



## 2013 WRITERS' CONFERENCE

### MEET OUR SPEAKERS

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**LESLIE GOULD** is the award-winning author of fifteen novels, including the #1 bestseller and Christy Award winner *The Amish Midwife*, co-written with Mindy Starns Clark. Leslie's novel *Beyond the Blue* was the winner of the Romantic Times Book Club Magazine's Reviewer's Choice Award for Best Inspirational Novel in 2006. Her latest release, *Courting Cate* (inspired by *The Taming of the Shrew*), made the ECPA bestseller list for December 2012.

Leslie received her master of fine arts in creative writing from Portland State University in 2009 and has taught fiction as an adjunct professor at Multnomah University. She lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband and four children. [www.lesliegould.com](http://www.lesliegould.com).

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**SALLY STUART** has been writing for 45 years. She is the founder of the *Christian Writers' Market Guide*, and produced an annual edition of that essential writers' resource for 26 years. It has since been picked up by Jerry Jenkins and the Christian Writers Guild. She is the author of eleven additional books, including Christian education resource books, writing how-to, a western novel, and a children's picture book. Sally has been teaching and speaking at writers' conferences for the last 40 years, and still coordinates the Career Track at the Mount Hermon conference. Her latest project, a perpetual calendar of writing tips is due out soon. Sally was the keynote speaker at our first conference in 2007, and we are delighted to have her with us again this year.

[www.sallystuart.com](http://www.sallystuart.com)

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#### WORKSHOP SPEAKERS:

**TIMMY BOYLE** is a writer, speaker, radio host and one of the fastest rising stars in clean comedy. His greatest desire is to bring the gift of laughter to the masses, by providing an "upstanding" comedy experience, through live performance, video and writing that is both high in quality and clean in content.

Founder of *Up Standing Comedy*, Timmy has performed on multiple Canada-wide tours, appeared regularly on the reality TV show *Comedy Tournament*, and has written his way to multiple FaithWriters Writing Challenge Editors' Choice awards. He is currently establishing Canada's first clean comedy club circuit and can be heard as host of the radio show *Rise & Shine with Timmy & Anita* on UCB Canada.

Wrapped in a unique blend of casual storytelling and passionate commentary, Timmy's impeccable wit and laidback charm has brought laughter to audiences in the U.S. and Canada, as he shares his hilarious perspective of himself and the world around him.

Timmy has performed and led workshops at two previous Faithwriters Conferences and is thrilled to be back, in both capacities. His highly anticipated first book, *Inside Timmy's Mind*, will be released in 2013. <http://upstandingcomedy.ca>

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**LISA DeSPAIN** has worked in Christian publishing since 1998, working in various areas of the publishing house, including database administration, web maintenance, ebook conversion and account management, sales management, distribution center integration, and book design. After converting the publishing house's backlist titles to ebook formats and setting up accounts with the major ebook outlets, she started her own ebook conversion and typesetting company in January of 2011. Now she assists self-published authors and small publishers with the complexities of digital and print on demand publishing. DeSpain runs an international service business from her home office in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and employs four part-time coders to assist her in the business. [www.ebookconverting.com](http://www.ebookconverting.com)

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**TAMARA DEVER** is the owner and founder of TLC Graphics, a book design firm providing full service support to small publishers and their clients. Begun in 1997, the business has grown from design studio to a complete publishing development firm, winning numerous national and regional awards, including two ForeWord Magazine's Top Ten Book of the Year awards. When not running the business, Ms. Dever enjoys riding her horse, spending time with her family and dogs, and volunteering for church. She has a BFA in Graphic Communications from UW Oshkosh and began her career designing magazines and books for several publishing companies. [www.tlcgraphics.com](http://www.tlcgraphics.com)

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**RICK HIGGINSON**, a member of Faithwriters since 2006, has loved writing since his early teens, and wrote his first novel-length manuscript in 1987. He writes a regular monthly column for the online magazine, *Collector Times*, and has written for *Recumbent Cyclist News*. He now has fourteen novels written, most in various stages of the revision cycle. His first published novel, *Cardan's Pod*, was released in 2008 and has been well-received. Rick grew up and became a believer in a conservative Baptist church, and for a while belonged to a small Messianic Congregation. He has been married to Nancy since 1980, and they have two grown children. They live in Tucson, Arizona with a small pack of Australian Shepherds, a couple of cats, a conure, and two snakes. The Higginsons are members of Fellowship Bible Church in Tucson.

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**DAVID IAN** is an author whose writings have been performed for stage, video and radio as well as being published. He is a national award-winning playwright and his two-time winning "Shakespearean-esque" play *Esther, the Hebrew Queen* was sold out every evening it was performed. His Christian material has been performed all across the country and his space opera series *Burton Sound Byte* has been published in various magazines and performed for live audio

drama. He has conducted writing seminars for Christian groups, international writing conferences and has guest lectured for college and high school classes. David is the founder of *Unchained Productions* and when he's not writing or teaching about writing he is acting, directing, doing fight choreography as well as live sound effects for the stage, radio and film.

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**DEB PORTER** is from Sydney, Australia, and has been a long-time member of FaithWriters.com, joining at its inception in 2001 and working with FaithWriters since 2003. Her passion and enthusiasm for FaithWriters stems from her early realization of its enormous potential for encouraging, equipping, empowering and inspiring Christian writers – particularly those taking their very first steps into the public writing arena.

Deb is a published writer, editor, and popular public speaker, with a particular gift for communicating in a way that is both enjoyable and easy for readers and listeners to understand. She is a regular speaker at both FaithWriters' Conferences, US and Australia, and also writes and presents the *Cool Country Gospel Hour* on Western Sydney radio station, 2KA. As the Coordinator of the FaithWriters' Writing Challenge, Deb has helped shape this weekly contest into arguably the most popular aspect of FaithWriters.com. She is the editor of the FaithWriters' anthologies, and is now launching her new publishing business, *Breath of Fresh Air Press*, which is publishing the re-branded FaithWriters' books. Deb also owns *Finesse Writing and Editing Service*, which once again provides an opportunity to help writers become everything they were created to be. [www.finessewriting.com.au](http://www.finessewriting.com.au) and [www.breathoffreshairpress.com](http://www.breathoffreshairpress.com)

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**CORINNE SMELKER** is a 40-something Brit/South African (and now American) “mongrel” (her words, not ours). She is married to the love of her life, and is mother to five rambunctious, very individual kids.

Corinne writes for several magazines and papers in San Antonio, Austin and the Rio Grande Valley. She also writes web content for several Mexican corporations, and works with other Latin American companies to write content for their goods and services. She is the executive writer and editor for Christian Family Church International, a conglomeration of over 350 churches throughout the world, and helps to write and then edit all their books, Bible School manuals, and any other materials used by the churches.

In her spare time, Corinne owns and runs a surrogate agency, matching couples unable to carry their own baby/babies with women who are willing, able and ready!

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**AMY MICHELLE WILEY** is a lover of words and people. These interests led to her work as a freelance writer, editor, and formatter, and as a sign language interpreter. Amy has had over 70 short stories published, and has publishers interested in two of her in-progress novels. Her passion is showing people the love and grace of God through storytelling. She also loves to mentor new writers and help self-published authors through the process of publishing quality works. Amy is learning to live life joyfully and fully despite debilitating health issues. [www.sparrowsflight.com](http://www.sparrowsflight.com).

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