

THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

July 2008

Editor: Linda Tippett

“FINDING YOUR WAY THROUGH TRAVEL WRITING”

July 25, 2008 – 10 a.m.

**Bowling Green Church of the Nazarene
15341 Gorrill Road**

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

Betty Winslow, one of our busy author members, will take us on the road – with tips on how to be a successful travel writer. One of the perks of this genre is usually a free trip to fascinating places, so you’ll want to know more about that! So pack your bags and join us for a trip down the byways of a special and interesting kind of writing. And as an added bonus, Betty says if you come to the meeting and fill out a ticket she will offer a door prize of a copy of “The Travel Writer’s Handbook, “ How to Write – and Sell – Your Own Travel Experiences” by Louise Purwin Zobel – full of lots of good information.

**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 this is the meeting when we will be preparing the seminar brochures for mailing. Please plan to stay after lunch to help. It normally goes very fast with many hands, and we should still have time for some critiquing.

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 September seminar that features experienced speakers who share their writing and editing expertise. Members get a price break on this.

STILL LOOKING FOR GUINEA PIGS ...WHO WRITE!

You may remember we said our seminar speaker, Editor Kelly Carr from Encounter Magazine, would critique articles in the afternoon session and show us just how she looks at a submission. We asked you for articles you might want her to consider, and we received a few at the last meeting, but we need more. Your article can be on any subject...but **do NOT put any identifying information on it (i.e. your name)**. Just bring it to the July meeting and we'll send them on to her

And while on the subject of the seminar, please remember that only paid up members get the registration discount. Membership dues will not be accepted at the door.

SPEAKER HAS DIFFERENT SLANT ON SKITS

"I just want it to be fun," said Sharon Moenter of Pemberville, OH, as she talked to our group at the May meeting about writing inspirational skits. "I like to involve other people in my presentations, by giving them a script to read or written directions on how to be a part of the skit.

Demonstrating her technique, she showed us how she packs for her "Journey of Faith". After handing out various parcels to members of the audience, she brought out a large suitcase plastered with inspirational labels and talked about what she might need for a "journey". She then asked for the items she had distributed, like soap, mirror, rain gear, Bible, walking shoes, candle, teddy bears, cross...each with a relevant Bible verse attached...and told how each one would relate to her "journey" as she placed it in the suitcase. All of her skits involve Bible verses, she said.

Church women's groups have mostly been her audience for the five or six years she's been performing the skits...and she enjoys injecting fun into some rather staid Bible study classes. But she's starting to branch out to mixed groups and is finding good response there, too.

She has seven skits available...one titled "Firm Up Your Flabby Faith"...and is currently trying to get them ready for publishing. But even more ideas are percolating, she said, like skits for children and teens and even nursing homes. She has no set fee...but accepts donations.

(Ed. note: Sharon has become a new member of Christian Writers!)

FROM OUR PREZ – KATHY SEZ...

WEB WEAVERS AND OTHER TECHNO BUFFS

Are you a whiz at all that dot come stuff? Does sitting at the computer navigating web waters float your boat? Ignite your muse? Light your fire?

If you answered “yes: to any of those questions (or even if you got just as far as this sentence out of curiosity), perhaps you’d be interested in being the webmaster for the NWOCW. We want to get a site up and running – and we’re long overdue. Let me know if you would like to tackle this project – AND then maintain the web page. Thanks!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

How often did we hear that as children? Or how often do we say it to our own (children or grandchildren) now. Variations of the theme abound, “Are you listening?” “What did I tell you?” Hello! Earth to ____ (plug in name here).” And the writer’s all-time favorite, “Do you read me?”

Do you recall the announcement at our last meeting re *Cross and Quill*? **They’re looking for submissions.** Did you follow up?(www.cwfi-online.org) I did and got another piece accepted for future publication. (*Christian Communicator* is asking for submissions, too, but they rejected mine. Curtly. Lesson: there are no guarantees.)

Consider this a repeated reminder if you want to get published. There are markets out there waiting for your good stuff! And I know that most – if not all – of you have “good stuff.”

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- **FROM CROSS AND QUILL:**

Fresh Air Books (freshairbooks.org) is a new imprint of Upper Room Ministries you may want to check out.

Warner Press (warnerpress.com) has some guidelines for submissions you might want to investigate.

- **FROM CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATOR**

Ignite Your Faith is open to submissions. See page 474 in SallyStuart’s *Christian Writer’s Market Guide*.

Teach Kids! essentials’ editorYalanda Derstine is also looking for submissions. “..welcomes submission of up to 300 words on anything related to children’s ministry...” No payment, but a place to start if kids ministry is your thing. See page 443 in Stuart’s CWMG. Yolanda’s email is yolanda.derstine@cefonline.com Put “TKE submission” in the subject line.

