
Rewards of Legacy Story Writing

Ron Ross

How happy would you be to find a dusty box in the basement filled with a few dozen stories your great-grandmother wrote about her life during the Great Depression?



As you read her stories, she would become more than birth and death dates on a genealogy chart; she would come alive to you. You would visualize her frustrations, weep with her disappointments, laugh at her follies, and revel at her triumphs. You might even discover insights into the person you have become.

Now, it's your turn to share your life with your descendants. You don't have to be only a name remembered — you can be a life revealed through personal true-life stories. You can make family history, traditions, and way of life come alive.

But the benefits of your stories are not only for your descendants but also for you as you write them. You will enjoy at least three rewards as you write stories about your life.

First: the reward of reflection. A few months before my wife died of brain cancer, we decided to list every town where we stayed overnight. We ended up with a long list because, throughout our life, we traveled to many countries around the world and visited all but three states. It was a delightful evening of reflection.

To reflect is to intentionally recall people, places, things, events, and the accompanying emotions. It is to remember as much of the story of your life as you can. When you reflect, you discover an unlimited supply of stories to leave your descendants, stories that will entertain, bless and inform them of what life was like during your days, years, and decades.

Reflection is a stimulating and rewarding experience for the legacy story writer.



Second: the reward of contemplation. Reflection recalls your stories, but contemplation brings them to life and gives them meaning.

Contemplation is the internal consideration of the impact of your life events; it puts meaning and emotion into what might be, at first glance, considered insignificant events.

John Maxwell says, “Contemplation allows people to observe and reflect on the occurrences of their lives and derive meaning from them. Stopping and thinking allow us to gain perspective on both the successes and failures of our day so that we can find the lessons within.”¹

In contemplation, you discover wisdom to share and a reason to keep writing. Your stories can demonstrate the goodness of God, the justice or injustices of humanity, and the perseverance that life requires. Your writing will trigger joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure, blessings and bloopers, and confirm the beliefs, virtues, and wisdom you learned over the years.

Third: the reward of completion — you will satisfy God’s mandate to share your life with your descendants. You sense a yearning in your heart to pass on your wisdom and values to your children, grandchildren, and descendants you will never know.

Do you know why? Because God designed you for such a task. Deuteronomy 4:9 says: “Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and their children after them.”

So, to leave a legacy that influences generations is much more than a yearning. It’s a sacred responsibility. You’re not done with life on earth until you’ve left your legacy. Frederick Buechner, author and theologian, explained why: “To lose track of our stories is to be profoundly impoverished not only humanly but also spiritually.”

¹ Maxwell, John, *Sometimes you WIN—Sometimes You Learn*, P. 121

When your stories are told, you can say with the Apostle Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.”

Three rewards await you as you write your stories: reflection, contemplation, and completion.

Your story is unique and needs to be told. You’ve lived and experienced life like no other person. Your accounts will be read for generations. Begin writing stories about your life and bequeath them to those you love. It can be a fun and fulfilling pleasure you allow yourself and a gift for descendants you will never know but who will know you.

Love never dies — neither should your stories.

AFTERWORD:

Nothing you can leave your children exceeds the value of your real-life experiences, hard-learned lessons, and unconditional love.

In his 80s, my dad hand-wrote stories about his life, even though he was not an experienced writer. Mom typed and compiled over 200 of them into a three-ring binder.

Dad’s death at age 86 marked the end of his storytelling. It did not, however, mark the end of the story. His story (history) continues through the lives of his two sons, nine grandchildren, over a dozen great-grandchildren, and soon, an exploding number of great-great-grandchildren. I’m so happy that Dad and Mom took seriously their obligation to share their wisdom, virtues, and faith with their descendants.



Millions of seniors like you want to help their children and grandchildren survive and flourish, but they don't know what to do. That's why I created ***Legacy Story Course***. Using Dad's three-ring binder of stories as a model, I show you how to discover, write, and compile stories from real-life experiences that will keep your love alive for generations.

For more information, visit www.LegacyStoryCourse.com

Thank you,

Ron Ross

Dr. Ron Ross

For a generous discount on your purchase of ***Legacy Story Course***, please use the Discount Code: **REWARDS**