

New Book Proposal

**Series Title**

**I've Got Some Questions**

**Book Titles**

***Do Baby Bears Have Mommies?***

***Does God Take Naps?***

***Are Starfish Stars or Fish?***

***How Does God Make Rainbows?***

A series of children's picture books by

Crystal Bowman

&

Teri McKinley

**REPRESENTED BY**

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## **OVERVIEW**

As any parent knows, kids ask a lot of questions. Some are silly and innocent, while others are deep or serious. The books in this series address many of those childlike questions and offer satisfying answers. The content is lively and fun, yet meaningful and respectful of a child's inquisitive mind. While the books have a strong educational component, the deeper purpose is to show parents how they can respond to their child's questions with patience and love.

## **FORMAT**

A series of hardcover or paperback picture books

- 32 pages each
- Full-color illustrations
- Rhyming text

## **SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY**

- A parent's patience and love mirrors the patience and love God has for his children.
- God made children with inquisitive minds that can learn many wonderful things.
- Every animal in God's creation is unique (for Book 1)

## **AUDIENCE**

**Primary audience**—Parents and grandparents looking for picture books that offer spiritual themes and information about the natural world. Gift-givers will gravitate to

these books for their message and illustrations. Homeschool parents will use them to teach spiritual lessons, along with facts about the natural world.

**Secondary audience**—Church and Christian school libraries looking for theologically sound, entertaining books for their youngest students; Christian preschools looking for books to read aloud to children.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Crystal Bowman** is a best selling and award-winning author. She has written over 100 books for children and three books for women. She is also a lyricist, national speaker, freelance editor, and Mentor for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). Over 1,000,000 copies of her books have sold internationally, with six of them becoming CBA best sellers. Her picture books *Do You Love Me More* (Standard Publishing) and *My Grandma and Me* (Tyndale House) received the 2012 and 2013 Selah Award for best children’s picture book respectively. *My Mama and Me* (Tyndale House) received the 2014 Logos Bookstore Award for best children’s book. *The One Year Book of Devotions for Preschoolers* (Tyndale House) has sold over 160,000 copies and has been translated into six languages. Her latest book *Our Daily Bread for Kids* (Discovery House) was released in December 2014 and has sold over 10,000 copies so far. This book was a finalist for both the Selah and Golden Scroll awards.

Crystal has written numerous magazine articles, teacher resource materials, and Bible study materials. She is a regular contributor to *Clubhouse Jr.* magazine, and has also contributed to several nonfiction women’s anthologies. She has written over two

dozen books for the I Can Read brand (Zonderkidz), and is one of the authors of the best-selling *Little Blessings* series. Crystal and her husband live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. They have three married children and three grandchildren.

**Teri McKinley** grew up in the world of publishing, attending book signings and book conventions with her mother, Crystal Bowman. She began writing stories in elementary school, and her love for writing grew in college while attending Baylor University. She has been published in national magazines such as *Susie Magazine* and *The Eleusis*, and has also written greeting cards for Discovery House. She is co-author of the award winning picture book *My Mama and Me* (Tyndale House), as well as *Our Daily Bread for Kids* (Discovery House). She also co-authored *M is for Manger* (Tyndale), which will release in September 2015.

Teri has a master's degree in Interior Design from Arizona State University, and was an adjunct professor at Baylor University from 2014-2015. She is a member of the women's ministry leadership team at Moberly Baptist Church and enjoys mentoring college students. Teri and her husband live in Longview, Texas.

## **FEATURES**

- Text for the series *I've Got Some Questions* is lively and playful, with smooth rhythm and precise rhyme written by experienced authors of rhyming children's books.

- Content for the books in this series will be entertaining and educational, while teaching little ones about God. The authors combine fact and faith in this unique series.
- Questions and answers within the text are kid friendly and age appropriate.
- Spiritual lessons woven into the text are biblically accurate and age appropriate.
- Illustrations will complement the text, allowing for additional learning opportunities.
- Illustrations will feature multicultural characters both male and female.

## **BENEFITS**

- Adult readers as well as children will enjoy the meticulous rhyme and soothing rhythm of these charming books.
- Children learn about starfish, elephants, bears, stars, earthworms, eagles, trees, and heaven, while absorbing the underlying themes of God's love and grace and a parent's love for a child.
- Even the youngest children will begin to understand the ways of nature and God's love.
- Adults won't worry about straying from biblical teaching as young readers begin to absorb spiritual principles.
- Children will experience several levels of learning as adults read the text while children study the accompanying illustrations.
- Adult and young readers can look forward to additional titles in the series.