- **THE AMY FOUNDATION WRITING AWARDS** is now accepting submissions for their annual contest “recognizing creative, skillful writers who include scriptural truth in articles appearing in mainstream media. First prize is \$10,000! Visit the Website for updated rules – www.amyfound.org

- **CHICKEN SOUP OF THE SOUL: COLLEGE TALES** – looking for true stories and poems about your experiences in college – written by college students, or by graduates about their college years. Want them written in the first person of no more than 1200 words. **Deadline is December 31, 2008.**
Also accepting submissions for *Cup of Comfort for Parents of Children with Special Needs* – **Deadline September 15, 2008**
A Second Cup of Comfort for Dog Lovers – **Deadline December 15, 2008**
A Cup of Comfort for the Grieving Heart - **Deadline February 1, 2009**
Send submissions to www.chickensoupforthesoul.com/form.asp?cid=submit_story
- **MARANATHA CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE** – Muskegon, MI – September 8-12, 2008. It's their 31st year and looks to be bigger than ever, including Sally Stuart and Holly Miller as presenters. More information at www.writewithpurpose.org
- **GREAT PHILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE** - August 7-9. Marlene Bagnall, Director. Details at www.writehisanswer.com/Philadelphia
- **AUTUMN BOOK FESTIVAL** - Fostoria, Ohio – September 27, 2008 – UAW Hall. Registration for authors - \$35. No commissions. Handle sales direct. Suggest reserve your space now. For more info and registration form, email Bonnie Swartz at bss_tcog13@yahoo.com or call at 419-436-9260

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

- **CAPSTONE FICTION** – a new inspirational fiction publishing house, just listed in the 2008 Christian Writers' Market Guide. Check it out 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
- **INTERESTING AND INCREDIBLY VARIED WEBSITE** of writing helps, book recommendations, articles, contests, publishing news, and Christian inspiration. 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
Poet's Market – www.poetsmarket.com
Guide to Literary Agents – www.guidetoliteraryagents.com
Novel & Short Story Writers Market – www.novelandshortstory.com
- **GRAMMAR GIRL** – A great site for grammar tips with looser interpretations. "Yes, it IS okay to end sentences with a preposition!"
www.grammar.quickanddirtytips.com

- **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP** - This organization offers articles and forums for writers to participate in, as well as an extremely informative newsletter. www.christianwritersgroup.org
- **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD** – Log on to this Website and you'll learn about conferences, news and other events relating to the Christian writing field. www.christianwritersguild.com

MEMBERS' MEMOS

From **Toni Wilbarger**: “*Guideposts* will publish my article in their “His Mysterious Ways” column for their August 2008 issue. This is my first ever accepted magazine article, so you can imagine I’m pretty excited!”

From **Chuck Miller**: “One of my ONCO poems (from 2/6/08, which the publisher titled ‘Shapes of Things Forgotten’) is going to be published in *Ancient Paths*, an annual poetry review.” He says ONCO stands for One Complete Observation.

Betty Winslow just began her fourth year of writing a junior fiction (ages 8-12) book review column for *Teacher-Librarian*, a professional journal for school librarians.

Congratulations to all!

And for all members - Our in-between-meeting luncheons at Panera’s are fun and informative. Watch for the announcement of the next one and come join us!

Don’t forget! Please continue to let us know about your publishing news and other significant happenings

KILL FEES? – BETTER THAN NOTHING

Brian Kiems, online managing editor of *Writer’s Digest* magazine, answers the question....what is a kill fee?

“A kill fee is what you get if your editor decides not to buy your story after all. For example, say you were contracted to do “Don’t Squash ‘Em” a story about spiders for *The National Bug Lover’s Magazine*. The editor agreed to pay you \$1,000 for the piece. You send in the completed work, and the editor reads it over but feels your depiction of the little critters is too far off base for the message of the magazine. He also determines that a revise or edit won’t fix the problems of the piece. You, on the other hand, have done a lot of the work and feel you deserve to get your check. This is where the kill fee comes into play.

Most contracts will state a percentage the editor will pay you if the story doesn’t run. (*Writer’s Digest* pays 25% of the original agreed-upon amount). Once your story is officially killed, all rights to your piece revert back to you and you can try to sell it somewhere else. Maybe *Insect Today* will love your story.

There are any number of reasons why an article will get killed – it doesn’t fit the editorial focus of the magazine, something changes in the world and it negates the timeliness of the article,

etc. Don't take it personally. But go back and look at the original agreement and any comments the editor has supplied, and see what you can learn from the experience."

ALMOST THE LAST WORD

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT STARTERS

- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- If the church wants a better preacher, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- Look at everything as though you were seeing it either for the first or last time
- Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**July 25, 2008 – “Finding Your Way through Travel Writing”
Betty Winslow**

**September 20, 2008 – Christian Writers Seminar
Kelly Carr, magazine editor**

October 24, 2008- TBA

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If you have questions or need more information about our group, please feel free to send an email.

DIRECTIONS TO NAZARENE CHURCH: From 1-75, take exit 179, then State Route 6 west (right) to Liberty Hi Rd. and turn right. Take Liberty Hi Rd, to Gorrill Rd. and turn right. Church is on the right. From Bowling Green: Take Conneaut Ave. west out of town. This will become Gorrill Rd. Church is on the left just after Mitchell Rd.

If you get lost, the church number is 419-352-2289