



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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January 2014

January 13, Chris Atkins, Musician & Songwriter

“Creating Lyrics: Productive Tips”



The art of songwriting fuses the creation of melody, rhythm, and accompaniment with well-crafted words. In this session we will explore the skills involved in writing song words that clearly express the intended idea and passion of the lyricist, complement and fulfill the musical composition, and engage both artists and listeners.

Chris Atkins, singer-songwriter, speaker, and musician, has led

worship, performed concerts, and spoken at conferences throughout the United States and the world. Chris recorded several CDs, including *The Namesake Band: A Group Called*, *The Heart of a Friend*, *Soul River*, and *Last Night on Earth*. He appeared in several original music videos and television programs, and has been a featured speaker at

worship conferences. Chris’ music comes from his own experiences and has touched hearts of thousands seeking an authentic experience of God in their lives. Many churches have used Chris’ original worship music in their repertoire.

Chris also uses his music to reach out to people in exciting new ways. *SingnifiCards* is a product line of richly expressive musical greeting cards that integrate art, music, and scripture. Another venture is *My Favorite Miracle*, an original and customizable children’s song available free online (www.myfavoritemiracle.com). Chris recently completed his book entitled *Worship For A Lifetime*.

He and his wife Terese live near Minneapolis and have four children and two grandchildren. Chris serves as Worship Pastor at Edinbrook Church in Brooklyn Park, as executive director of Grace Unleashed, a Christian outreach organization, and as an adjunct instructor at Bethel Seminary.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

February 10, Amy Lyon, journalist and author
Crafting a Lead and Structuring Articles

March 10, Charlene Patterson, Bethany House editor
Christian Fiction Trends

April 12, Spring Seminar, David Sheets, marketing
All About eBooks

April 14, MCWG Member Panel hosted by Joyce K. Ellis
Practical Insights for Today’s Christian Writer

May 12, MCWG 60th Anniversary Celebration
Jonathan Friesen: *Writing for the Generations*

Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations.... (Psalm 19:89-90)

2013-14 Theme Verse

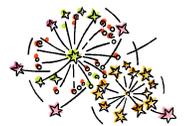
2 Corinthians 3:2-3 ESV

*You yourselves are our letter of recommendation,
written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.
And you show that
you are a letter from Christ delivered by us,
written not with ink
but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

God's blessings in the New Year!



Save the Date!
April 12, 2014



Mark your calendars for MCWG’s Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Details on page 2.

MCWG Annual Writing Contest

Topic to be Announced at January Meeting

See page 2 for preliminary information.



Visit our Website

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Spring Seminar All About eBooks

Make plans to attend MCWG's Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 12, 2014. The full day seminar, *All About eBooks*, will be held at Bethlehem Baptist.

David Sheets, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for Outlaw Sales Group LLC, will describe technology changes in publishing and the impact that independent and self-publishing has had on the state of the book industry. He will discuss publishing strategies that do not work and talk about eBook publishing options.

Brochures for the seminar, containing full details, may be picked up at the Guild meeting.



Writing Contest 2014

Each year MCWG offers a writing contest with generous cash prizes.

On Monday, January 13th, the topic for 2014 will be announced. In recent years contest topics have included travel writing, flash fiction, devotionals, and poetry.

Entries for the 2014 Writing Contest will be due by the Monday, April 14 meeting. As usual, all entrants must be current members.

This year there is a \$5 entry fee to cover the judging costs.

2014 MCWG Annual Writing Contest Topic will be announced at the January 13th meeting.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

New Year of Beginnings

January. The start of another new year. So many events, successes, failures, endings, stresses, and changes behind us. With the flip of the calendar year we shout "Happy New Year" with an almost desperate longing that it will be true. Because the truth is the new year is a vast unknown. A void that may hold either beauty or chaos. Pleasure or pain. Publication or rejection. We begin new projects, or begin again from ashes of old endings, with excitement swirled with uncertainty.

Yet, beginnings offer hope.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...all from an empty void. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This Word of God, our precious Jesus, was present in the beginning and is present now in each beginning—and ending—we experience. He is our Alpha and Omega.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4)

As writers, we gather to proclaim God's eternal life, offer hope, and welcome others into fellowship. May you each have joyous beginnings with God in this new year.

2013-2014 Officers

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Meeting Schedule

Meetings are the second Monday of each month, September through May, 6:30-9 p.m. in the lower level Youth Room at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 720 13th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The meeting room is handicap accessible.



Happy New Year!!

Parking for Guild Meetings

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located in downtown Minneapolis, between South 7th and 8th Streets. Free parking for Guild members/visitors is accessed off South 8th St. When full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost. Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot. Come early. Share a ride.