

Lissa Halls Johnson  
lissahallsjohnson@gmail.com

Employment History:

**7/05-Present:**freelance fiction editor; mostly for NavPress.

**8/99-7/05:** Book Producer for Focus on the Family; editor; writer for Focus on the Family (four books written while on staff, contributed to a number of nonfiction projects, wrote articles for *Focus*, *Breakaway*, *Brio*); fiction acquisitions; speaker/representing Focus on the Family at writers' conferences.

**5/80-8/99:** Freelance writer/speaker/editor.

**Lifelong passion for good fiction.** Devoured novels at every chance (mostly general trade).

Duties:

**Freelance writer:** Wrote 13 fiction books, many short stories with an occasional article (including *Reader's Digest*). Self-edited, read novels voraciously (to learn new things, keep up with current trends). Appeared on television and radio to discuss books and topics.

**Speaker:** Taught writing classes: eight-hour class for Beginners; seminars on How to Write Fiction, Characterization, Submitting the Professional Manuscript, Common Mistakes of the Beginning Writer, etc. Keynote speaker at several writer's conferences.

Speaker for groups on a variety of topics, also to Crisis Pregnancy Center fundraisers.

Speaker at a renowned University during chapel and Homecoming opener.

**Book Producer:** Created *Brio Girls* series and *KidWitness Tales* series. Hired writers. Facilitated writer planning weeks/story outlining sessions. Story/substantive edited and rewrote (minor to extensive) for both series. Prepared manuscripts for copyeditors. Routed work to copyeditors, proof readers, designers. Combined/checked proofer's marks Wrote catalogue/back cover copy. Edited a variety of nonfiction books. Worked with designers.

**Writer for Focus on the Family:** Wrote the first book as a prototype for both the *Brio Girls* and *KidWitness Tales* series, and last book of *Brio Girls* series. Substantial content contributor to *Mentoring Your Teenager* and *Movie Nights* series. Wrote stories for use in *Parents Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children* and articles for *Brio Magazine*. Wrote nonfiction book for Joe White for parents of teens, *It's Never Too Late to Start*.

**Fiction Acquisitions:** Began search and acquisitions for high-quality fiction for Focus on the Family's new fiction line.

**Representing Focus on the Family at writer's conferences:** Participated in panel discussions, individual appointments with writers, reviewing mss for appropriate products for Focus. Specifically requested to attend/teach/represent Focus by conference directors.

**Strengths:** substantive content/story editing (especially in fiction); rewriting.

References:

Dave Lambert (Former editor, Zondervan) 616-891-2251

Terry Behimer (Editor, NavPress); Terry.Behimer@navpress.com

Larry Weeden (Editorial Director; Focus on the Family) 719-531-3400