

Called to “Write His Answer”

And the Lord said to me, “Write my answer on a billboard,
large and clear, so that anyone can read it at a glance
and rush to tell the others.”

Habakkuk 2:2-3 TLB

Our loving Father, we come to You with praise in our hearts for who You are in our lives. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; our Creator, Redeemer, and the Light of our world. You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and we worship Your precious, holy name. There is no power, in heaven or on earth, greater than You.

So, we come, united, as one in You, to pray for the upcoming Christian writer conferences in May and in August. You have called us to write Your answer; and in so doing, we pray for Your anointing that that our words might proclaim good news to the poor, bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives, and release prisoners from darkness (Isaiah 61:1).

The conferences are important to Your kingdom, Lord. As Christian writers, we gather in one place to glorify Your name, to recommit our ministries to You, and to learn and grow in the craft of writing, that our words might be powerful and effective in leading others closer to You. For that is our one and only goal. That You might be known.

We lift up Marlene, the director of the conferences. Lord, we don’t want to focus on all the many trials she has endured over the years; rather, we want to praise You for Your consistent deliverance, grace, and miracles that have kept the conferences alive.

We know that “to humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans” (Prov.16:1-3). As we daily commit preparation for the conference to You and walk in obedience to Your guidance, we thank You for Your promise to establish our plans.

Father, in Ephesians 3:20, You assure us that You are “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to [Your] power that is at work within us.”

Father the registration numbers are so far below what they need to be for Marlene to be able to stay out of the red, much less prosper from her labor. We can’t even *imagine* how this situation could be turned around at this point. But we don’t have to imagine because we couldn’t imagine BIG enough if we tried. Not big enough to compare with what You are able to do. For You are able to **do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine!**

But we can’t forget the last part of the verse, can we? For it is **according to Your power within us**, that miracles will happen. According to Your power within us that

we can boldly move forward, in faith, knowing that You've got this! For Marlene. For us. For Your kingdom.

We pray that our words might lead others to a saving knowledge of You, and we thank You for Your willingness to reach out to us. For even while we were still sinners, You died for us (Romans 5:8). There is no greater love. In Isaiah 65:1 you said, "I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me.' To a nation that did not call on My name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'"

Here You are. And we come to You because You called. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt.11:28-29).

Your Word tells us "not to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present [our] requests to God (Phil.4:6). Lord, we give you our anxiety about the registrations for the conference. We want to be full. We want many to come and grow their writing ministry so they can reach out with the message of Your love and salvation.

We surrender the conference to You and thank You, in advance, for all You are going to do. For hearts you will touch. For friends you will bring together. For healing that will be found in writing, reading, and sharing. For refreshment and renewal we will experience as we gather together in corporate prayer and worship. Thank You for all of that and so much more. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1Cor. 2:9 KJV).

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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Father, We are Your pens of communication to inspire those who believe and bring light to those still in darkness. At this conference may Your Spirit guide and inspire both presenters and conferees. May lives be changed and countless new doors opened. Where doors are closed, lead people to find or create new ones. And may each person be challenged and inspired to go forward in ways You have uniquely called them . . .

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Oh Father, You are the great I AM ... You know all things, and have all power. And we praise You!

You are at the center of this special conference – Your will, Your way, in every detail ... Thank You for all You have been doing to prepare the hearts and hands of Your hard-working servants, and all of us coming for this conference. Thank You that there is nothing You can't accomplish in them and through them. You are their Jehovah Jireh, their awesome Provider, and their El Shaddai, their almighty, all-sufficient One. We

trust You to see them through this time, filled with Your Spirit, and all Your fruits. (Gal. 5:22)

Help them corporately, and individually, focus on You, and the task You have called them to. Bless them mightily as they do Your work.

I pray 1 Cor. 15:58 over them, that they may continue giving themselves fully to Your work, knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain. . . . And we will give You all the glory and praise!

