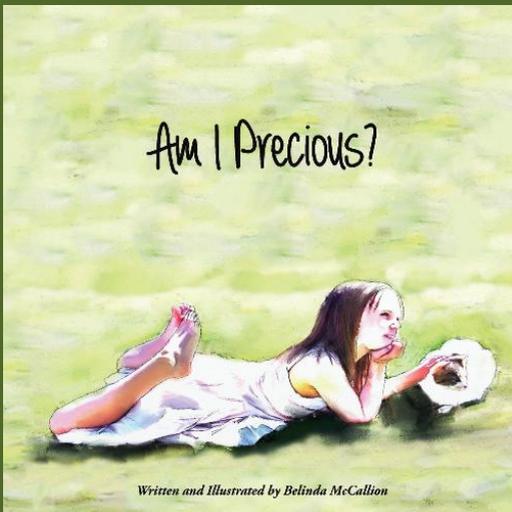


# THE CHRISTIAN WRITER



June – July 2015



Supporting  
Members' Writings

Am I Precious?

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Written and Illustrated  
By Belinda McCallion

*Rightly explaining the word of truth – 2 Timothy 2:15*

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)



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**The Christian Writer** is published bimonthly by the New Zealand Christian Writers and distributed to all its members. Contributions on the theme of writing are always welcome. If you have some advice or encouragement for Christian writers, or an announcement of some event of interest to members, do send it to the editor for consideration by the 20th day of the month prior to the publication date. Submissions should be no more than 500 words long and hard copy manuscripts will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed.

The editor reserves the right to condense and / or edit any contributions for reason of space. Ideas and opinions will not be edited, but editing of a technical nature may occur to maintain the highest quality of writing possible.

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# THE CHRISTIAN WRITER

Jun – Jul 2015

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## Contents

Page 4	President's Report – Janet Fleming
Page 5	Autumn Workshop Report
Page 8	Horoeka Heritage Holiday: Part One – Jan Pendergrast
Page 9	Spiritual Disciplines – Justin St Vincent
Page 11	Reminder: Annual Subscriptions Due 1st August 2015
Page 11	Warm Welcome to New Members
Page 11	Professional Editing and Writing Services
Page 11	Puzzle Page #2: Synonyms
Page 13	How to Write a Simple Screenplay
Page 13	NZCW Writers' Groups Details
Page 14	Get Creative: Middle of the Road – Bonnie Smithies
Page 15	Writing Briefs: Maori Postal Aotearoa – Fred Swallow
Page 16	Book Review: Am I Precious? – Belinda McCallion
Page 16	New Additions to the Library: Bereavement – John Milne
Page 16	West Auckland Group Remembers David Blaiklock
Page 30	Psalms 89:1-2
Page 31	Notice Board
Page 31	Solutions to Puzzle #2
Page 31	God Riddle

## CW Competitions

Page 17	Under 20s	Page 24	Level Two Results
Page 20	Level One Results	Page 26	Level Three Results
Page 32	Competitions for August 2015		

The views and opinions of authors expressed in this magazine do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

### New Website:

Our new and user-friendly website continues to be successful in attracting brand new members for NZ Christian Writers. Not only is it full of interesting information, such as details of workshops and copies of past magazines, it also gives each individual member an online presence. So please encourage other Christian Writers you know to join us via our new website. The link is as follows:

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

## From the President

Greetings to everyone.

I did enjoy the writer's workshop with Keitha Smith and Tom O'Neil. Both were challenging speakers and I was astounded at how much work Keitha puts in before she even begins to write. I must admit I was very disappointed at the low attendance on that day. I do hope we can do better for the next workshop planned for 19th September.

It was great to attend the recent Northland Christian Writer's workshop which was held just North of Whangarei. I enjoyed catching up with old friends and Ruth Linton and Justin St Vincent did an excellent job in sharing that day.

Congratulations to all those who have had a book published in recent months and especially to George Bryant whose 17th book has just been published.

It's encouraging to see membership up to 122. It's also lovely to have a number of younger members. Do remember to mention NZ Christian Writers to anyone who may be interested.

On Anzac Day my daughter-in-law and I attended the first dawn service to be

held at Karangahape Marae. This is where we started a Sunday School around 33 years ago and is the home marae of Eric Rush. It was a lovely service and thinking about the 100 year commemorations caused me to write the following words:

### Lest We Forget

They left their home and country  
To serve in distant lands,  
They gave their all to save us  
Killed by some sniper's hands.  
So young; so fresh and vibrant,  
Their lives the price they paid,  
We each will still remember  
The sacrifice they made.

He left His home in heaven  
And came to earth as man,  
He lived and died to save us  
As part of God's own plan.

I am so glad that Jesus  
Came down from heaven above—  
How can I not remember  
His sacrifice of love?

Let's thank Him today.

Janet Fleming



*Janet and Mike Fleming's four grandchildren born last year*

# Autumn Workshop Report

*Compiled by Janet Pointon and various members who attended*

After welcoming us to the workshop, Janet Fleming gave apologies from Beth Walker, Carol Soole, John Sturt, Wendy Matthews, Susan Flanigan and Barbara McNaughton, before asking Justin to give the devotion (page 9).

Our morning speaker was Keitha Smith, who spoke on 'Developing Character to Enhance Story'.

