



“Sending out a Christian Wave upon a Secular Sea”



Welcome to 2010!

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JANUARY CALENDAR

**January writing prompts:
Winter and New Beginnings**

- January 4** NO MEETING
- January 9** 9 a.m. Leadership Meeting
- January 15** Writers Deadline
- January 18** 7 p.m. Regular Meeting for all CAG members.

PLEASE JOIN US

Click this link to [Get directions](#) to our meeting location:

Prayer and Praise Christian Fellowship
6409 Bells Ferry Road
Woodstock, Georgia 30189

The Greatest Show on Earth By Susan Schulz, CAG President

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True” (Revelation 19:11). Wide-eyed, my heart started beating a little faster. I sat up taller in my chair, waiting to experience what Larry King raved, “The greatest show I have ever seen!” When the verse from Revelation flashed across the stage curtain during the opening, I knew *Cavalía* would be a feast for the senses like no other.

Seen by over 2.5 million people worldwide, *Cavalía* is a tribute to both the horse and its accomplishments, and a celebration of the relationship that we have enjoyed together. This multimedia extravaganza features more than 100 two- and four-legged artists, including beautiful horses of 12 breeds, riders, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, and live musicians. This combination sets a majestic mood in the largest touring white big top in the world. Headquartered in Montreal, Quebec (Canada), *Cavalía* is the brainchild of the creator of Cirque de Soleil, Normand Latourelle, who has become renowned for producing popular events throughout the world.

As a special Christmas gift from my husband, he sent my horse daughter and me downtown for this special event. After a rough year of dealing with the loss of another parent and a dependent alcoholic brother, I desperately needed an escape into the dreamy world *Cavalía* creates.

Seeing the white *Cavalía* horse on billboards all over town, then seeing Revelation 19:11 at the opening of the show, reminded me of my “blessed hope” (Titus 2:11-13). While the horses gallop and cavort and, at times, run free completely unbridled, the show gave me a picture of what it will be like when Jesus gives us white horses to ride with him in his heavenly armies. As I wait for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am revved up thinking about riding my white horse. As the prima horse trainer demonstrated in the show, I imagine the white horses God will give us will not

need bridles because they will obey every command and respond to even the smallest hand movements.

The show inspired me to write in a way that will woo my readers into desiring our magnificent King Jesus. I pray my passion of looking forward to this wonderful day comes through clearly in my writing and spreads like wildfire. I want every one of my readers to join the armies of heaven and live triumphantly. Is this not why Christian writers exist?

I am thrilled to be your CAG President in 2010. I hope you will join me in attending meetings and critique groups all year long and continue to write about how to experience the ultimate “greatest show on earth”—to forever be a child of the Faithful and True King of the Universe. Happy New Year!



Braving the Hazards of Winter

By Cynthia L. Simmons, Vice-President

Another frigid gust of air blasted us. A shiver gripped my abdomen and spread to my chest and arms. I imagined icicles hanging from my eyelashes. The damp cold penetrated my flimsy sweater like an icy serpent. How I longed to be sitting by the fireplace wrapped in my wool throw with a cup of tea at my elbow. Instead, with three of my children I trudged down a maze of rain-drenched London streets searching for our hotel. On occasion, my son would stop, scowl, pull out a tiny map, and study the streets. As I waited, the biting wind whipped our too-thin garments, and I gritted my teeth. All my thoughts focused on the heavy coat and gloves I left at home. My English friend reported summer-like conditions when I packed. Before I arrived, however, the weather changed. Instead of warm, sunny weather, we faced ice-cold rain and arctic temperatures.

At times, heartache can feel as hostile as a blizzard. In fact, right now it is winter in my soul. Yesterday I walked through the house where I grew up. A chill crept over me as I savored every familiar picture. The furnishings, the carpet, the dishes, everything brought back memories. My deceased mother chose and purchased each one. Soon, however, the house will be empty. Dad's health is failing, and he needs to move. I know I'm losing something precious. It is as uncomfortable as the icy rain I experienced in England.