In the beautiful, matchless name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus, Amen

Dearest Father,

We come to you with humble and grateful hearts, praising You for who You are, and who You have called and equipped us to be—for Your Kingdom, and glory. We marvel at Your goodness in hearing and receiving our prayers today, assured that You will answer in Your perfect timing, Your perfect way.

Thank You for Your Word, Father, Your amazing love letter to us, filled with Your wisdom and truth. Help us keep in its pages, mindful of what You are saying to us, and eager to obey. Thank You for our Lord Jesus, Your precious Son, who gave His life so we might live, to grow more and more into His likeness—and for Your Holy Spirit in us, who enables us to do it.

As this CCWC conference draws near, we recognize our desperate need for You. So we come humbly, asking for Your strength and wisdom, Your protection and provision. We cannot do this without You, Father, and so we ask boldly for Your favor:

- for Marlene and all the servants on staff and faculty, who have been working diligently, tirelessly, self-sacrificially. Please honor their efforts, above and beyond anything we could ask or imagine. You have gifted them and called them, and we are grateful. Bless them with fresh energy and creativity ... keep them healthy and in the center of Your will ... focused on Jesus ... so they may not grow weary and lose heart.
- for those who will be attending—whether their first or fourteenth time. Prepare their hearts and minds in these coming days, for all that You have planned for them, individually, and corporately.

Now, Father, please give each of us an extra measure of Your grace and strength, healing and rest as needed, and a sense of anticipation and joy, as we prepare to come together—the worship and fellowship, the learning and inspiration—all that You have in store for us throughout the conference, and beyond, may it all bring glory to Your name.

May we leave more ready, eager and equipped to go out and make a difference in the lives of those You put in our path. And we will give You all the honor and praise!

In the powerful, precious name of Jesus, Amen

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Lord Jesus Christ, we come to You to lift up the Colorado Christian Writer's Conference, its leaders, teachers and team, and those who will come and be present to learn and hear from You.

Thank You for all You have already done and accomplished through the work of Your servants. Thank You for every task that has been accomplished, for every plan that has come together to get the brochure and schedule and website ready, for the faculty coming in to place, for those who have already registered, for the countless prayers that have gone up that You have already graciously answered. Especially those things that have been such a hardship and distraction.

Lord God, You already know the challenges that lie before us, and You already see the harvest of changed lives, inspired spirits, and encouraged hearts. Help us as we navigate these troubled waters to arrive at Your destination.

Lord, open Your storehouses and pour out blessing on this conference, the registrations, the finances, the tasks that need to be done and on each one coming in whatever capacity. Take control of all the Conference details that need to be attended to:

for the *CCWC brochure* to reach each person You intend it to reach.

for unencumbered responses from many to register and attend the conference

for ease in making reservations and making room in their schedule for safe and timely transportation and attendance

for effective communication of plans between Marlene and the YMCA staff and leaders.

for the preparations and logistics for the classrooms at all the locations, including installation of necessary technical equipment and support.

for all technical equipment to be in working order and supported by people who know their stuff – from projectors, to microphones, to computers, to recording devices.

for all supplies shipped ahead to arrive on time, undamaged, and ready for use.

for all paperwork to be where it needs to be when it needs to be there, whether for registration, interviews, handouts, price lists, whatever is necessary to run the CCWC smoothly.

for all material and financial resources needed to be there.

For any and all information to be made known in a timely manner so no thing slips through that would cause a complication later

Lord God, let the trials we've come up against and the ones we will face be viewed as opportunities for our growth. Strengthen and encourage our faith to grow through them. And we will gladly and enthusiastically give You the acknowledgment for each of our victories.

Father, personally, many of us are facing trials on many sides – health, family, work, ministry, relationships, in the work for this conference, and in our own writing. We trust You to provide for any and all physical, emotional, spiritual, social, financial, and medical needs. We are asking that in Your power, You would meet those needs in ways we will undoubtedly recognize are from You. And we thank You in advance for meeting them.

