

# FAITHWRITERS' WRITING CONFERENCE

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

#### **Unchaining the Screaming Muse – David Ian** (*combined session*)

What triggers your inspiration? What kills it? Do you feel the battle for creative release within you? Join David Ian as he explores the difference between your Screaming Muse and your Genghis Khan Editor. There really is no better way to start the 2009 Conference than with inspiration from the exceptionally creative David Ian.

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### SATURDAY SESSIONS

#### **Book Marketing 101 – How to Market for Online Success – Linore Rose Burkard** (*combined session*)

First-time published authors soon realize that books don't sell themselves. Fortunately, you can harness the power of the Internet to let the world know about your message. Join Linore for an author's guide to online marketing success that anyone can implement.

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#### *Workshop Block 1:*

#### **The Reticent Client – Techniques to Get Even the Mute to Speak – Corinne Smelker**

Ever tried to get blood from a stone? Well getting information from a reticent client or interview subject can be as difficult. Learn from Cori Smelker as she shows how to draw the most (and the best) from even the tightest lipped person, and break through the barrier of monosyllabic answers.

#### **Thoughts that Breathe, Words that Burn – How to Bring Your Poetry to Life – Jan Ackerson**

Almost every writer has a poet in their soul just waiting to burst out. It's the getting out that can be a little messy. Join Jan Ackerson as she leads this hands-on workshop, with tips, tricks and exercises to unleash your inner poet and create poetry that will impact your reader. Whether your rhyme is sublime or your verse the worst, there is something for every poetic soul in this session.

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#### *Workshop Block 2:*

#### **It's a Risky Business – Or How Not to End Up in a Thai Jail – Deb Porter**

The pen may be mightier than the sword, but as with any weapon, it needs to be handled with care. In this session, Deb Porter will not only look at the responsibilities of the writer in this modern world of instant communication, but also highlight some of the risks and pitfalls writers may face if they let enthusiasm and passion run rampant over caution and wisdom.

## **Creating Characters Who are Strong in Their Faith – Linore Rose Burkard**

Fiction readers love following characters who are believable in all aspects of life, especially their faith. But as a writer, how do you include spiritual content without coming across as preachy or offensive? Linore will show you how to walk this delicate line in an effective way that captures your audience while ministering to their soul.

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*Workshop Block 3:*

## **Catch and Release – *The All Important Start and Finish* – Jan Ackerson**

Are your beginnings lackluster and flat? Do your endings go out with a whimper instead of a bang? In this very practical workshop, Jan Ackerson will show you how to hook your reader from the start, and then release them with style. Whether you write fiction or non-fiction, bring a pen and paper, and get ready for a great catch.

## **Story Telling – *Getting the Most Bang for the Buck* – David Ian**

Have you ever had a great idea for a story, but just couldn't get it to all together when it came to putting it down on paper? If your answer is yes, then let David Ian take you on a journey through all the elements of a well crafted story. From exposition to denouement, discover how to turn those elusive ideas into stories that will give your reader more bang for their buck (and keep them coming back for more).

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*Workshop Block 4:*

## **The Fig Tree Shall Not Blossom – *How to Handle a Writer's Worst Nightmare* – Corinne Smelker**

What do you do when the inspirational well runs dry and the fruit of creativity falls to the ground? In this session, Cori Smelker shares how to break through writer's block and bring forth a bountiful harvest of inspiration to get you writing again.

## **Critiquing for the Fainthearted and the Fearless – *It Doesn't Have to Leave Scars* – Deb Porter**

For some, the thought of being critiqued or critiquing is enough to send them running for cover. For others, it's a blood sport – shoot from the hip and take no captives. Join Deb Porter as she finds the balance and shows that critiquing can be fun – for all involved. Not only that, but you'll also discover how critiquing others can actually help improve your own writing. Bring a pen and paper.

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## **Oh the Times, They are a Changing! – *It's a Whole New Publishing World Out There* – Deb Porter (combined session)**

Technology has not just jumped into the new Millennium, it has gone into hyper-drive, and the changes within the world of publishing, alone, are radical. Although the days of the printed book are not over – not by a long shot – paperback and hard cover are no longer the only options when it comes to publication. It's an exciting time to be a writer, and this session will provide food for thought for the 21st Century writer.

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**Critiquing with Deb and Jan** (*optional appointment only sessions*)

Make the most of this great opportunity to have Deb Porter or Jan Ackerson provide feedback to you about one of your articles, poems or short stories (less than 1,000 words). Appointments are essential, so if you are interested in having this one-on-one meeting to discuss your work, please tick the box at the bottom of your registration form. There are a limited number of appointments available, so act fast. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

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**You Got Style – Yes You Do! – Finding Your Voice in the Midst of the Melee – Corinne Smelker** (*combined session*)

With so much written material available to readers today, and so many writers clamoring for attention, it's not always easy to impress a client or grab a reader's attention – and there's very little time to do it. Let Cori show you how to develop your own unique style and then flaunt it in the best possible way.

**Fit to Write – Nurturing the Whole Writer – Deb Porter** (*combined session*)

Are you glued to your keyboard? Is your exercise regime restricted to your fingers? Are you spending so much time writing about God that you don't have any time to spend with Him? These are just some of the common physical, emotional and spiritual pitfalls faced by many Christian writers today. With warmth, humor and personal experience, Deb Porter provides encouragement and solutions to help nurture the whole writer.

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