## COMPLEMENTARY TITLES

1. *The Berenstain Bears and the Big Question* by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain. (Random House, 1999, ages 4-8). Mama and Papa Bear explain the concept of who God is to Sister Bear when she asks. Topic is broad and not very specific and text is written in prose.

The books in the series *I've Got Some Questions* are written in rhyme and use human characters rather than animals. The books address several specific questions rather than just one question, and offer specific answers that young children will comprehend.

2. *God Gave Us You* by Lisa T. Bergren (WaterBrook Press, 2011, ages 4-8). Part of a series of eight books published from 2000-2011, also available in other formats including board books and e-books. A polar bear cub asks her mama, "Where did I come from?" The mother polar bear answers the question in the story. All books in the series are written in prose and use polar bears as characters. The titles do not reflect the question/answer theme. Each book addresses only one topic. Other titles: *God Gave Us Love, God Gave Us Christmas, God Gave Us the World, God Gave Us So Much, God Gave Us Two, God Gave Us Heaven*.

The titles in the series *I've Got Some Questions* will clearly reflect the content and concept of the book. It uses human characters and is written in rhyme. The stories address several different questions rather than just one question.

3. *Who is God? Who is Jesus? What Happens When We Die? Why Do I Do Things that are Wrong? What is a Christian? What is Prayer?* These hardcover, 32-page picture books by Carol Nystrom were published in the 1990s by Moody Publishers, for children ages 4 and up. Four of the titles were republished in 2003 as mini books for children ages 2-5. These books address spiritual questions, but each question is only asked in the title, rather than in the text itself. The text takes a more serious approach to answering the question offered in each title. The characters are human, and the text is written in prose.

The books in the series *I've Got Some Questions* will address a variety of kid-friendly questions with each book having a specific theme. The rhyming text, dialogue, content, and vocabulary create a lively and educational approach to answering a child's questions.

## **MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES**

Crystal Bowman has had a public speaking platform for nearly two decades, both locally and nationally. She will be able to promote the books in the series *I've Got Some Questions* in the following markets:

**MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers)—Numerous groups in South Florida, West Michigan, and East Texas; she also attends the national convention as a MOPS mentor and children's author.

**Writers Conferences**—Crystal teaches at several writers' conferences each year throughout the U.S.

**Christian Schools**—Crystal is a guest teacher at a number of schools in Florida, including:

- The King’s Academy—West Palm Beach, FL
- Jupiter Christian—Jupiter, FL
- Calvary Christian Academy—Affiliated with Calvary Chapel, Ft. Lauderdale
- Westminster Academy—Affiliated with Coral Ridge Presbyterian, Ft. Lauderdale
- Palm Beach Atlantic University—West Palm Beach, Florida

### **Social Media**

- Christian Children’s Authors Blog—Regular contributor (over 6,000 readers)
- LinkedIn—500+ connections
- Website—[www.crystalbowman.com](http://www.crystalbowman.com)
- Facebook—[www.facebook.com/crystaljbowman](http://www.facebook.com/crystaljbowman) (author page)
- Facebook—[www.facebook.com/crystal.bowman](http://www.facebook.com/crystal.bowman) (personal page)

Teri McKinley is active in social networking through [www.facebook.com/tericbowman](http://www.facebook.com/tericbowman) (921 connections) as well as [Pinterest.com/terimck/](http://Pinterest.com/terimck/). She is also active in Moberly Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in Longview, TX.

### **Media Contacts**

- Kim Ford— Christian Fiction Online Magazine (features adult and children’s books)
- Cindy Sproles—Mountain Breeze Ministries, radio show
- Shirley Mitchell—Aging Outside the Box, syndicated radio show



- Anitra Parmele—Radio Reach FM in S. Florida
- Moody Radio South Florida
- Jeanne Dennis—Heritage of Faith, Christian television

## **SUGGESTED TITLES AND TOPICS**

- Book One: *Do Baby Bears Have Mommies? – Questions About Animals*  
[Complete manuscript included in proposal]
- Book Two: *Does God Tap Naps? – Questions about God*  
[Topics: Does God live in a house? Does God have a family? How can I talk to God? Does God have a nickname? How does God talk to me? How old is God? Does God go to church?]
- Book Three: *Are Starfish Stars or Fish? – Questions about the Sea*  
[Topics: Can you ride a seahorse? Why do whales have spouts? Do fish go to school? Do dolphins laugh? Can fish fly? Can you eat a jellyfish?]
- Book Four: *How Does God Make Rainbows? – Questions about the Sky*  
[Topics: Where does the sun go at night? How many stars are there? Why does it rain? What is the moon made of? What are clouds made of?]