



**WRITERS' CONFERENCE - 2011
SESSION OUTLINES**

JAN ACKERSON

Don't Look at Me with that Tone in Your Voice – I'm telling You, Conflict is Good.
(Workshop Block 1 - Room 2)

This session will cover the absolute necessity of incorporating conflict into your short fiction. Participants will learn several different types of conflict and how they can enhance any short story, how conflict pulls readers into the story, and how to resolve conflicts satisfactorily. Boxing gloves are optional for this informative workshop.

Grab a Scalpel, Forceps, and Tweezers ... STAT! – *It's Time to Dissect Some Poetry.*
(Workshop Block 5 - Room 2)

In this educational session, we'll pick apart two famous poems, one free verse and one rhymed and metered. We'll examine each little bit that we tweeze out, with the goal of recognizing what goes into a great poem. Participants will leave with a mini-anthology of poems that highlight each dissected tidbit. No medical training is required—just a desire to improve your poetry-writing skills.

YVONNE BLAKE

Write me a Story, Please – *Tips and Tools for Writing Children's Literature*
(Workshop Block 2 - Room 1)

Children's stories are more than cute animals and happy endings. Yvonne Blake shows how to use basic literary techniques and reading-level wordlists to make children want to read your stories, over and over again.

TIMMY BOYLE

When, How, Who, Where, Why ... and Many Other Questions – *5 Keys to Sanity, Perseverance and Keeping your Lunch Down in the Crazy World of Writing.*
(Workshop Block 4 - Room 2)

Have you ever found the writer's journey to be like a roller coaster ride? Timmy Boyle has. Half the time he's raising his hands in pure exhilaration, while the other three-quarters he's tossing up his lunch on the people in front. Well, it doesn't have to be that way – all the time. Be inspired, encouraged and entertained as Comedian Timmy Boyle shares the things he's wondered, as well as the incredible lessons he's learned on his personal writing journey. From dealing with writer's block to discovering purpose, Timmy's real-life experiences will not only equip you, the writer, for the long-haul ... but enable you to thoroughly enjoy the ride!

LINDA GLAZ

Pride and Prejudice – *Both Attitudes will Lead to a Writer's Fall.*
(Workshop Block 2 - Room 2)

When it comes to the road to publishing, a writer can't afford either attitude—being too proud to change your writing when asked or thinking your agent/editor just doesn't understand you. Join Linda Glaz for this fun session designed to help new and established writers when dealing with agents and editors.

HANNE MOON

SPLAT! – *What to do when Your Dreams and Aspirations Hit the Brick Wall of God's Will*
(General Session – Friday Night)

You're a writer, right? You love the written word, putting ideas and thoughts down on paper. You want to use your talent to touch lives, and as a Christian writer, you'd probably like those words to draw people to the Kingdom of God. And if you can make a regular income doing it – that's just an added bonus!

But what if YOUR idea of writing (the Great American novel) and God's plan for your writing somehow don't jibe? How do we reconcile our dreams with God's will? What if that will takes you to places you would never imagine, with impact you never thought possible?

At some point we must all look inside and ask ... am I a Christian writer or a writer who's a Christian? How we answer that will determine how open we'll be to the direction that God is leading us in our writing. Even if it's into the brick wall of His Will.

DEB PORTER

Writing Inspirational/Devotional Articles that Hit Home – *How to Avoid the Number 1 Mistake ... and a few other boo-boos as well.*
(Workshop Block 1 - Room 1)

One of the most popular forms of Christian writing is found in inspirational and devotional material, and there is a strong demand for such articles to be used in many different publications. It may also seem too easy to write something like this, but to do it well requires a whole lot more. Join Deb Porter for this interactive workshop, and learn how to write articles that connect with the reader's soul and communicate God's truth.

The Wonderful World of the Writing Challenge – *Get the Lowdown on How to Grow into a Challenge Champion ... or just generally become a better writer.*
(Workshop Block 4 – Room 1)

The FaithWriters' weekly Writing Challenge is probably the most consistently active and popular service provided by FaithWriters. Go under the covers of the Challenge and find out how it works, what the judges are looking for, and how to create a winning entry. Even if you aren't a Challenge addict, this session will still provide excellent tools to help newer writers hone their skills. This is a hands on workshop, so bring a notepad and pen.

The Wide Road to Book Publishing – *Why Easy is Not Always Best ... as well as some encouragement and inspiration to spur you on as you write for His glory.*
(General Session – Saturday Night 2)

Today, way too many authors are taking the easy way out and traveling the wide road to publication—often with disastrous results. Join Deb for the final session of the conference and find out what’s happening in publishing, what to avoid, what to consider, and why to keep pressing on.

