



## 26th Orange County Christian Writers Conference

### Faculty Bios

Register at [www.occwf.org](http://www.occwf.org)

## Intensive Workshop Leaders



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**Kathy Ide**

**Founder and Director of *The Christian Pen Network***

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In her **THREE-PART INTENSIVE NON-FICTION WORKSHOP**, *Kathy Ide*, a **published author, speaker and editor**, offers the serious **non-fiction** writer hands-on techniques for writing a winning magazine article, personal essay, or non-fiction book. *Limited to twelve students. Advance registration and submission is required.*

- **Session One:** Opening hooks, meaty middles, and satisfying endings.
- **Session Two:** Participants will revise their manuscripts based on class discussion and written comments from instructors.
- **Session Three:** Critiquing of revised work; open discussion; instructors will share common mistakes non-fiction writers make.

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**Susan Meissner**  
**Award-Winning Novelist**

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**Susan Meissner is a multi-published author, speaker and writing workshop leader** with a background in community journalism. A devotee of purposeful pre-writing, Susan encourages workshop attendees to maximize writing time by mapping the writing journey and beginning from a place of intimate knowledge. Her novels include *The Shape of Mercy*, named by Publishers Weekly as one of the Best Books of 2008. She is a pastor's wife and a mother of four young adults. When she's not writing, Susan directs the Small Groups and Connection Ministries program at her San Diego church.



Susan will teach an intensive **THREE-PART FICTION WORKSHOP** that will be *limited to twelve students. Advance registration and submission is required.*

This clinic will focus on strengthening within your work-in-progress the key elements of marketable fiction:

- A fully fleshed-out lead and/or supporting character.
- A relatable and relevant conflict.
- A storyline that invites discussion, introspection or wonder.
- Correlating subplot threads.
- A satisfying conclusion.

Come ready to assume the role of your lead character during discussion times. As your lead character, you must be ready to answer these questions at any time: what it is that you want, what or who stands in your way, why you want it, what will happen if you succeed, what will happen if you fail, how you are going to get what you want, what you will have to risk or give up to get it, how you think your life will be different when you have it, what God thinks about what you want, what your closest friends and family think about what you want, why you think you face opposition, what your limitations are, what you fear most in this quest, what you think your greatest strength is, what you think your greatest weakness is.

We will spend the first half of the clinic time identifying the strengths and weaknesses of your first two chapters & synopsis and the second half rewriting and reworking the same.

## Keynote Speakers



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### Kathy Collard Miller Bestselling Author and Speaker

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Kathy is the author of 49 books and 200 magazine articles. She has spoken in 30 states and 7 foreign countries. She lives in Indio, California and loves to encourage and inspire writers.

#### **Kathy Collard Miller's Keynote Address**

Coping with Criticism, Compliments and Competition

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### Mick Silva

**Editor: WaterBrook Press, Division of Random House, Inc.**

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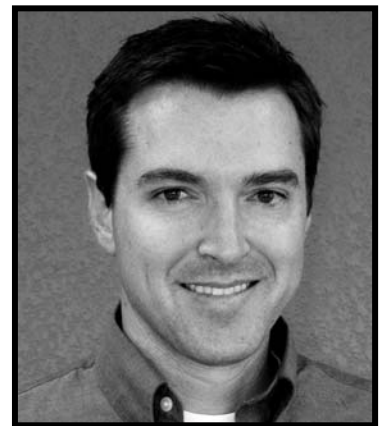
Mick served five years as an editor and writer with Focus on the Family, acquiring in the categories of relationships and marriage and working with nationally known authors like Gary Smalley, John Trent, and Emerson Eggerichs.

Since coming to WaterBrook in 2005, Mick's projects span adult fiction and non-fiction categories, including men's spiritual growth; Bible study; business and leadership; Christian living; parenting and relationships; singles and dating; marriage; sex; youth interests; contemporary fiction; mystery/suspense; church resource; inspirational; pastoral; personal success; contemporary issues; Christianity and politics; personal growth/self-help; popular psychology; spiritual memoir; women's interest; and postmodern/emergent.

