

PAGEANT WAGON PUBLISHING PRESENTS

GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN WRITERS RETREAT WORKSHOP 2023:

Pioneers with Pens

AT RESTORATION FAMILY FARM

"We have become His poetry, a re-created 'Pioneer' People that will fulfill the destiny He has given each of us." Ephesians 2:10 TPT

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshop Sessions kick off each morning after devotions and each afternoon following our wagon trail luncheon. They are held in the main room for all attendees. A total of four Workshop Sessions address the key instructional focus of the retreat/workshop: to ENVISION your life as a writer, DEVELOP achievable manuscript goals, WORK with writing craft excellence, and a Bonus Session on how to confidently state your personal MISSION as a writer.

FridayAM Session 1: *Pioneers with Pens—Mapping the Way*

Instructor: Kathryn Ross and the Good News Christian Writers Retreat Staff

The initial Friday morning session lays a critical foundation for our 2-day retreat/workshop. Miss Kathy explores the pioneer spirit of a writer to commit to a writing life vision, set achievable goals, and employ craft excellence to fulfill God's call as a skillful storyteller—telling His Story through their story. VISION is the key word in this first instructional session which features the Good News Christian Writers sharing their personal vision boards as examples. They detail, in words and images, the vision and goals for their writing life, ministry, and publication. A short tour of the Vision Board Workshop Center in the back of the room introduces attendees to the tools and physical materials available to begin work on their own vision board during the four Breakout Group Sessions. We encourage you to collect and cut out words and images throughout the two-day retreat in anticipation for Saturday afternoon's Show & Tell Vision Commitment at the close of the retreat. *Note: Only those who want to will be invited to share as time permits.*

FridayPM Session 2: *Pioneer Checklist—Nuts and Bolts of Goal Setting*

Instructor: Tabatha Scheffler

Who better to instruct a session on goal setting than Tabatha, who juggles a host of demands and finds creative ways to make things happen. A writer can't just have a great vision full of ideas and good intentions. They need to pack their wagon with the tools necessary to turn their writing and publishing dreams into reality. Learn practical ways to map your vision and set achievable goals through time management, organization, and more, so you can move forward in every phase of the writing, editing, publishing, and marketing process.

SaturdayAM Session 3: *Grammar Pitfalls on the Way—Writing Tech and Craft Excellence*

Instructor: Kathryn Ross

When you've hit the writing trail, you need to keep your wagon maintained on the journey so as not to get your manuscript stuck in a pothole of sloppy, muddy work. Learn self-editing secrets to strengthen the correct use of language and grammar. Miss Kathy shows you how to navigate through difficult passages, avoid cluttered, rocky roads, and keep clear of rabbit trails so your story stays on a quality course for its publication destination.

SaturdayPM Session 4: *State Your Mission!*

Instructor: Linda Slomin

Learn how to distill into a single statement the vision and goals you've set for your writing. Answer the Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why of your mission—whether it's for a project or ministry. Incorporate your Mission Statement into your Vision Board and get ready for Show & Tell.

SaturdayPM Closing: *Show & Tell Mission Statement and Commitment*

Instructor: Kathryn Ross and the Good News Christian Writers Retreat Staff

Closing out the day on Saturday, our *Pioneers with Pens* gather in the main room. You may volunteer to share your Mission Statement and Vision Board in the Show & Tell finale. Miss Kathy will wrap things up with a commission for all to seek new Wagon Train ways to stay connected and accountable on your writing journey for the words God has entrusted you to write. Prayer ministry follows as you are launched into your calling. Please don't forget to drop off your Evaluation Form of the retreat and Restoration Family Farm.

GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN WRITERS RETREAT WORKSHOPS MISSION STATEMENT:

Under the umbrella of Pageant Wagon Publishing, Christian writers in Southern New Jersey gather in a retreat atmosphere to secure vision, hone skills, and critique manuscripts for publication.

Learn to tell His Story through your story and bring Good News to the mountains of social and cultural influence.

