many rejections along the way, but I'm so thankful for the publishing path I'm on now. I still have ideas rejected at times but I also am blessed to be able to write, to work with great publishers, and connect with awesome readers.

Q You are a prolific award winning writer with over 30 books to date and hundreds of features and articles, as well as this you are a wife, mother and Grandmother, this must require a lot of management and faith how do you do this?

I love your use of the word, "Faith"--that's exactly what it is. When I look at all that needs to be done there is NO WAY humanly possible I can achieve it. I have to have faith that if God has called me to care for my family and to write that He will give me the strength. I have to trust that when I'm reading to my toddler and playing with her during the day, or taking my Grandma to the store, that God will meet me later in my writing time. And He does. I've written a novel in two months and then when I read it over I thought, "Whoa, where did that come from?" It's completely God. He gets the glory.

I also do manage my time. I have daily to-do lists that I store on my computer. I pick 2-3 things for work to do each day, and 2-3 things for family, and I focus on those. I schedule all my errands for one day a week, and I don't watch much television. All those little disciplines add up.

Q The bible teaches us how to overcome challenges would you say that this is the core message of your books?

My core message is that even ordinary people can do extraordinary things with God's help. My characters usually find themselves in situations they hadn't planned on and they must draw closer to God in order for Him to see them through.

Q Your own personal testimony is inspirational. Do you draw on your own experiences through your work?

Absolutely. Many of the themes from my life show up in my books unplanned pregnancy, feelings of unworthiness, questions about faith, discovering you've been betrayed. I get many letters from readers telling me the characters seem real to them. The reason is because many of the character emotions come from deep within me.

Q As well as speaking engagements you offer programs to teenage moms. Can you tell me about this work and how you first got involved with it?

Teen MOPS is part of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers International) www.mops.org/teen. I started the first Teen MOPS program in Arkansas. It's a weekly support group for young mothers. Every week we serve them a meal, provide them with parenting information, and they walk away with diapers and baby clothes. We also ask about their dreams, praise their mothering, and show them God's love. I'm still very connected to many of the young women who've gone through the program over the years. Also, we're trying something new this year. We're training the "older" moms to serve the young moms. I think it's going to be great!

Q Family is so important to God can you share with us how important your relationship with God is through your family and how you reflect this relationship through your work and ministry?

It would be a horrible waste if I wrote 100 books yet didn't give my family the love and care they deserve. My family is my first ministry. I



work my writing around caring for my husband and kids—especially our youngest one who is just a toddler. My grandma also lives with us, and while it's work having her here, I treasure the time together. I want to live the type of life that I can write about. I also want no regrets. I don't want to think, "I'd wish I'd spent more time with my family. I wish we'd gone on more family vacations or laughed more than we did." Because I don't want regrets, I live so that I can say, "I wasn't perfect but I loved as best as I could."

Q Finally you also participate in missionary/voluntary work and sharing Jesus' love with teen moms in the Czech Republic can you share with us all what you do and how important this is to you?

I love Europe, and my heart felt a special connection with the Czech Republic the first time I was there. I can't explain why, except that as I walked the cobblestone streets of Prague I knew God had brought me there for a purpose. Then six years after I was there the first time, God brought a Czech woman to our church! She was only one of two international people in our church, and I knew God was up to something.

*Then, the following year, we were working through the Bible Study by Henry Blackaby titled *Experiencing God*. One of the sections talked about God bringing international people to your church for a reason, and to ask Him what that reason was. I started praying for the Czech people even more and one day I felt God speaking to my heart, "Czech Mission Trip." I told my Czech friend and her eyes grew wide. "Tricia, I felt God telling me the same thing this week."*

The word got out and many people showed an interest in going. We just had NO idea where we were going to go and what we were going to do. We talked about it as a group (yes, we were a group now), and we felt led to pray that we could minister at a family camp. We did. A month later I connected with some missionaries from the

Czech Republic. They had no need for workers for that year, but they told us they'd keep us in mind for the following year. We were fine with that, and we continued to gather and pray.

Then God did something amazing. The missionary called us back and said the other group backed out—would we come and serve at a FAMILY CAMP? In just four months' time we raised enough money for 20 team members to travel there! God's hand was in it!

I taught at two English camps, and then God called my husband and me to move to Arkansas and adopt a baby girl (in the same month). We haven't gone back, but our church has continued to send teams. I believe around 70 people from our Montana church has gone!

I'm hoping to go back again—maybe this year. And whenever I can't go, I'll continue to help and support teams. In fact, a team of four people went from our Arkansas church last year!

I love sharing God's Word with people in a country who are much more familiar with atheism than Christianity. It's a beautiful place, but the people are even more beautiful! I also love knowing that God has a purpose for connecting me there. So far 74+ people have been involved in that purpose and I hope He draws 740 more!

Thank you Tricia and may God continue to bless you in all you do...

Thank you for having me!

By the Light of the Silvery Moon



Author: Tricia Goyer
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Amelia Gladstone's hopes are tied up in the Titanic--hopes for a reunion with her sister and an introduction to an admirer. But when she offers a spare ticket to a down-and-out young man, her fate is about to change.

Quentin Walpole is stunned when a sweet lady secures his passage to America--and even more surprised to find his wealthy father and older brother on board the ship. Suddenly Amelia finds herself caught between the attentions of two men, but who should she entrust her heart to? As the fateful night arrives, will Amelia lose everything to the icy waters?