



Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

Volume 27 Number 6

February 2015

February 9, Lotis Key

Giving the WORD Wings: Writing for Christian Theater



Christian theater is a seriously under-developed arena of Christian writing. From 1 Peter 2:9, we know we have been chosen to proclaim to the world the excellent character of God. So, why has the heart-piercing art of oral storytelling (which begins with writing it) failed to fully develop within the church at large?

Jesus often spoke in parables, painting word pictures to help His audiences connect difficult concepts to everyday life. Christian theater provides visual and oral storytelling for contemporary audiences to understand deep Biblical truths.

Lotis Key, current MCWG board member, will help us see how we can create thought-provoking written stories with imaginative visual, change-my-life, elements for theater.

After a professional theater debut at the age of twelve, Lotis Key subsequently starred in over seventy-five feature films

for the Asian market. She hosted numerous television and radio shows. When she settled in the United States, she signed with Chicago, New York, and Minneapolis-based talent agencies, expanding into American on-camera and voice-over narration, industrial videos, trade shows, professional theater, television, and radio commercials.

When Lotis retired from secular work, she founded MESSENGERS, a Christian theater arts group based at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. As artistic director, she toured the company for twelve years throughout the U.S., Canada, and Asia.

Then the Lord put it on her heart to write a novel. She liked it so much she just kept writing.

Vice President of the Minnesota Christian Writers Guild, Lotis is a passionate storyteller. Her work focuses on the mystery of God and His incomprehensible love for the unattractive, wayward parts of His otherwise perfect creation.

Upcoming Guild Meetings

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

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 Annual Writing Contest

The contest topic for 2015 is **Magazine Articles Highlighting Relationships**. We have relationships in every part of our lives: with God, in families, in business, and in our communities. Write a magazine article that brings some type of relationship to light. Articles should be between 600-900 words. 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. Check website for full requirements and guidelines.



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. Sign up soon for the 2015 Spring Seminar: *Build Your Best Writing Skills* with Ginger Kolbaba. Secure your spot and get an early bird discount before March 28.

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.

The registration form and details about specific seminar content, location, and cost can be found on the MCWG website.



Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

**Goals Gained Through
God's Generosity**

What publication dream has God placed in your heart? Has it remained persistent even though it seems almost far-fetched? Remember, God is able to accomplish everything He sets in motion. He will give us all that we need. Our part is to write with passion, take each step in the process, support one another, and continue to rely on Him for strength and inspiration.

A few years ago while I was on a mission trip, God sparked an idea in me for a way improve relationships among impoverished people in Central America, using a book already published in English. But with no Spanish language skills and no clue how to get something translated, what was I to do? I prayed. I talked to the author. I waited.

Over the next few years I watched God bring together people with the same dream of publishing the book in Spanish. God provided the translation skills and publication know-how. In January 2015, I had the privilege of delivering Spanish books for multiple church ministries in Honduras.

After looking through the book, the Honduran pastor decided to create an entire sermon series based on the principles found in this new Spanish resource. He plans for church leaders to use the book in prison ministry, small groups, and family counseling. I was stunned that he saw the book's potential so quickly. Only through God's generous coordination and wisdom could this happen. *¡Gloria a Dios!*

I'm awed by how God fulfills the dreams He gives. The encouragement I've gained will fuel my trust in Him and help me work toward other publication dreams and desires.

Please share how God has encouraged you in your writing journey by posting your comments on our Facebook page.

(www.facebook.com/MinnesotaChristianWritersGuild)

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.