

WRITER'S VOICE !



"...I recite my composition concerning the king; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Psalms 45:1 (NKJV)

Summer 2009

Volume 5, Issue 3

From the Editor ...

Greetings in the Mighty Name of Jesus.

Praise God! Everything is ready for our 13th Annual Christian Writers Conference, October 10, 2009, except we need: **YOU**. For those of you that have always wanted to write but have no idea how to begin, this conference is for you. Attend the workshop *A to Z Basics Right from the Start*, or, for the more experienced, Katie Cushman's workshop on sharpening your writing tools. Be sure to read the enclosed conference flyer for more information.

Once again we offer the Buddy Deal, \$99.00 for you and **\$50.00** for your friend. In this time of worldwide economic upheaval, we Christians have our faith to rely on. If there is a mountain in your way, speak the WORD of GOD to it and it shall be moved. Isn't God good? He makes a way where there seems no way.

For those who are not on our Email mailing list, we want to make you aware of our website: **www.CWGSB.com**. We have information about Fay Angus, the keynote speaker for our conference, in addition to past issues of *Writer's Voice!* We publish a print edition of *Writer's Voice!* only once a year, but we still publish an electronic edition quarterly. Be sure to send us your email address to avoid missing future issues emailed directly to your Inbox. And since our website is a work in progress, check back often for current CWGSB events.

We have new (to us) talent in this issue. We are pleased to introduce Christine Howard and her article *Publish or Perish*. There is a wealth of information for your benefit, including a step by step example of how to begin your writing career. And surely you will love Corrinne Abele's *LOVE* article. For those of you who wonder if your short writings are important, read my article *Writing: a gift from God*.

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)



Opal Mae Dailey
Editor-In-Chief

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Calendar ...

CWGSB Monthly Meeting:

2nd Thursday
12:00 p.m.
IHOP Restaurant
1701 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA

September 25-26, 2009: San Diego
CWG Fall Conference
www.sandiegocwg.org

Oct. 10, 2009: 13th Annual Santa
Barbara Christian Writers Conference
at Westmont College
www.cwgsb.com
(805) 682-0316



Publish or Perish? . . .

Christine Howard

Some authors may feel this way . . . but for the Christian craftsman it simply isn't true. Though we want our name in print, rejection outweighs acceptance. That's the nature of our business. But there are steps to present our work in it's best light and keep editors from the trash bin.

Why I Write?

The most vital question to ask is why you feel God called you to write. Four full length novels still adorn my shelf . . . unpublished. I ached at my failure to secure a publisher until I understood why I was to write.

After a weekend retreat God's direction was blindingly clear. First, I wasn't intended to be a Beverly Lewis. Second, my ideas were to encourage and instruct women and parents. Third, my formats were articles, book reviews, devotionals, humor, and speaking. Finally, God would disciple me through the ideas He placed in my heart.

Finding a Fit!

Once I discerned His purpose, I needed venues to express it. Being a teacher for thirty plus years, planning is like breathing. I grabbed a notebook, pencils, and my laptop. I located a dozen Christian authors' websites and wrote them asking for advice. To my delight they all responded.

I organized their suggestions into sections on goals, time, skills, ideas, training, budget, conferences, references, writers' associations and resources. Research done, I reviewed their top suggestions and noted five common themes.

- Purchase Sally Stuart's *Christian Market Guide*.
- Select and study five publishers that go hand-in-glove with your style.
- Join a Christian writers' association with critique groups.
- Take writing classes and secure *How To* reference books.
- Register for a Christian writers' conference.

The Inside Scoop!

The *Market Guide* is remarkable. It provides all the data you need to locate a publisher and get published. I spent a week praying over which companies would correspond with what I knew I was to write.

I dissected websites of the most likely candidates for **exact** author guidelines. I reviewed publishers' mission statements to align my writing to their expectations. I collected samples of works from past and current authors. I studied their advertisers for trends and targeted audiences. I hounded secretaries for the name of the editor my work would be read by.

Living over one hundred miles from an urban area I joined two Christian writers' groups via the Internet. I keep abreast of writing activities and enjoy on-line critique groups.

Although I taught Advance Placement English for nineteen years my writing was mediocre. Writing courses through various universities fine-tuned my work. Gilbert Morris' *How to Publish a Christian Novel* is the mainstay of my writing preparation and a must for serious Christian authors. Specialty books on query letters, writing synopsis, and the *Synonym Finder* are crucial.

Finally, conferences are invaluable. I met my first publisher at a Bakersfield symposium. I only attend conferences with writing classes and editors present. Time is precious, money is tight, and distance is a factor; so I don't waste any of them.

Which Work Will Work?