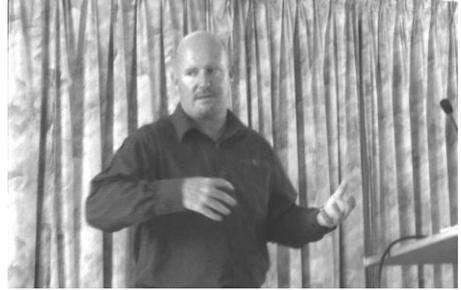


*Keitha Smith*  
[smithkeitha@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smithkeitha@xtra.co.nz)

As Keitha has published several books—including *Mothering Heights*, *The Tender Conflict*, *The Bell Curve*, *The Journey*, and *Maybury Place*—she was an ideal person to show us how to develop our characters. We were each given a handout which covered all the points mentioned. Unfortunately there were less than 20 of us at the workshop but this meant we could interact and have time to work through the ways to create a character which would interest a reader.

Tom O'Neil spoke in the afternoon on 'How to Improve Your Performance TODAY'. He pointed out that the 1% principle is the law of how a small change leads into something much

larger. He told us we need to reach our personal best every day and take care of the little things in our lives.



*Tom O'Neil*  
[www.onepercentguy.com](http://www.onepercentguy.com)

Tom continued in the afternoon on the subject of 'Goal Getting—Not Goal Setting'. He emphasised that we need people around us who share our vision.

Altogether we had a most enjoyable day which concluded at 4pm. Below are positive comments on the day's input from those who were there. Hopefully, they will encourage more members to attend future workshops (which will be called seminars from now on), as they are a valuable resource towards helping us become professional writers.

## Feedback on Keitha Smith

"Keitha Smith spoke about *Developing Character to Enhance Story*, which was well presented using PowerPoint. Characters and plot are both important to any story, as she showed, but how well we develop our characters will make a huge difference to how the reader identifies with them. She showed how asking lots of questions can help us develop our characters more thoroughly. We were asked to think of questions, which she then

compiled to give us later. As well as developing characters for our stories, we were also reminded of practical details such as viewpoint, conflict, flashbacks and plotting.

"Keitha is an in-depth 'planner', and was able to show by example how this has helped her own story writing "

—Janice Gillgren, Member of NZCW

"Keitha's workshop on *Developing Character to Enhance Story* was thoroughly enjoyable. Her organised, practical, and very clear presentation was very informative. Her talk inspired us to keep writing and gave us valuable tools to improve our work. Thank you Keitha for a very worthwhile workshop."

—Dianne Spain, Member of NZCW

"Keitha Smith shared a truly inspiring and interactive seminar for NZ Christian Writers. It was fascinating to see her process to publishing and especially developing characters for her several novels. I can highly recommend Keitha as an experienced seminar speaker to any group."

—Justin St. Vincent, Member of NZCW and Editor of *Love Live Forgive* [www.LoveLiveForgive.org](http://www.LoveLiveForgive.org)

"Keitha Smith began her session on *Developing Character to Enhance Story* by asking us which we thought more important, 'character' or 'plot'. It may be that 'story' is most important of all, but she gave us good tips on building the personalities of various fictional characters we may wish to create."

—Eion Field, Member of NZCW

"As a novelist who enjoys creating interesting and credible characters, I found Keitha's talk on *Developing Character to Enhance Story* very informative and practical, particularly in regards to creating a timeline and background for the main characters in a book. Examples Keitha gave included their date of birth, family background, aspirations and friends, just to name a few. Keitha said she has professionally published one book, *Mothering Heights*. However, she decided to self-publish her several other books instead and they are also doing well."

—Debbie McDermott, NZCW Member & Editor of *The Christian Writer*

## Feedback on Tom O'Neil

"As Tom O'Neil's colleague, I enjoyed the privilege of being privy to the whole concept of the 1% Principle before he spoke on the topic at a Promise Keepers conference. Shortly after that conference, he was encouraged to write about it. Today the *1% Principle* is a best-selling book that is impacting the lives of people worldwide, simply because it applies to all walks of life and occupations—including writing. Making those 1% improvements to our daily routines on a daily basis will bring about significant change and progress in the long term, and it is so easy to do.

"Tom's second talk on Goal Getting was equally insightful as well as practical. Setting goals is one thing, achieving them is another. We need to determine what our short- and long-term goals are, and then decide how

and when we are going to achieve them. Regularly monitoring our progress is important as it is easy to become slack. It is also helpful to make ourselves accountable to someone to ensure we don't get off track. Rewarding ourselves when we achieve a goal is important too."

—Debbie McDermott, NZCW Member & Editor of *The Christian Writer*

"Tom O'Neil, author of *The 1% Principle*, showed how managing small things (the 1%) well and consistently can make a big difference over time. His premise was presented by 'laws', such as the laws of gradual change, cumulative effect, continuous improvement, sowing and reaping, and the law of the paradox. Time management and goal setting tend to be things most of us know we need to do, but only a few manage them well. Tom showed practical ways that it can be done, using Biblical principles and examples."

—Janice Gillgren, Member of NZCW

"I enjoyed Tom's sense of humour and the valuable and interesting information he shared from his book *The 1% Principle*. His expertise gained from his involvement in the corporate world teaching on this topic, shone through. We gained valuable tools and insights on how to achieve our goals."

—Dianne Spain, Member of NZCW

"Tom O'Neil presented a powerful presentation on *The 1% Principle* for NZ Christian Writers, sharing practical insights from his book, with humorous stories, and an entertaining

presentation style. I can highly recommend Tom as an inspiring motivational seminar speaker to any group."

