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THE WRITE STUFF

Northwest Ohio Christian Writers

September 2011

“SETTING WRITING GOALS”

September 23, 2011 – 10 a.m.

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

(See the end of the newsletter for directions)

We should all set goals at the beginning of the year, right? So this year did you set a writing goal for yourself? How about a personal mission statement? Good results tend to happen when you put your intentions down on paper. So come and let **Shelley Lee** help you walk through the process as she gives us instructive ways to make our writing dreams come true.

**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 September. 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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2011 SEMINAR NEWS!

We're excited about our annual upcoming Seminar to be held on Saturday, October 8, at the Holland Free Methodist Church on Angola Rd. in Holland, and we hope you are, too! But we need you to tell us by sending in your registration as soon as possible! We know you've received the brochure and have seen the interesting and helpful topics the speaker is going to explore....so remember this is absolutely the best deal on a daylong writers' seminar you're going to find in this area – you get the most for the least money. We hope to see you there! (Don't forget – your dues must be paid before the seminar to get the discount.)

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.

POINTS TO PONDER IN FRONT OF A BLANK SCREEN

- What are you passionate about?
- What do you care about so deeply or get so excited about that you talk about it to anyone who will listen?
- Do you love the process of writing itself?
- Who has encouraged your writing?
- Who has criticized, cursed, or discouraged you to the extent that it makes you want to prove them wrong?
- What upsets you so much that you are compelled to write about it?
- When have you (or someone you cared about) been disrespected in a way that makes you want to write?
- Where have you been lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time in regard to your writing?
- What could you do to increase the odds of being lucky in respect to finding inspiration?
- What are you afraid to write but know is a deep truth?
- Who are you afraid will disapprove of your writing or be upset by it?
- What are you afraid will happen if you write?
- What fears could you write and perhaps work through by writing?



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YOU ASKED?

Q. How long after your piece is published (and you still have not seen that check) do you feel you should wait before you contact the magazine? And what approach would you use?

A. It depends on the terms of your agreement. Typically you would submit an invoice with terms of “15 days” or “30” days or “Payable upon receipt. Then you would check within a week to make sure the invoice has been received. Thirty days is as long as you should wait, then start bugging them. Contact the editor, and if no satisfaction, contact the accounts payable office.

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.

- **10TH ANNUAL INDIANAPOLIS CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE – November 4 & 5.** Keynote speaker, Angela Hunt. Special guest, Todd Burpo, author of “Heaven Is For Real”. **This is a good one. Just ask Kathy Douglas.** For more information – www.indychristianwritersconf.com/
- **AMY WRITING AWARDS** - To be eligible, submitted articles must be published in a secular, non-religious publication (either printed or online) during 2011 and must be reinforced with at least one passage of scripture. Each author may submit up to ten entries. No entry fee. A submission form and guidelines can be found at www.amyfound.org. First prize is \$10,000, second, \$5,000, third, \$4,000 and more. **Deadline – January 31, 2012.**
- **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 **Upcoming deadline...November 1, 2011.**

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

www.writergazette.com

www.writersweekly.com

www.worldwidefreelance.com

All these have helpful information and are worth looking into.

GRAMMAR GIRL: Get answers to all the questions you've ever had about the proper use of words and punctuation presented in an entertaining format. www.grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/
Check out the books *The Grammar Devotional* and *101 Misused Words* by Mignon Fogarty (the Grammar Girl)

WITH PEN IN HAND EDITING SERVICE: Reasonable rates and worth checking out. A Christian-oriented business. www.withpeninhand.net

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

FAITHWRITERS: Largest online destination for Christian writers. Includes a “Critique Circle” and a weekly “Writing Challenge”. Excellent website and opportunity for writers to promote their work and share God's message. www.faithwriters.com

ALLSPIRIT: Offers include inspiring quotations, a poetry index, and a special bonus of a free e-greeting card service. www.allspirit.co.uk

BELIEFNET: a multi-faith e-community, it includes a number of “Daily Offerings”, thought-provoking feature articles, a dozen newsletters to choose from and discussion and dialogue groups. www.beliefnet.org

CHRISTIAN STORY TELLING – 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.christianstorytelling.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



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MEMBERS' MEMOS

From **Betty Everett**: "I have an assignment from Rich Warren at *Country Living* (the one in Ohio) for an article on church cookbooks and am asking for help from any such cookbooks you may own. I don't want to buy the books but need the following information: title of book, church, date of publication, and any odd recipe names. I'm limited to 700 words, so can't use recipes. Also need short humorous bits and any household hints, especially from older books. Also would like any recipes for what we wouldn't make for ourselves anymore – like liniment or cherry cough syrup. Thanks to the Christian Writers for any help you can give me."

Carol Leonard says she has found an interesting used book site that has no shipping charges and donates heavily to global literacy projects and is worth a look. Prices are reasonable. www.betterworldbooks.com

Shelley Lee has articles in the upcoming books – *Heavenly XOXO for Grandmothers* and *Heavenly XOXO for Dieters*.

We ask for prayers for **Kathy Douglas** as she undergoes chemotherapy treatments, and for **Mary Jo Bosch** and her daughter, Christy, who is now seriously ill at home under hospice care.

Remember to send in your publishing and personal news. We love to hear.

Don't forget to check out our Website! www.nwocw.org

ALMOST THE LAST WORD

God gave us two ears but only one mouth. Some people say that's because He wanted us to spend twice as much time listening as talking. Others claim it's because He knew that listening was twice as hard.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 23 – "Writing Your Mission Statement & Life Goals" – Shelley Lee

October 8 – Seminar



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Send newsletter information to andamija@bex.net or to Linda Tippett, 5679 Monroe St. #109, Sylvania, OH 43560

DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING CHURCH: 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.