



Living for God, Writing for People

December 14th--Doug Trouten

Writing for the Web

How do people read online? They don't--they skim. And that's just one of the challenges writers face in our new digital age. Learn to understand the web audience, adapt print articles for web consumption, and employ best practices for different online venues, including blogs, Twitter and Facebook. Feel free to bring a manuscript you've prepared for print, so you can mark it up for online reading during the session.



Dr. Doug Trouten is a professor of communication at the University of Northwestern--St. Paul, where his courses include "Writing for the Web" and "Web Content Strategy."

An award-winning journalist, he is the former executive director of the Evangelical Press Association and former editor of the Minnesota Christian Chronicle. Dr. Trouten's doctoral dissertation for the University of Minnesota examined the transition of Christian periodicals from print to web.



Next Month: January 11

Speaker Panel: Brenda Anderson, Mari Keisling, and Stacy Monson

Practical, Professional Aspects of Self Publishing

Our panelists will discuss the process of independent publishing: writing the manuscript, editing process, cover designing, formatting the manuscript, ebook conversion, what front and back matter to include in books, ebook and paperback publishing, obtaining copyrights, obtaining ISBNs, cost of indie publishing, plus marketing information, trailer creation, and more.

Meetings: September - May
Every second Monday, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka
 One block north of Highway 394
 and Hopkins Crossroad



Please note: Take the second right turn into the parking lot on the west side of the church. Enter directly through the Fellowship Hall door, not the front entrance.

2015-2016 Scripture

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 ESU



The Imagination of a Writer

by Marianne McDonough
Communications Director

I've loved being a grandparent for countless reasons, but one of my favorite perks is the chance to play again. Children give us an excuse to pretend that we're pirates with sassy parrots or unicorns dancing on rainbows. Amidst giggles and kisses, we ditch our stodgy inhibitions, get a little silly or maybe a lot silly, and just have fun.

Even as older children now, my three granddaughters still ask me to spin a story. Our tradition is that each of them gives me an element or a character, and I get to unleash my right brain. Since I have no advance warning about the elements, which usually have little, if any, connection, none of us knows where we'll end up, especially me. But we've yet to be bored.

So here it is Christmas when we remember Jesus as an infant and the miracle of His mission. Have you ever thought about Jesus as a toddler doing the make-believe thing? Did He pretend to create stars and ride the moon? Sometimes we forget that Jesus is fully God and fully human. That means He was a real kid growing up with real parents, and I'm sure He was amazing to watch. I've even thought that when I get to heaven, I'll ask God to play that tape for me, the one of the toddler Jesus playing.

Christmas is a perfect time to enjoy the gift of imagination, remembering that Jesus said we must become like little children to enter the kingdom. As writers, we are constantly blessed with that opportunity, and every day can be Christmas.



December--A Great Time to Donate to MCWG!

Before the end of the year, please consider supporting us with a gift of any size.

2015-2016 Officers

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A Book Fair Testimony:

Barb and Dave Howe bought Joanne Reisberg's *Webster's Coming Home* at the Psalms event for their grandson, and he loved it! As soon as they got in the car, Jaden asked Barb to read it to him. And then he asked again when they got home. And again before he went to bed. Since then he has continued to enjoy it. Congratulations, Joanne, on writing something that touched a little boy's heart!



December Partner of the Month:

In the spirit of Christmas, an anonymous partner has donated our December meeting, asking for no recognition. Please join us in praying for many blessings and an amazing Christmas for our special December partner.

Register for events, become a member, or donate to MCWG online: mchristianwriters.com
MCWG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.