



2011 WRITERS' CONFERENCE

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

JAN ACKERSON

Jan Ackerson has been a FaithWriter since 2005, and has worn a variety of hats here: judge, reviewer, critiquer, teacher, and go-to grammar girl. She's a retired English teacher with 30 years of classroom experience, and now she's filling her time with freelance editing jobs and helping behind the scenes at FaithWriters—when she's not playing with her precious granddaughter or travelling with her husband.

Jan was the very deserving winner of the 2008 FaithWriters' Best of the Best award for her short story, *Sniggles*. The Best of the Best award is given to the most outstanding entry received in the Writing Challenge over the previous 12 months. Jan not only placed first (out of over 1,500 entries), but she also placed third with her poem, *A Poet Rests in the 131st Psalm*. A number of Jan's other entries were also in the running for this award.

Jan is a regular at the FaithWriters' conference, also speaking at the FaithWriters' Down Under Conference in 2010. Apart from her excellent sessions, Jan gives huge amounts of writing wisdom and valuable critique to those attending.

YVONNE BLAKE

Yvonne Blake has loved reading ever since she could remember. As a missionary child, she moved often, and books became her best friends. Her family also read many classics and biographies together each evening. Trips to the library were her favorite outing.

Yvonne understands young children. She taught each of her eight children to read. Once the youngest was school age, Yvonne taught grades K-3 at a Christian school for twelve years, also 4th-6th grade English and high school French.

To promote well-written children's literature, Yvonne has developed a web site *Polliwog Pages* for parents, authors, and young writers. She has also sold some articles to *Highlights for Children (High Five)* and hopes to publish a missionary story and a middle-grade novel soon.

It's a delight to welcome this long time member of FaithWriters as a speaker this year.

TIMMY BOYLE

Timmy Boyle is a writer, speaker and comedian from Toronto, Canada. As a stay-at-home dad of three children, with over ten years of marriage and eight years of youth ministry under his belt, Timmy has had no problem noticing that life...is funny. His greatest desire is to bring the gift of laughter to the masses, by providing an "upstanding" comedy experience, through live performance, video and writing that is both high in quality and clean in content.

He has performed on three Canada-wide comedy tours, and is the founder and featured performer of *Up Standing Comedy*. With a unique blend of casual storytelling and passionate commentary, Timmy has

brought laughter to audiences in the U.S. and Canada, as he shares his hilarious perspective of himself and the world around him.

Attacking the page like he attacks the stage, he has written his way to multiple Faithwriters' Challenge Editors Choice awards, and his incredibly random and witty blog, *Inside Timmy's Mind*, is a must read for every literate person. Timmy's goal is to eventually have his mind on every coffee table in the world...or at least in every bathroom basket.

Timmy performed and led a workshop at last year's FaithWriter's Conference and we are thrilled to have him back, in both capacities.

LINDA GLAZ

Linda Glaz is a writer of suspense, romantic suspense, and mystery. She is also a Literary Agent for *Hartline Literary Agency*. Linda uses her spare five minutes here and there to write reviews and judge writing contests. Because of her love of books, she is also on staff at *White Rose Publishing* as a volunteer copy editor.

As an Air Force veteran, as well as a karate and soccer instructor for twenty-six years, she has a wealth of life experience from which to draw interesting characters for her books. Who knows what will pop out the head of a woman old enough to be your grandmother, and young enough to remember the first kiss? Join her on her *Suspense Sealed with a Kiss* blog.

<http://lindaglaz.blogspot.com/>

It's great to have Linda back with us this year. Apart from her excellent sessions last year, Linda provided invaluable direction to many attendees, and she's back for more of the same. In her role as Literary Agent, she is definitely on the lookout for more fabulous FaithWriters.

HANNE MOON

Hanne Moon is the owner of *Thru His Grace Writing and Editing Services*. She has been published in print and online media, and has ghost-written several books for different clients. She includes layout and design in her book services. She is currently the managing editor for *Solutions From Science* and *Off the Grid News*, as well as the volunteer editor for *Heart of God International Ministries*.