What do I do in moments like this? Where can I find warmth? During my last visit to London, I found a small shop with great prices on wool clothing. I bought a heavy, knee-length wool sweater for a fraction of the price I would have paid in the states. Wrapped in that beautiful sweater, I felt more comfortable while braving the bone-chilling winds.

So what is the cure for the winter-battered soul? Like Habakkuk and Hannah, I am sitting at the feet of my Savior. I savor those moments when I can express the sorrow and unload the ache. He is the maker of my soul. His love can rekindle the furnace and restore the warmth. And, pouring over his word is like draping that heavy wool sweater over my shoulders. Yes, I ache inside, and cringe as the chill wind assaults my soul. But even as the sadness permeates and lingers, I know I have hope. I am protected by his promises and his love, even in the fiercest winter storm.



Good Things of Winter

By Marcus Beavers, Membership Director

One favorite hymn begins; “See, amid the winter's snow / Born for us on earth below / See the tender Lamb appears / Promised from eternal years.” This Christmas song reminds us that Christ, the Eternal Son, has come in time and space history to do his work of eternal salvation (according to the Scriptures) and that it is completed. In spite of the cold winter winds of life, that redemptive work stands sure before God and applies to all who believe Him.

Thankfully, my family and I enjoy a rural winter setting. Our thick woods have tall leafless trees, plus needled pines, mountain cedars, and green magnolias. Outside my window, fog rests in the woods and has been there all morning. Our small acreage is near a ridge that runs between Canton and Cumming, Georgia, a distance of 20 miles.

Cold easterly winds, in times past, raced along this ridge, and we suffered almost yearly ice storms. One time our electricity was off for a week. Our pines were so coated with ice that the heavy tops and limbs broke off. The roads were thickly covered with ice.

Due to the storm, work and schools shut down. My son, Sean, and I observed this “winter wonderland” of sparkling ice on the lake behind my dad's house. On this 12-acre lake, we saw large patches of floating ice firm at the shoreline. We gingerly walked on ice. We enjoyed the fearsome beauty. “Who can stand before the Lord's cold?” the Scripture asks. God's Word also says the world's abnormality is not His doing.

One winter, a big snow came, and a lively battle erupted near my dad's red barn. My sister's four children feared our dog, so I held her close on a tight leash while I made snowballs. Black Fox, a beautiful female German shepherd who loved ball-

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chasing, leaped high in the air to catch every snowy missile that came whizzing by. She looked pleased after each catch, as her sharp teeth clamped down on another "exploding" mouthful of mushy snowball. She never missed!

Another pleasure of winter is skiing. Trips to the Canadian Rockies are the most memorable. From the town of Banff to Lake Louise in Alberta Province, Canada, there are unusual snow-capped mountains with majestic symmetry and awesome beauty. One is Mount Rundle, with its sharp-slanted peaks, very smooth at the top, as though sawed off. Awesome!

Every skier is careful not to say a discouraging word. It is wonderful to be so high, to enjoy glorious mountains, and to inhale the clean, cold air. On high, lonely trails, I stop and enjoy the silence, and admire the view. Only an occasional birdcall is heard. At Lake Louise ski area, we skied down half a huge mountain at night. One skier led, while skiing backwards, with lighted flares at the ends of a pole. All made it down safely.

Winter speaks powerfully about God's artwork. We wait for that great day promised when God's Creation will again be restored. Wow!



Winter Ventures By Pam I. Barnes, Publicist

When the cold winds of winter deliver their startling chills, it is once again time to embrace the season simply for what it is – cold! But what does winter really mean to us? Is it just a bitter and cold season until we can make it to the next spring season of butterflies and blooming flowers?

Bundling up and finding creative ways to stay warm will once again top our lists for keeping comfortable. We indeed handle winter differently than the other three seasons of the year.

