

## **Author Revives Interest in Local Church History**

*There are nearly 500,000 churches in the U.S. according to the Gallup Organization, and virtually all could benefit from having their history documented. This book provides step-by-step details for researching, writing and marketing a local church history. Ideal for church volunteers or professional writers.*

San Diego, CA December 4, 2010 (FPRC) -- Donald L. Hughes, editor of ChristianWritingToday.com, has written a book that is likely to stir the interest of many Christian writers, or those who wish to become one. The book is called, *Capturing Faith: How to Research & Write a Local Church History*.

“My main purpose in writing the book was to inspire people to begin thinking about the history of their church and its contribution to their community and the world,” Hughes said. “Lots of wonderful things are happening in local churches, and it’s being lost because few people are documenting it.”

Hughes does not think that history has to be dry and uninteresting. He said, “Look at the success of history-based television programs like *Antique Roadshow*, *History Detectives*, *Pawn Stars* and *American Pickers*. Each has an historical component and they are very popular with viewers.”

Hughes said that virtually everyone is interested in history if it is presented in a lively and interesting way. “There are a lot of fascinating stories surrounding the birth and life of a local church, and powerful stories of faith of those who attended them. Christians need to capture and preserve that. The story of the founding and progress of every local church has the potential to be almost thrilling as the *Book of Acts*.”

A section of the book deals with the proper procedure for doing oral histories, which Hughes says is a valuable form of research. “Most of the good stories about a church are in the minds of the members, not in the minutes of board meetings,” Hughes said. “It is really important to capture those stories from older members while they are still able to tell them. Doing oral histories is the ideal method.”

Hughes provides a step-by-step plan for volunteer or professional writers to research and write the history of local churches. He covers everything from enlisting church support to researching, writing, publishing and marketing the completed book.

He notes that it takes time and money to write a local church history, but that members of the congregation and community are interested in owning a copy of the completed book, so it becomes a financially feasible project.

Hughes said, “As editor of ChristianWritingToday.com, I get questions all the time from Christians asking if it is possible to make a living as a Christian writer. Many people think in terms of writing a blockbuster, but those are few and far between. However, in my book I explain how serious writers can develop a local church history writing ministry if they wish. Writing the history of a local church is ideal for volunteers or for professional writers, and I provide a path for both groups.”

*Capturing Faith: How to Research & Write a Local Church History* is available from

<http://www.TheatronBooks.com> and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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Author Background

Donald L. Hughes has been a writer, editor and publisher for over 30 years.

He has degrees from Azusa Pacific University (B.A.) where he had a double major in History and in Religion, Wheaton Graduate School (M.A.) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.).

Donald has held several media positions over the years, including roles as an editor at Christian Life Publications, the Director of Communications for the educational division of the National Association of Evangelicals, and Media Director for an international faith-based organization serving at-risk children.

He has covered stories in 31 countries as a Christian journalist and has taught at colleges both in the U.S. and overseas. He is the editor of <http://www.ChristianWritingToday.com>.

The book, published by Theatron Books is a division of Theatron Media Group, Inc., now in its 18th year of publishing books and new media. The company is based in San Diego, California.

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