Pensacola Christian College

**Factual Fiction**

Project #

A Project Submitted to

Instructor’s Name

in Partial Fulfillment of

the Requirements for the Course

Course Number

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By

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Pensacola, Florida

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Factual Fiction

It whisks a person to far-off places, allows him to participate in life-altering adventures, and introduces him to people he might never otherwise encounter. Fiction captures the imaginations of people around the world. Yet, should a story of pure imagination follow the same guidelines of accuracy that other genres are held to? Should an author be expected to write factual fiction? The writer of fiction, especially the Christian writer, should write with accurate, specific details.

First, a writer of fiction should write with accurate details to ensure that his work is reliable. Without first establishing himself as a reliable author through the use of accurate, specific details, a writer cannot expect to achieve success. In *Ernest Hemingway, Selected Letters, 1917–1961*, Hemingway, a Nobel Prize winner, said, “Whatever success I have had has been through writing what I know about.”¹ Hemingway’s success depended on accurate, specific details that originated from personal knowledge. If a writer knows little about a subject, his details will be either vague or inaccurate. A knowledgeable reader may stop reading or will question the accuracy of the other details in the story. Too many inaccuracies might cause the writer to lose credibility, endangering his career. A writer’s success depends on his ability to produce a reliable work.

Second, writing with accurate, specific details ensures that the reader can relate to the story. When a writer writes with specific sensory details common to all people, he allows the reader to experience countries, adventures, and situations not ordinarily available. Through these details, a reader can see from the airplane window the tiny match box cars inching along the gray

path that winds through plotted fields, even if he has never flown before. Vague or inaccurate details rob the reader of this experience.

Third, a Christian writer should ensure that his details reflect the accuracy of God’s Word. The Bible, though a nonfiction work, reveals the significance God places on accurate details: over four thousand years of history—genealogies, wars, empires—are recorded with unmatched accuracy. Not only did God take great pains with the words He chose, but He also requires the same from Christians.