
2011 EDITORIAL GUIDELINES FOR 15-MINUTE CONSULTATIONS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

As a paid attendee of the conference, you are eligible to sign up for at least two individual 15-minute consultation appointments.

No one is required to schedule a consultation, but if you are an **experienced writer** or a **beginner/unpublished author**, this can be one of the most beneficial aspects of attending the conference.

EXPERIENCED WRITERS

If you have a completed novel, a book proposal or an article, a 15- minute individual consult with a literary agent or editor can assist you on your journey to publication. When deciding which professional you should speak to, it's important to keep in mind that when publishers and agents are considering manuscripts for publication, they all have guidelines they use to fill their editorial needs. Before you pitch your project, carefully consider the guidelines listed below, which have been provided by the speakers.

If you have a completed manuscript, book proposal or article that meets their editorial needs, we ask you to only book an appointment with book editors or literary agents because appointments with these professionals are limited and in demand.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHO I SHOULD SPEAK TO?

First, it's important to remember that you are not required to schedule a consult at all. Simply attending the workshops and networking with other writers can be sufficiently inspiring and instructive to get you moving forward in meeting your writing goals. But **if you have a manuscript prepared** that you want to present to an editor or agent, here are some ideas.

1. Study the guidelines below.
2. Read the information they've provided, which are posted on our [Faculty Bios & Consults](#) webpage.
3. Visit the speakers' websites (listed with their bios) to gather information about other authors they publish or represent.
4. All faculty members will host a lunch table. Consider sitting with one of them to discuss your ideas.

BEGINNERS AND UNPUBLISHED WRITERS

If you are a beginner or an unpublished writer who is still formulating ideas and projects, we are glad you've decided to attend the conference. We have assembled a staff of caring and experienced writers and freelance editors who can assist you with helpful and savvy advice about the craft and business of writing. These experts will move you toward putting together a professional manuscript.

Trust us....at this stage of your writing career, It would not be the best use of your time to speak to a book editor or literary agent.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHO I SHOULD SPEAK TO?

1. Read the brief bios of the faculty listed in this document under [Freelance Editors and Writers](#).
2. Determine who specializes in the type of writing idea or project you have in mind.
3. Visit their websites, which are posted on our [Faculty Bios & Consults](#) webpage.
4. All faculty members will host a lunch table. Consider sitting with one of them to discuss your ideas.

NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT I NEED TO KNOW, HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR CONSULTATIONS?

- Priority numbers are assigned based on date of enrollment in the conference. The earlier you sign up and pay, the lower priority number you will receive.
- Sign-ups take place Saturday morning of the conference beginning at 7:45 and will be prioritized by sign-up number. THE EARLIER YOU REGISTER, THE LOWER NUMBER YOU WILL RECEIVE! You'll find your number on the nametag given out at the registration desk.
- Consultations are 15 minutes each.
- Be aware that your consultation time may conflict with ongoing general session presentations or workshops.
- It is your responsibility to be at your consultation on-time and prepared.
- Not everyone attending the conference will want to meet with an editor or agent. That's fine. Please do not feel pressured to sign up for a consultation.
- **NOTE:** Since consultation sign-ups begin at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, if you're not there at that time, you will miss your opportunity to sign up.

WHAT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES DO I HAVE TO GET FEEDBACK ON MY MANUSCRIPT?

This year, we are beginning a paid critique service. For more information on how this works, check out the **PAID CRITIQUES** section on our website.

Book Editors

ALICE CRIDER—ASSOCIATE EDITOR, WATERBROOK PRESS

Alice is interested in seeing projects under **women’s non-fiction** that include:

- Inspirational story
- Memoir
- Relationship
- Devotional
- Parenting
- Marriage

Her favorites include faith-in-action messages that deliver authentic experience and inspiration, along with practical applications that enhance relationships and break through to life change. She’ll also consider nonfiction manuscripts for women on spiritual growth, personal growth, and/or relationships. She is not looking for fiction or “mom” books right now.

ROD MORRIS—SENIOR EDITOR, HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

Harvest House is most interested in:

- Historical fiction
- Nonfiction that addresses a felt need in a large number of readers. We are the number one evangelical publisher in the rack market, so we depend on books that are clearly focused on these felt needs.
- Nonfiction by authors with a platform from which to promote their books. A platform includes radio, TV, blogs, seminars, workshops, or other speaking engagements where the author is likely to speak to at least a few thousand people a year.

We will look at the following:

- Women’s contemporary fiction
- Marriage and family
- Christian living and spiritual growth
- Health and fitness
- Popular theology and apologetics
- Cults and comparative religions

We are not looking for:

- Children’s books (including teen books)
- Gift books
- Personal testimony books
- Biography/autobiography
- Biblical fiction
- Spiritual warfare fiction
- End-times fiction

SUSAN KING—ASSISTANT EDITOR AT UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Upper Room magazine is the world's largest daily devotional guide. Our purpose is to encourage Christians in their personal lives of prayer and discipleship. We seek to build on what unites us as believers and to link believers together in prayer around the world.

Needs: In *The Upper Room* magazine, we publish only daily devotionals/meditations.

Each day's meditation is freelance-written.