Particular interests are fresh approaches to familiar issues and those that compel re-examination, spiritual narrative that encourages readers with a broader view of the world, and Christian spirituality.

#### **Mick Silva's Workshops:**

- **Holding Court at *The Shack: Reaching the Spiritually-Interested*** – How a self-published run-away bestseller launched a secret publishing revolution—and what it means for you.
- **Your Best Book Published Now: *From Manuscript to Bestseller*** – What does it REALLY take to become a published author?



## Breakout Session Faculty



**Don Alban**

**Editor: Power for Living Magazine**

**Donald H. Alban, Jr. (PhD)** is the editor of *Power for Living*, a weekly Bible-based inspirational magazine based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is also a professor of communication studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. His publishing credits include numerous magazine and newspaper articles and scholarly writings in the area of religious communication. Don, his wife, Vangie, and their four small children, live in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

*Power for Living* ministers to a broad adult readership from a variety of churches and age groups--from the many individual and Sunday School class readers to the tens of thousands of adults receiving *PFL* through a Christian outreach like church-to-home contacts, convalescent ministries and prison ministries. Whatever their circumstances, *PFL* readers find encouragement and strength through the Christian testimonies and teachings of believers--from past or present, at home or abroad.

Tapping into Christ's power for life – that's essentially why *Power for Living* started in 1943; and that's why today more than a quarter of a million readers still find it lives up to its name. *PFL*'s focus has always been on the powerful work of God's Spirit and His Word, both in and through His people.

### **Don Alban's Workshops:**

- **The Editorial Perspective:** Strategies for Publishing Inspirational Non-fiction in the Christian Writers Market.

**The Third-Person Testimonial:** Writing Christian Profiles That Work.

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**Brian Bird**  
**Screenwriter and Producer**

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Brian Bird is a screenwriter and producer, whose credits include "Not Easily Broken" (2009), adapted from the novel by T.D. Jakes, for Sony/Screen Gems; "Saving Sarah Cain" (2008) and "The Last Sin Eater" (2007) for 20th Century Fox, in partnership with Michael Landon Jr.

Brian's other film credits include the Morgan Freeman-directed "Bopha!" (1993) for Paramount Pictures, and the Hallmark Hall of Fame drama "Captive Heart" (1996) (TV), and "Call Me Claus," the highest rated cable film of 2003. He has also written screen adaptations of In Silence for Paramount Pictures, "Trail of Tears: The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation" for TNT, "Before Time Runs Out" for Fox Broadcasting Company, "The Deaths of Sybil Bolton" for CBS and "A Dirty Business" for HBO. His TV series producer and writing credits include more than 250 episodes of "Touched By an Angel" (where from 1998-2003, he served as co-executive producer and writer on the final five seasons on the series), "Evening Shade," "Step by Step" and "The Family Man."

Brian is currently working on "The Shunning" and "When Calls the Heart" for Fox, and "Unlikely Angel," the untold story of 2005's Atlanta hostage crisis in partnership with producer Ken Wales ("Amazing Grace").

**Brian Bird's Workshop: The Basics of Screenplay Writing.**



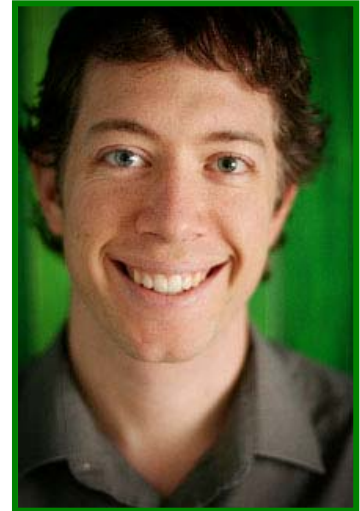
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### John Fox

#### Publisher of BookFox.com Blog & Short Story Writer

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**John Fox has written nonfiction** for the Los Angeles Times, US Airways Magazine, and PBS online. Formerly the fiction editor of the Southern California Review, he has published fiction in journals such as Tampa Review, Connecticut Review, Los Angeles Review, and Pedestal Magazine. His formal education came through a Master of Professional Writing degree at the University of Southern California and an MA in Literature from New York University, while his informal education consisted of backpacking through more than 40 countries, including playing guitar for a band in Samoa, working on a kibbutz in Israel, and tending an organic farm in Costa Rica. He blogs about books at BookFox.