—Justin St. Vincent, Member of NZCW and Editor of *Love Live Forgive* [www.LoveLiveForgive.org](http://www.LoveLiveForgive.org)

"Tom O'Neil challenged us with great ideas on the *1% Principle*, which can be applied to our writing as much as to our daily lives for gradual and cumulative improvement. He showed some of his secrets on Goal Getting as opposed to Goal Setting, and these were very sensible and helpful."

—Eion Field, Member of NZCW

## Northland Christian Writers Seminar Report

By Janice Gillgren

The Northland Christian Writers held a morning seminar on May 9th, just north of Whangarei.

Our two speakers, Ruth Linton and Justin St Vincent, both packed in plenty of practical and useful instruction to aid each of us in our writing journey.

Ruth talked about *Elements of Fiction*. Our writing is like a God-given seed, she said. It's what we do with it that counts. Ruth then told us about planning, mind-mapping, characters, viewpoints, tenses, sentence construction, voice, and some tips on editing. (She fit a tremendous amount into an hour!)

Justin spoke about *Launching Your Book*. While not all of us are 'there yet', it was certainly useful information to be prepared, for newer technology and older

methods of marketing both have their value, as Justin showed.

Justin also talked about the NZ Christian Writers, and how this national group is growing, but especially how the new NZCW website has been developed to help all Christian writers who avail themselves of it. It is as follows:  
[www.nzchristianwriters.org](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org).

## **Horoeka Heritage Holiday Part One**

By Jan Pendergrast

Childhood memories flooded back as we wound our way down the narrow Waipatiki Road into the Horoeka valley, 45 minutes south east of Dannevirke. Our destination this third day of our trip was the magnificent Waihi Falls, one of my childhood playgrounds and ‘my most favourite place in the whole entire world’.



*Waihi Falls*

For the previous six months I had hinted that Hans and I take our four oldest grandchildren on a heritage tour to my childhood home and environs to show them where I came from and some of the people and places that made me who I am. We live in the Bay of Plenty, farming the same land cleared by Hans’s father and grandfather. Seven of our grandchildren live in, and are steeped in their grandfather’s heritage, and see their great grandfather regularly. My desire for

all ten to experience a snippet of my heritage was strong.

It took our son’s prompting, “Why don’t you stop talking about it and just do it, Mum?” for me to make plans—what to include, bookings, menu, timetable.

On the first Tuesday of the April school holidays Hans, in our motorhome bus with eleven year-old Justin, and me in the seven-seater Hyundai with cousins Breahn and Lyndon (ten) and Tyler (eight), began our heritage discovery trip.

We broke our 1,000 km return journey into child-manageable time slots, stopping every two hours at least for meals and snacks.

After lunch and activities at Mind Junction, north of Taupo, we were disappointed to find there were no ice-creams at the Summit Kiosk on the Napier Taupo Road. It was ‘closed for maintenance’. The children enjoyed their ice-creams when we arrived at Bay View Snapper Holiday Park, then disappeared over the dunes to the beach for an hour.

We had camp setup routines which began a little slowly, but by the fifth night were well honed. This first night we discovered those glitches common on camping holidays: no tent pegs (Lyndon slept in the Hyundai’s boot) and Justin’s tent was in a hollow, so when we had the first of only two down-pours of our holiday, the tent was in a puddle, but the boys warm and dry!

A necessary visit was to 80 year-old Horoeka neighbours who now live on Napier hill. I needed the children to meet these wonderful folk, so much a part of my childhood. I remember the day they married and moved to the farm next door.

I was eight. I babysat their six children when I was a teenager.

We setup in the Dannevirke Domain Motor Camp, then the children disappeared up to the Domain where there was all manner of birdlife to watch and feed.

We toured Dannevirke that evening. My mother lived in that house after my brother married; great grandfather had an old batch down that right-of-way; I played tennis on those courts and stayed there with my aunty for tournaments; we put coins on the railway lines here; that's where the show grounds have always been, and that paddock is where the circus was set up; and some shops haven't changed in 60 years.

Before returning to camp the kids spent an hour during sunset playing on the Viking ship in the playground.

The children phoned home each night we were in reception.

A visit to St John's Anglican Church, where Hans and I were married 42 years ago, was a must before we left Dannevirke on Day Three. The children enjoyed wandering around looking at the stained glass windows, the baptismal font and plaques on the ends of the pews. We left an anniversary message in the visitors' book. I hope they noticed it!

Because we were heading towards the farm and coast over the next two days, a supermarket visit was essential to stock up on fuel for the tribe. Fuel for the vehicles was also a necessity.

Before we embarked on this trip I had the dreadful thought that maybe the old farm homestead of my childhood had been bulldozed down and replaced with a

modern home; this home full of wonderful childhood love and memories. What a relief to find it on Google Earth.

It is much as I remember it; a wall and the old wood range were missing and a room added. Matt and Ces showed a keen interest in the history of the area and were as pleased to meet us as we were them. It was lovely to see how they valued the old homestead made of solid native timbers. They have retained the farm's name, Lyndon, after my grandmother's family name.

At the Waihi waterfall carpark we set up camp and did a quick reconnaissance down to the falls' riverbed before lunch. The constant roar of these mighty falls, the wind and spray were just as I remember.

