

Volume 27 Number 3

# Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

## Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship



November 2014

**November 10, Joyce K. Ellis, Author and Editor**

### How to Study Magazines to Increase Your Publication Potential



Magazine editors often say their chief complaint about freelance writers is that they obviously haven't studied the magazine before submitting manuscripts. What does it mean when they say, "Study our publication before submitting"? How do we know the best fit for our articles? We'll discover some clues by tearing apart sample magazines and individual

articles to see what makes an article "just right" for our target market—or how to *find* the right market—and how to delight an editor by doing our homework.

**Please bring a sample copy of a magazine you want to write for** (one that accepts freelance submissions) to this very hands-on workshop. Others will be available if you forget, but you'll get more out of this workshop if you bring one of your own choice. **See page 2 for other items to bring.**

Joyce K. Ellis is author or coauthor of more than a dozen books, including *The 500 Hats of a Modern-Day Woman*, updated and revised. She has also published hundreds of magazine articles, writes a grammar column for *Christian Communicator* magazine, served as a staff editor for two Christian magazines, and currently does editing for *Prayer Connect* magazine. She received a Gold Medallion Award for her children's devotional book, *The One-Minute Bible for Kids*, and she has won numerous awards from the Evangelical Press Association for her articles. She mentors students of the Jerry B. Jenkins Christian Writers Guild correspondence course, has served as assistant director for the Write-to-Publish Conference in the Chicago area, and teaches at writers conferences and speaks for women's groups and retreats across the country and internationally.

She and Steve, her husband of 45 years, who live in suburban Minneapolis, love traveling, reading, and being involved in the lives of their five grandchildren.

#### Upcoming Guild Meetings

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, Bethel University journalism professor

*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*

#### Year-End Gift Opportunity

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations to the Guild are tax deductible. Donations help pay for speakers, room rental, writing contests, and scholarships. Please consider making a donation.



Make checks out to MCWG. Give or mail checks to our treasurer, Marianne McDonough, 8971 Garland Court, Eden Prairie, MN 55347. She will send you a tax receipt.

Thank you for supporting our Guild as we continue to grow and serve our members for Christ!

#### Celebrate Members with Authors' Tables

Monday, November 10, we celebrate MCWG members!

Join us as we encourage our members and showcase their talents and professional abilities. Discover who teaches, edits, illustrates, or publishes. Enjoy and select gifts for yourself or others from the numerous books and products offered by our talented members.

Remember — holidays approach. Books make great presents!



Visit our Website

[www.mnchristianwriters.com](http://www.mnchristianwriters.com)

Contact us: [info@mnchristianwriters.com](mailto:info@mnchristianwriters.com)



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

## Remember to Bring to November Meeting:

- Magazine you would like to write for 
- Copy of Christian Writers Market Guide (if you have one)
- 6 different colors of pencils, pens, or highlighters (suggested colors: black, red, green, orange/yellow, blue purple)
- Checkbook



**Save the Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015**

### Spring Seminar:

#### *Building Your Writing Skills*

#### Speaker: Ginger Kolbaba



Ginger Kolbaba is an accomplished award-winning author, editor, and speaker. She has published more than 400 magazine and online articles, written or contributed to more than 20 books, and is the former editor of *Today's Christian Woman*, *Marriage Partnership*, and *Kyria.com*, all media ministry resources from *Christianity Today*.

Details about specific seminar content, location, cost and registration will be available in January.



### 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.*



**Bev's PEN** ~ By Beverly Snyder

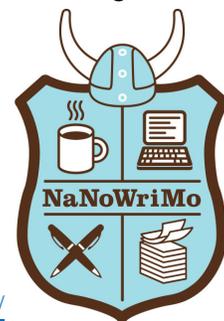
*Promote, Encourage, Network*

## Writing Takes Endurance

As Christians, we understand that we are called by God to use our writing talents for the good of the Body of Christ. Yet doing what God requires is often hard. We get tired of sitting at the computer and become discouraged when we don't see progress in being published. We lose confidence in our abilities with rejections and criticism. But if we want to reach our goals, we will endure the disciplines of writing and press through rough times.

Moses received great advice from his father-in-law in Exodus 18:23. "If...God so commands you, then you will be able to endure..." Jesus endured, because He trusted God with the outcome. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, we can push through difficulties and obstacles, gain strength from the discipline, and rediscover the joy of our calling.

Last month our speakers talked about using a variety of methods in writing, including plot boards. Another great way to exercise discipline in writing is to participate in NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month, with the goal of writing a 50,000 rough draft in 30 days. NaNoWriMo is a fun, seat-of-your-pants, get-it-done approach. Here's the national website to find out more: <http://nanowrimo.org/>. Or search the web for a local group.



Can you endure 30 days of writing an average of 1666 words per day? That's 2083 words/day average if you leave out Sundays and Thanksgiving. Let us know if you are up to the challenge by posting on our Facebook page.

Remember God's faithfulness, and "let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:4 NASB)

## 2014-2015 Officers

### President

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

### Vice President

Lotis Key themessengersfeet@comcast.net

### Membership Director

Jason Sisam jason.mcwg@gmail.com

### Interim Publications Director

Beverly Snyder Bev.MCWG@comcast.net

### Seminar Director

Joyce Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com

### Treasurer

Marianne McDonough  
mariannemcdonough7@yahoo.com

## 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/visitors is accessed off South 8th St. When the lot is full, parking is available across 7th Street for a nominal cost.

Entrance doors adjoin the main parking lot.

Come early. Share a ride.