

**DEVELOPING A PLATFORM AS A WRITER**  
**Christian Writers Fellowship Conference**

David Kilgour

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When David Kitz asked me to speak to you today about building a platform as a Christian writer, I immediately agreed...He's a persuasive person as you all know...His daily reflections on the psalms are excellent... His writing appears always to be interesting...Does anyone ever say no to him?

The person who should be speaking to you today is David Kitz or perhaps Jerry Jenkins of the United States. I found Jenkins on googling ``Christian Writers`` (<https://www.amazon.ca/Christian-Writers-Market-Guide-2015-2016/dp/1404103058>):

**Jerry Jenkins**



**David Kitz**



Here is a sample from the entry on him by Taylor University's Dennis Hensley:

Bestselling novelist Jerry B. Jenkins has ended his formal effort to train the next generation of Christian writers on his Christian Writers Guild after (many) years...The guild... aims to train tomorrow's professional Christian writers. ..."[Jenkins] has invested millions of dollars into a venture that has been of marvelous benefit to thousands of Christian writers but of no commercial gain to himself," said Hensley. "Jerry has also poured time, creativity, and leadership into a long-term project ..."

The recently rebranded TheBelieversGroup will offer educational efforts similar to CWG via its nonprofits arm, BelieversTrust...

Sitting down to set out what I might say today, it occurred that I have built no solid platform as a writer of Christian fiction or non-fiction. Discerning readers of my non-fiction books hopefully detect a Christian perspective in all of them.

### Three Non-Fiction Works

Some of the texts are available in full on my website ([www.david-kilgour.com](http://www.david-kilgour.com)) in the right margin of the header page: *Uneasy Patriots-Western Canadians in Confederation (1988)*, *Inside Outer Canada (1990)* and *Betrayal-The Spy Canada Abandoned (1994)*.

None deals primarily with Christianity. Nor do the two co-authored ones, *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs*, or *Bloody Harvest*. For the first, co-author David Jones is also a practising Christian in D.C. For the second, David Matas is Jewish.

David T. Jones



David Matas



It is certainly true that to my knowledge Christianity and other faiths are treated with respect in all these books. I'd like to think that there is Christianity on every page. Indeed the Falun Gong exercise/spiritual movement in China-- and now in about 130 other countries-- is treated so favourably in *Bloody Harvest* that the party-state in Beijing used to claim that Matas and I are practitioners of it. One of my saddest moments since our first report on organ pillaging/trafficking came out in 2006 was at the Parliament of a European country, which I'll not name. The M.P. who was to convene an all-party meeting of his colleagues on our report announced he had not done so because Falun Dafa is a religion different from his own (Christianity).

*Christians in the Public Square*, as the title indicates, is openly about Christians and public policy formation. My chapter and others might be of interest to some of you, but I'm not confident that the book is still available.

### Unpublished Novel

There was also my unpublished novel about the handover of Hong Kong by the United Kingdom to Beijing in 1997. A friend from Asia who read the manuscript said that he thought publishing it might be dangerous. Don't know, but the leader of the Democratic Party in Hong Kong some years later was beaten up in a restaurant and he had two police guards when I met him there. It is probably true, as my friend said, that publishing the work would have prevented Prime Minister Jean Chretien from giving me cabinet responsibilities for Asia-Pacific in 2002-2003.

My wife Laura, who loves novels, read the manuscript and flagged a fatal flaw: the voices

of all its characters were essentially identical. As you know, dialogue comprises a high percentage of the text in any novel. Voice differentiation is vitally important to good fiction writing. I'm delighted that there is a dialogue section to today's event.

### **Articles/Talks**

What about non-book writing: articles? My website has an icon at the very top of the header page: "Faith/Religion", containing perhaps a hundred articles and talks by Christians, including one of mine to the Muslim/Christian Dialogue of Ottawa. Some of them might be of use, inspiration or whatever to you.

It is also true that for three years David Jones and I wrote "David vs. David" columns for Yahoo Canada, mostly on international issues. Most recently, we have been doing the same thing for the Epoch Times, primarily in the New York and Washington editions. The Ottawa edition carries the pieces on occasion and I wish more were carried across Canada.

In short, articles and speeches are clearly my main platforms as a writer today. Recently at a national convention of the Christian Legal Fellowship law students, held at the Queen's Law School, I spoke to two directly Christian issues, which I hope will interest you and perhaps spark some writing of your own:

- [Christian Calling to Defend Human Rights panel with Chantal Desloges and Rev. Majed El Shafie](#), by Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., March 12, at Dunning Hall of Queen's University, Kingston
- [Faith in Practice of Law and Public Life](#), by Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., March 11, 2016, at MAC Hall of Queen's University, Kingston

Finally, some notes for a talk recently given at the first Raoul Wallenberg Award in our Parliament:

- [Raoul Wallenberg Award for Combating Antisemitism and Intolerance of Faith Communities](#), Notes for remarks by David Kilgour at ceremony in Parliament of Canada, Ottawa, 21 March 2016

### **Conclusion**

Each of us is different, with talents and skills and genius and perspectives that are as infinite as God's world. The way to develop a platform as a Christian writer of fiction, non-fiction, articles, autobiographies, or whatever is to be open to every writing opportunity presented to us.

Thank you.