

Appendix 6



Helps for Forming Critique Groups

God is calling an army of writers, and he can use you to help equip them. “How?” you wonder, especially if you a beginning writer yourself. The Lord promises that when two or three gather in his name he will be with them (Matt. 18:20). I know he will honor his promise as you choose to make him the center of your group. But how do you go about forming a group?

STARTING A GROUP

The Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers’ Fellowship began in 1983 through an article that was printed in several community newspapers and announcements that were sent to churches. To be honest, we received more support from the newspapers. Unless you have a personal contact in a church (or follow up the announcement of the formation of your group with a visit or phone call), it’s likely it will be round-filed because of the tremendous volume of mail a church receives.

Ask your church to pray for you and help publicize the group in the Sunday morning bulletin and/or church newsletter. You may also want to do mini posters for your church and neighboring churches. But again you’ll probably need to personally deliver them (or have a friend who is a member deliver them).

Keep newspaper announcements concise. Tell when and where you're meeting. (Your home or a church are the best locations.) State your purpose and what will be expected of those who come. For example, "Bring a manuscript to read and the desire to improve your writing." Give your name and phone number for more information.

For more help and encouragement to start a group or to learn about my Christian Writers' Seminar that God has used to launch groups, please feel free to e-mail me (mbagnull@aol.com) or call me (484-991-8581).