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# **THE WRITE STUFF**

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

January 2010

## **“INSIDE A WRITER’S CONFERENCE”**

January 22, 2010 – 10 a.m.

**Dayspring Church – Assembly of God  
17360 N. Dixie Highway (Rt.25)  
(just north of Bowling Green)**

**Yes, we have a new meeting place. The Nazarenes  
could no longer accommodate us.**

**(See the end of the newsletter for directions)**

Come and hear CW member **Shelley Lee** share insights from sessions and meetings with editors at the large Philadelphia Writer’s Conference she attended last summer. Our group was able to help fund her trip, and we’re sure her talk will be lively, entertaining, and informative. She also will be describing the process of putting her published children’s book together. To find out more about Shelley, log on to her delightful blog....[www.shelleylee.blogspot.com/](http://www.shelleylee.blogspot.com/) She also recently contracted a book deal with Barbour Publishing for a small gift book called *You’re Sweet*.

**BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGAM – 10 A.M.  
LUNCH – NOON – BROWN BAG OR NEARBY FAST FOOD  
CRITIQUE SESSION – 1-2 P.M.**

(please bring several or more copies of what you want critiqued)

**Remember.....if the weather closes the Bowling Green Schools or  
delays them on our meeting date, we do not meet.**



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## **EXTEND AN INVITATION**

If you have friends interested in writing, tell them about us. We meet on the fourth Friday of January, March, May, July, and October. And don't forget to mention the October seminar that features experienced speakers who share their writing and editing expertise. Members get a price break on this

## **ESSAY WRITING: IS IT FOR YOU?**

What comes to mind when you hear or see the word, "essay"?

That's how author, pastor, and blogger Dave Claassen began when he spoke at our September meeting. We enjoyed a lively discussion, but Dave also gave us some great points on and examples for essay writing.

Dave delighted us by sharing a recent essay of his entitled, "But What If She Couldn't Sing?" In that essay he talked about singing sensation Susan Boyle – and used that essay to show us how important timing is for much of our writing. "Discipline" comes from the same root as "discipleship." If we're writers, we write as disciplined people – not "when I feel inspired, I'll write" – but as people who work consistently and diligently at their craft.

Essay writing often is first person and is about life. Everyone, he reminded us, loves a good story. When we write from our own experience, it makes us vulnerable – and readable. Good writing involves rewriting, too. As Dave said, only God gets things right the first time. He encouraged us to set a time period (days) between rewrites. Use other writers, or even just readers, to critique our work.

Finally, be unashamedly self-promoting. Nobody will get our work "out there" but us. A good way to do this is with a blog. He suggests a website is generally "static," whereas a blog is dynamic – i.e., it's updated at least three times a week. Which brings us right back to that discipline thing.

Want to see how essay writing is done well? Go to [DaveClaassen.com](http://DaveClaassen.com) and click on his blog.

- Kathy Douglas

## **2009 SEMINAR A HUGE SUCCESS!**

With a large group of writers hanging onto his every word, Dennis "Doc" Hensley brought humor, information, and practical ideas to his presentation at our 2009 Seminar. Sharing his many years of writing in both Christian and secular genres, he left all those attending wanting to hear more. Our evaluation input was nothing short of glowing. It was a good day! Apparently he had a good time, too, because he sent back an email thanking the group for the great time he too had at our seminar. He and his wife enjoyed meeting and talking with many of you. He'd like to come back! Anytime, Doc!



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## ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT IN THE WORKS

Mark your calendars for our annual Spring Retreat coming up on **April 30 and May 1**. It will be again held at the beautiful Lial Retreat Center at Whitehouse, OH...and those of you who attended last year know what treats this facility has in store. So you won't want to miss it this year. Stay tuned for more information.

## STILL LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

We'd like to feature one of our members in each issue of our newsletter. If you'd like to submit a piece, just email to me. First come, first published. Please limit your word count to 125 words. We're waiting.....

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Remember that our group is a member of ACW – American Christian Writers. If you want to attend any of their conferences, or receive any of their magazines, you get a 10% discount. Our group's chapter number is #3080.**

