

WRITER'S VOICE !



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

WINTER 2007

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From the Editor...

Welcome to 2007, the year of **CROWNING GLORY**.

COMPLETION ~ FULFILMENT ~ PERFECTION

Please join us in welcoming Katie Cushman, CWGSB's newest member and contributing writer. Her article, "**The Dreaded Editorial Letter**," on page two comes to us fresh from her recent experience with the editing process for her first novel, "**A Promise to Remember**," to be published in the Fall of 2007 by Bethany House Publishers. In writing this article, Katie shared, "Writing articles is MUCH harder than I imagined. In a novel, you've got 90,000 words to convey what you want to say. Melting it down to a coherent 500 words is a FUN challenge." We think you'll agree that Katie met the challenge.

"**Call Waiting**," by Corrinne Abele, shows us how to walk in HIS perfection. Be sure to read this article on page three to find out just why God has called you to be a writer.

We commissioned poet Ned Nossaman to write a poem just for the readers of **Writers Voice**. Ned's poem, "**Where Was I?**" appears on page four. His compensation will be "out of this world." What a way to start a new year!

We have COMPLETED two full years of **Writers Voice**, are FULFILLING our mission to educate, encourage and inspire, and we're depending on HIS PERFECTION to carry us through our third year in 2007.

So I guess we are in line for the **CROWNING GLORY**.

Opal Mae Dailey
Editor-In-Chief

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Please welcome CWGSB's newest member,
Anna Thompson.

The Dreaded Editorial Letter

By Katie Cushman

This year I signed a three book contract with Bethany House, a traditional CBA (Christian Booksellers Association) publisher. This was my first writing contract, so I didn't know what to expect next. The biggest "next" turned out to be my substantive edit.

The substantive edit is the first of several rounds of editing. It deals mostly with "big picture" problems. I'd heard whispers at writers' conferences about twenty-page, single-spaced letters. I trembled in fear and waited.

In the meantime, my editor sent my novel to multiple readers; some of them trained editors, some of them untrained readers. They all responded back with what they liked and didn't like—parts where the action dragged, parts where they didn't understand what I was trying to convey. If two or more reviewers commented on the same thing, he considered it significant and wrote it up. He compiled the results and then sent me the dreaded "editorial letter."

As it turned out, this document was only four pages long (whew!). Most of the first page consisted of nice comments about the book and explanations of the lay-out for the following three pages. Here are a few quotes from the opening. "The advice we give here is direction that we think will strengthen the story both on the artistic and commercial levels." As an author, that's exactly what I want to do, so I started to get excited.

He continued. "These are not edicts. Sometimes a suggested change just won't fit in your vision for the story. We encourage you to take some time with the letter, read it through, and then I'll be happy to talk it through with you. Your ideas for approaching a particular area of concern are often better than anything I could suggest here, so we want this to truly be a book that reflects your voice." These were not the hard-fisted comments I had feared.

The next three pages went by subject, starting at the most glaring problems, down to the minor issues. Most of the time I immediately said, "That would make it better," or "yeah, I should change that." A few times I said, "Hmm, I don't know."

My editor called me several days later, and we talked for over an hour. One particular issue I couldn't see how to resolve, he popped out a great idea that worked much better than originally written. On another, he agreed that we probably shouldn't change much.

Then, *he* asked *me* how long I would need to finish the re-writes. I had feared the old "we need this in two weeks" mandate. We picked a date five weeks out, which had me working long hours but finishing in time to farm it out to a few proof-readers.

I sent him the new, improved version, which he immediately sent out for more reviews. The next step on the editing journey will be either a small re-write or line editing, depending on feedback.

Since I want my writing to glorify God, I love this opportunity to make it the absolute best it can be. Although editing may seem scary or painful, so far, it has proven to be a true blessing to my writing journey and to my upcoming novel.



Watch for Katie's new book, "**A Promise to Remember,**" to be published in the Fall of 2007 by Bethany House Publishers.

