

Volume 27 Number 4

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship



December 2014

December 8, David Horton, Bethany House Editor

Writing an Effective Book Proposal



You have a great idea for a book. How can you catch the attention of publishers, acquisition editors, or literary agents? What do you need?

A book proposal.

Naturally, there are *several* steps, but one of the most fundamental is an effective book proposal.

David Horton has spent more than two decades acquiring and editing fiction and nonfiction books. He is currently Vice President, Editorial at Bethany House Publishers in Bloomington, Minnesota.

On December 8, David Horton will discuss what works and what doesn't in presenting yourself and your work to a prospective publisher. His presentation will help you move from who you are—a writer with a great idea—to who you want to be—a writer with a published book.

A former businessman, mission executive, and missionary to France, Horton is also a published author. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two grown children and four grandchildren. The Hortons make their home in the Twin Cities' south suburbs.

Bethany House, recognized as the pioneer and leader in Christian fiction, is part of Baker Publishing Group.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

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, **December 8**, 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

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

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

Consider 2015 Christian Writing Conferences

- Writer to Writer, January 16-17, Hershey, PA
- Florida CWC, February 25-March 1 in Leesburg, FL.
- Mount Hermon CWC, March 25-31 in Felton, CA.
- Colorado CWC, May 13-16 in Estes Park, CO.
- Blue Ridge Mts. CWC, May 17-21 near Asheville,
- NC. Write-to-Publish, June 3-6 in Wheaton, IL.

Discover more information at the meeting on December 8.



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 are media ministry resources from *Christianity Today*.

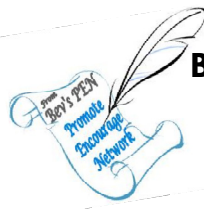
Details about specific seminar content, location, cost, and registration will be available in January.



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



Act of Encouragement

Seasons change quickly in Minnesota! When our gentle fall gave way to a blizzard overnight, I felt rather discouraged having to cancel November's meeting, until I read the next portion of our 2014-15 theme verse: "and the encouragement of the Scripture." So I opened my Bible and studied passages on *encouragement* and *courage* to rediscover the source and purpose for both.

The phrase *be strong and courageous* is often coupled with reminders that God is with us and will not forsake us. Two verses in Deuteronomy and one in Joshua base the exhortation on the fact that God has sworn to do as He says. That makes for solid encouragement, don't you think?

We need authentic, godly encouragement to stay the course in our publishing journeys, just as Joshua did when he faced big tasks or battles. Yet Scriptures such as 1 Chronicles 28:20, "Be strong and courageous and act," remind us to do something with our God-breathed courage. Isaiah 35:3 says, "Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble." We, as Christian writers, face enormous spiritual battles, as well as daily obstacles to safeguard writing time. Praying for one another is wonderful encouragement.

At our December meeting we will celebrate the professional skills and accomplishments of our members. As we visit the tables and talk shop, let's remind one another of God's faithfulness. We all need support along this publishing journey. Reach out to one another. If you want to join a critique group, let others know. If you have room in your critique group, announce it. Be courageous and act!

God's promised presence and strength enables us to pass along His encouragement to others. In this season—and beyond—we find encouragement in the precious gift of God's Word and in the gift of supporting one another.



2014-2015 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.



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.

