

YES !!

Answering the Call to  
a Writing Ministry

St. Davids Christian Writers'  
Conference June 20, 2012  
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# The Call

- Discussion questions:
  - When did you know you were called as a writer?
  - What do you believe you were called to write?
  - Who is God calling you to evangelize through your writing?

*“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,’ says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 30:2, NIV)*

# Types of Writing

- Christian/Inspirational
- Secular

Quick rule of thumb: If Christ's presence in someone's life isn't readily apparent in a work, it's generally secular. This doesn't mean it's anti-Christian. Many Christians excel in the general market.

# Non-Fiction

- Non-fiction writing uses your own experience or research
  - How-to
  - Informative/educational
  - Personal experience/memoir
  - Persuasive/apologetics
  - Blog entries
  - Devotionals
  - Newspaper and magazine articles

# Fiction

- Fiction allows you to use your imagination
  - Short stories/flash fiction
  - Novellas
  - Novels (mainstream, science fiction, romance, action adventure, mystery, horror, etc.)

# Other Types of Writing

- Children's (can be divided into fiction, nonfiction)
- Screenwriting
- Poetry (form and free verse)
- Humor (fiction or nonfiction)

# The Critical Elements of Storytelling

- All writing aimed at an external audience—of one or many--tells a story
- All writing aimed at an external audience seeks to entertain, educate, or inspire. Good writing almost always has at least two of those elements; great writing may have all three
- All writing aimed at an external audience has a beginning, middle, and end... and a takeaway, a lesson or purpose
- Four most important words in storytelling: Something happens, somebody changes

# What Makes Up a Story?

- A protagonist, someone with a problem or flaw we are interested enough to keep reading about (often, someone we like)
- A plot, a series of conflicts the hero or heroine encounters as he or she attempts to get something, tangible or intangible, that he or she wants but doesn't have
- An antagonist, a person or internal or external element that is keeping the hero or heroine from getting what he or she wants
- A theme, a one-sentence description of what we're supposed to take away
- A setting, internal or external
- A logical, satisfying ending (often driven by the genre; doesn't always have to be happy)

# How to Get Started

- Set a routine that's going to work for you (one hour a day, two devotions a week, a novel in a month)
- Read in your genre—in addition to the classics, works published in the past three years from authors like you
- Find a critique group, real-world or virtual
- Do something every day—read an article, write, do research, revise—that is writing related

# Resources

- *The Writer* magazine ([www.writermag.com](http://www.writermag.com))
- *Writer's Digest* magazine ([www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com))
- American Christian Writers (including *Christian Communicator* and *Advanced Christian Writer* magazines)
- *Poets and Writers* magazine ([www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org))
- St. Davids Christian Writers Association ([www.stdavidswriters.com](http://www.stdavidswriters.com), Facebook, and Twitter)