Call Waiting

By Corrinne Abele

He absolutely loved the adventure and freedom of being on the open sea, feeling the mist from wind-swept waves hit his face. He was a large strong brawny individual that lived life to its fullest.

While just a youth, he started his own fishing business, which now had grown and become successful. Although brash and impulsive at times, he had a heart that loved God and his family.

Occasionally, he would pray about his future plans, that is until one day when he and his brother were at the sea shore. One conversation with Jesus of Nazareth would change everything! The call came and Simon the fisherman became Peter the fisher of men and the great apostle of faith.

Ah, but there's more to the story. This fisherman became an author of not just one, but two books, which still speak to us today. They are included in the greatest book of all time, which has sold more copies and been read by more people than any other book, and has outlasted all of its critics – the Bible!

How did this rugged, burly fisherman, who everyone knew was uneducated and unlearned in the scriptures, become an author? Surely God had other writers who were more qualified, more experienced and certainly far more knowledgeable than this weather-beaten wanderer of the open sea!

Beloved, we know from the scriptures that God does not look on the outward appearance of a man, but God looks on the heart and His callings are not reversible. And concerning your calling as a writer, God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise. (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

Therefore, your ability to write for God does not come from a university. Your ability comes from within as you answer His call to become an instrument to preach the good news through the silent, powerful voice of the written word. (See 2 Peter 1:10)

“FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU BECOME FISHERS OF MEN.” Mark 1:17

Our Beloved Sisters . . .

By Opal Mae Dailey

As in all of God's ways, we experience a paradox, in our case, sadness and rejoicing.

Our sadness is in the news that our beloved member and sister in Christ, Mary Dee Neelands, left this earth and moved to Heaven on June 4th, 2006. Mary was born on October 27, 1921, in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

We rejoice in the knowledge that Mary, being a Christian, is with her Savior Jesus, whom she so dearly loved. Mary and her sister, Kathryn (Katie) Bryant, have lived in Arroyo Grande for over fifty years.

These two sisters traveled almost monthly to CWGSB meetings for about seven years, and they were always the first ones to send in their check for our writers conferences. They loved to learn and brought material to share on a consistent basis.

They were a blessing to all of us. One of the many blessings of being a writer is all the wonderful people we get to meet and all the cherished memories we have. It was a great loss when neither one of them could attend our meetings anymore.

Katie says she is mostly confined to home these days and misses Mary, but assures me Mary's children bring her food and make sure she is cared for. We know this would make Mary very happy. Our love goes out to Katie.

“Words do two major things: They provide food for the mind and light for understanding and awareness.”

“Well chosen words mixed with measured emotions is the basis of affecting people.”

Jim Rohn's *Treasury of Quotes*

*Establish my footsteps in your word,
and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.*
~ Psalm. 119:133

Where Was I?

The other day I sought the Lord
and seems like then I heard
the Lord in turn was asking me,
Where was I in his word?

There was speaking in the silence,
and the silence seemed to say,
Child, have you gathered nothing,
of my treasures for today?

My word I freely gave you,
I within the word, the way.
Why waste your time in other things,
while time, it whiles away?

~ a poem by **Ned Nossaman**

**Note: New
day and time!**

Calendar . . .

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

March 30—April 3: Mt. Hermon Writers Conference. www.mounthermon.org or 1.888.MH.CAMPS

April 21: Orange County Spring Writers Day
www.ocwfw.org

September: San Diego Writers Conference
www.sandiegocwg.org

October 6: 11th Annual Santa Barbara Christian Writers Conference at Westmont College.
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(805) 682-0316

Join Us !

WRITER'S VOICE !

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

Membership

As Sherwood Wirt always says, "The writing world is just like Christianity. It's not what you know, but **who** you know."

Santa Barbara is known the world over. Why not officially add the Christian Writers Guild of Santa Barbara to your writing resume?

Your \$20 annual membership fee will add your name to our roster, and your financial support will help keep this newsletter and our annual conference at the forefront of helping you and others become the writers God wants us to be.

"Go ye into all the world and publish the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15 paraphrased)

Please mail your check today.