## **Spiritual Disciplines**

*Devotion: for NZ Christian Writers  
Autumn Workshop 2015*

By Justin St Vincent

*'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.'* Psalm 32:8 (NKJV)

Discipline—a word that connects us to instruction, teaching, and guidance from God. Discipline can even remind us of authority, rules, and strictness, offering images of people involved in education, the military or even sport. However, this differs from the spiritual disciplines which are the daily good habits that develop us spiritually. Like sharpened tools they help strengthen our faith to serve our spiritual walk with Jesus.

**Spiritual disciplines** serve us by giving the gift of clarity and correction to grow strong in our faith. In our Christian walk, it

can sometimes become too easy for life to simply take over, and we forget the spiritual disciplines that provide stability and structure to our Christian faith. Developing daily disciplines can be one of the most rewarding aspects of our Christian walk.

Psalm 32 is a Psalm of David, providing contemplation that connects our mind and spirit with five powerful spiritual disciplines; forgiveness, prayer, guidance, trust, and worship. Each of these spiritual disciplines help to exercise our faith through practical actions we can do daily.

**Forgiveness**, verses 1-2: *'Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.'*

Forgiveness is for giving. We give to ourselves and others through forgiveness—an intentional and voluntary process that helps us change our attitudes and feelings toward an offence in our personal life.

**Prayer**, verse 6: *'Everyone who is godly shall pray to You'*. Prayer is the digestive system of the soul. It connects us to God, and is a two-way communication for uploads and downloads. We can share our concerns, needs, and problems with God to seek Him for clarity, direction, and solutions in our daily time with Him. Prayer works.

**Guidance**, verse 8: *'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.'* By seeking God through His Word, we open ourselves to His instruction and teaching to guide us in the way we should go. Daily Bible reading is an ideal way to connect with the character, heart, and nature of God, maturing our understanding of Him.

**Trust**, verse 10: *'Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him.'*

Trusting God gives us permission to let go and let God. One of the most liberating things to know is that God has a plan, purpose, and future for us all. When we trust in God, we give up the right to the driving seat in our life, and let God take the wheel.

**Worship**, verse 11: *'Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!'* Worship is about declaring praise to God and allowing His Holy Spirit to be a catalyst for revelation and transformation in our lives.

The aspect of worshipping corporately as a church family is significant because when we worship together there is a spirit of solidarity and unity before God. Living a holy and pleasing life to God is our spiritual act of worship.

Additional spiritual disciplines can include: celebration, chastity, confession, fasting, evangelism, service, stewardship, submission, and tithing, among others. For me, discipline and diligence go hand-in-hand. We are reminded in Psalm 119:4, that *'You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently.'*

In addition, Proverbs reminds us on how discipline is associated with our diligent attitude towards our faith. Proverbs 4:23: *'Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.'* Proverbs 8:17, *'I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.'*

With these scriptures in mind, I believe spiritual disciplines offer principles that guide us in all things, giving stability and structure to our inner world, supporting us in our journey with Jesus.

# REMINDER Annual Subscriptions are due on 1st August 2015

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## Warm Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

**Ana Lisa de Jong**  
Whenuapai, Auckland

**Joyce Lobban**  
Waitara, Taranaki

**Georgia Martin**  
Hamilton

**Wayne Thornton**  
Mangawhai

**Jay Matenga Wood**  
Golflands, Auckland

## Professional Editing and Writing Services

If you are looking for professional  
editing and writing services, then  
why don't you contact the  
following NZCW members?

**Janette Busch**  
of WritingAnswers

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**Marie Anticich**

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Mob: +64 27 533 0188

## Puzzle Page #2

Synonyms are words or phrases that mean the same as another.

Following are three words that are commonly overused. Using a dictionary or thesaurus can you find synonyms that fit each grid? Write answers downward. Some letters are given to help you.

### 1. GET

	P			F		A	E	
B		E						A
		C	Q		C			I
	C				U			
			R			N		

### **Bibliography:**

Collins New Zealand  
School Thesaurus

HarperCollins Publishers  
(NZ) Ltd 2009

English Thesaurus –  
Concise Edition

Webster’s Reference  
Library

Geddes and Grosset 2009

### 2. VERY

D		G			T		P		
	X					X			
			G			C		M	G
P			H	L			F		E
				L					
	M	L			B			K	
						I			
						N	D		
	Y							L	

### 3. NICE

A			D		F	K				D	
		H							X		
	J			E			L	N	A	L	D
R			I	A							
	Y	M					C				
C			H		D						
										T	
		G									
V											
			L								

**ANSWERS can be found on page 31**

# How to Write a Simple Screenplay

1. **Write or type the name of the play on a piece of paper.** Think of what you want the play to be about before you name it; this will help guide you.
2. **Write down a list of actors and their parts.** Focus on creating good quality characters. More ideas, and thus, more characters will come to you, but value quality over quantity.
3. **Draw a picture of each character** and write a paragraph about him/her so you feel like you know your characters. Think about how your character feels, what she/he looks like, and their personality.
4. **Write down your setting.** Describe it. Is it in a park or at a factory? Sunny or raining? Little details are very important, because they give the work unity and clarity. Write down the setting place and time for every new scene. When something changes in a scene, record it. You don't want the screenplay to get its chronology mixed up!
5. **Write the names for your characters and some stage directions.** This will make it easy for the actors and actresses to study and practice their lines, and it erases confusion from the mix in the already hectic play preparation process.
6. **Write the lines.** Make them fit your characters' personality and emotions, and make sure they are not bland or insipid. Be creative, and avoid using overly-dramatic scenes (unless it is a melodrama). Adapt the play to

modern times and avoid centering it on over-used, tired storylines.

