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THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

September 2009

“SAY IT IN AN ESSAY”

September 25, 2009 – 10 a.m.

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

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

We are all in for a real treat when author and pastor **Dave Claassen** comes to our September meeting to share his wonderful expertise and down-to-earth wisdom in the field of essay writing. He has been pastor of Mayfair-Plymouth Congregational Church in Toledo for 33 years and has written short essays called *Uplifting Moments* which have appeared daily in his hometown newspaper for over 30 years and are now available weekly online. He is the author of five books with the latest, *Kathryn's Fountain*, published in 2008 to excellent reviews. He also lives out his faith in photography with many uplifting photos online available for downloading. You won't want to miss this one! Check out his website – www.daveclaassen.com

**BUSINESS MEETING AND PROGRAM – 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)

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



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2009 SEMINAR NEWS!

You have the brochures by now. All you have to do is send in your registration! We're hoping that all members will make an effort to come and hear Dr. Hensley. We are extremely lucky to have him, because he's considered one of the best motivational speakers for writers. If you're having trouble getting going with your writing, this is the man to hear. So mail in your registration now and on October 10 expect to receive a new burst of energy for your writing career!

Remember, you must have paid your dues to receive the member discount. Dues cannot be received at the door for the discount.

SALLY SNYDER GAVE US ALL HOPE

“Anything is possible if you believe in yourself!” So said children’s author **Sally Snyder** when she talked to Christian Writers about her fears and hesitations in actually writing and publishing her first children’s book. As an elementary teacher for 25 years in the Defiance, OH, area, she knew how the material should be presented and kept thinking about writing a book, especially to acquaint children with Defiance and northwestern Ohio history. She wrote down ideas, but did nothing with them until she retired

Finally in January of 2002 she pulled her notes together and wrote the book *Hold the Fort* which told about children being kidnapped during Indian Wars of 1790-95. She was encouraged to do the illustrations herself, but after some rejections, she decided to self-publish. “Of course this means you pay a big amount up front and have to do the marketing”, she said, “but it was worth it since the book has gotten good reviews and is being used in the schools.”

Although she still considers herself “a total beginner”, she developed an idea for a second book totally different from the first. Entitled *If It's to Be, It's Up to Me*, it focuses on moral values for kids and takes on the subject of bullying. After more rejections, she didn't give up and did self-publishing again. This book, she says, has gotten more attention...even a letter of praise from Laura Bush.

So she said, “Just don't give up...try different avenues. Ask God for guidance and ‘He will direct thy ways’”.

STILL LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

Remember, we'd like to feature one of our members in each issue of our newsletter. First come, first published...and no more than 125 words in just plain text, please. This one's from Marcia Leaser.



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A CHRISTIAN'S LEGACY

If I teach you the love of nature;
to respect all living things
by being kind to animals,
strangers and friends
Yet...not teach you about God
I've taught you simply compassion,
not hope

If I show you the beauty of the ocean;
to notice its vastness
by exploring its majesty
and mystery.
Yet... not introduce you to its Creator.
I've shown you only today,
not eternity.

If I give you ample space –
to make your own way
by allowing you to be
who you are.
Yet...not explain the path that lies before you.
I've give you merely life,
not destiny.

Marcia K. Leaser

FROM THE PREZ....

If any of you have connections to your local hometown newspaper, don't hesitate to write a brief article for our upcoming seminar. In the past I've been fortunate to have papers like the Holland Journal publish a blurb about the conference for no charge. I'm hoping to get one into the Fulton Co. Expositor. If you know of others, help us get the word out. Keep it simple and refer people to our website (or Doc Hensley's)

Look for us to have a LUNCH BUNCH sometime in November.

Know of a good conference or meeting speaker for our group in 2010? Give suggestions to any officer.

Still looking for help with our seminar on October 10. Contact me if you can lend a hand.

See you all at our September meeting and again on OCTOBER 10 for our Day with Doc Hensley.

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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.

- **INDY CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE** – November 6-7, 2009
One of the best writers conferences within a reasonable driving distance for a good price - \$129. Registration online or by phone. www.IndyChristianWritersConf.com or 800-493-7539. Faculty includes 7 editors, a literary agent, and more. Check out the website or come to the next meeting to look at the brochure.
- **BARBOUR PUBLISHING** – now seeking writers for *Heavenly Humor for the Cat Lover’s Soul*. 75 entries will be accepted. Contact kwilliams@barbourbooks.com for more information. Deadline is November 2, 2009.
- **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 . For information about the syndicate, go to 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
- **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, a teen magazine, is open to submissions. See page 474 in Sally Stuart’s *Christian Writer’s Market Guide*. If you don’t have a Guide , go to www.igniteyourfaith.com Hit the Writers Guidelines button.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES



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SOME NEW WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

www.writergazette.com

www.writersweekly.com

www.worldwidefreelance.com

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

CAPSTONE FICTION – a new inspirational fiction publishing house, newly 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

MEMBERS' MEMOS

Kathy Douglas' has a new address.

More news from Kathy. She has been invited to be one of the authors at the Buckeye Book Fair on November 7 in Wooster, OH. Her three newest books are on sale from stores or online. She invites all to her upcoming book signings:

Christian Books and Such, Wauseon, OH, Friday, November 13 – noon to 4 p.m.

Barnes & Noble, Monroe St., Toledo, across from Westfield Mall. Saturday, December 12 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Don't forget to check out our Website! Webmaster Steve Ricker has updated it with lots of good information. Thank, Steve! Nwocw.org



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ALMOST THE LAST WORD
Messy Metaphors or Why Editors Weep

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.

McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.

He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 25, 2009 - Rev. Dave Claassen - "Saying It in Essays"

October 10, 2009 - Seminar – Dennis Hensley

**If you have questions or need more information about our group, again contact President Kathy Douglas -- [mlka @ toast.net](mailto:mlka@toast.net)
Send newsletter information to [andamija @ bex.net](mailto:andamija@bex.net) or to 5679 Monroe St. #109, Sylvania, OH 43560.**

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

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