

# Wordwrights – OKC Christian Writers

www.wordwrights-okc.com

Darla Hunter, Editor

## Let Hope Arise!

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### Saturday

March 27

10 a.m. – noon

**“The Last Drop”  
Coffee Shop**

**5425 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK**

**(Details on Page 2)**



**~~ Masks  
Required**

**~~ Social  
Distancing**

Spring has sprung, ready or not.

I'm not ready this year. It's been a process of emerging out of the cozy, warm hiding place of winter into a sunny, growing place of spring. The calendar says it's time, and the daylight savings time reinforces the change. Time to switch out heavy winter clothes to light-weight cotton spring attire.

On my regular walks, robins and cardinals serenade me and my eyes feast on the yellow daffodils and greenening fields. Dogwoods and redbuds unveil their true colors as creation breaks forth. It reminds me of David's exhortation: "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him." (Psalm 42:5 NKJV)

The season of spring brings hope: hope in the newness and in the colorful growth, hope of a brighter future, hope in the birthing of new life.

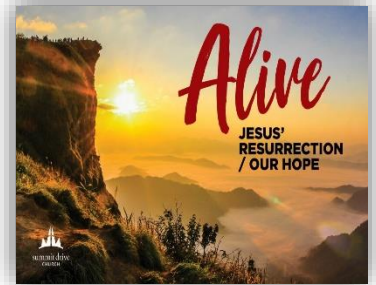
What a joy to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during this season of life. He arose from the

dead, just like He promised. "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." (Lk.9:22).

I can imagine that the disciples so enjoyed being with Him and doing life with Him, that the idea of Him dying deeply disturbed them. But His promise of being raised from the dead gave them light at the end of the dark tunnel of grief. Jesus reminded them several times of what would happen but walking it out proved tough. Some doubted and rejected Him. When He arose, however, they rejoiced. Jesus kept His promise!

Jesus is a Promise Keeper. Let's embrace His promises to us and celebrate His faithfulness. My prayer for all of us is: "Now may the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Ro.15:13)

**Let Hope Arise!**



**Our speaker for this month will be Donna Le,** who will present the program previously scheduled for February but cancelled because of weather conditions. Her topic will be **“Bearing Fruit as Christian Writers.”**

Donna will be sharing several ways of doing that, from journaling to writing memoirs. She has been researching the idea of how we need to bear fruit for God in this world. She especially thinks it is time that we Christians stand up for Christ, determined that our own families are given good Christian examples.

Come and receive fresh inspiration and hope and enjoy a time of fellowship with other Christian writers.

*~Barbara Zimmerman*

**Wordwrights  
OKC Christian Writers 2021  
Officers**

President: Barbara Zimmerman  
Vice-President: Donna Le  
Secretary: Open  
Treasurer: Open  
Asst. Treasurer: Lori Williams  
Publicity: Jean Reed  
Newsletter: Darla Hunter  
Website: Barbara Shepherd

**Membership Dues**

January-December club dues provide an honorarium for speakers, needed materials for club meetings, and a portion of the cost for special events, etc. Dues may be paid at monthly meetings or by mail.

**No payment due if you paid in 2020.**

Mail a \$20 check for dues to:  
Lori Williams  
7416 NW 31 St  
Bethany, OK 73008



**Apr 1:** Deadline for submitting articles, poems, etc., for April newsletter.  
**Please send as attachment in Word.**

**Wanted Monthly:** Seasonal/Holiday poems or short prose.

**Recognition**

**Wordwrights Members:**  
Thank you for sending in your news about publishing, awards, etc., so we can all support and encourage one another.

**Barbara Zimmerman:**  
Barbara will have copies of her new children's chapter book available at our next meeting for \$10 each. It is also available on Amazon!

**Lori Williams:**  
Lori's feature story, "Beauty Knows No Season at Bellingrath Gardens," will appear in the Spring 2021 issue of *Creation Illustrated* magazine.



**New Meeting Place**

**The Last Drop  
5425 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK**



**Looking Ahead**

**April 10, 2021:** To be announced.

**April 29, 30 & May 1:** OWFI Bridging the Epic Gap 2021 Virtual Conference. Keynote Speaker: Alton Carter. owfi.org

Please send news about publishing, awards, etc., as well as articles and/or poems, to:  
[darla4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darla4@sbcglobal.net) Thank you!

