



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

Volume 27 Number 1

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September 8: Rick Hamlin — How to Get Published in Guideposts



Guideposts is one of the top ten monthly magazines in America. Founded by Norman Vincent Peale, *Guideposts*, *Angels on Earth*, *Mysterious Ways*, and *Plus* reach millions of readers every month. The heart of what they do is tell first-person inspirational stories. A *Guideposts* story begins with a

problem of relevant interest to the reader, moves forward with vivid scenes, and resolves in such a way that readers make applications to their own faith.

Rick Hamlin, executive editor of *Guideposts*, will talk about how to craft such stories and how to pitch them. Although he will mostly talk about the specifics of writing for *Guideposts*' editorial needs, his advice will be transferable

to any good writing about faith: how to reach your audience, how to inspire them, how to write concretely and passionately and most of all, how to enjoy it while you're doing it.

In the course of his career at *Guideposts*, Rick has written hundreds of articles for the magazine and edited even more. His memoir, *Finding God on the A Train* (HarperCollins), was a Book of the Month Club alternate selection. He has also published three novels, most recently *Reading Between the Lines* (Howard). "Rick Hamlin cuts through the fog that often obscures the topic of prayer," says Philip Yancey of his new book, *Ten Prayers You Can't Live Without* (2013). His wife, Carol Wallace, is also a writer and wrote the bestseller *To Marry an English Lord* which was the inspiration for the PBS TV show *Downton Abbey*. He and Carol live in New York City and sing in their church choir.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

October 13, 2014 — Speaker panel: Michelle Griep, Jill Elizabeth Nelson & Erica Vetsch, novelists

Write in the Middle of Plotters & Pantsers

November 10, 2014 — Joyce K. Ellis, author/editor

How to Study Magazines to Increase Your Publication Potential

(also: Authors' Table Night)

December 8, 2014 — David Horton, Bethany House editor

Writing an Effective Book Proposal

January 12, 2015 — Susie Larson, author/radio host

Tending the Soil of a Writer's Soul

February 9, 2015 — Lotis Key, author/dramatist

Writing for Christian Theater

March 9, 2015 — Phyllis Alsdurf, journalism teacher

Ten Fool-Proof Ways to "Shrink-Wrap" Your Writing

April 11, 2015 — Spring Seminar — Ginger Kolbaba

Building Your Writing Skills

April 13, 2015 — Ginger Kolbaba, editor

Writing Other People's Stories

May 11, 2015 — Sam Crabtree, author/pastor

Write Well, for the Love of God

Register for Membership Early!

Turn in your completed membership form by August 20 for an opportunity to meet with Rick Hamlin, *Guideposts* executive editor, and pitch for a *Guideposts* magazine.

Special pitch session: Monday, September 8, 3:30-5:00, Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Bring a bag lunch to eat before the evening meeting.

2014 Annual Writing Contest Results

Congratulations to the 2014 winners for news articles!

- First place: Mary Heitzman
- Second place: Lotis Key
- Third place: Beverly Snyder



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

 "Like" us on Facebook: [MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild)

Parking for Guild Meetings at BBC

Meetings of the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild are held at Bethlehem Baptist Church, located a few blocks south of the Metrodome. Below are directions from across the metro-area to the church parking lot. Please note that both 7th and 8th Streets South are one-way streets. Enter from 8th Street South.

From the **South**, take I-35W North. Merge onto MN-65 N via EXIT 16A on the left toward Downtown Exits/I-94W. Take the 5th Ave S exit on the left. Turn slightly left onto S 5th Ave. Turn right onto S 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.

From the **West**, take I-394 East toward Minneapolis. Take the 12th St N exit, EXIT 9A. Turn slightly right onto Hawthorne Ave. Turn right onto N 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.

From the **North/Northwest**, head south on I-94 E/US-52 S. Take EXIT 230 toward 4th St N. Proceed straight ahead to go onto N 4th St. Turn right onto S 4th Ave. Turn left onto S 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.



From the **Northeast**, take I-35W South to the I-04 W exit, EXIT 17B. Keep right to take the 11th Ave ramp. Turn right onto S 11th Ave. Turn right onto S 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.

From the **East**, take I-94W/US-12W/US-52N toward Minneapolis. Take the 5th St exit, EXIT 234B. Proceed straight ahead to go onto S 5th St. Turn slightly left onto S 11th Ave. Turn left onto S 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.

From the **Southeast**, take MN-55 W until it becomes S 7th St. Turn left onto S 11th Ave. Turn left onto S 8th St. Turn left into the church parking lot, just before 13th Ave S.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Foundation for Writing

Sometimes we get the impression that writing is a solitary business. We feel unsupported and isolated in what we are inspired to communicate. Or we imagine ourselves independent, not needing the input of others.

As writers in the Christian community, we are God's *fel-low* workers building and writing on the single foundation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said believers are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets," with Jesus as the cornerstone. We are not alone. We each play a part in sharing God's message with the world. This is the reason that Minnesota Christian Writers Guild exists.

Paul cautioned believers in Corinth to take care how they build on the foundation. Lest anyone think there was no building code, the durability of building materials would be tested. We, too, must be mindful of our foundation in Christ as we write. How we communicate, what stories or articles we write, and whether our writing honors Christ will become evident over time.

Praise God for providing a strong foundation on which we can join together as Christian communicators!

2014-15 Theme Verse

Romans 15:4-6

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..

2014-2015 Officers

President

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Vice President

Lotis Key themessengersfeet@comcast.net

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Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

Seminar Director

Joyce K. Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com

Treasurer

Marianne McDonough
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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.



Parking for Guild Meetings

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located in downtown Minneapolis, between South 7th and 8th Streets. Free parking for Guild members and visitors is accessed off South 8th Street. When full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost.

Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot.

Come early. Share a ride.