#### John Fox's Workshops:

- **Top Blogging Secrets: How to Build Your Career and Brand.**
- **The Ultimate Strategy Guide for Literary Journal Submissions.**



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### Jeff Gerke

#### Publisher: Marcher Lord Press

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Jeff has been called the de facto gatekeeper of Christian spec-fic. He has a special place in his heart for "weird" Christian fiction (SF, fantasy, supernatural thrillers, etc.) and maintains a thriving website dedicated to those genres: [www.WhereTheMapEnds.com](http://www.WhereTheMapEnds.com).

Jeff has served as an editor for Multnomah Publishers, Strang Communications, and NavPress. While at Strang, Jeff launched Realms, an imprint of Christian speculative fiction.

In October 2008 Jeff launched Marcher Lord Press, an indie publishing company specializing in Christian speculative fiction. Jeff currently makes his living as a freelance editor and book doctor specializing in helping Christian novelists improve their fiction and get published. He is also a published novelist. Under the pen name Jefferson Scott he has authored six Christian novels and coauthored two nonfiction books.

#### Jeff Gerke's Workshops:

- **Elves, Demons, and Space Marines**--the fun and challenge of writing Christian speculative fiction.
- **The Three Mistakes that Will Kill Your Novel's Chances with Editors**, and How To Eliminate Them (the Mistakes, Not the Editors...)

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**Susan King**

**Assistant Editor: The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide**

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Susan King also teaches English at Lipscomb University and functions as a seminar facilitator in leadership and group dynamics. Formerly she taught English and feature-writing classes at Biola University, served as book editor for The Institute of Scriptural Psychology, and wrote magazine features as a freelance writer.



**Susan King's Workshops:**

- **Writing Devotionals** - Focuses on the four essentials for writing an effective daily devotional: Bible basis, authenticity, concentration on a single dominant image, and universality. Included will be information about the devotional market in general as well as specialized writing for *The Upper Room*, the world's largest daily devotional guide.
- **Writing that Gets Published and Read** - Do you want to produce writing with such sparkle and verve that it will knock the socks off editors? Do you want them to be falling all over themselves to publish your submission and then clamoring for anything you might intend to write in the future? That's what this two-part class is all about. These sessions will describe and illustrate the essential elements of style for writing in any genre. Participants will come away with concrete tools for self-editing to produce polished works that attract readers and editors alike.



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**Kathi Macias**  
**Author and Speaker**

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**Kathi "Easy Writer" Macias** represents [Author Solutions](#), which offers many options for self-publishing. She is a multi-award winning writer who has authored nearly 30 books and ghostwritten several others. A former newspaper columnist and string reporter, Kathi has taught creative and business writing in various venues and has been a guest on many radio and television programs. Kathi is a popular speaker at churches, women's clubs and retreats, and writers' conferences, and recently won the prestigious 2008 member of the year award from the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association at the annual Golden Scrolls award banquet. Kathi lives in Homeland, CA, with her husband, Al, where the two of them spend their free time riding their Harley.

**Kathi Macias' Workshops:**

- **Basic Building Blocks** for Establishing a Successful Writing/Editing Career.
- **Publishing Options** in Today's Changing Markets?

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**Dan Miley (not pictured)**  
**Editor: Rainbow Publishers and Legacy Press**

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For over 20 years, Rainbow Publishers has helped teachers lead kids to stronger relationships with Jesus Christ. They take their name seriously. Just as God created the rainbow as a sign of His covenant, Rainbow Publishers promises the following through its products:

- **Bible-Teaching:** evangelical, non-denominational.
- **Reproducible:** help stretch tight budgets by making as many copies as needed.
- **Age-appropriate:** books are designed for specific age level interests and abilities  
Creativity: fun, unique activities kids love.
- **Flexibility:** use for Sunday school, children's church, Bible clubs, Christian school, home school or VBS.
- **Variety:** crafts, games, puzzles, take-home papers, bulletin boards and more.
- **Teacher-friendly:** lessons that turn volunteers into teaching pros.
- **Value:** books packed with activities and patterns From Sunday school to home school to VBS.