Kathryn Ross, Director

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BREAKOUT GROUPS

Breakout Groups meet after each morning and afternoon instructional session. Participate in one or more groups each time they meet OR choose to enjoy some of the retreat features of Restoration Family Farm such as a visit with the animals, a few moments alone to pray and process your thoughts, or a stroll of the grounds in reflection. Each group is overseen by a Group Mentor who will teach or guide discussion according to the group topic. The groups meet in varied spots according to the MAP in your WELCOME FOLDER.

Breakout Group 1: *Manuscript Critique and Discussion*

Group Mentor: Kathryn Ross—Main Room Head Table

Author, editor, and independent publisher Kathryn Ross will be available for manuscript critiques in a small group setting. Learning from each other's work, you'll gain clearer direction for how to polish your work or redraft with confidence and inspiration. Bring a minimum of 5 short manuscript copies to share with the group and experience the sharpening power of manuscript critique and discussion.

Breakout Group 2: *Vision Board Crafting Center*

Group Mentor: Stacy Lee Flury—Main Room/back of room Workstation

Stacy's keen eye for art and design makes her a prime mentor to help you pull together your vision board ideas using a variety of materials including magazines, canvases, decorative craft paper, glue sticks, scissors, art pens, and more. If you have any special Scriptures or pictures from home that you want to add, bring them with you on Saturday or add them to your board after the retreat. Vision Boards do not have to be completed by the end of the retreat, but you can get a good start. Consider being a volunteer in the closing session to share what you have started on your Vision Board with everyone.

Breakout Group 3: *Show, Don't Tell—HOW to Narrate Your Epic Pioneer Story*

Group Mentor: Trish Weldon—Mid-Room Side A

Author Trish Weldon shares before and after examples from her recent book to illustrate the power of **SHOWING** your story in a "you are there" fashion—instead of just **TELLING** it. This is a critical skill to master to produce compelling, readable, relatable, and sticky stories. Learn how to craft a scene and use strong verbs to make your writing pop! You'll have an opportunity to brainstorm an on-the-spot edit of a paragraph and transform it from one that just *tells* a story into a memorable *show* of a story.

Breakout Group 4: *Writing for Children*

Group Mentor: Linda Slomin--Playroom

Linda's first picture book for children started out as a puppet show. When she joined a critique group, she got quite an education on how to take her idea that worked great in a puppet performance and turn it into a children's book to captivate young readers. Bring your children's book ideas and brainstorm as a group how you might make it a reality with the dynamics necessary in writing for children.

Breakout Group 5: *Devotional Writing*

Group Mentor: Christine Strittmatter—Conference Room

Christine's background in biblical counseling and Bible study is the firm foundation upon which she has built her *Real Life Mom* devotional book series with two volumes already published. Christine can help you take your devotional thoughts and the fruit of your study time in the Lord and make them ministry tools to touch hearts. Information about varied publishing venues other than book publication will be available as well.

Breakout Group 6: *The Publishing Industry—What You Need to Know*

Group Mentor: Tabatha Scheffler—Mid-Room Side B

Tabatha's experience as support staff for the Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference for over ten years has brought her into the company of nationally successful authors and influential editors and publishers in the Christian and secular writing markets. She will help you determine the best routes to publication for your idea or manuscript and tool you with key tips to understanding market demands and dynamics.

SPECIAL BONUS Breakout Group 7: *Plein-air Art Sketching and Painting*

Group Mentor: Dawn Kohansky—Parking Lot Foyer

Award-winning Cumberland County artist, Dawn Kohansky will join us as our Special Guest Artist in Residence for the weekend at Restoration Family Farm. She'll be available during the Break-out Sessions for you to drop by the easels and try your hand at painting and sketching to stir the embers of inspiration through art. No skill necessary--just a desire to take a creative journey for a few minutes capturing landscape art in line and color. Learn more about Dawn Kohansky on our Faculty Bios page!

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