Organizing my writing week, I established the three/three/one pattern. Three days I write a different piece each day. Three days I edit that writing. Sundays, I rest! I give my work three days to simmer so I can readily identify errors.

One author stated, "There were 110 submissions monthly when I started. Today, there are 7,000. I fight to get my work published with budgetary constraints and have branched into conducting writing seminars, articles, interviews, and church and women's curriculum to keep my pen in the pie."

Homework and research behind me, I launched my first batch of writing to five publish-

ers. I received three acceptance letters. The system is not full proof and each author must tailor any method to their style.

What gave my work an edge was **meticulous attention to writers' guidelines**. One editor stated, "I'm not that impressed with your articles. But yours is the only submission that adhered to every pre-requisite." Not a great critique, but I'll take it.

Icing on the Cake!

For the past two years I've been writing for the Southern Baptist Family Focus, Vistas, Wesleyan House, Women of Worship, and Sierra Sands. I've spoken at women's and educational gatherings.

In everything I'm the student. God has chiseled, yanked and molded me through my work. I'm grateful for the refining fire of paper and pencil.

Whether you see yourself tackling a Leo Tolstoy size novel or an Ann Kimmel petite poem, consider some simple questions to get your career started.

- Why does God want me to write?
- Which publishers are for me?
- How do I begin?
- What do I write?
- Who can help me be the best?
- Who gets the praise? †

Children's Story

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius ... the pilot."

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Writer's Voice is published quarterly and is included with the \$20 annual membership fee to the Christian Writers Guild of Santa Barbara.

We welcome your input: ideas, suggestions and article submissions. Please use the addresses above.

COMING SOON!

13th Annual Santa Barbara Christian Writers
Conference
October 10, 2009

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soul, and health to the bone.*

Proverb 16:24

Watch for additional information in your email and on our new website **www.CWGSB.com** that is currently under construction. Conference information is available now.

Writing: A Gift from God . . .

Opal Mae Dailey

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning . . . But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:17; 22-25 KJV

"For the Believer, Writing is a Holy Calling" Jim Denney, *Quit Your Day Job*, Linden Publishing, 2003.

Think about it: What a privilege to be selected for such a time as this and an opportunity to help fulfill the Great Commission to . . . *Go ye into all the world . . .* (Mark 16:15 KJV)

Your book and your writing can and will go places where you cannot go or have no desire to go. My first little book, *Lifestyles of the Rich in Christ Jesus*, started out to be a four page tract but it turned into a fifty-page book. (Forty-nine pages is a legal book according to the U.S. Postal Service). So I call it my run-a-way tract.

A short time after I self-published *Lifestyles*, I received a call from a Pastor in Ventura. He said he had received a copy of my little red book from a friend who had picked it up in Japan, and could he buy 250 more copies to give out in their new-believers packet? You can imagine how I felt! 250 sales and how in the world did my book start out in Santa Barbara, California, go to Japan, and then back to Ventura, California, which is only 30 miles from Santa Barbara?

Oh what a trip that little book made, and without me! It went where I could not go and it accomplished a mission for God. *For with God nothing shall be impossible.* (Luke 1:37 KJV)

You may say, "The moral of this story is: *IF ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.*" (Isaiah 1:19 KJV)

This is but one of the stories I have about how God accomplishes signs and wonders with my

books.

I believe one reason for the success of my writing is my attendance at so many writers' conferences: San Diego, Orange County, Ventura, Mt. Hermon, Salt Lake City, Santa Barbara, and the list goes on. We are in partnership with the Holy Spirit. He never fails in His roll, but we must prepare to do our part.

Why not join us October 10, 2009, for the 13th annual Santa Barbara Christian Writers Conference at Westmont College in beautiful Santa Barbara?

Come expecting great teaching, great food, and great fellowship.

We are limited to 50 attendees so why not send in your registration today to confirm your place. We are looking forward to meeting new people, renewing old acquaintances, and fellowshiping with fellow believers in the name of Jesus.

Hope to see you October 10th! †

Love ...

Corrinne Abele

Imperfect world, imperfect governments, imperfect mates and children, imperfect bosses and co-workers, imperfect churches, imperfect friends, imperfect drivers, waitresses, and cashiers. How do you handle them?

Perfect Father, perfect Jesus, perfect Holy Spirit, perfect Word of God, perfect Kingdom of God, perfect heaven; all trying to pull mankind's existence to a higher level. "Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Love covers a multitude of sins. Love turns away from evil and seeks to do good. Love endures the faults and transgressions of others. Love does not avenge itself but overcomes evil with prayer.

As the world is headed into "deeper darkness," the church shall grow brighter with God's glory. As she keeps His Word, the love of God shall accomplish His will: a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, looking for her Beloved! (Ephesians 5:25-27)