

WRITER'S VOICE !



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

Fall 2009

Volume 5, Issue 4

From the Editor ...

Greetings in the Mighty Name of Jesus.

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

Without a doubt, pleasant words were what every attendee of our 13th Annual Writers Conference heard all day long. The sweet anointing filled the room very early as Larry Skahill lead us in praise and worship. I discovered Larry knows how to get that piano jumping and rocking. What a blessing!

Fay Angus was over the top with her life stories as she wove the Word of God, lessons on writing, and great stories together for us. Bryan Belknap gave his group writing ideas that went beyond the average teaching on screen writing. Many were blessed by Katie Cushman's teaching on fiction writing, as were others that chose the workshops for beginners on publishing and marketing with Cory Abele and me. I believe it was a day to behold.

CWGSB will be having our next monthly meeting on January 14, 2010. For those of you who attended the conference, we encourage you to join us (address at right). Don't lose your excitement and momentum that you gained at the conference. Stay connected!

CWGSB will be experiencing many changes in the New Year, so be sure to read *Attention!* on page four.

Once again Cory blesses us with a story taken from the Word and challenges us with some thought provoking questions. Her article *Vapor* begins on page two. And we welcome our newest contributor, Tahlia Merrill, who shares her experiences from our annual conference in her article *Passion and Discipline* on page four.

We pray you have an outstanding Thanksgiving and Christmas season with Jesus in the center of all you do.



Opal Mae Dailey
Editor-In-Chief

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CWGSB Monthly Meeting:

2nd Thursday

12:00 p.m.

IHOP Restaurant
1701 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA

May 1, 2010: Orange County Christian Writers' Fellowship Conference
www.occwf.org

October 2010: 14th Annual Santa Barbara Christian Writers Conference at Westmont College
cwgsb@sbcglobal.net
(805) 682-0316



Vapor . . .

Corrinne Abele

They desired a child of their own, but year after year brought heartache and disappointment. There was emptiness deep inside their soul that nothing could fulfill. After much prayer, they made the decision to adopt a child.

Within a matter of a few weeks, a newborn son was placed in their arms. The father felt a satisfaction he had never experienced before. Holding his son, being face to face with him, was a joy not able to be contained. All of heaven seemed to burst forth in songs of glory! At last, he had someone to call his own. At last he had his own child, someone to whom he could express the fullness of his love upon.

Day after day, as the child grew, his father enjoyed teaching his son in the ways of a successful life. Father had great wisdom, and desired for his son to live a long, prosperous life. After all, everyone knew that “wisdom is the principal thing and should be sought after; the earth itself was founded on it!” Father taught his son early on: “Son, retain my words and don’t let them depart from your eyes, they are life to your soul. Happy is the man who finds wisdom. In her right hand is length of days, and in her left hand are riches and honor and health to all your flesh. My son, do not forget my instruction. Separate yourself from the ways of evil and do not enter the path of the wicked.”

Oh, it was a joy to see him growing up just like his father, full of mercy and kindness. And he was quick to obey. Adults were amazed at how much love flowed from the boy’s heart as he spoke with wisdom quite uncommon for a youngster his age. Father was so pleased. Just to see the two of them together was a blessing. Sometimes father would hold his son so close their cheeks would press together in an embrace of deep affection that brought outbursts of laughter from within them. There was nothing father would not do for his son.

So the years passed, and ever so subtly, the

young man began yearning to spend more and more time with other people. Anticipated morning conversations at his father’s knee had pretty much stopped. “Well, I have a responsibility to my new business partners now and I have another appointment in the afternoon that I must prepare for.” Father heard that type of excuse daily. When he tried to talk with him, his son just said, “Oh, sure dad, we’ll get together tomorrow. Gotta go!”

A few years of this type of behavior changed the heart of his son. No longer did he want to even be near his dad; too much condemnation. Besides, he had more fun and acceptance with other people. That was where the action was, always something new and exciting going on. And, after all, he had to stay in touch to make a good living. His new girlfriend was sharing things with him that he had never heard before. She knew ways of getting what you want from supernatural beings. All you had to do was spend time with them and they would prosper your business, or even bring rain upon your crops! “There’s a whole other life out there, and I want to be like other people and have what they have.”

Father was grieved. His heart churned within him. Nothing could take the place of his son and the fellowship they once had. “I carried him in my arms and called him my son. I taught him how to walk. I gave him all of myself and everything I have belongs to him. I protected him and he learned my ways. Now he has sought others and desires not my face or my words. Other things satisfy him and he takes pleasure in giving his heart and his life to wickedness. He knows not the danger that awaits him. He has hardened himself to me. Why? Oh, if only he would turn from this and come back to me. I would run toward him and embrace him with the fullness of my heart and love him with all that I have. How I long for him.”