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**Kelly Mortimer**  
**Agent**

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**Agent, Kelly Mortimer**, established her agency with one thought in mind: Too many great writers couldn't get their foot in the door. She's only 5'4", but she wears a size 8-1/2 shoe, so she thought she could help. And she has, exclusively signing writers not yet published (or not pubbed in the last three years), editing their work, and kickin' down doors to sell it.

Kelly is a three-time nominee, and 2008's winner of the American Christian Fiction Writers "Agent of the Year" award. She has a wicked sense of humor, and she knows how to use it.



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**Susan Titus Osborne (not pictured)**  
**Editor in Chief: Christian Communicator Critique Service & Acquisition**  
**Editor: New Hope Publishing**

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Susan Titus Osborn is the director of the Christian Communicator Manuscript Critique Service where she heads a staff of 18 editors. She has authored 30 books, as well as numerous articles. As an author, Susan represents New Hope Publishers for nonfiction books and B&H Publishing Group for both nonfiction and fiction books. She is a member of the Christian Leaders and Speakers Services (CLASS) staff and is also a CLASS speaker. Susan is a member of Advanced Christian Writers and Speakers Association (AWSA) and is a judge for the Christy Awards for Christian fiction. She is also listed in a number of Marquis *Who's Who in America* books. Susan lives with her husband, Dick, in Fullerton, California. They have five children, twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

New Hope Publishers is the trade publishing division of WMU, an international missions' organization. New Hope publishes under three lines. The "Arise" line is for women and families. The "Grow" line includes Bible studies and teaching resources. The "Impact" line represents books on leadership, social issues, personal growth, and missiological topics. New Hope Publishers is located in Birmingham, Alabama. New Hope authors and books may be seen at <http://www.newhopepublishers.com/>. New Hope does not accept unsolicited manuscripts. New Hope books are sold through all channels of trade as well as direct to consumer.

Nashville's B&H Publishing Group, the book and Bible publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the world's largest religious publishing houses, receiving something like 3,000 book proposals annually. They release about 125 titles per year in most of the adult fiction genres and almost all the categories of adult nonfiction, and they are interested in seeing appropriate proposals in these areas. They do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. Their website is [www.bhpublishinggroup.com](http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com).

**Susan Titus Osborn Workshops:**

- **Writing 101** - This class will teach all the basics needed to write your first article or short story. You will learn a three-step writing method, how to write and format a manuscript to an editor's specifications, and how to market.
- **Writing from the Heart** - Only God knows what he has in mind for us regarding our writing. To write effectively we need to get in touch with our own feelings, get it touch with God, and get in touch with others. We need to: STOP - LISTEN - WRITE. If we can help others get in touch with their own feelings and in touch with God, then God has truly used us as his divine instrument.



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**Nancy Sanders**  
**Award Winning Children's Writer**

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**Nancy Sanders is the best-selling and award winning children's author** of over 75 books and has been published with such houses as Tyndale, Standard, Barbour, Concordia, Augsburg, Scholastic, Reader's Digest, and Sleeping Bear Press. She writes a column for children's writers in The Writer's online magazine, the Institute of Children's Literature's e-news, and the Christian Communicator. Her feature fiction stories and nonfiction articles appear frequently in Focus on the Family's *Clubhouse* and *Clubhouse Jr.* magazines.

Nancy is the founder and leader of the newly formed writers' group CHAIRS: The Christian Authors, Illustrators, and Readers Society. She is the author of *Anyone Can Get Published--You Can, Too! A Practical Strategy for the Christian Who Writes* as well as the book *Yes! You Can Learn How to Write Children's Books, Get Them Published, and Build a Successful Writing Career*, Award-winning Finalist of National Best Books 2009. Visit her website and blog at [www.nancyisanders.com](http://www.nancyisanders.com).

**Nancy Sanders' Workshops:**

- **How to Build a Successful Career** as a Children's Writer.
- **Developing Characters, Plot, and Dialogue** with Kid Appeal From Picture Books to Young Adult Novels.