7. **Assemble your cast after you finish.** Choose whomever you know who could play the part well.
8. **Perform it!** Do not expect for everything to work perfectly the first time, but persevere.

*With acknowledgements to WikiHow*

## NZCW Writers' Groups

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*(in the absence of Beth Walker who is in Christchurch attending to family matters)*

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# GET CREATIVE

Many thanks to Bonny Smithies for submitting the following thought-provoking poem on the topic of *Middle of the Road*.

## Middle of the Road

By Bonnie Smithies

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. As Christian folk we're on a road<br>It's called the Narrow Way<br>We'll end up in Heaven so bright<br>If on this road we stay.   | 3. You may well ask, "What is that goal?"<br>Well now, my friend, you see<br>We're following our Saviour Lord<br>Who's calling you and me. |
| 2. The way is hard, windy and long<br>There's peril left and right<br>But we are safe if we walk true<br>And keep our goal in sight. | 4. Although our way's not easy, and<br>We bear a heavy load<br>The safest place for us to be<br>Is the middle of that road.                |



The next topic will be

## Bittersweet

Maximum 40 lines for poetry and 250 words for prose.

Include the words 'Get Creative' with your submission. Although work is not judged, the best pieces received will be considered for publication.

*Email submissions to the editor no later than 10th July 2015*



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## Seventy Years Writing Bible Lessons

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**MAORI POSTAL AOTEAROA** publishes Bible lessons and literature (some bilingual) for Maori folk and all people in Aotearoa. The movement began in 1945 through the vision of Arnot and Ruth Edwards in Northland and Elsie Kerr (Severinsen), then residing in Rangitikei District who wrote, compiled and duplicated lessons on how the Bible teaches the Christian life is the best life of all. In the early 1950s the work was centralised in Wanganui. Membership, then a few hundred, is now several thousand.

**Today a wide range of** attractively designed colour-graded lessons, posters and mealtime graces and tracts, for ages five to adults, plus Tupu Whakarangi quarterly magazines, are distributed, says Graham Batson, Director of the Wanganui Headquarters.

**The Lessons**, with question and answer sheets, are posted to individual members, home and church groups, home schools and correction centres to be returned for leaders to mark. Te Kupu Whakaora is a series of senior study lesson books covering subjects for new Christians and important Bible topics. Book One explains the basics of how the Bible came to us from the earliest Old Testament writers.

Click [www.maoripostal.co.nz](http://www.maoripostal.co.nz) to view their easy read programme.

*Bibliography: Maori Postal Aotearoa*

## Library Corner

### Book Review

By Debbie McDermott



### Am I Precious?

Written and Illustrated  
by Belinda McCallion

*Am I Precious?* is an extraordinary picture-story book that tells of a little girl's quest to discover her true worth. She begins seeking answers to her secret question by doing what she thinks are nice things for others—like boring her granddad to sleep by reading him the longest book on the shelf! However, it is only when she puts her question to God that she hears his answer loud and clear through his creation.

Although *Am I Precious?* is classified as a children's book, its message and the lovely illustrations which have also been created by the author impacted me deeply. I believe many others reading this book will also be affected in a similar way, simply because we all ask ourselves the question it poses at some time. Our question may be framed in different words to those Belinda has used, but essentially it will mean "Am I precious?"

When I told Belinda McCallion about the effect her well-written little book had on me, her response was:

"I understand what you are saying... That is why I have been reluctant to limit its age as on some levels it transcends age. Maybe it is because it talks to that little girl in us who never learnt this."

If you are struggling with self-worth issues or you want to show someone how valuable they are, then *Am I Precious?* is a must-buy.

Copies can be obtained directly from the author at [www.belindamccallion.com](http://www.belindamccallion.com)

## Additions to the Library

Many thanks to John Milne for donating his recently published book,

### *Bereavement*

### West Auckland Group Remembers David Blaiklock



David and Marjorie Blaiklock

A true gentleman, David was a compassionate person who always had a kind word for everyone. His prayers, which were simple yet powerful, and his gentle sense of humour, made him a much-loved member of our group.

Despite David's declining health over the past few years, he rarely missed our meetings, even though a change of venue meant he had more stairs to climb than before. They became increasingly difficult for him in recent months and he went home to be with his beloved Lord on Wednesday, May 6th, after a short stay in hospital. How much we will miss him, but what great rejoicing there will be when we are all reunited in heaven!

Those of us who could do so attended David's funeral to celebrate his life and offer our condolences to his lovely wife, Marjorie. For those who couldn't go, the online link to David's service is:

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/Raymond+Moore+Photography/Mr+Blaiklock%27s+Farewell/6c93ad4aid12cG4025G84d1Y2ca4d12ee7>

# Competition Results

## Under 20s

**Judge:**  
**Vicki Nogaj**

**Requirement:** Take two cartoon heroes and put them in an elevator together. Write a skit on what happens and tie in an underlying message. e.g. Patience, forgiveness. 300-325 words.