If the cloudy, grey skies deliver a white blanket of snow, winter reminds us of purity, rest, and even peace in this scenic view of our own daily world. Maybe this is exactly what God had in mind for us! The stark white setting sets our own places anew so we can see what we normally cannot see and appreciate the fresh perspective in the process.

Winter brings Christmas gatherings and holiday fun with friends and family. It also brings a time of reflection of years past and hope for the future. With these reflections, this time of year can

also reveal our deepest sadness for those of us who have lost loved ones.

With the cold weather, we realize needs often taken for granted during the warmer months, even if simply found in a warm coat or favorite scarf. We are further reminded of the harsh conditions the homeless encounter while trying to lay down on the cold ground. Are their circumstances different during the other nine months of the year?

Winter is a time to put away the past year as if pruning a shrub or tree. Pruning is a viable action and this action works toward making the plant stronger. Additionally, winter's birth of January brings a perfect time for new beginnings and a time for renewed hope. For some of us, it offers a chance to start over or to declare in resolution style that we will either start or stop doing something in order to make our lives better.

Seeking warmth goes deeper than our creature comforts. God's gifts of joy, love, and peace are reminders to us during the coldest season as we celebrate Christmas. Yet, winter is God's gift to each of us for pruning our past and planning a hopeful tomorrow.



An Underexposed Condition In America By Lynn B. Pugh, Special Projects

When I attended the Decatur Book Festival, I visited a CAG member's booth, Zarle Williams. She had prayed for a good location and God provided her with an awesome one! This annual event draws writers, publishers, and friends of library and literacy programs.

A highlight for me was running into some old friends and meeting some interesting volunteers from the Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta (LVA). Upon talking with them about the underexposed problem of illiteracy, I was deeply impacted. God bless them for the wonderful work they are doing.

Adult illiteracy affects all members of society and has a negative impact on our collective health, education, and economic vibrancy. To learn more about how illiteracy affects our nation and us, [view our fact sheet](#). Read the following excerpt from their brochure.

Michael's mother couldn't read or write. He completed high school through the 11th grade, but when he

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left, he couldn't even read on a first grade level. How could he make it that far? "I sat in the back of the class and didn't cause trouble ... I guessed at multiple choice tests, and they just passed me on."

Today at age 35, Michael works two jobs as a janitor to support his family. Before his LVA tutor taught him how to read his credit card statement and write a check, Michael was charged 13 dollars every time he spoke to a "live person" to make a payment. Now he spends 44 cents for a stamp.

Of course, Michael knew what happened on September 11, 2001—but he didn't know September is the ninth month, so he couldn't understand why everyone referred to the tragedy as 9/11. He didn't realize "Dr." is the abbreviation for both "Doctor" and "Drive."

He was determined enough to come to LVA and ask for a tutor. Michael is gaining confidence and setting his sights on a better paying job. Now he writes out birthday cards to his children, and for the first time ever, he's looking forward to the future.

Literacy tutoring is one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences you can have. When you help someone learn to read, or to speak and read English, you enable that individual to take advantage of a new world of opportunities. Simply put, *literacy changes lives*.

LVA provides volunteer tutors with the professional training and materials they need to teach basic literacy or English. You do not need teaching experience to volunteer with LVA. Tutors typically meet with their students for two hours per week. Make a difference. Be a literacy volunteer.

Contact: Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta
(404) 377-READ (7323)
devmgr@lvama.org



Read, read, read.
~ William Faulkner~

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.
~ W. Fusselman ~

A New Thing By Theresa Anderson, Wave Editor

Isaiah 43:19
See, I am doing a new thing!

January ushers in second chances, new changes, and fresh starts. I love January as much as I love slipping into fresh, clean sheets or writing on a blank sheet of paper. Changes make some people uncomfortable, but changes cause me to thrive. Others avoid new beginnings, but I welcome adventure.

As January approaches, I begin cleaning and organizing closets, drawers, and desks. As I set goals for the New Year, I seek God for his direction and plan. January is an opportunity to continue in what is already blessed, prune what lacks fruit, and begin new things. I take a fresh sweep through my life, scoop up the crumbs into a dustpan, and start the new year with a shiny, clean floor, so to speak.

