

Continuing Sessions

Launch Your Writing Ministry



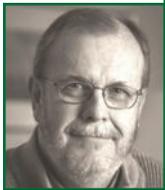
Donna L.H. Smith

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A Kansas prairie girl transplanted to Lancaster County, Donna is a graduate of the Christian Writer's Guild Craftsman program and holds two college degrees in mass communications. Her writing experience over the past 40+ years includes everything from radio journalism to newspaper and magazine articles, scriptwriting, novels, and more. Recently, Donna took on the role of Managing Editor of *Almost an Author*, listed in *The Write Life* and *Writer's Digest* 101 Best Websites for Writers. <http://donnalhsmith.com>

So, you wanna be a writer, but you don't know where to start. You have an interest, and maybe someone's told you that you have a way with words. We'll cover the basics of writing articles, personal experience essays, devotionals, blog posts, short stories, plus the fundamentals of self-editing. Come prepared to write a short personal experience story, devotional, or blog post—writing you can use to submit for publication.

The Successful Author of Nonfiction



Dan Balow

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Dan has been around authors of nonfiction and has marketed, sold, published, and represented their books over the last three decades. He joined The Steve Laube Agency in July 2013 and works with authors of nonfiction exclusively. Dan knows what it takes to be successful in the current publishing environment and how all the pieces of the publishing "puzzle" fit together.

Sitting down and writing a book is not the first thing you should do. The successful nonfiction author will start in a different place. Time is a precious thing. If you skip steps along the way in an effort to get your book written and published and ignore those things that give the book a purpose and platform, you are probably wasting your time. Dan will present practical steps to developing your platform, your personal ministry, and your relationship with your readers—all the things that make for a successful author of nonfiction, except for the writing. www.stevelaube.com/author/dan

Brave New World of Indie Publishing



Dan Walsh

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Dan is the bestselling author of 20 novels including *The Unfinished Gift*, *The Reunion*, and *When Night Comes*. He has won 3 Carol Awards (finalist 6 times), 4 Selah Awards, and 4 of his books have been finalists for RT Review's Inspirational Book of the Year. Dan writes fulltime in the Daytona Beach area. He and his wife, Cindi, have been married 42 years. They have 2 married children and 4 grandchildren (more coming someday). www.danwalshbooks.com

Five or six years ago, almost no one considered indie or self-publishing as a worthwhile path to pursue. Now all of that has changed. After successfully publishing 13 novels the traditional way, in 2015 Dan joined a large number of fellow authors who were all starting to publish their books on their own as indies. He's now done 5 and absolutely loves it. Dan will cover the ins-and-outs of the publishing world (traditional, hybrid, and indie) and explain how to succeed at indie publishing if that path is the right one for you.

As the daughter of missionary parents, award-winning author and journalist Jeanette Windle grew up in the rural villages, jungles, and mountains of Colombia, now guerrilla hot zones. Currently based in Lancaster, PA, Jeanette has lived in 6 countries and traveled in more than 30 on 5 continents. Those experiences have birthed 16 international intrigue novels. She is also the author of nonfiction books including *All Saints*, a Sony Affirm movie.

A step-by-step guide to an eye-grabbing proposal: You've written a great novel or nonfiction book, but the rejections keep coming. Maybe your book manuscript isn't the problem but your book proposal is. After all, it is the first thing an editor reads! Jeanette will walk you through the steps of writing an editor-grabbing hook, bio, query, and synopsis, along with other book proposal elements, sending you home with an effective template for your current book proposal and all others to follow. www.jeanettestwindle.com

Hook that Editor!



Jeanette Windle

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