



Living for God, Writing for People

April 11th

Speaker: Jeff Gerke

I Can't Visualize It — The Power of Description in Fiction

There's an old adage in theater: if it ain't on the page, it ain't on the stage. You may be able to picture your characters or setting, but do those mental images transfer to the reader? Without vibrant description, your story will seem to occur in a nebulous gray fog with faceless characters shadowed under dark cowls.

Jeff doesn't think the reader should have to visualize the story elements or wait until the end of the scene to finally know what the place or people look like. He believes in a more cinematic and theatrical approach. Learn how, when, and why to describe your settings and characters so that your readers can see the movie in their heads.

Jeff Gerke, founder of Marcher Lord Press, sold that company after an award-winning five-year run, and now focuses on training writers, in a variety of ways, to excel in writing fiction. His fiction-writing instruction books for Writers Digest Books include *The Irresistible Novel*, *Plot Versus Character*, *The First 50 Pages*, *Write Your Novel in a Month*, and *The Art & Craft of Writing Christian Fiction*. An accomplished teacher, Jeff speaks at writers conferences all over the country and also trains writers, one-on-one, as a freelance editor working with clients through his website: www.jeffgerke.com.



Last Call for Contest Entries: Deadline is April 11th!

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. The audience tends to be adults from mid-20s through mid-50s with families and/or careers. Topics of interest cover a broad spectrum and range from surviving workplace rivalry to parenting multiple generations. Your assignment is to "Write for the Weary" by sharing stories that encourage readers to press on through life's periods of crisis and stress. Cash prizes! 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$75, 3rd Prize: \$50.

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



Fellowship Hall Entrance

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 Busy-ness of a Writer

by Marianne McDonough

Lately I have been amazed at how busy people are. The frenetic pace of American life defies logic, considering all the supposed time-saving devices at our disposal. Although I love being productive, I am often dismayed at the way most of us, including myself, scramble for an elusive panacea called the land of "enough time for everything" where to-do lists systematically topple like dominoes in a prearranged line.

Recently reading a delightful book, *God's Little Devotional Book for Leaders*, I discovered a description of John Erskine (1879-1951), a famous American educator, author, pianist, and composer. When he was 14 years old, he was greatly influenced by a piano teacher who advised him about practice habits, saying, "When you grow up, time won't come in long stretches. Practice in minutes, whenever you can find them--five or ten before school, after lunch, between chores. Spread your practice throughout the day, and music will become a part of your life."

Thereafter and into his adulthood, John employed that fortuitous advice as a way to weave creative writing into a busy teaching schedule. In fact, he wrote the bulk of his most famous work, *Helen of Troy*, while commuting between his house and the university where he taught.

Are "long stretches of time" hard for you to find? That's okay. Short stretches combined will work! Erskine wrote over 100 books, novels, and essays. I don't know that they were all written in increments, but certainly his lesson can be ours. A little every day is better than constantly chasing enough-time-for-everything land.

Coming Next Week, April 9th-- Our Spring Seminar with Jeff Gerke!

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

Topic: Writing Powerful Fiction

Sessions include:

- The Power of Your Hero's Inner Journey
- The Power of Plot
- The Power of Engaging Fiction (in other words, The Last Class on Show Versus Tell You'll Ever Need)
- The Power of Hacking into Your Reader's Brain

You can still register online, but hurry!

Next Monthly Meeting--May 9th

Publishers Panel

Local Publishers--Augsburg Fortress, Beaver's Pond Press, and Tristan Publishing--will present a panel on publishing opportunities. Each publisher will be available for individual questions and networking with the members.

Our May Partner:

Sarah Pierce Photography



Minneapolis Headshots, a division of Sarah Pierce Photography, specializes in portraits and headshots for business and LinkedIn applications. Each portrait session is customized to meet your marketing needs and maximize visual impact in published materials and online venues. A member of Professional Photographers of America, photographer Sarah Pierce enjoys bringing the best out of people and provides quality portrait art for businesses and families. See her extraordinary work at www.minneapolisheadshots.com and www.sarahpiercephotography.com.

2015-2016 Officers

President: Beverly Snyder Bev.mcwg@comcast.net	Membership Director: Jason Sisam jason.mcwg@gmail.com	Communications Director: Marianne McDonough marianne.mcwg@outlook.com	Seminar Director: Joyce K. Ellis joyce@joycekellis.com
---	--	--	---

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