



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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January 2015

January 12, Susie Larson

Tending the Soil of a Writer's Soul



You want to get published, to grow your audience, and to make a real difference in the world. As a Christian writer, what does this mean for you? How do you separate your own selfish ambition from God's intentions for you? How do you discern when it's time to wait on God and when it's time to run with Him? And why do so many published authors drop out of the scene after only a few years? How can you care for your soul in a sustainable way?

Susie Larson joins us to talk about how to discern between self-ambition and God's purpose, how God trains and prepares us, and how to build a sustainable ministry.

God wants you to last long and finish strong. Come and be challenged and encouraged!

Susie Larson is a national radio host, national speaker and the author of ten books and many articles. She and her husband Kevin have been married since 1985. Together they have three wonderful sons, three beautiful daughters-in-law, and one adorable pit bull named Memphis. Learn more about Susie at www.susielarson.com.



Upcoming Guild Meetings

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

Build Your Best 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

Happy New Year!!

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.

2015 MCWG Annual Writing Contest Topic will be announced at the January 12 meeting.

Writing Contest 2015

On Monday, January 12, the contest topic for 2015 will be announced. In recent years contest topics have included travel writing, flash fiction, devotionals, poetry, and news articles. Come to the meeting to get a quick start on your writing entry.

Entries for the 2015 Writing Contest will be due by the Monday, April 11 meeting. As usual, all entrants must be current members. There is a \$5 entry fee.

MCWG offers generous cash prizes.



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

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

Sign Up for Spring Seminar
Saturday, April 11, 2015
Build Your Best Writing Skills

Build Your Best Writing Skills

Speaker: Ginger Kolbaba

Saturday, April 11, 2015

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Colonial Church of Edina



Mark your calendars for April 11. Bring your check-book to the January meeting. Secure your spot and sign up for the 2015 Spring Seminar: *Build Your Best Writing Skills* with Ginger Kolbaba.

Ginger 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, is the former editor of *Today's Christian Woman*, *Marriage Partnership*, and was the founding editor of *Kyria.com*. All are award-winning media ministry resources from *Christianity Today*.

Ginger Kolbaba's fiction books include a three-book series, *Secrets from Lulu's Café*, written with co-author Christy Scannell.

Ginger's newest nonfiction book, *The Old Fashioned Way*, about reclaiming the lost art of romance, is now available. Other nonfiction books include *Surprised by Remarriage* and *Dazzled to Frazzled and Back Again: The Bride's Survival Guide*.

Learn more about Ginger at www.gingerkolbaba.com.

Further details about specific seminar content, location, cost, and registration will be available at the January 12 meeting.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

Hope: A Measure of Trust

January is typically one time of year people reevaluate life goals. What writing goals do you plan to achieve in the coming year? What publication expectations do you want to materialize? On what have you pinned your hopes? While setting goals is an important aspect of organizing and accomplishing work, examining the object of our hope can tell us where we place our trust.

The Bible gives examples of misplaced hope. At the end of the fifth chapter of John, Jesus warned those who refused to believe him: "Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set." People hung onto the man, Moses, rather than trusting the God who sent him. Proverbs 11:7 summarizes the futility of trusting people more than God: "Hopes placed in mortals die with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing."

The publishing world is ever changing. Editorial needs switch unexpectedly. Life events derail time schedules. Our hopes can be bruised or broken. What can we do?

Remember our God is constant and true. Stories of God's faithfulness are written in the Bible for our encouragement. As we read of God's trustworthiness and rely on His guidance, we are strengthened. We gain courage to endure the erratic nature of life and publishing. Through endurance and encouragement we gain hope. God will not disappoint.

Through the ups and downs of this coming year, I pray we will all hang onto hope with strengthened trust in God's faithfulness.

Novelists: have you connected with the local chapter of American Christian Fiction Writers? Their January 25 meeting is on goal setting. Find them on the web at: www.acfwminnesotanice.com, or on Facebook at: ACFW Minnesota N.I.C.E.

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.