LYNDA SCHAB

The Jobs within the Job – *Think Writing is Just about Writing? Think Again.*
(Workshop Block 6 - Room 1)

Wouldn't it be nice if being a writer was simply about writing? Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on how you look at it), writing is more than exercising your creativity. In this fun and interactive workshop, we'll look at the various jobs within the title of "Writer." Jobs like surgeon, salesperson, and even trash collector. Learning to perform all of these sub-jobs is the only way to ensure that you will become the successful WRITER you want to be

CORI SMELKER

Please, May I Enter Your World? *How to Draw the Very Best Out of Every Interview*
(Workshop Block 3 – Room 1)

Whether you are researching for a novel, preparing for an article, or freelancing for the local newspaper, being able to elicit valuable information from your interviewee is vital. Questions that lead to yes and no answers will kill an interview dead and leave a writer with nothing to build on. The key is knowing what to ask. Join Cori as she brings a wealth of experience to this workshop, showing how you can ask the right probing questions to get the best interview and story from your subject.

You Need me to do *WHAT*, by *WHEN*???
(General Session – Saturday Night 1)

As much as busy writers may wish He would, God is not likely to make the sun stand still for any of us, so we have to learn how to work with the time we've been given. So how do we manage our day to meet those deadlines set in stone by the editor, publisher or even the weekly Writing Challenge? As a busy mother, business owner and freelance writer, Cori Smelker has learned how to work through a full time job, family, and church commitments, and still survive with her sanity intact. Now she wants to help you do the same. This is a not to be missed session.

AMY MICHELLE WILEY

Worlds of Words – *How to Breathe Life into Your Writing*
(Workshop Block 5 - Room 1)

In this hands-on workshop, Amy will show how to draw your readers right into the story to make it come alive around them. She will help you better understand the "show, don't tell" method with practical tips on everything from setting the scene, to dialogue, to point of view and character development.

PATTY WYSONG

Let it Shine! *It's Time to Stop Hiding Your Writing under a Bushel*
(Workshop Block 3 – Room 2)

Like a light shines further when it's placed up high, so good writing goes further when set on a solid platform. This session will explain the need for a platform and give ideas for how to build one. But for those who don't like to be on display, the thought of being on a platform is enough to send them into a cave. Patty, a professional wall-flower herself, will show you how to create and utilize a persona that is both authentic and platform friendly, so you can let your light shine.

Clearing the Blog Fog -- *Everything You Wanted to Know About Blogging, but were Afraid to Ask*
(Workshop Block 1 - Room 2)

For the writer, blogging is much more than a web journal. It encompasses everything from marketing to ministry and so much more. If you're thinking about blogging, but don't know where to start, or why you should start, this workshop will get you going. You'll learn the benefits of group blogs and guest posting, as well as the basics of building a blog, all of which will give you a boost on your blogging journey.

CONFERENCE EXTRAS

Portfolio Headshot Photos by Cari Weber

We are absolutely thrilled to have this very talented photographer provide her services to conference attendees. You don't have to be writing very long before you realize how important it is to include an up to date, professional headshot photo to your portfolio (not a happy snap taken with your phone or an old one from your wedding twenty years ago).

Bookings for this service are absolutely essential. The cost for two poses, with the digital files sent to you by e-mail, is \$25, payable to Cari on the day (or prior to the conference, by arrangement).

This is an opportunity too good to miss. Please see your registration form to reserve your place.

Upstanding Comedian, Timmy Boyle

All those who attended the 2010 conference know just how funny Timmy Boyle is, and he's back! We can't imagine a better way to start our weekend than by letting Tim take the stage and get the ball rolling.

Speed Critiquing with Jan and Deb

You've heard of speed dating? Well, welcome to the world of speed critiquing as Deb and Jan sacrifice their dinner break to give your writing some very special one on one attention.

This bonus session was a hit at both the 2009 and 2010 conferences, with valuable insight and in-depth critique sheets to take home. Don't miss out in 2011. *Spaces are limited and appointments are essential!* See your registration form to reserve your place.

Pitch Your Manuscript to Linda Glaz

Linda Glaz is an editorial agent for Terry Burns of the Hartline Literary Agency, and she'll be acting on Terry's behalf this weekend to receive your pitches. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Linda during the breaks.

Hartline handles fiction and non-fiction for both the inspirational and mainstream markets. Terry Burns does not handle sci-fi, fantasy or children's books.

Linda will be looking for a unique story with a unique voice that would be highly sellable in this current tight market -- and you may just have what they're looking for.

Please see the Hartline Literary Agency Brochure which is available for download from the Conference main page or visit Hartline Literary Agency online <http://www.hartlineliterary.com/> for their submission guidelines.

One on One for One with Deb Porter

This is a special Sunday bonus for those who are still at the Holiday Inn on August 14. Deb Porter is offering one on one appointments, one hour long each, to provide an opportunity for you to discuss your book idea, get a critique, ask for editing help, or talk about anything else that may be on your mind.

One on One for One is a free service to conference attendees, and is an excellent opportunity—particularly for newer writers or any writer considering self-publication/subsidy press publishing. *Appointments are essential.* Please see your registration form to reserve your place.