### General Comments

*I had fun reading these out loud, trying all the voices, which is the best way to judge a script! My family helped pick their favourites from the bunch. Everybody had struggles with formatting the script properly, but I didn't have high expectations as for most it was a first attempt.*

*I enjoyed the clever punchlines at the end and how everybody embodied their characters through the dialogue. Well done! Good clear messages from all! I loved Georgia Martin's Super Hero story but it wasn't in script format so couldn't give it a placement.*

## First Place



**Benjamin Smithies**  
of Christchurch  
(12 years old)

### Captain Haddock's Patience

*Tintin and Captain Haddock are standing outside an elevator. Tintin presses the button and waits for the door to open. When the lift opens he enters. Captain Haddock is lagging*

*slightly behind and gets his toe "run over" by the door closing.*

**Captain Haddock:** Billions of blue blistering barnacles.

*He gives his foot a jerk and punches the almost closed door. Then with a click the shoe comes out and the door jams.*

**Captain Haddock:** I hate this door.

*Captain Haddock boots the door. Tintin starts pressing different buttons to try to open the jammed door. He realizes it is hopeless.*

**Tintin:** Calm down Captain and have some patience.

**Captain Haddock:** I'm as cool as a cucumber.

**Tintin:** Then act like it.

*Captain Haddock stands quietly for three seconds and then loses his temper again and starts kicking and punching the now battered door.*

**Tintin** in desperation: Captain, if you stop that we can talk and sort something out.

*Captain Haddock stops raging but for good measure he thumbs the door one last time, spraining his thumb in the process.*

**Tintin:** See, the good book says a lot about anger. Like Proverbs 19:19 "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty".

Just then the door slides open.

## Judge's Comments

'*Captain Haddock's Patience*' was short and to the point but I think would be great to watch. Kids, especially boys, always enjoy someone in pain! I think sound effects could have been written in to the stage directions, e.g. Elevator dings. I like the way you put the names in bold font, making them clear to read, and that the stage directions are in italics. The last line should be in italics too. I think more detail about the elevator door prop is needed. If it is imaginary then state it in the stage directions. Well done.

## Second Place



**Danella  
Smithies**

of Christchurch  
(15 years old)

## No Title

*Setting: In a hospital elevator. Piglet is suffering from a severe case of chicken pox and Winnie the Pooh is taking him to see the doctor.*

*Piglet (scratching himself):* Oh dear, I wish I didn't have to see the doctor.

*Pooh Bear:* Complaining won't change anything. Just be brave, it will be all over soon.

*Piglet sighs.*

*Suddenly the elevator gives a grunt and jerks to a halt. Startled the two friends stare at each other.*

*Pooh Bear:* Oh bother.

*Piglet (sobbing):* D-d-d-d-dear dear dear! Whatever will we do? I'm so

itchy and sore how can I wait any longer? We might be stuck for hours! Oh, what will happen if I die?

*Piglet starts sobbing uncontrollably.*

*Seeing how upset his invalid friend is, Pooh tries to console him.*

*Pooh Bear:* It will be all right in the end. Remember what Christopher Robin said yesterday about courage and everything getting better eventually?

*Piglet:* Oh, I hope so! But how can I ever stand it until then?

*Pooh Bear:* Just have courage, help is on the way. You will only make your fever worse if you worry so much.

*Piglet sniffs and takes a tight hold of Pooh's outstretched hand. To take Piglet's mind off their situation Pooh starts telling him his favourite story about hefalumps.*

*After two minutes the elevator gives another grunt and continues on its trip to the next floor.*

*Nurse:* We are dreadfully sorry for the hold-up. The power got disconnected but is being investigated thoroughly.

*Pooh Bear:* There you go Piglet. I told you it would be alright in the end!

*Piglet:* I was so scared.

*Nurse:* I once heard it said that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave person is not one that doesn't feel afraid but he who conquers that fear.

*Nurse takes them to the doctor.*

## Judge's Comments

*This was a lovely play and embodied the anxious character of piglet well. I think the real message coming through is friendship here. I don't think you need the Nurse's comment at the end as the message comes through the acting. It was well set out but it would be easier to read with the names in bold. Nice job.*

## Third Place



**Bonnie  
Smithies**  
of Christchurch  
(16 years old)

### Time Travelling from Ancient Gaul

*Setting: In an empty hotel elevator.*

*There is a whistling sound and suddenly the famous cartoon characters, Asterix and Obelix, appear in the elevator. They seem dazed and confused as to what is happening. Obelix's small dog, Dogmatix, is unexplainably absent.*

Asterix (blinking eyes slowly and looking around him): "What is happening? Where are we?"

Obelix (extremely confused): "I... don't... know... ever since I fell into that cauldron of potion as a baby nothing's been the same..."

Asterix: "Wait, I know! We were looking for Dogmatix, remember? And we got stuck in Getafix's new time travelling machine experiment."

Obelix: "I feel weak..."

Asterix (with conviction): "Let's get out of this cubicle and find out the situation."

*Both start hunting around for a way of escape. They are unfamiliar with their surroundings since in Ancient Gaul elevators hadn't yet been invented.*

Asterix (trying every button in the elevator): "How do we get out of here?"

*The doors suddenly open with a soft swish as Asterix presses the right button. Obelix and Asterix exit the elevator and the doors shut behind them. They find themselves in a long corridor with numbered doors opening off on both sides of the hall.*

Asterix: "What sort of aedificium is this?"

Obelix (ignoring him):  
"DOGMATIXXXXXXXXXX!!!!!!"

*The two start walking down the hall, calling for the dog at intervals. They eventually find themselves on a staircase.*

Obelix (stopping suddenly): "What's that?"

Asterix: "What?"