For those who are emotionally, physically, and spiritually weary, give them renewed strength and healing. Bring others alongside us to support us. Give us strength to get through each day and over each hurdle, with the energy and stamina to attend to each task You direct us to - and the ability to make wise decisions when it comes to sleep, diet, activities, when to rest, when to work. Give us sweet, restful, restorative sleep each night that energizes our bodies and minds. And fill us with Your peace that passes all understanding as we trust that none of these trials or complications has taken You by surprise and You are still in control of everything!

As we work toward the conference, help us as seemingly impossible tasks and schedules mount prior to the *CCWC* beginning. Give each of us wisdom to know how to work smarter, not harder, to accomplish much for Your purposes. Protect us against discouragement, against distractions, worries, problems, and concerns; regardless of our circumstances

Remind us to rely on Your sufficiency, and trust Your leading as we appropriate Your power to step out and serve You through this conference. Remind us that we wear Your armor, which is the best. And remind us to pray it on every morning, literally out loud - so the enemy hears it!

Lord, Your Helmet of Salvation to protects my mind from thoughts that are not from You and bears the insignia of the Army in which I fight.

Your Breastplate of Righteousness protects my heart and internal organs with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Your belt of truth allows me to see through the lies that the evil one would whisper to distract me from the truth of my identity in Christ and that a child of God I am protected and loved.

The Shoes of the Gospel of peace allow me to go where my marching orders tell me to go with the willingness to fight the battles You have called me to.

I take up the Shield of Faith which covers me from head to toe and side to side and with this Shield I am protected from the flaming arrows and darts that the evil one would hurl at me. And when we stand side by side with together holding up our shields, a wall forms that the evil one cannot penetrate.

And I take up the Sword of the Spirit and pray the words You speak to about my identity and the truths about how You protect me. “The Lord our God encamps around those who trust him and fights for us to give us victory.” And the evil one “will be as a snail which melts away as it goes along.” Our enemies will be “like chaff before the wind with the angel of the Lord driving them on. Their way will be dark and slippery with the angel of the Lord for pursuing them.”

Father, let us work as a team, in unity and harmony, and in friendship as we work side by side for Your purposes. And show us how to pass on the baton we have carried to those who will continue the race.

Lord God, supernaturally fight for and defend all our meetings, gatherings, conversations, presentations, and worship sessions, from any spiritually oppressive forces that seek to harm, discourage or in any way disrupt any aspect of the CCWC.

Protect all those coming, their plans, their families, their transportation – protect them from complications or last-minute issues with family, health, finances, or any other confounding circumstance.

Let all the teachings at CCWC be grace-filled, and a turning point in the spiritual growth of each conferee. Let our praise and worship rise as a sweet fragrance to You, our Lord.

We are asking for a lot. But we have no doubt that You are able and willing to answer our prayers in this, and continue to look to You for guidance and direction. Help us hear all that You would say so that it is Your plan that goes forward.

We will give You the credit and the glory for the plentiful harvest of changed lives, not in the least – our own. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen

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Dearest heavenly Father, we praise You for who You are: sovereign and holy, yet compassionate and merciful; the God of creation, yet the One who invites us to call You Abba – Papa. And it's all because of Jesus. Father, we are so grateful for the gift of salvation – the gift that binds us together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Lord, You are the One who has brought us together, uniting us with the common purpose of using Your gift of words to extend Your kingdom here. You are the One who has called and equipped Marlene to take on the task of directing the CCWC and the GPCWC for all these years. And You are the One who has used these conferences to train thousands of writers through the decades to be salt and light in our world through the use of words.

Father, we pray for both of these conferences this year. With united hearts, we ask for Your protection and provision for both events. Draw Your people to attend. Cause them to invest in the passion You've placed in their spirits to communicate for Your glory. Give us safety in Colorado and Pennsylvania. The enemy wants these resources to go unused, for Your people to close their eyes to the equipping that's available for them. But Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask You to overrule the enemy's success and frustrate his plans.