Dear hearts, some of the above story was taken from a real life experience, one that our heavenly Father had with His unfaithful son called Ephraim. (Read Hosea Ch. 11) Does

Father long for you and I to spend more time with Him? Does Father desire to fellowship with us and teach us the ways of life? I believe it is far more important to Him than we realize. He longs for our companionship.

We are living in perilous times. It is more serious now than it ever has been that you keep your heart pure and be more fervent for your heavenly Father and follow His ways. Do not become dull of hearing the word. We are coming into a season of great triumph for the church. You were born for this time. But beware of the strong pull of the world. Believers who are sitting on the fence are in great danger of falling off onto the wrong side. Stay with the things you have been taught. Stay with the uncompromised word of God which is able to save your soul.

Why should you do these things? Because your life is as a “vapor” and the days are passing so quickly. Father has a plan designed just for you. It’s a good plan! That plan will not come to fruition for those who love the world and love friendship with the world. That is enmity with God. (See James 4:4 and 1 John 2:15-16)

Does God love you more than you love Him? You bet! Does God want you more than you want Him? You bet! He gave everything He had to adopt you. You are His beloved child. Love your Father with all your heart, with all your strength, face to face. Finish your course in triumph!

Ephraim was unaware that his life story would be written down in the best-selling book of all time. There’s another real life story going on right now, it’s called “your life!” What is being written down today about your relationship with your Father? From here on out it’s all about bearing fruit for the Kingdom. We as Christian writers are so busy writing for others, but our highest responsibility and first mission must be to please our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s lift high the standard of excellence with shouts of praise from pure hearts: “We will be faithful to our God and King!” †

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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.

North County

Last year we called for people who would be interested in a North County Writers Guild, but we only received one response. Now we had eight people attend the conference on October 10, and they are talking about forming a group up north. Praise God!

If you are interested in joining a group in the north county area, please let us know and you will be contacted. Isn’t it exciting how the Lord works? †

Mixing Passion and Discipline . . .

Tahlia Merrill

For anyone who attended the annual conference a few weeks ago at Westmont College, I'm sure that you will remember me—I was the youngest person in the room. Don't worry, I'm used to it. And whether I've been fourteen or twenty at the time, I never cease to be grateful for the kindness and respect I find bestowed upon me whenever I am surrounded by more seasoned writers. However, what I found most significant from all that I gathered at the conference was the importance of balance between discipline and passion. As writers, how can we keep one from overshadowing the other?

Listening to Fay Angus, our keynote speaker, describe how to incorporate hope, love, and even grief into our writing reminded me how priceless inspiration is to a writer's psyche. To write convincingly, you have to find a subject that touches you, moves you, affects you at a level deeper than the intellectual. There's a reason that inspiration is so often referred to as a spark—it spurs you to put the first words on a blank page. Inspiration can vanish or grow stale, though. To care enough about a story to hold onto it for any length of time, a strong fire of passion is required. When you lose your passion, you lose sight of why the pen is in your hand in the first place.

While the poignant anecdotes and thought-provoking lessons Fay shared helped me connect with the emotional side of writing, the workshops emphasized the more practical angle. Technique and discipline can push any artist through a slump in their creativity. Workshop leader Bryan Belknap demonstrated in his screenwriting tutorial how a well-structured plot can give your story a clear direction to coast towards on those days when your writing feels lifeless. Published novelist Katie Cushman's workshop gave an overview of stylistic elements to improve the quality of a story such as the timeless “show don't tell” adage. Without these cornerstones, a story will lack stability and no matter how strongly it comes across in your mind, you will never transfer it successfully to the

page. The workshops reminded me of a favorite quote that has been taped to my wall for years from novelist Barbara Kingsolver who said, “Don't wait for your muse to come by for a visit—go to her house, drag her home by the hair and chain her to your desk.”

The entire conference wove together the soaring joys of inspiration with the confident satisfaction of structure for an audience eager to appreciate both. I felt right at home because I could look around and see that even though we may have had different destinations, or were traveling on different paths, we were all, somehow on the same journey. †

ATTENTION!

After five years of producing this publication, Michael and Cory Abele have been called to another level of glory (ministry). We want to acknowledge and thank them for all their work. They have been a blessing to all of us and most of the time have gone beyond the call of duty, just like Jesus. We are waiting on the Holy Spirit and each one of you to determine the future of *Writer's Voice!*

We need your input, just a yeh or nay is sufficient. Of course, any ideas you may have would certainly be welcome.

Time is the most precious commodity we have, but we don't wish to waste anyone's time. If *Writer's Voice!* is a blessing and information you can use, then we want to continue. But if you are drinking from other wells these days, we will seek the Lord as to other ways to accomplish our mission to “instruct, inspire, and encourage” His writers.

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us, “there is a season for everything.” We need to be willing to change in order to receive the blessings of the Lord. Many thanks to everyone for their participation the last five years. †