

## Meet the 2010 Conference Faculty

### Dr. Cecil Murphey, Keynote Speaker



Dr. Cecil (Cec) Murphey is the author or co-author of more than 100 books, including the *New York Times*' bestseller *90 Minutes in Heaven* (with Don Piper) and *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* (with Dr. Ben Carson). He is also the author of the following recent releases: *When God Turned Off the Lights*, *60 Seconds to Greatness* (with Eddie Long), *Christmas Miracles*, *When Someone You Love Has Cancer*, and *Words of Comfort for Times of Loss*. His books have sold millions of copies and have brought hope and encouragement to people around the world.

Cec is a well-decorated author, having won many awards, including the Gold Medallion Award, two Silver Angel Awards, two Retailers Choice Awards, and three Author of the Year Awards from the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists. In April 2009, the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA) honored him with the Extraordinary Service Award, one of their most prestigious awards. This award reflects the great respect the ASJA membership holds for Cec and his extraordinary service to other writers. In 2007, Cec received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from The Advanced Writers and Speakers Association. He was recognized not only for his excellent writing but also for his selfless mentoring of other writers. Cec stays busy as a professional writer and mentor and travels extensively to speak on topics such as Christian living, recovery, spiritual growth, prayer, caregiving, significant living, male sexual abuse, and writing. Prior to becoming a full-time writer and speaker, he served as pastor of Riverdale Presbyterian Church in Metro Atlanta, as a volunteer hospital chaplain for ten years, and was a missionary in Kenya for six. For more information about Cecil Murphey, visit [www.cecilmurphey.com](http://www.cecilmurphey.com). His new blog for writers can be found at [www.cecilmurpheyswritertowriter.blogspot.com](http://www.cecilmurpheyswritertowriter.blogspot.com).

### Dr. H. Michael Brewer, Keynote Speaker



H. Michael Brewer has written professionally for nearly twenty-five years. His books include *Who Needs a Superhero?* (Baker), *In The Spirit of Ronald McNair* (with Carl McNair), *Lessons from the Carpenter* (WaterBrook), and three volumes (so far!) of *Gotta Have God* (Legacy/Rainbow). He has also written hundreds of pages of devotionals, published sermons, Bible studies, comic strips, inspirational fiction, and church curriculum for such publications as *Presbyterians Today*, *Clergy Journal*, *Preaching*, *Pray!*, *Sunday Sermons*, *Church Worship*, *Lectionary Homiletics*, *Vanguard*, *These Days*, *Highways*, Westminster/John Knox Press, *Abingdon Preacher's Annual*, and *The Minister's Annual Manual*. He is a graduate of the

University of Louisville and holds the Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Brewer is currently pastor of the Blue Ash Presbyterian Church and an adjunct professor in religious studies at Northern Kentucky University.

(<http://hmichaelbrewer.homestead.com/Home.html>)

### **Twila Belk, Conference Director**



Twila Belk, also known as the Gotta Tell Somebody Gal, is a popular speaker, writer, publicist, and former Christian bookstore owner. She is the director of the Presbyterian Writers Conference and the Quad-Cities Christian Writers Conference, which is held April 9-10 in Eldridge, Iowa. Twila is privileged to work full time with best-selling author Cecil (Cec) Murphey as his manager, personal assistant, publicist, promoter, scheduler, events coordinator, and biggest fan. Through her work with Cec she is getting to know the publishing industry from the inside out. She interacts daily with writers, agents, publishers, and other industry professionals. Twila has written one book, numerous articles for a variety of publications, multiple radio spots, and a lot of promotional material.

