

WRITER'S VOICE !



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

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Issue 4

From the Editor ...

Greetings in the mighty name of **Jesus**.

Once again our Writers Conference at Westmont College was awesome. The weather was perfect. Our worship, lead by Debbie Wong and accompanied by Kenny Larson, ushered in the presence of the Holy Ghost, and the sweet anointing lingered with us all day. There was a sense of expectancy flowing from the people.

Kathi Macias, our keynote speaker, held our attention with stories from her writing life, supported by the scriptures. Everyone seemed satisfied with what they learned at Kathi's workshops on the various ways of publishing in today's marketplace.

Bonnie Hanson's workshops on "Writing for Children" and "Poetry that Sings," along with my workshops on marketing were well received. The spirit of laughter came upon Cory Abele in my workshop and soon spread throughout the class. The Holy Spirit really let us know He was there, but we still covered all the material I had planned. He knows just how to orchestrate a meeting. Aren't you happy to be a Christian?

In this issue Cory Abele introduces us to Bonnie the Bear in her article titled *The Itch*. I'm sure many of us can relate to Bonnie the Bear. And my article *Dreams and Writing* may be just the incentive to prompt you to finish your writing project. And we're excited about a new column starting next year that will answer all of your writing questions. See *Ask and Ye Shall Receive* on page four for details.

Please note the special announcement on page two regarding future issues of *Writer's Voice!*

The Lord gave the word: great was the company that published it.

Psalms 68:11



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

May 1-2, 2009: Antelope Valley
Christian Writers Conference
www.avwriters.com

May 2, 2009: Orange County
Christian Writers Fellowship
Spring Writer's Day
www.occcwf.org

September 26-27, 2009: San Diego
CWG Fall Conference
www.sandiegocwg.org

October 2009: 13th Annual Santa
Barbara Christian Writers Confer-
ence at Westmont College:
cwgsb@sbcglobal.net
(805) 682-0316

The Itch . . .

Corrinne Abele



Have you heard the story of Bonnie the Bear?

Bonnie was so kind hearted. Even when she went to her favorite place, “The Golden Bee Hive,” to eat the most delicious tasting honey on the planet, she would eat ever so gently as to not hurt or, God forbid, crush and swallow one of those cute little bees. On rare occasions when a bee would sting her, she knew in her heart that it was surely an accident.

Even though Bonnie traveled alone, she would sometimes see her family and her friends. Each, of course, had their own separate territory, but they all knew and submitted to that unwritten Canadian law: all black bears love and value each other!

Bonnie felt secure in her environment. Her sleep was good. She had plenty of fish and vegetables and berries in her diet, and she just knew one day that “Mr. Perfect Bear” would cross her path. And so, all in all, Bonnie’s life was really pretty good, except for that occasional little “itch” deep inside her. It would remind her again and again to think about that special dream she had envisioned so many times.

As a young cub, Bonnie would listen as her mother would tell her about experiences she had while growing up in the great forests of Alaska. Bonnie would spend hours daydreaming of the day when she would leave her homeland and travel to this great territory. Whatever she might encounter on the way, she knew within she would surely overcome.

But something was rapidly beginning to fade. As time continued to pass, her eagerness to take the next step seemed to be losing priority in the daily routine of bear life. Now when that little itch came, she ignored it, or replaced it with thoughts of her comfortable, safe life.

One spring day, while searching for insects under a large rock, Bonnie noticed her beloved grandfather sitting under a huge spruce tree. After rubbing noses—an old Canadian bear greeting—Bonnie began sharing about her busy life. After a long

silence, the wise old bear asked her some very personal questions.

“What happened to all your plans to explore the land of Alaska? When are you going to step out and fulfill your dream? Don’t you know that God placed that little itch within you? Don’t you realize that answering His call is the most important priority for your life? Provision will come when you take the first step. Don’t be afraid...just do it! Dear, sweet Bonnie, don’t you remember what I told you long ago? Bear graveyards are full of the plans of God that never came to pass.”

Jesus often taught with parables. This children’s story comes to many of you as a wake up call to get moving on whatever the Lord’s plan is for your life...big or small. Time is passing quickly.

Some of you have an “itch” to write for the Lord in books, articles, screenplays, etc. Some of you will write without receiving monetary compensation in this life but will be rewarded in heaven. Others will be rewarded greatly here on earth. But, either way, open up your gift; take the next step and go for it!

Corrinne Abele is the author of the devotional *Who Am I?* which can be purchased from her website www.healingstreet.com. You may also reach her via email: books@healingstreet.com.



