

Minnesota Christian Writers Guild

Instruction—Inspiration—Fellowship

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April 13, Ginger Kolbaba Writing Other People's Stories



Everyone has a story, but not everyone can tell his or her story in the way it needs to be told. That's the reason writers are so important: they shape stories in a manner that benefits the reader *and* the teller. In "Writing Other People's Stories," we will look at the different ways we, as writers, find great stories and figure out how to differentiate between

the great ones and the ones that aren't yet "ready for primetime." We will also look at how to select the best format for a story and when to know which format to use (books versus magazine articles); how to get a great story, rather than just a good one; how to pull out the best information and memories (interviewing); and then what to do with the stories once they're written.

Ginger Kolbaba is an accomplished, award-winning author, editor, and speaker. She has written or contributed to more than 20 books, including the Gold Medallion-nominated *Refined by Fire*, the Golden Scroll-nominated *Until We All Come Home*, and her novel series *Secrets from Lulu's Café*. She is a contributing writer for *Thriving Family* magazine, and has published more than 400 magazine and online articles.

In the publishing industry for almost two decades (she started *very* young), Ginger is the former editor of *Today's Christian Woman*, *Marriage Partnership*, and *Kyria.com*, all award-winning resources of Christianity Today. She has spoken at national and international conferences, guest lectured at Wheaton College and Taylor University, and has appeared on national media outlets such as CNN Headline News (Nancy Grace), Court TV, Moody MIDDAY Connection, and Family Life radio. She's been quoted in national news outlets such as *Newsweek* and *Chicago Sun-Times*.

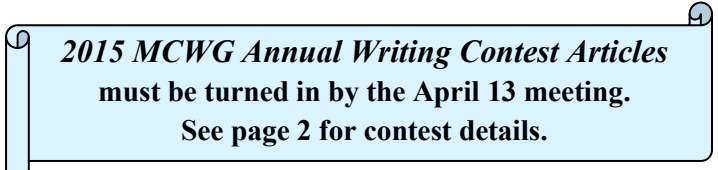


Upcoming Guild Events
April 11, 2015 — Spring Seminar — Ginger Kolbaba <i>Build Your Best Writing Skills</i>
May 11, 2015 — Sam Crabtree, author/pastor <i>Write Well, for the Love of God</i>

Please plan to attend the April 13 meeting. Your Guild Board has worked diligently to update and streamline Board responsibilities and operations. To that end we have revised and approved changes to our Minnesota Christian Writers Guild Constitution and By-Laws. According to the provisions of our By-Laws, we will read and discuss the proposed changes to the MCWG Constitution and By-Laws. We trust the wording will be specific enough to guide future Boards with clarity, yet provide adequate flexibility for continued growth. We endeavored to maintain the principle and spirit of the original document. The proposed document has been mailed to all current members for review.

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.



Visit our Website

www.mnchristianwriters.com

Contact us: info@mnchristianwriters.com

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

2015 Annual Writing Contest GUIDELINES: Magazine Article Highlighting Relationships

Relationships impact every part of our lives. Write a magazine article that brings some type of relationship to light.

Requirements—Article must:

- be from a Christian perspective or worldview.
- in some way highlight relationships, whether with God or other people, in any aspect of life.
- be written for a magazine. Target audience and target magazine publication should be indicated at the top left of the manuscript on page one.
- be typed, double-spaced, and be previously unpublished.
- include a title.
- be between 600-900 words. Word count must appear at the top left of the manuscript on page one.
- include an unattached **cover sheet** with your name, address, phone number, email, and title of article. Do not include name or contact information on the manuscript itself. This retains confidentiality during the judging process.

Guidelines for magazine article entries:

Entry deadline: Monday, April 13, 2015 at 9:00 p.m. (end of the Guild meeting).

All entrants must be members of the MCWG.

Submit entry article and **\$5 entry fee** in an envelope, in person or by mail, to Lotis Key-Kabigting, 1586 Sussex Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the May 11, 2015 MCWG meeting.

1st Prize = \$100; 2nd Prize = \$75; 3rd Prize = \$50

Manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned. The decision of the judge is final. The judge will remain anonymous.

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

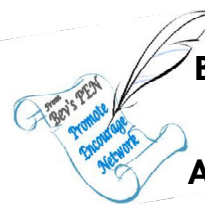
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Bev's PEN ~ By Beverly Snyder

Promote, Encourage, Network

As You Follow Christ Jesus

From our theme verse in Romans 15:4-6, endurance and encouragement from God and a “spirit of unity among yourselves” come through following Christ Jesus. When I pondered definitions of ‘follow,’ I realized that the word is often used with a subject to be followed. If Jesus is the subject of my following, then I put Jesus first and I come after. I move behind Jesus and go in the same direction He does. I accept Christ as my guide and leader and give my allegiance to Him alone. I obey Jesus. I imitate and copy Jesus.

Jesus said, “Follow Me” to many people when He walked the earth. Phillip, John, Simon, and Matthew dropped everything to hasten after Him. As a result, their occupations changed, they grew to understand His purposes, and they impacted the world. Others, when receiving the same invitation, gave excuses why their lives could not change. One would not lay aside his treasures. Several clung to family obligations. Some would not commit wholeheartedly, preferring home and safety. Still others feared to step into the unknown, even with Jesus as guide.

Following Jesus moved people out of comfort zones into unknown territory. Yet, Jesus remained (and remains) faithful to lead and not abandon His people.

What does it mean for us as a Guild to follow Jesus?

As we have for 60 years, we will put the honor of Christ first, before the glory of our own accomplishments. We will respect the written Scriptures and seek God’s wisdom within the pages of the Bible. We will learn what God values and bend our wills to His. We will serve one another with Jesus as our example. We will, as an organization and individual writers, move forward as Jesus leads us to write with integrity and present God’s unique Son to the world.

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.