- **WRITING RAW** is a FREE literary ezine dedicated to new and emerging writers. "Our goal at Writing Raw is simple – to serve the literary community with the opportunity to have their work online and out in the world. In this world of disappearing literary magazines, Writing Raw is providing the blank pages for writers to fill."  
This is a fascinating secular site just for writers to love to write and want to be published and who love books. It's full of book reviews, interviews with best-selling authors, and general writing helps. Give it a look!  
[www.WritingRaw.com](http://www.WritingRaw.com)
- **RULED THE WORLD ESSAY CONTEST.** If you have something you want to get off your chest – what you hate about the world – what bothers you or ticks you off, and how you'd fix it if you were running things...say it in 1,000 words or less and shoot it off to [www.paper-perfect-editing.com/2009/11/essay-writing-contest-win-100/](http://www.paper-perfect-editing.com/2009/11/essay-writing-contest-win-100/) **before February 1!** Not much time, but if you've been dying to put a pet peeve into words, send it off. Winner receives \$100!
- **CHURCHMOUSE PUBLICATIONS**, a web-based publishing syndicate created to serve the Christian community has issued an OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS to new and established Christian authors and creators for features in the following areas: Church Administration and Leadership, Children's Material, Young Adults, ages 22-35. For submission information, e-mail [submissions@churchmousepublications.com](mailto:submissions@churchmousepublications.com) . For information about the syndicate,



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go to [www.churchmousepublication.com](http://www.churchmousepublication.com)

- **THE FIRST LINE** – a quarterly writers contest. They create a line which must be the first line of a short story. Winners get published in their quarterly and win some cash, too. See their web page [www.thefirstline.com](http://www.thefirstline.com)
- **FROM CROSS AND QUILL:**  
**Fresh Air Books** ([freshairbooks.org](http://freshairbooks.org)) is a new imprint of Upper Room Ministries you may want to check out.  
**Warner Press** ([warnerpress.com](http://warnerpress.com)) has some guidelines for submissions you might want to investigate

## ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

### SOME NEW WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

[www.writergazette.com](http://www.writergazette.com)

[www.writersweekly.com](http://www.writersweekly.com)

[www.worldwidefreelance.com](http://www.worldwidefreelance.com)

[www.writerincome.com](http://www.writerincome.com)

All these have helpful information and are worth looking into.

**CHRISTIAN BOOK VIDEOS** - a recently launched site as the one-stop viewing place for Christian book videos on the Internet. They're also called book previews or Book Trailers and are video ads for Christian books – a handy shortcut to find the kind of book you want to read. Now Christian booklovers can go to one website and view book videos for their favorite authors as well as find new ones. [www.christianbooksvideos.com](http://www.christianbooksvideos.com)

**CAPSTONE FICTION** – a new inspirational fiction publishing house, newly listed in the 2008 Christian Writers' Market Guide. Check it out [www.capstonefiction.com](http://www.capstonefiction.com)

**CHRISTIAN STORY TELLER** – A nonprofit website of Christian authors for Christian authors by Christian authors. It highlights up-and-coming authors and books, and offers marketing seminar and education for Christian writing. Publishes an interesting newsletter.

Get details at [www.christianstoryteller.com](http://www.christianstoryteller.com)

**INTERESTING AND INCREDIBLY VARIED WEBSITE** of writing helps, book recommendations, articles, contests, publishing news, and Christian inspiration.

[www.aprilboyer.com](http://www.aprilboyer.com) This is really worth a look. She works out of Ashland, OH.

### FREE NEWSLETTERS

Children's Writer & Illustrator's Market – [www.cwim.com](http://www.cwim.com)

Poet's Market – [www.poetsmarket.com](http://www.poetsmarket.com)

Guide to Literary Agents – [www.guidetoliteraryagents.com](http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com)



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## MEMBERS' MEMOS

### FYI

**Bonnie Smith** has a new Web site...[www.christianmonodramas.com](http://www.christianmonodramas.com) ... plus a blog that she says will have a new post daily about drama in the church.

**Keep the news coming about your successes!**

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**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR  
WEBSITE...[www.nwocw.org](http://www.nwocw.org)**

## A RECIPE FOR MIRACLES

### Ingredients:

- 1 part of knowing who you are
- 1 part of knowing who you aren't
- 1 part of know what you want
- 1 part of knowing who you wish to be
- 1 part of knowing what you already have
- 1 part of choosing wisely from what you have
- 1 part of loving and thanking for ALL you have

### Instructions:

Combine ingredients together gently and carefully, using faith and vision. Mix together with strong belief of the outcome until finely blended.

Use thoughts, words, prayers, and actions for best results.

Bake until Blessed.

Give thanks again.

## ALMOST THE LAST WORD

### More Messy Metaphors or Why Editors Weep

Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.

He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and

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now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge from a formerly surcharge-free ATM machine.

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Send newsletter information to [andamija @ bex.net](mailto:andamija@bex.net) or to 5679 Monroe St. #109, Sylvania, OH 43560.

**DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING CHURCH :** The church is located a couple miles north of Bowling Green on Route 25 (North Dixie Highway). From the Toledo area take the Perrysburg exit south off I-475/23 on to Route 25. Church will be on the left. Church phone number is 419-352-0672