

Omega Writers sponsored... Mentorship program

Also sponsored by Wombat Books

The concept:

There are many Christian writers developing their skills alone. Let's face it, God doesn't want us to work alone! We're part of a body and we need each other's help. You may have a brilliant idea but unless it's in a format that can be marketed simply and effectively, then it just won't get picked up.

So here is an opportunity to get together with other writers and a mentor/tutor. Successful applicants will work on their own manuscripts in order to bring them to publishable standard. Ideally this event will be a tremendous opportunity to develop your manuscript and get it ready for final presentation to a publisher. (Two publishers are already behind this concept and will be looking forward to seeing manuscripts after the week! The sponsoring publishers do not guarantee to publish any manuscripts but do require first right of refusal to any manuscript in which they hold a financial interest.)

When and where:

After or before the Word Writers Fair each year for 5 days.

2010: 22 - 27 August (SA - 8 places available)

2010: 7 - 12 November (QLD - Noosa - 8 places available)

Who can apply?

Aspiring writers, emerging writers and established writers may all apply. Both children's and adult fiction will be considered for the first set of mentorships.

What you get:

Subsidised tuition, accommodation and food. Mentorship/editing and submission advice from a tutor, peer advice opportunities, prayer and praise times. Ongoing support can also be arranged, but ideally by the end of the week your finished draft will be turned into a publishable manuscript.

Free attendance at the Word Writers Fair (6 November 2010: www.thewordwriters.com)

All travel costs are the responsibility of the applicant.

What do I need to bring?

A complete manuscript – your tutor needs to be able to read this before they attend.

Your own laptop. (Please advise us if you are accepted into the programme and don't have one, there may be the facility for one or two people to be loaned a computer for the week).

Value: over \$2950

Un-sponsored Cost: \$1100

Sponsored Cost: \$550

How do I get a sponsorship?

- Omega Writers have a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for mentorship available.
- Some authors are sponsored directly by a publisher. (If you'd like to come and already have a publisher, talk to them about the opportunity and ask them to contact us for details.)
- If you do not have a publisher and your book is not yet ready for submission, this is the perfect opportunity to get it ready and find out where you should submit it!

Process:

Mentorships are only open to full members of Omega Writers Inc. As prayer is an integral part of the intensive, signed agreement to the Omega Writer's statement of faith is essential.

- 1) Send correctly formatted *original, unpublished & completed* manuscript to Omega Writers Inc.
- 2) Send application fee of \$50. This is a reader's fee: you will receive a short manuscript appraisal for this fee.
- 3) Receive appraisal and advice as to whether or not application is successful.

Can I just pay full price?

Yes. There are limited places, however, and we encourage you to go through the sponsorship process. If you are not offered a sponsorship and there are still places available, then your \$50 entry fee will be deducted from the full \$1100.

(Please note if you are offered a sponsorship your \$50 will not be deducted from the \$550 as your entry is already heavily discounted).

What if I miss out, what are my options?

- If you do not get a place in 2010 but wish to apply again in the future, please advise us and we will consider if it is possible to run a special event in your area for a group.
- Follow the advice on your appraisal and give us a call about whether or not you should re-submit or go straight to a publisher.

Why just fiction?

Two reasons - (1) this is what the sponsoring publishing houses are looking for and (2) this is a neglected area in Australian Christian publishing.

Plus who knows let us know if you want it for something else and based on the feedback we get we'll make these decisions. Other areas that might be considered are:

- Learning to edit
- Writing an autobiography/memoir
- Non-fiction

2010 Tutors

Meredith Resce (SA)

Anne Hamilton (Qld)

Wendy Sargeant (Qld)

Mary Hawkins (Qld)