



URBANA18

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A large, vibrant blue ink plume swirls from the top right corner of the frame, cascading down and to the left. The ink forms intricate, organic shapes with many folds and curls, set against a solid black background. The light catches the edges of the ink, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

The Beautiful Intersection of faith and writing

With Karen Stiller

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 URBANA18



A survey of the room

- Who blogs?
- Who writes articles?
- Who has been published?
- Who wants to be published?
- Who has written a book?
- Who wants to write a book?
- Who loves to edit?
- Who loves to read?



It is extremely hard work to be a writer.

Hard work





We need to be real and transparent

- “If something inside of you is real, we will probably find it interesting, and it will probably be universal. So you must risk placing real emotion at the center of your work. Write straight into the emotional center of things. Write toward vulnerability. Risk being unliked. Tell the truth as you understand it. If you’re a writer you have a moral obligation to do this. And it is a revolutionary act—truth is always subversive.” -- Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird, Some Instructions on Writing and Life*



Be honest in faith and writing.

- Don't preach. Ponder
- Don't explain. Explore
- Don't be afraid to share your weakness.



Annie Dillard

- “...the impulse to keep to yourself what you have learned is not only shameful, it is destructive. Anything you do not give freely and abundantly becomes lost to you. You open your safe and find ashes.”



**We need each other.
Meet together.
Read well, widely and deeply.**



Fight against:

- Envy (pray for the success of others)
- Inertia (imagine your writing succeeding)
- Procrastination (give yourself a reward)
- Sloth (I can't help you with sloth)
- Fear (become a risk-taker, set goals)
- Insecurity (thicken your skin, you have to)



Some very practical stuff



Quick writing tips

- Read all the time.
- Write what you don't know.
- You are your voice. Your voice is you.
- Make a boring, stupid outline.
- Think of the reader first.
- Writing is rewriting. It takes forever.
- A word about platform.
- Don't be a big baby.

Questions, answers, discussion





Thank you.

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