Each day's meditation includes a title, a suggested Bible reading, a scripture text, a personal witness or reflection on scripture, a prayer, a "thought for the day" (a pithy, summarizing statement that readers can remember and reflect on throughout the day) or Link2Life (a suggestion of a way to connect the spiritual insight in the devotion with the reader's life in the world—such as working in a homeless shelter or making a list of one's most-appreciated blessings), and a prayer focus (a suggested subject for prayer during the day--usually tied to the content of the story). The meditation should be about 250 words (including all of these elements). Give references for any scripture passages mentioned in the text (including what version of the Bible is used).

The Upper Room also publishes the following magazines:

Alive Now (for small groups)

Pockets (children's)

Weavings

DevoZine (youth)

Complete writer's guidelines for these magazines are available at upperroom.org

Literary Agents

JENNI BURKE—LITERARY AGENT, D.C. JACOBSON & ASSOCIATES

As a literary agent she is most open to representing authors who write:

- **Fiction**—open to an array of fiction genres if the writing quality is excellent
 - Especially interested in Christian fiction for women and YA
 - No chick lit, children's or sci-fi

- **Nonfiction**—open to an array of nonfiction categories;
 - Author should have an established platform and/or special expertise
 - Particularly interested in topics for the 18-35 demographic, YA, Christian living, and felt-need based subjects.

LAUREN YOHO—LITERARY AGENT, D.C. JACOBSON & ASSOCIATES

Lauren Yoho is a literary agent and consultant with DC Jacobson and Associates. She specializes in young adult and children's books. Lauren also represents authors who write for 18-35 year-olds with a fresh perspective.

CAROL JOHNSON —J & J LITERARY ADVISORS

J & J Literary Advisors are interested in any genre of adult fiction with a Christian worldview.

Freelance Editors and Writers

Nancy Sanders will look at manuscripts and stories for children and make recommendations for appropriate markets. She is the bestselling and award-winning children's author of over 80 books, published with such houses as Concordia, Tyndale, Standard, Barbour, Scholastic, and Chicago Review Press. She is the author of the groundbreaking book, *Yes! You Can Learn How to Write Children's Books, Get Them Published, and Build a Successful Writing Career*. www.nancyisanders.com

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, including *Wounded by Words*, co-authored by Jeenie Gordon and Karen Kosman. Her latest book, *Too Soon to Say Goodbye*, was released January, 2010, by New Hope Publishers. Susan is a member of the CLASeminars staff and is also a CLASS speaker. As an author, Susan represents New Hope Publishers.

Jeff Gerke is a book doctor and freelance editor working primarily with novelists. 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. 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.

Marilyn White specializes in magazine articles and column writing. She will be glad to discuss with you your ideas for articles and column writing.

Kathi "Easy Writer" Macias represents [Author Solutions](http://AuthorSolutions.com), a company that offers many options for self-publishing. She is a multi-award winning writer who has authored over 30 books, including *Valeria's Cross* and the popular Extreme Devotion series. She will be glad to discuss book proposal ideas and writing projects for books or articles.

B.J. Taylor has been published numerous times in *Guideposts* and *Angels on Earth*, more than twenty-three *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, and in many other anthologies and magazines. She enjoys talking with writers about their inspirational article and memoir projects.

Mary Demuth is an author, speaker, and book mentor who helps folks turn trials to triumphs. She can advise writers on fiction and memoir projects. Mary helps writers reach their maximum potential through mentoring and teaching. Find out more at [Mary's website](#).

Mick Silva is a fiction and nonfiction editor with over 10 years experience shaping books for cross-market appeal. He spent 5 years as acquisitions and developmental editor for WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group and 5 years writing and editing for Focus on the Family. He is currently hard at work building an online community at YourWritersGroup.com, dedicated to helping develop progressive freelance authors for the new publishing frontier. He tirelessly works to promote the vast opportunities that exist for Christian writers beyond traditional publishing.

John Fox's fiction has appeared in *Third Coast*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Pedestal Magazine* and *Adirondack Review*. He won the *Third Coast* Fiction Contest, *Poets & Writers* named him a finalist in their California Writers Exchange Award, and *Relief: A Christian Literary Expression* awarded him the Editor's Choice for Fiction. He has earned graduate degrees in creative writing from USC and NYU. At *BookFox*, a literary blog, his discussions of short stories, novels, and literary news have gained him accolades from *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Utne Reader*, *Writer's Digest*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *Huffington Post*. In addition to blogging, he's written about books for the *Los Angeles Times*, *US Airways Magazine*, and *PBS online*. He will be glad to speak to writers interested in building an online presence through blogging, and successful short story writing.

Merrie Destefano left a 9-to-5 desk job as a magazine editor to become a full-time novelist and freelance editor. Her first novel, *Afterlife: The Resurrection Chronicles*, is an urban fantasy published by HarperCollins/Eos in 2010, and her second novel, *Feast: Harvest of Dreams* comes out in July 2011. Her twenty years' experience in publishing includes a stint as editor of *Victorian Homes* magazine and a role as founding editor of *Cottages & Bungalows* magazine. She will be glad to speak to any writer interested in speculative fiction, article writing, or writing in general.

Simon Tolkien is an accomplished mystery writer and would enjoy speaking to anyone interested in novel writing.

John David Ware is founder and President of 168 Film Project, a Christian non-profit dedicated to training and inspiring Christian filmmakers. He will be teaching authors to how to pitch their work to Hollywood producers.

Kathy Ide is a freelance editor and writer who has helped many authors polish their work before seeking publication. She can help you with just about any manuscript or writing issue.