We're on the Web!  
[wordwrights-okc.com](http://wordwrights-okc.com)



**Wordwrights needs volunteers to fill two positions:**

**Secretary:** To take minutes and submit them for publication in the monthly newsletter.

**Treasurer:** To handle club finances, collect dues, and maintain membership lists.



**Masks will be available at the meeting. Or you may bring your own.**

**The café will have coffee & other drinks & snacks available. Cost is by donation. We hope you will join us!**

**NOTE:** We are asking Wordwrights members and/or guests to wear masks, in accordance with CDC guidelines, as a precautionary measure to protect each other. However, please be aware that at least one person may be present in the café without a mask because of health reasons. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact one of our board members.

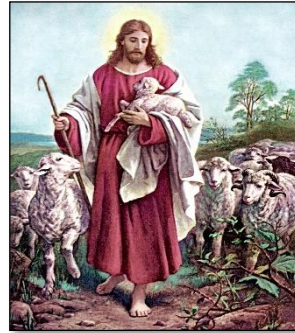
A friendly reminder: If you are feeling ill, have a fever or other symptoms, or have been exposed to the virus, we respectfully ask that you stay at home. But please let us know, so we can say a prayer for you.

**Thank you!**

**February Meeting Was Cancelled Due to Weather. No Minutes.**

**The Shepherd's Voice**

by Louise Tucker Jones



"My sheep recognize my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27 TLB)

When my son, Jay, was a toddler, I wore a short curly hairstyle that I could quickly "wash and wear." Then one day I came home from the beauty shop with a stylish, smooth style. Jay cried when he saw me. This didn't look like his mommy.

My husband held Jay while he cried. Over and over, I tried to take him, but each time he saw me his tears started again. Finally, I sat down in the rocker and Carl placed Jay in my arms with his back toward me. I hugged him close, kissing the top of his head and whispering reassurances to him. He stopped crying, hearing my voice and feeling my touch. Then suddenly, he turned and saw someone that didn't look like his mommy and started to cry again.

So many times, we do this in our spiritual walk. We know the Lord's voice. We hear Him whisper to our hearts. We even know His touch. But we look around at unexpected and difficult circumstances and scream, "This doesn't look like God!" We may doubt and wonder if we really heard from the Lord. Or, like my son, we may even turn away from the one for whom our hearts are longing.

John the Baptist was the designated forerunner of Christ. He preached baptism and repentance and told of a coming Messiah. One of whom "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." (Luke 3:16 NIV) Can you imagine his humility as he baptized Jesus, knowing he was baptizing the Son of God? Yet later, as John sat in Herod's prison, awaiting execution, he began to doubt and sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Luke 7:20 NIV). John needed to know that Jesus was the true Messiah even though his circumstances didn't change.

We, too, sometimes find ourselves in desperate situations. A spouse is unfaithful. A loved one dies with cancer. A child becomes a prodigal. We pray and pray, yet the miracle doesn't come. And sometimes we wonder if God really cares. At such times it is imperative to remember God's nature and how much He loves us.

My situation with my son, Jay, was easily resolved. I simply washed my hair, erasing the new style. As I came into the living room with my familiar curls, Jay's little arms reached for me and he cuddled into my embrace. This was the mommy he knew. With time, Jay recognized me no matter my hairstyle.

Our spiritual maturity is much the same. It will determine how quickly we recognize God in the middle of our circumstances, no matter what they may be. It requires discernment, prayer, and listening intently for our Shepherd's voice.

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, help me to hear you in the middle of the chaos that often encompasses my world. Give me divine instruction and the courage to follow You. Amen."