She contributed two stories for Cec Murphey's *Christmas Miracles* book, wrote a series of devotions for *Disciplines 2009*, and is currently writing a gift book with Cec Murphey. She's a member of Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, The Writers View, Christian Booksellers Association, and Christian Humor Writers. ([www.gottatellsomebody.com](http://www.gottatellsomebody.com))

### **Rev. Stephen McCutchan, Conference Liaison**



Steve McCutchan is a graduate of Muskingum College and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He has spent thirty-eight years in the pastoral ministry interpreting the Gospel to lay people who experience the tension of division in their world. For twenty-three years, he combined ministry with his middle-class congregation with monthly involvement in counseling the poor in his city. He has been a featured speaker at Moravian, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Presbyterian convocations. Steve serves as an adjunct professor at Wake Forest Divinity School. He is author of *Experiencing the Psalms* (Smyth and Helwys), *Good News for a Fractured Society* (Author House), and a lectionary series from CSS Pub: Year A, *Water from the Well*; Year B, *Streams of Living Water*; and Year

C, *Water from the Rock*. He has coauthored two plays exploring racism and is a contributor to the online magazine *Emphasis* at [www.sermonsuite.com](http://www.sermonsuite.com). He collaborated with folk singer David Bailey to produce a special CD, *A Deep Well for the Pastor*, with singing and meditative commentary. Steve is vice-president of the Darryl Hunt Innocence Project and is editor for the Presbytery Pastoral Care Network newsletter and the online resource for care of pastors, *The Toolbox*, at [www.pastoralcarenetwork.org](http://www.pastoralcarenetwork.org). His blog and Web page can be found at [www.smccutchan.com](http://www.smccutchan.com).

### **Denny Boultinghouse**



Denny lived in a number of states growing up and as an adult did ten years of local ministry in the San Joaquin Valley of California. He graduated from Memphis State University. His preferred styles of music include Austin country (such as Guy Clark, Billy Joe Shaver, and Joe Ely) and “the Blues”. Some of his favorite places include Maui, London and Point Lobos State Park (south of Carmel, CA). Being an avid reader, some of the writers who have influenced him include: Eric Hoffer, Richard Goodwin, Phillip Yancey, Jim McGuigan, Tony

Campolo, and George Will. He and his wife, Philis, have been married almost 39 years and have a daughter who is an attorney in Santa Monica CA. Denny has spoken in more than 30 states and has been involved in publishing since 1984, serving many years as executive editor for Howard Books.

## Greg Daniel



Greg Daniel is president of Daniel Literary Group, which he founded in 2007 after more than 10 years in publishing, six of which were at the executive level at Thomas Nelson Publishers. Most recently he had been Vice President and Associate Publisher for W Publishing Group (formerly Word Publishing), a trade book division of Thomas Nelson. During his publishing career, he has worked with such critically acclaimed authors as Scot McKnight, River Jordan, Denise Hildreth, David Dark, and Phyllis Tickle. Greg has also been involved with publishing books by a number of celebrity personalities, including Bono, George Foreman, and "Black Hawk Down" hero Capt. Jeff Struecker. He has been responsible for such notable books as the *NY Times*' best-selling *Same Kind of Different as Me* and the ECPA Gold Medallion Award-winning books *A Table in the Presence* and *Extreme Devotion*. He teaches writing workshops at a small number of conferences each year. ([www.danielliterarygroup.com](http://www.danielliterarygroup.com))

## Kyle Gott



Preacher, songwriter, and producer Kyle Gott is dedicated to living the creative life in community and helping others do the same. Seeing the creative life and spiritual life as one, Reverend Gott is pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church of Gallatin just north of Nashville TN. Kyle is deeply dedicated to seeing the creative liberation of people used as a catalyst for bringing about social righteousness. As an aspiring Christian activist, Kyle sees music as a metaphor for what God is doing in the world. Kyle envisioned and co-produced Merging Blue, a mixed race, mixed gender blues/bluegrass vocal group featuring George Pendergrass (U2's Rattle and Hum), Heather Lawson (Heatherlawson.com) and Lydia Gott. As a staff writer for BMG music publishing (99-01), Kyle has also published or written songs used by The Gilmore Girls (Time Warner), George Rowe (Rocketown Records), Joyce Martin (Spring Hill Music Group), and Tammy Trent. A surfer raised in La Jolla California, Kyle is now a converted southerner who still thirsts for the ocean. Lydia Gott, Kyle's wife of 18 years, is his main co-writer.

