



Living for God, Writing for People

**January 11th
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 copyright and ISBNs, cost of indie publishing, companies to use for ebook publishing and paperback publishing, when to subcontract for services such as editing, cover design, and formatting, plus marketing information,



**Next Month: February 8th
Speaker, Michelle Lim**
*Idea Sparking: Brainstorming
Ideas to Entice Readers*

How do you plot a riveting manuscript that stands out? Learn how to think outside the box and still create conflict that is reasonable and personal to the characters. Whether you plot every detail or

discover your story in the process, creative brainstorming will help spark your imagination.

**Announcing!
2016 Annual Writing Contest**

You have been invited to be a guest blogger on the well-known (but fictitious) blog: Life Benedictions: Words for the Weary at LifeBenedictions.com.

Brochures and details will be available at the January meeting. Topic and guidelines are also described online at mnchristianwriters.com.

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-hand 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 ESV



The Journey of a Writer

by Marianne McDonough

One night my husband Tom and I decided to go out to eat, a big treat and a chance to try a new restaurant. The swordfish special with pumpkin ravioli sounded amazing, and we thought it had our names on it. After entering the address in the Nuvi navigation system, we were good to go.

As we departed, Nuvi directed us right instead of left out of our neighborhood. Since we knew better than that, we turned left. Of course, a dramatic “Recalculating!” followed, but Nuvi adjusted. In the meantime, we conversed casually, with occasional glimpses at the screen. After zigzagging, back tracking, and getting stuck in snail-paced traffic, we finally arrived, only to discover that the destination was a mere few blocks south of a major freeway. We could have easily been there in half the time.

As writers, we often, though unwittingly, take a complicated route to our project’s end. We have second thoughts about direction, zigzag, procrastinate, detour, and even get stuck at a snail’s pace along the way. Why does that happen? Reasons vary for each of us, but we’re in good company. Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness doing something that could have happened in a few weeks. I’m not saying we’re rebellious, but we are all human--a wonderful thing to be but not without challenges.

Thankfully, God understands human nature and has designed a wonderful system of new beginnings. It’s called time, and as we turn the calendars to 2016, we discover fresh hope for a new year. Since the Holy Spirit counsels us, we don’t have to detour and zigzag in the coming months, but we do need to seek His plan and map the course before embarking forward. Be encouraged, and may you journey well in 2016!

Mark your calendars for our Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 9, 2016!

Topic: Writing Powerful Fiction, featuring author and popular speaker, Jeff Gerke

2015-2016 Officers

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January Partner of the Month: Honduras Hearts & Homes



Honduras Hearts & Homes, a mission team sponsored by Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church, partners with Great Commission Latin America. In January, the team makes its tenth trip to Choluteca, Honduras, to minister to children, prisoners and hospital patients, single moms and young girls, and teachers in a bilingual school. Additionally, HH&H helps build shelter for impoverished families, provide medicine where needed, and bring supplies for an orphanage. Their goal is to strengthen community relationships, and they especially enjoy hugging children and supporting families at the nutrition center.

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