Lord, we ask for protected health for Marlene, the staff, and the faculty of both conferences. Allow each person to fulfill the role you've called them to in equipping Your

people. Give the staff and faculty wisdom and discernment to rightly prepare and deliver the training You have called them to provide.

Then Father, for each conferee, please draw them with eagerness, hearts prepared for what You have for each individual. May they leave each conference with something specific that will encourage them on their writing journey.

Lord, we thank You for all that You have done and are doing. And we thank You in advance for what You will yet do in and through both conferences, for the ultimate good of Your people and most of all for Your eternal glory.

We ask these things in the mighty, matchless, and magnificent Name of the Lord Jesus Christ as we lift up His Name in all we do. Amen and amen!

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Gracious Father, Permeate, Marinate, and Substantiate

As writers descend upon Estes Park in May, would you meet us there. As we flow up to the mountain, writers--fresh and seasoned, professional and dreamer; guides, mentors, advisors--old friends and new friends, may Your very presence **permeate** the place. Soak every moment, of the Colorado Christian Writers Conference in Your own self. Let the very aroma of Christ infuse even the breezes of the mountains. Let the very fire of the Holy Spirit sit upon the peaks, and upon each man and woman. May the majesty of Creator God amplify the beauty of Your creation.

Cause us, O God, to **marinate** in the oil of the Holy Spirit. Let us soak in Your grace, draw in Your very breath; let each one revel in holy celebration of our communion with You. Let us know how Peter felt when he wanted to stay upon the Mount of Transfiguration, wanting never to leave rarified air that swirls around the revelation of Yourself. Yet, help us to understand that we must descend again into life bathed in the aroma of Christ; that smell that draws men to you.

Substantiate, Heavenly Father, the work to which you have called us and our place in it. Let no weapon formed against Marlene, her team, and the conference participants prosper in any way. Place a hedge of heavenly hosts around the place; a mighty wall of the divine company to shield against any assault of the enemy. Drive away every spirit of doubt, rejection, and inadequacy. In their place let rise the knowledge that if you are with us, none can prevail against us, no enemy can defeat us, and no hindrance can prevent us.

In the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen

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Lord, as I come to write this, I am weary from a long work day and a heartfelt conversation with a friend. But I know those preparing for the CCWC are also weary. They have been pushing, planning, preparing, and more. But now is the time to be still. Now is the time to acknowledge Your sovereignty. Now is the time to praise You because You have all, know all, and are all.

What I hear You saying, Father, comes straight from Your Word: “Cease striving, and know that I am God.” I need to do that. *We* need to do that. Because your power is perfected in our weakness, and when we give it up, we gain it all.

So I pray for my friends who are working this conference, that you will give them the strength, grace, and wisdom to do just what they need to do and no more. To rest. To cease striving. To trust You to provide every need.

I pray for the keynoters, Lord. Each one has been chosen and appointed for this task, God. I ask that your anointing cover each one and that Your work would be evident in and through them as they share.

I pray for the faculty as they organize workshops and finish up notes and outlines, God. Give them a special sensitivity to Your Spirit and to the people they will teach and serve. Give them compassion, humility, and hope to offer to even the most struggling writer. Give them Yourself.

I pray for those wavering in a decision about attending, God, that You would bring them in. Bring the very ones who need to come. Bring the ones who need the particular messages and teaching of this particular conference. Provide for their health, their transportation, their finances. Speak, Lord; speak, Lord.

For all who are traveling, God, I ask for Your mercy. For divine encounters. For safety and timing that reveal Your character and magnify Your name.

I pray for the Y staff, that You would bless and enlarge this ministry, God. May the work for this conference go smoothly and well. May they have the right people in place to serve everyone there in just the right ways. May our conferees serve as witnesses to both staff and guests of Your power, of Your love. May others see You in them.

