**Questions to Get Me Started**

By Edie Melson

In place of resolutions, I have implemented something else. I spend time looking back at my spiritual markers for the past year. I evaluate them individually—for my writing life—as well as for me spiritually.

This is particularly helpful, because staying on the writer's path is difficult because each of our paths are so unique and varied. In the past I've had trouble evaluating my progress because I was comparing my journey to someone else's. I’ve come up with some questions to help me process where I’ve been and where I’m headed.

**Questions to Get Me Started**

* What were some of my \*(writing) successes this past year? (Not necessarily the most lucrative, but the most rewarding)
* What were some of my (writing) setbacks this past year?
* What (writing) advice stands out in my mind because it seemed to have been aimed directly at me?
* What brought me the most joy?

As I map out these spiritual markers, the path God has had me on becomes quite clear. And, by knowing where I've been, it becomes clearer where to go next.

\*parentheses added

--excerpted from “My One Word for 2021,” by Edi Melson