⇒ Important Announcement ⇐

Due to the increased cost of postage and printing, *Writer’s Voice!* is going digital. Future issues will be distributed via email only. In addition, *Writer’s Voice!* will also be available on our new website **CWGSB.com** beginning in 2009.

IMPORTANT: Please send us your email address to CWGSB@sbcglobal.net to continue receiving *Writer’s Voice!*

We pray that we will not lose any of our readers during this transition. Send us your email address today.

Dreams and Writing . . .

Opal Mae Dailey

A bear with a dream—can you imagine that?

I'm so excited to meet Bonnie the Bear. She reminds me of so many of the attendees we have had at our annual conferences the past twelve years.

The Lord seems to send us a large number of new and want-to-be writers each year. Just like Bonnie, many of our students have unfulfilled dreams, some to write the Great American Novel, others dream of putting into print the miracle of their salvation, giving God the Glory.

What happened to them? What happened to Bonnie the Bear?

Why do they let life slip through their fingers, and with the passing of time, let their dreams die? Bonnie's wise old grandfather was right: the cemetery is the richest place in town.

Is that "itch," aka the gift of writing, laying dormant inside you? God's gifts are without repentance, but without you doing your part, the world will never know what might have been and neither will you. When we fail to use the gifts of God within us, we steal from ourselves and the blessings are hidden from others (the world).

What is keeping you from writing and developing that craft? Why have you not started or finished that writing dream? What is the problem?

Procrastination?



Fear?

Now there are many ways to ask these questions, but they all fall within these two barriers.

Procrastination is nothing more than the spirit of perfection eroding your faith in the Holy Spirit's ability to work through you. Lack of faith allows fear to rear up its ugly head, thus robbing you of your blessings.

So what is the answer? I'm glad you asked! Here is a two-step plan that will put you on a path to your writing success:

1. Repent—ask the Lord to forgive your doubt and unbelief. Remember: whatever is not of faith is sin.

2. As Susan Titus Osborn titled her book, *Just Write It!*, put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard—and let it flow. Forget about spelling, grammar, format, and all the other little things that slow your creative juices. This is called "dumping." Just get it onto paper as fast as you can.

At this point you can either work it through yourself or ask someone to help you with the technical stuff, like grammar, spelling, etc. That someone could be a family member, a close friend, or a paid editor. Even better, you can join a local critique group.

B.J. Taylor has a wonderful book on writer's groups titled *The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work*. You can contact B.J. via email at bj.taylor@verizon.net or visit her website at <http://klik.to/bjtaylor>. B.J. also offers a free monthly e-newsletter called *Taylor's Tips*.

If you live in the Santa Barbara area or within reasonable driving time, join us at our monthly meeting. Our mission statement is to educate, encourage, and inspire Christian writers. Please send an email to us for more information: cwgsb@sbcglobal.net.

Why not make 2009 the year you follow your dream and become a published author? Who knows, maybe Bonnie the Bear will see how easy it was for you to realize your dream and be encouraged to follow her dream as well.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 15:8



Ask and Ye Shall Receive . . .

Opal Mae Dailey

There will be a new column starting in the next issue of *Writer's Voice!* written especially for you—but only if you participate.

Do you have a question about writing that you just can't find the answer for? Have you wondered about the proper use of the semi-colon versus the colon, or where you should put commas when you have a list?

Or maybe you have just finished an article but you don't know how to submit it for publication. Have you ever wondered where those ISBN numbers come from and how you get one for your book? Do you know what POD means in the publishing world and what it means for you?

These and many other questions are just waiting for you to ask our expert, the one who has all the answers or knows where to get them.

No question is too simple, dumb, or silly to ask. And if your question is really hard, we have George Bate, Professor Emeritus at Westmont College, to provide your answer.

I've noticed in classroom situations most people are afraid of sounding stupid or of embarrassing themselves, so many questions go unanswered. Then one brave soul will step out and ask the same question many in the group were afraid to ask, and all of a sudden everyone is speaking up and asking questions at the same time.

Your question will most likely mirror many questions that others have, but someone has to ask it. So, go ahead, ask your questions so that many will receive.



I'm waiting and watching for your emails.

WRITER'S VOICE !

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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.

A God Favored Conference

Anna Marguerite

The 12th annual conference of the Christian Writers Guild of Santa Barbara was a God-favored event. Thank God for unity and encouragement in our group of Christian writers.

I enjoyed the number of new faces and the opportunity to have time to speak with each person. We came together privileged to have been allowed the time, space, and opportunity to live in just the right place, in the right time, with the right people crossing our path.

The wondrous favor of God in our lives came together as we shared and inspired one another in a joyous and unified atmosphere.

God bless you and see you next year!