

Write-to-Publish Conference: Your Key to Getting Published

by Lin Johnson, Director

OK, I'll admit it. I'm biased. When writers ask me what conference to attend, the Write-to-Publish Conference is at the top of my list—and not because I own and direct it.

It's not the only large Christian writers conference that has numerous editors and agents on faculty, although the percentage is higher than many others. It's not the only conference that offers continuing classes/tracks for in-depth instruction and a variety of elective workshops. It's not the only conference that offers one-on-one appointments with faculty members and manuscript evaluations.

But Write-to-Publish has a few differences that set it apart from other writers conferences.

Panels of Editors

Three panels of editors—magazines/newsletters/websites, specialty and independent publishing, and books—are scheduled as general sessions, so all conferees can hear what every editor and publisher is interested in. You don't have to choose between several panels running at the same time and missing out on valuable information and editors desperate for manuscripts.

Every year conferees say something like this: "I'm so glad I heard editor x say she's looking for columnists. I have an idea that fits her magazine." "Wow! I had no idea there are so many opportunities for getting published outside of books and magazines."

Critique Groups

If you want more help with your manuscripts, afternoon and evening genre critique groups offer opportunities for feedback from faculty facilitators and other conferees. Even if you don't have a manuscript to read, you'll learn how to improve your self-editing skills and conduct a critique group.

Professional Attitude

You may be writing as a hobby—and there's nothing wrong with doing so. But if you want to develop a part- or full-time career, you need to recognize that writing is a business. Write-to-Publish operates from that perspective and helps conferees develop a professional attitude. That attitude is noticeable to the editors and agents who attend, and every year they comment on it.

Spiritual Atmosphere

Write-to-Publish isn't all business though. General-session speakers remind us in a variety of ways that writing is a calling from God, and He expects us to write with excellence. Daily worship and morning devotions focus our attention on God and help us keep a biblical perspective in the midst of manuscript sales and rejections, victories and defeats.

A volunteer team prays specifically for the planning, for faculty members as they prepare and teach or speak, for conferees to find God's direction, and for God to work throughout the conference. Repeatedly, conferees have commented on how evident that prayer support is and how thankful they are for it.

Every year God shows up and does His thing, connecting writers with editors and agents, redirecting writers, and growing them spiritually. As Ruth Schmeckpeper wrote, “The conference was an amazing retreat for me both as a writer and spiritually.”

Alumni Support

Alumni, comprising 45-50 percent of conferees, keep returning because the faculty and classes vary each year and for all the characteristics I’ve mentioned.

So join us this year and discover what God wants to do with your writing—and with you.