

## **Short Bio**

From European cloisters to Costa Rica's rainforest, Pat Butler envisions a world in which every Christ follower flourishes in the abundant life Jesus promised. Partnering with Inspiro Arts Alliance, Pat cultivates a global network of artists through writing, mentoring, and spiritual formation. Her new book, *Collision: How I found My Life by Accident*, recently released by Redemption Press. Pat currently resides in Florida, where she walks with cranes, dodges hurricanes, and enjoys her own pillow.

## **Long Bio**

Pat Butler chose her path to publishing in childhood with the discovery of Dr. Seuss. His rhyme, rhythm, and wit enchanted her and birthed a dream to write her own book of enchanting poems. When Pat received the gift of a small white diary with a lock and key, she set out on the journey to her dream, recording poems and profound childhood thoughts with passion. She has not looked back.

Poems and profound thoughts became essays and stories. Diaries became journals. Computers replaced legal pads. Pat learned word processing and loved spell check but never quit journaling. Something called the World Wide Web was emerging, but in 1994, Pat moved overseas for ministry and lost the thread of that conversation.

Pat processed her culture shock through poetry and journaling. She first felt God's nudge to focus on writing to publish while overseas, and the internet came roaring back into the conversation. A colleague lent her a computer, and she later received the gift of a laptop—God's gifts to affirm the call and gift and season she would enter as a writer.

The internet afforded Pat opportunities to take online classes. When blogging became a thing, Pat blogged and guest blogged. She organized a writer's group in her city and produced her first poems in a foreign language. She gathered the courage to submit poems, articles, and other scribblings to various markets. Her first publishing credits quickly grew and she even won a contest or two.

Once back in the USA, Pat matured as a writer through workshops, reading, critique groups, and writer's conferences. Finally, her childhood dream materialized when Finishing Line Press released her first poetry chapbook, *Poems from the Boatyard* (2011). Two more chapbooks followed (also with Finishing Line Press). Then Pat tackled narrative nonfiction, releasing *Collision, How I Found My Life by Accident* with Redemption Press in 2022. It garnered the Christian Editor's Association award for nonfiction. A first poetry collection and a second nonfiction book are nearing completion.

All these words mingle with Pat's profound joy in writing to meet the world's deep hunger—or at least touch hearts and spark a smile.

## Custom

Pat is a senior whose hobby is beauty and creating art. She is a voracious reader, whose favorite poets are Mary Oliver, Ted Kooser, Billy Collins, Rumi, and Seamus Heaney. She collects bookmarks, repurposes tea bags, collages ephemera, and binds books. At last count, there is no count, as everything is tucked in drawers and books and file cabinets—except for one unwieldy roll that stands in a corner of Pat’s studio: her father’s original blueprint for the boat he built while raising a family. The blueprint reminds Pat of her father’s challenge, perseverance, and sacrifice in pursuit of a dream. She aspires to the same resilient character in the pursuit of her dreams.

Pat’s preferred beverage is San Pellegrino, or Bailey’s Irish Cream, or a tawny port, preferably with stilton cheese, walnuts, and crusty bread, on an old New England night before a crackling fire.