*Both hear the audible sound of a dog whining.*

Asterix (looking under the staircase): "It's coming from under here!"

*Asterix reaches down and lifts up a squirming, whining and filthy dirty Dogmatix.*

Obelix (reaching out arms and taking the dog): "Dogmatix!"

Dogmatix (licking Obelix's face enthusiastically): "Ruff, ruff!"

Asterix: "It just goes to show that it's always worth pursuing something, even if you have to travel through time to find it! Doggedness is what we have learnt today, and we'll never forget how we learnt it."

### Judge's Comments

*'Time Travelling from Ancient Gaul' got a placement due to the content which was entertaining and humorous. The format was messy and hard to read due to the quotation marks. These are not needed when writing a script. I was confused by Asterix's line "What sort of aedificium is this?" It was in a different font colour and needed further explanation. Also I don't think the word 'audible' is needed as you've already mentioned it was a 'sound'. I liked the pun at the end and on the whole this script would 'play' out well.*

## Level One

**Judge:**

**Debbie McDermott**

**Requirement:** POETRY — Choose a well-known tune and write a hymn that can be easily sung to this tune. Make sure to include the name of the original tune with your entry for judging purposes. Four verses maximum.

### General Comments

*I was pleased to receive four well written hymns for this competition. All were enjoyable to sing and presented a clear Christian message. However, every now and then, I struggled to 'fit' the odd word, phrase or line to the choice of music. There are two possible reasons for this: They are as follows:*

- *The word/s, phrase or line in question has too many or too few syllables.*
- *The words are incorrectly arranged, even though the syllable count is the same as the corresponding line of the original song. e.g. if the line of the original song comprises three words with a 2-2-3 syllable structure, rewriting it with a 2-3-2 syllable structure may not work so well.*

*When writing lyrics for an existing tune, it is important to remember music is written in bars, and there are a specified number of notes / beats to each bar—depending on the set tempo or rhythm, usually represented by numbers such as 4/4, 3/4 and so on just after the treble clef.*

*Put simply, each beat usually represents one syllable, but if you listen closely to a well composed song, you will soon realise the musical notes vary in speed as well as in range. Some notes may be slightly drawn out while others are played very quickly, thereby adding emphasis and cadence (similar to how we talk). This variation will impact on how the words of the lyric are sung. Hence the reason why it is important to not only ensure the lyric has the correct number of syllables for each bar of music, it is equally important to ensure the words are properly arranged so they can be easily sung to the tune.*

*When writing a new lyric for an existing tune, it is helpful to first examine the original sheet music and word / syllable structure of the original song. This will give you a good idea as to how your lyric should be structured so it 'fits' the tune properly and is easy to sing.*

*Except for these comments, each entrant made an excellent effort. Well done! NB: Learning to write songs to existing tunes is a stepping stone to writing good poetry.*

## First Place



**Laura  
Martin**  
of Hamilton

### No Title

To the tune of the hymn 'Be still my soul'

Lift up your hands  
You children of the Lord  
Honour His name  
For all that He has done  
He conquered death  
He rose up from the grave  
Sins debt is paid  
By Christ, the Risen One

His Word is truth  
His way is for the righteous  
His name is Life  
His blood makes pure the soul  
Manna from heav'n  
Bread that satisfies  
The Cornerstone  
The One who makes life whole

Lift up your hands  
Oh children of the King  
Your Christ has come  
Your future is secure  
His grace is yours  
Oh praise His glorious name  
Join hearts in song  
Praise Him forevermore

### Judge's Comments

*I absolutely loved Laura's entry. Not only does it have a powerful Christian message, it is deeply spiritual and worshipful. Her choice of music, which is slow yet majestic, together with her choice and arrangement of*

*words, also makes her hymn easy to sing for the most part. Apart from the second verse (which has one syllable too many in the second line and one syllable too few in the third-last line), Laura's syllable count is identical to that of the original hymn, 'Be Still My Soul'. As already mentioned in my general comments, too many or too few syllables per beat / bar of music can make a song difficult to sing. To correct the lines in question, I suggest rewriting them as:*

- *His way for the righteous*
- *The Bread that satisfies*

*I was disappointed that Laura did not include a chorus similar to that in the original hymn, to emphasise the message in each verse even more strongly. Her reason for not including one may have something to do with the competition requirements, which stipulated a maximum of four verses only. However, for this competition, I would consider a chorus to be part of each verse if that is how the original song was written.*

*Apart from the above comments, this is an excellent hymn that I hope the writer will have the opportunity to share with others. Well done, Laura, for a great first entry. I look forward to receiving more from you.*

## Second Place



**Eion  
Field**  
of Hamilton

### No Title

Sung to 'Snoopy's Christmas' music

The world is so full  
of sorrow and greed,  
With conflict and violence  
and children in need.

The gospel of peace  
that the earth needs to know  
Is ours to proclaim  
with the love that we show.

### Chorus

*Jesus' name, O Jesus' name  
God's almighty word.  
Let the message be re-told  
Make it seen and heard.*

The word has gone out  
from the earliest days  
Spread through the earth  
by people of faith,  
And now there's no land  
where His name is unknown  
In every nation  
His love has been shown.

### Chorus

Now let us continue  
to fight the good fight  
Proclaiming the truth  
upholding the right  
Intent on the peace  
that the gospel will bring  
Telling the world  
that Jesus is King.