## Lydia Gott



Lydia Gott is a songwriter, artist, and studio singer who has been working in Nashville and Los Angeles since 1994. Lydia's songs have been recorded by artists in the United States and Canada as well as used in advertisements in Europe and Australia. Her song "New Day" has been recorded by various advertisers and also charted #1 for CCM radio for the group Avalon. It has subsequently been used by Oprah's Big Give and was released on Avalon's "Greatest Hits" release. Other songs of Lydia's have been recorded by many others in the Contemporary Christian field. Lydia's voice can be heard on many records for Maranatha! Music and Tammy Trent as well as Songs from the Bennett House. Most recently she has worked as a founding member of the group Merging Blue, a roots blues/bluegrass group based out of Hendersonville TN. Lydia also serves as creative director for Nathan (13), Ellie (10), and Nora (5) as they develop creatively.

### **Anita Higman**



Award-winning writer Anita Higman has authored or co-authored 24 published books for adults and children, and she has three novels scheduled for release in the next two years. Some of her publishers are Bethany House, Barbour Publishing, McGraw-Hill, Summerside Press, Roman & Littlefield, and Howard Publishing. She has been honored in the past as a Barnes & Noble Author of the Month for Houston and was featured on The Harvest Show, a program with eight million regular viewers. A few of Anita's books are *Love Finds You in Humble Texas*, *Another Stab at Life*, *Another Hour to Kill*, *The Celestial Helix*, *Pokeweed* and *Mrs. Gasp, Who Will I be For the Rest of My Life?* (co-authored), and *Big Book of Holidays and Holy Days*. She also has

contributions in ten nonfiction compilations. Anita has also written for radio, ezine, and advertising. She has a B.A. degree combining speech communication, psychology, and art from Southern Nazarene University, and she is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers.

([www.anitahigman.com](http://www.anitahigman.com))

### **John Nappa**

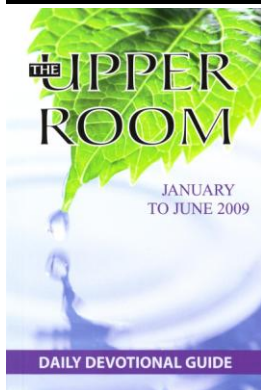


An award-winning author and screenwriter, Jon Nappa wears many hats in the world of inspirational media. He co-created, wrote, produced, and directed the award-winning *Pappyland*, which aired on PBS and TLC and was declared to be one of the 10 best television shows for children by *TV Guide*. It shared the Angel Award with *Bennett's Book of Virtues*. Nappa is also the head writer for the Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Motion Picture Museum and the Executive Director of Storm Warriors Inc. He created the feature quality 3D animated series *The Super Snoopers*, which airs on TBN. He is also a published author of adult historical fiction and children's biblical reference works published by NavPress and Storm Warriors International Inc., is under contract for two motion pictures, and provides

screenwriting and novel workshops. He lives with his wife and four children in North Carolina.

([www.jonnappaprojects.com](http://www.jonnappaprojects.com); [www.Stormwarriors.org](http://www.Stormwarriors.org))

### **Mary Lou Redding**



Editorial Director of *The Upper Room* Magazine, Mary Lou is a sought-after teacher for writers conferences across the country. She has taught basic and advanced prose-writing, basic rhetoric and writing courses, and business communications, all on the college level. Redding earned a Master of Arts in Rhetoric and Writing and has completed the Academy for Spiritual Formation, an intensive two-year academic and experiential program in Christian spirituality. Her fourth book was published last year, and her fifth book will be released in the near future. She is finding being a grandmother to Rosalie far more fun than she expected it to be and watching the Atlanta Braves is often far less fun than she expected that to be. Mary Lou delights in helping others reach their writing goals.

([www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org))

## **Jerry Van Marter**



Jerry L. Van Marter has served with the *Presbyterian News Service* since August 1988, the last 15 years as its coordinator. A native of Tacoma, Washington, he graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane and San Francisco Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1971. He has written and edited school, congregational, presbytery and synod publications. He serves on the board of the Presbyterian Writers Guild and is immediate past president of the Associated Church Press. He is married to Eva Stimson, editor of *Presbyterians Today*. They and their 18-year-old twins, Luke and Rachel, live in Louisville. ([www.pcusa.org/pcnews](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews))