

The Large Writers Conference: What and Why

Prepared for Heartprint Writers Group

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by

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My introduction to writers conferences

- Les Stobbe and *Wheels of Wisdom*
- <https://openroadpress.com/what-is-a-writers-conference/>

What is a large Christian writers conference?

- A multi-day, physical gathering of a disconnected community of writers and publishing industry professionals collaborating to advance the Kingdom.
- Several hundred people

Purposes

- Educate
- Fertilize
- Cross-pollinate
- Curate
- Market
- Network
- Relationship-building
- Access

Features

- Presentations from industry professionals
- Inspirational keynote addresses
- Informal, mostly random gatherings of like-minded people
- One-on-one appointments with industry insiders
- Contests and awards ceremonies

Sample Schedule (BRMCWC)

- <https://www.blueridgeconference.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BRMCWC-Conference-Class-Planner.pdf>
- <https://www.blueridgeconference.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BRMCWC-2022-Schedule-v.4-1.pdf>

Takeaways

- A renewed spirit, an overflowing mind, and a tired body
- Study materials and craft resources
- Better knowledge of craft and the industry
- Content interests of publishers
- Fresh ideas for future writing
- Direction for your writing
- Platform-building ideas
- Contacts you didn't have before
- Possibly even a business partnership

What to bring

- A well-rested mind and body—and walking shoes
- A desire to learn and grow
- An awareness of the classes and presenters—and your goals
- Book proposals
- Material for critique
- Books to sell if qualified beforehand
- Business cards
- Bookmarks

A copy of this slide show is at

- <https://timbishopwrites.com/>
- Navigate to articles
- Writers links found in the sidebar

Cost

- Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference (4 nights 5/29-6/2/22)
 - tuition, lodging, and meals: \$900
 - plus travel and meals to and from Asheville, NC
- American Christian Fiction Writers (3 nights 9/8-9/11/22)
 - tuition and meals: \$600 (before 5/31) plus \$75 membership fee
 - plus lodging (\$200/night)
 - plus travel and meals to and from St. Louis
- Mid-South Christian Writer Conference (one-day conference 3/18/23)
 - tuition and meals: \$100
 - plus travel and meals to and from Collierville (Memphis)
 - plus motel the night before
 - add \$50 for optional training workshops the afternoon before (3/17/23)

Virtual Conferences

- How do they work?
- Advantages
- Disadvantages