**Next Meeting**

**March 27**

**The Last Drop Coffee Shop**

**10 a.m. – Noon**

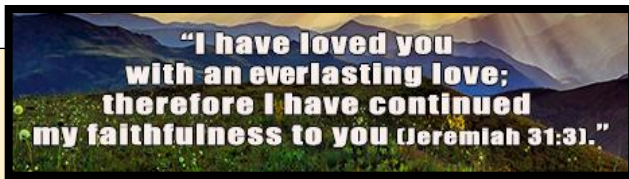
**Masks & Safe Distancing**

**Come Join Us!**



**We write this to make our joy complete.**  
**1 John 1:4**





## Everlasting Love

by Darla Hunter

God loves us with an everlasting love,  
Which is backed by an everlasting power.  
He keeps us in the hollow of His hand  
And watches over us every hour.

God made the earth, the skies, and the seas,  
And the winds that obey His commands,  
And because of His Love, He also made man  
And creatures to inhabit these lands.

Then God came to earth and became a man,  
As Jesus, He walked in our shoes,  
And because of His everlasting Love,  
Jesus Christ died and paid all our dues.

But He rose again – He was stronger than death –  
‘Twas His everlasting power, you see,  
That brought Him out of that awful tomb;  
Now, from sin and guilt we’re free.

Yes, God loves us with an everlasting love,  
And He can fill our hearts with love, too.  
If we seek His face through Jesus Christ,  
Both His Love and His Power will shine through!



## Once for All

by Joe Jared

Just why did that man die upon a cross?  
Why did the blood-red sun turn raven-black  
That very hour? He faced tremendous loss,  
The flower of His youth no more to wake.  
Jerusalem began to quake. A snake  
Of lightning lit the gloom. Why should the just  
Endure the doom of unjust men? How bleak  
The dust beneath! How cruel the nails of rust!

Now why did that man die? For sins, the just  
For us. He came to cleanse the wretched poor,  
The weak, the blind, to crush them to His chest,  
To bind them to His God at Heaven’s door.  
He rose, alive forevermore. Thank Him,  
You, ransomed from the gloom.  
Thank Him! Thank Him!

(I Peter 3:18)

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## Milton Smith, my friend and mentor



If you ever attended a Wordwrights meeting, you knew Milton Smith.

He served as president, secretary, treasurer, and chief encourager. He wrote hundreds of plays and newsletter columns. He led with integrity and wisdom. To write about him feels awkward, because he didn't seek attention.

But because he was a dear friend and mentor to me, I want to share three things I know about my friend Milton.

**He trusted Jesus for his salvation.** His life testified to his faith in God, but because I cared so much about him, I recently asked him if he was ready to meet Jesus. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "Oh, yes." Milton knew he would soon pass from death into life.

No, that wasn't a typo. You see, as soon as we are born, our days are numbered. But when our earthly bodies expire, we who are serious followers of Jesus Christ begin living eternally with the author and finisher of our salvation. As of March 21, 2021, Milton's days are no longer numbered!

**He kept writing.** Last month, Milton and his wife Jerri dropped by my house. (It was lovely to meet his sweet wife for the first time.) They came by so Milton could give me some Wordwrights materials, i.e., bookkeeping items, a sound system, etc.

Although he handed over his responsibilities as Treasurer of Wordwrights, Milton never lost interest in his writing ministry. He continued to collaborate with Darla Hunter, our wonderful newsletter editor, who is assisting with the publishing of a book of his newsletter columns. He always signed his column, "Keep Writing for Him," and that will be the title of his book. "A portion of any money made from the sales of the book can be put back into Wordwrights," he said.

"I want an autographed copy," I told him right away. But it is more than enough to know that Milton's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**He loved people.** One of the strongest leadership skills Milton exhibited was his love for people. At the beginning of our meetings, he always welcomed visitors to our club and invited them to share about their writing journey. He then followed up with a one-on-one conversation during the break time.

When I later became President of the group, I drew from Milton's example. He always encouraged me. He redirected me when I needed it, which was another example of his leadership ability.

Milton always rejoiced when a member of our group achieved writing success. (I vividly remember him calling me a "rock star" on one occasion. I smiled the rest of the day.) To Milton, writing was not a competition. It was a calling.

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*Milton Smith, I miss you already. Everyone at Wordwrights will miss you. At our upcoming meetings, we will look around and wonder how we can carry on without you. But this I know: we can choose what you chose. To love people. To keep writing. And to trust Jesus for our salvation.*

*--Lori Williams*