

Write! Canada 2006 Media Release #2 from The Word Guild
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Dated February 20, 2006
For immediate release

MEET EDITORS & AGENTS, GET INSPIRED AT WRITE! CANADA

Toronto – From June 15 to 17, the Guelph Bible Conference Centre will host writers, editors, speakers, agents and publishers from across North America at The Word Guild's fifth anniversary Write! Canada conference.

Recent Leading Women Award nominee and co-founder of The Word Guild, N. J. (Nancy) Lindquist, will focus her plenary messages on the theme, "Finding the Courage to Answer God's Call."

Lindquist is a teacher, church planter, disciple-maker, motivational speaker, award-winning author and journalist. Her speaking and teaching ministry includes Christian leadership conferences, homeschool and Christian school conferences, writing conferences, mystery conventions, youth conferences and churches. She is also the spokesperson of the Read For Life youth literacy program.

Lindquist believes that God is at work here in Canada, calling out those who are ready to follow Him, who will seize the courage to answer His call. "God doesn't give us a map," she said. "He just says 'Go' or 'Come' or – sometimes – 'Stay.' It's one step at a time and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to share what I have learned in my journey as a child of God, a writer and a leader. We'll talk about how to nurture our gifts and our talents, whether they are many or few, and how to grow our courage to be all that we can be."

After Lindquist addressed the Church Library Association of Ontario, the organization's president Vivian Walker said, "She spoke from her heart and from her personal experience as a writer, educator and mother. At the end, over 100 church librarians rose in a unanimous standing ovation."

Lindquist will be joined by a stellar faculty who will teach classes and meet with participants at Canada's largest Christian writers' conference. Editors include Craig Bubeck, senior acquisitions editor for Victor Books/Cook Communications; Marshall Shelley, editorial vice-president of Christianity Today International, responsible for the content and development of five magazines including Leadership and Marriage Partnership; Edward Gilbreath, editor of Today's Christian magazine; Cindy Kenney, senior managing editor for VeggieTales; and Connie Willems, managing editor of Discipleship Journal.

Literary agents include Janet Kobobel Grant, founder of Books & Such Literary Agency

and representative of several best-selling authors; and Les Stobbe, editor-in-chief of the Jerry B. Jenkins Christian Writers Guild.

“Most of our faculty members will be available for personal appointments,” explained Ann Brent, conference coordinator. “Registrants can market their work and get valuable advice on their writing projects. We've seen a number of book publishing contracts and article assignments result from meetings at our conferences.”

Participants will choose from an array of seven continuing classes that provide five hours of in-depth instruction, from beginner to professional level.

"We've brought back our fiction intensive class due to popular demand," commented Wendy Elaine Nelles, associate director of The Word Guild. "Three award-winning Canadian novelists will lead small group critiques for advanced fiction writers: Rosemary Aubert, author of the Ellis Portal mystery series; Janice Dick, author of three historical novels; and Linda Hall, author of 11 novels, including the best-selling Margaret's Peace and the Christy-nominated Sadie's Song."

Hugh Cook, a professor who has been published in Canada's leading literary journals, will teach beginner fiction writers about the art of short story writing. Industry veteran Les Stobbe will give beginner nonfiction writers hands-on practice in learning how to adapt their writing skills for a wide variety of publication opportunities. A new youth track for ages 14 to 19 will provide teens with classes designed just for them. Marilyn Yocum will lead young writers in fun, fast-paced sessions dealing with writing, critiquing, marketing and dealing with rejections. And for attendees interested in the world of songwriting, multi-award winning singer-songwriter Ali Matthews will share insights ranging from performance to production.

"We're offering many career development and networking opportunities for journalists, published authors and professional writers and editors," Nelles said. Marshall Shelley from Christianity Today International will use case studies to help journalists work in an electronic news age, while Drew Marshall, host of the most listened to spiritual talkback radio show in Canada, will coach writers on how to sound confident, how to think on their feet and how to be interviewed.

Registrants also will attend four shorter workshops and panels, selecting from 28 topics. Subjects include writing suspense, romance and historical novels; covering Canadian politics from a Christian perspective; writing for children and teens; getting started as a freelancer; and how to write best-sellers, titles that sell and personal stories that inspire.

Other popular conference features include manuscript critiques, open mike reading sessions, worship times and a bookstore.

Budding writers in three age categories (including teenagers) who have never been published could win free registration to Write! Canada, a value of more than \$350. Entries are being accepted in the God Uses Ink Novice Writing Contest until April 14.

Complete details about Write! Canada 2006, including class descriptions and faculty biographies, will be available shortly at www.thewordguild.com. Watch for upcoming announcements about the new on-line registration procedure.

If you are a writer or an aspiring writer and you have a question, the answer will be found in Guelph, Ont., June 15 to 17 at The Word Guild's Write! Canada. See you there!

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Media: For more information contact Write! Canada Coordinator Ann Brent, writerbrent@cogeco.ca or 519-869-4313. Photos of speakers and of previous conferences are available.

BACKGROUND WRITE! CANADA

Write! Canada is designed to be a warm and supportive environment where participants from many backgrounds and religious experiences are united in their common love of God and of writing. Whether in the classroom or in informal conversation, the focus is on subjects that foster the pursuit of excellence in writing.

From 1984 to 2001, Faith Today magazine and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada organized this annual conference known as God Uses Ink. In 2001, The Word Guild was established and assumed responsibility for the conference. To mark the conference's twentieth anniversary, the name was changed to Write! Canada in 2004.

The fifth anniversary of the conference under the leadership of The Word Guild will be celebrated in Guelph, Ont., June 15 to 17.

THE WORD GUILD

The Word Guild is an association of Canadian writers and editors who are Christian, and who are committed to encouraging one another and fostering standards of excellence in the art, craft, practice and ministry of writing. Its desire is to impact the Canadian identity through the words of Canadian writers and editors with a Christian worldview.

Three categories of membership, renewed yearly, are available: professional writers and editors; associate members who are beginning to put together a body of published work; and affiliate members, for those working in related fields such as publishers, booksellers, church librarians, etc.

For more information about The Word Guild, go to www.thewordguild.com.

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