We are so pleased to have Hanne with us as a speaker this year.

DEB PORTER

Deb Porter is from Sydney, Australia, and has been a long-time member of FaithWriters.com, joining at its inception in 2001 and working with FaithWriters' founder, Scott Lindsay, since 2003. Her passion and enthusiasm for FaithWriters stems from her early realization of its enormous potential for encouraging, equipping, empowering and inspiring Christian writers—particularly those taking their very first steps into the public writing arena.

Deb is a published writer, editor, and popular public speaker, with a particular gift for communicating in a way that is both enjoyable and easy for readers and listeners to understand. She is a regular speaker at both the U.S. and Australian FaithWriters' Conferences, and also writes and presents the weekly *Cool Country Gospel Hour* on Western Sydney radio station, 2KA.

As the Coordinator of the FaithWriters' Writing Challenge, Deb has helped shape this weekly contest into arguably the most popular aspect of FaithWriters.com. She is the editor of the FaithWriters' anthologies, and

is excited to be launching her new publishing business, *Breath of Fresh Air Press*, which is publishing the re-branded FaithWriters' books. Deb also owns *Finesse Writing and Editing Service*, which once again provides an opportunity to help writers become everything they were created to be.

LYNDA SCHAB

Lynda Schab got her writing start in greeting cards. From there, she went on to write articles, web content, and dozens of short stories, many of which have been published in magazines and anthologies. She has been a finalist in several national fiction contests, including taking first place in the 2009 *FaithWriters Page Turner*. Currently, she handles several monthly freelance assignments and is the Grand Rapids Christian Fiction Examiner and National Writing Examiner for www.Examiner.com. She is also a regular book reviewer for www.FaithfulReader.com. Lynda is represented by Terry Burns of Hartline Literary Agency, who is actively submitting her first novel to publishers.

Lynda lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband of twenty-two years and two teenagers, who keep her young and provide much inspiration for the humor found in her fiction.

Lynda is a long-time member of FaithWriters, and last year led two outstanding sessions. It really is a privilege to have her share with us again in 2011.

CORI SMELKER

Cori Smelker is a Brit-South-African and now American mongrel who is proud to call all three countries home, although San Antonio Texas is her current location. A married mother of five and grandmother to one, Cori has been published in many of the FaithWriters' anthologies. Cori was the winner of the 2008 Page Turner Contest with her book *Answering Hannah's Cry*, her personal look at the world of surrogacy and how it impacts Christians.

Cori and her husband Terry are involved in children's ministry, from creating curriculum to leading the children in praise and worship. More recently, Cori founded her own surrogate agency, helping to answer the call of many Hannah's desiring to have their own children.

Cori has much experience in the world of freelancing, and has been a greatly appreciated speaker at the FaithWriters' Conferences in the past, and after an absence last year, it is wonderful to have her back with us.

AMY MICHELLE WILEY

Amy Wiley lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest and grew up with a love of words, languages, and people. She now works as a sign language interpreter and a freelance writer and editor. Amy is also the founder and director of a Christian international collaborative fiction group, Peculiar People, which has published two books and is working on two more. She's had numerous short stories published and has recently completed her first solo novel, *Reaching Sky*.

Last year, Amy shared an excellent and informative session for anyone thinking of self-publishing, and this year it's a joy to have her leading a brand new workshop.

PATTY WYSONG

Patty Wysong is a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom of five, but don't let that fool you. She spends much of her time working on what God has placed in her hand: her keyboard. From the corner of her living room she writes fiction, devotionals, and marriage articles, as well as teaching online blogging workshops and

managing a few group blogs. In person, Patty, a certified wall-flower, teaches a women's Bible study and speaks on marriage and blogging. All of this developed from the one little blog she thought no one would ever find.

Patty learned about blogs and blogging the hard way and now delights in teaching others and sparing them that frustration so they can focus on what God has called them to do. Through her writing and blogging, Patty has found the extraordinary God in her ordinary life.

Patty's session on blogging last year was extremely well received—so much so, we've doubled her load this year with two information-packed sessions.