On the other hand, challenges accompany change, and frustration or discouragement can be a new-beginning's shadow. Often, we notice someone who has excelled in a particular field and take for granted they have always been on top. Without witnessing their journey, perhaps we think they "arrived" at their specialty with ease.

For example, a drama school dismissed Lucille Ball for being too shy to put her best foot forward. Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. And, a teacher told Thomas Edison he was too stupid to learn anything. They finally achieved success through hard work, diligence, and practice. For these infamous people, as well as you and me, experience days of physical and emotional triumph and days of discouragement in our quest to excel.

What is your new endeavor? What new thing is God doing in your life? My new adventures this year include the role of WAVE Editor and a diet free of gluten, sugar, and yeast. In the eyes of society, I am not famous. However, we *are* famous in the eyes of Jesus, our Savior. He desires that we succeed and excel, with our eyes fixed on him, through hard work, practice, and perseverance. Embrace the second chances, new changes, and fresh starts God provides. He is doing a new thing!



Hone your skills:
Write, Rewrite, and Submit
and
Reject the feeling of rejection from a
rejection.

Poetic Prose



Silently, Secretly by Fred C. Billy

"He came unto His own but His own turned Him away, but to everyone who received Him, to those who believed on His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

John 1: 11-12

Silently, Secretly,
Jesus sought and found me.
Silently, Secretly,
He wrapped His love around me.
He came into my little world,
Four walls I call my life.
Silently, Secretly,
Jesus changed my life.

Leaving heaven's glory,
He came searching for you and me.
His lonely search led Him
All the way to Calvary.
There He shed His Blood
For sinners like you and me.
Silently, Secretly,
Jesus set us free.

He came into my little world
Four walls I call my life.
Silently, Secretly
Jesus changed my life.

He took my sin,
He bore my shame,
He gives me life,
In His dear name.
Silently, secretly,
Jesus changed my life.

His peace, love and joy!
Who can explain?
Free to all in Jesus' name.
Silently, Secretly
Jesus can change your life.

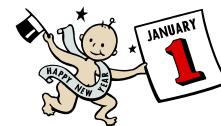
VOCABULARY GRAFTING for the HUMOROUS HORTICULTURIST by Susan M. Watkins



"NEW YEAR'S REZ O' LUSHEN"

An unrealistic expectation concocted at the beginning of the year by those unfortunate souls recently disappointed in Santa's failure to materialize over Christmas. Still undaunted and tangled in Christmas lights, they focus on a new personal fitness adventure requiring their own exaggerated participation; thus guaranteeing it will ultimately meet its own demise in less than thirty days. Surveying the resulting catastrophe, this now affords the immediate regrouping for Valentine's Day possibilities.

See: **"Delusional"** and **"L.A. Fatness"**



WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

*Please send information
like this to share each month*

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

FoxTale Book Shoppe - Woodstock, Ga

www.foxtalebookshoppe.com

770-516-9989

2010 Writing Seminars

“Don’t Wait for ‘Em to Die”

Memoir Workshop – Laretta Hannon

Sunday, January 10

“How To Tell The Greatest Story Never Told – Yours” All Genre Seminar with Laretta Hannon

Sunday, February 21

2010 Writing Classes

“The Right To Write” with Becky Kraegel

Eight-week class based on Julia Cameron’s book,
The Right to Write.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 12:00 pm

January 19 – March 9

“Escaping Into The Open” with Beth Hermes
Eight-week class based on Elizabeth Berg’s book,
Escaping Into the Open: The Art of Writing True.