Lord, I offer an extra prayer for those “left behind” (I’m in that group this year): spouses, children, and others who are sending a loved one off to Estes Park. Give Paul special strength through these days without Marlene, and help him continue to move forward in his recovery process. Return to each one who says goodbye as many blessings as their loved ones gain by meeting you on the mountain this year.

Protect all these from the evil one, God, who is even now prowling like a roaring lion and seeking to devour. He has no place and no power in or around this conference, God, because Jesus alone has the victory. It is in that victory and in Your holy name that we live and move and offer this prayer—AMEN.

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Father God, we come to you in Jesus’ name on behalf of the Christian writers you’ve called to pen your message and make it clear. We come to you on behalf of the publishers and agents who are called to run with that message and not delay. We come to you on behalf of the woman of God that you have called to lead the charge, Marlene Bagnull.

We know our time on earth is short and we ask you to stir the hearts of the young to dream dreams again and revive the old to see visions, to write down your dream and

your vision and make it plain. Cause your scribes to rise up to write with a call like that of Moses, Esther, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John the Apostle. We ask you to divinely raise up men and women who live only to hear your message and deliver it to your people in your timing.

We ask you to use these writers' conferences to raise up the experienced writers to mentor the new ones. God in heaven, we ask you to awaken a few mighty men, a few mighty women, to see Your plan and disciple the next generation of scribes.

This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is she who has faith but she who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? WE BELIEVE! Yes, we believe that Jesus is God's Son. We announce from HIS Kingdom that all conference details will come into order and the team surrounding Marlene will know their God and do exploits.

We pull down every high thought, reason, and theory that exalts itself against the will and the name of Christ Jesus and tell you to SUBMIT to Christ, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

We speak to our own bodies and our own vessels of clay to arise and lay hold of the Vine, and ABIDE in Him, His thoughts, His fruitfulness. Prune us, oh Father, so we will bear more fruit and be known as the writers who abide in the Vine. For this is our treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of GOD and not of us!

We love you Father God, and we believe that Jesus is Your Son. Thank you for taking action on our behalf. Amen.

Heavenly Father, how grateful we are to be able to call You that. Thank you for choosing us to become Your children. And thank you for the Colorado Christian Writers Conference and the team of individuals who desire – and sacrifice – to provide support and tools to those called to share the wonder of You, in written form, with others.

Please encourage the encouragers!

Words are what we are familiar with. But Your Word – wow! – is like nothing else! It is alive and powerful. It is intimate and holy. And Your Holy Spirit breathes it into willing hearts and minds. My request, Lord, for all aspects of this conference – for Marlene and the CCWC team, and all who are planning on participating – is that Your Word will dwell in us richly!

Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you...”

I love this phrase, Lord! We want Your Word to move right in with us. Be in the easy chair. Be at home. Make up the fabric of who we are, what we think and what we do... constantly.

Your Word will strengthen the weary.

Your Word will provide peace where, humanly speaking, peace should not be found.

Your Word will drape the uncertain with confidence of Your love and care.

Your Word will lift human eyes above daunting circumstances.

Your Word will remind us... this is Your conference.

Your Word will compel us to worship You – the God beyond our ability to understand.

Please bless Marlene and the CCWC team with **Your Word**, especially, as they labor on our behalf, Father.

I pray You will enable everyone affiliated with the CCWC to be physically and spiritually protected from the enemy. Please put a guard around each individual who is administering this year's CCWC, those who are preparing to instruct and encourage at the conference, and those – like me – who are coming to learn and can hardly believe such a tremendous support as the CCWC exists.

We ask and trust for **Your Word** to be embedded in future writings of 2019 CCWC participants, for our good and for Your glory.

Please continue to raise up people who will “write Your Answer”. You “so loved the world” that You gave Your Son, Jesus Christ. We long to share Him with everyone we can, with excellence. Give us strength, perseverance, humility, and gratitude, I pray. And thank You for **Jesus, the Living Word**. Amen!

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Heb. 13:20-2 NKJV).