Wednesdays, 6 – 7:30 pm

January 20 – March 10

Jerry B. Jenkins Christian Writers Guild

“Writing for the Soul” [Conference](#) in Denver

Feb. 18-21, 2010

call 866-495-5177

“Writing for Magazines” with Cheryl Wray

February 13 Northport, AL

Cheryl Wray is a workshop leader and full-time freelance writer. She has written six books and hundreds of articles and book reviews in a wide variety of magazines. She is a regular writer for the *Alabama Baptist* and other publications. *Writer’s Digest* chose her book *Writing for Magazines* (McGraw-Hill) as a special selection for its Book-of-the-Month Club. Along with its general popularity, it is widely used as a college textbook. She has taught beginning and advanced magazine-writing courses in the continuing education program at the

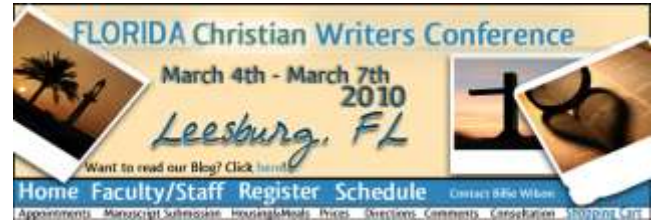
University of Alabama at Birmingham and at the University of Alabama. She has an M.A. degree in magazine journalism from the University of Alabama.

*These are Saturday Workshops 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lunch and refreshments provided.

Contact: 205-333-8603 **Joanne or David Sloan**

<http://web.mac.com/wmdsloan/iWeb/Breeze%20Hill>



Contact <http://www.flwriters.org/>

For a complete list of writing conferences for 2010, see Sally Stuart’s Market Guide website:

<http://www.stuartmarket.com/Conferences.html>



Getting to Know You

Coming Soon

How well do you know your fellow CAG members? Would you like to know their passions and pursuits? Do you wonder about their family members or their hobbies?

Well, stay tuned! Each month, we will get to know a randomly selected member. Your Wave editor will be in touch!

Editor's Tips

From Theresa Anderson, Wave Editor



Comma Confusion

If I were a comma, where would I be? Would I, be misplaced or worse omitted or overused, too, often? Properly placed commas allow us to communicate effectively. When misplaced, however, commas often confuse our readers.

To avoid comma confusion, follow these guidelines. Use a comma to:

1. Denote a series of three or more items in a sentence.

My fruit basket contained apples, oranges, and grapefruit.

2. Connect two independent clauses placing the comma before the conjunction.

Sarah had her braces removed, and she ate popcorn to celebrate.

3. Separate an introductory phrase.

Before the movie, Mike and I ate dinner.

4. Set off non-restrictive parenthetical elements that add information to the subject.

Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft, developed the operating system known as Windows.

5. Separate city and state, or city and country. Also, separate from the rest of the sentence.

Paris, France, is a romantic destination.
Savannah, Georgia, is an historic city.

6. Separate two or more adjectives.

The deep, cracking sound startled me.

7. Separate direct quotations.

When I arrived home, mom asked, "Are you hungry?"

8. Separate directly addressed persons.

I'm telling you, Sam, to drive my car.

This list is only a beginning, but will help you get started on the right track. When in doubt, refer to a reference such as Strunk's *Elements of Style*.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CAG WRITERS
ARE CONSISTENTLY SUCCESSFUL

We want to celebrate with you.
Please share news of
YOUR writing progress.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

BUILD YOUR PUBLISHING CREDITS
THROUGH CHRISTIAN AUTHORS GUILD

Write for our monthly **WAVE**.

Submissions DUE by the 15th of each month

All Full Members of CAG are eligible to submit up to two items of original work.
Genres are fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Please email submissions, inquires or comments to
Theresa Anderson:
mtjanderson@bellsouth.net



In honor of our nation's
Presidents, Valentine's Day,
and an occasional Leap Year:
Our **WRITERS PROMPTS**
for the
February Issue of the Wave:

**LEADERS,
LOVE,
and,
LEAPS**

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You can have a CAG email address that forwards to your own personal email address.

i.e. Oscar@christianauthorsguild.org

Your writing site can be linked to the CAG Web site.

Contact: **Mike Anderson, Webmaster**

mike@christianauthorsguild.org