### Judge's Comments

*I thoroughly enjoyed Eion's modern hymn. It has a strong gospel message and his choice of music—'Snoopy's Christmas'—gives it a lively beat which adults and children alike would enjoy immensely. Hopefully he will have the opportunity to share it with others.*

*Although the number of syllables and word structure in Eion's hymn are different in places to the original song, the jauntiness of the tune somehow makes room for these inconsistencies for I did not notice them*

*while initially singing along to the music. It was only afterwards, when I compared his hymn to the original words, that I saw the differences.*

*In Snoopy's Christmas, the syllable count in each verse is:*

- *1st, 2nd 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th lines = 5 syllables each.*
- *3rd and 6th lines = 6 syllables each*
- *The four-line chorus has a 7-5-7-5 syllable count.*

*Based on the above, it would be a good exercise for Eion to rework the following lines in his hymn to make the syllable count consistent with the original song:*

#### Verse one

- *The 8th line has 6 instead of 5 syllables.*

#### Verse two

- *The 2nd line has 6 instead of 5 syllables.*
- *The 3rd line has 4 instead of 6 syllables.*

#### Verse three

- *The 1st line has 6 instead of 5 syllables.*
- *The 3rd line has 5 instead of 6 syllables.*
- *The 7th line has 4 instead of 5 syllables.*

*Apart from these recommendations, this is an excellent effort. Well done, Eion, and do keep writing.*

## Third Place Equal



**Karen  
Belk**

of Takapuna, Auckland

## To Love You More

Sung to the tune of *Kum Ba Yah*

Set me free Lord,  
Set me free.  
Set me free Lord,  
Set me free.  
Oh Lord set me free.

Break these chains Lord,  
Break these chains.  
Break these chains Lord,  
And set me free.  
Oh Lord set me free.

Set me free Lord  
To love you more,  
Break these chains Lord  
To love you more,  
Oh Lord to love you more.

### Judge's Comments

*Although the three verses of Karen's hymn essentially comprise only four lines with slight variations, it is nonetheless deeply spiritual and has been written in a manner consistent with the African-American gospel music to which it has been set. The only mistake Karen made in this regard was to only repeat the first couplet in each verse once instead of twice. When entering a competition such as this one, it is very important to ensure the verses of your new lyric have the same number of lines as the original song. Any deviation from this pattern will result in marks being deducted from your score.*

*Concerning the flow of Karen's hymn, some of the lines have too many syllables for the music and some too few. Although the style of music renders this hardly noticeable, it would be a good exercise for her to examine the syllable count of the original song, and then rework her hymn slightly to reduce or increase the number of syllables to correct each incorrect line. For instance, inserting the word 'my' before the word 'Lord' in all verses would*

*increase the syllables in each of these lines to the correct number of 5.*

*With regards to the third verse, putting the word 'to' at the end of lines 1 and 3 would make the syllable count correct for these lines as well as for lines 2 and 4. However, this may then make these lines tricky to sing to the music. Changing line 5 would be difficult, so I suggest replacing it with 'Oh Lord, set me free' instead.*

*Apart from these recommendations, you have made an excellent effort, Karen. Well done and do keep it up.*

## Third Place Equal



**Belinda  
McCallion**  
of Tauranga

### The Armour Of God

*(To the tune of onward Christian Soldiers)*

Be strong in the LORD,  
and in His mighty power  
Put on God's full armour,  
to cover you each hour  
Stand against the devil,  
all his schemes and plans  
We fight against the darkness,  
not our fellow man

#### CHORUS

Put on God's full armour,  
so that we can stand  
Then march on victorious,  
to the Promised Land

Wrap around the belt of truth,  
let your lips profess  
Securing then the breastplate,  
of His righteousness

Prepare your feet to share,  
the gospel of shalom peace  
Using now faith's shield,  
fiery arrows cease.

Wear the helmet of salvation,  
standing by His love  
Take the sword of the spirit,  
the word of God above.  
Always ever praying,  
for the saints of Elohim  
May patience and perseverance,  
more and more be seen.

### Judge's Comments

*I was very impressed with the amount of effort Belinda put into writing her triumphant hymn, which is a wonderful rendition of Ephesians 6:18ff.*

*Despite the music of 'Onward Christian Soldiers' being very familiar to me, I found it quite hard to sing some parts of Belinda's hymn unaccompanied. The first line is particularly difficult, which is a pity. A tricky first line can be off-putting and may even spoil the impact of the whole song. There are two principle reasons why Belinda's hymn doesn't 'fit' the music correctly in some places:*

- 1. In normal speech, our words rise and fall in volume, depending on where we are placing our emphasis. Some words also have a naturally harder or softer sound, determined by the combination of vowels and consonants. Music is similar, with some notes being played more loudly / softer / faster / slower / higher / lower than others. This is why, when writing a new lyric to an existing tune, it is vital to examine the original music as well as the words, to identify where the composer placed their emphasis. Then choose and arrange the words of your new lyric accordingly.*

- 2. A number of lines—particularly those in verses two and three—have the wrong number of syllables, resulting in having to draw out or squash in a word or phrase so it 'fits' the music.*

*This is otherwise an excellent effort. Well done, Belinda and do keep it up.*

## Level Two

### Judge: Janice Gillgren

**Requirement:** REVIEW a documentary about a current issue. The source can be from the internet, a DVD or TV, but be sure to get as much source detail as you can, just as you would for a book or movie review. Write a clear précis, and include opinions of your own about the documentary's value. 400 words.

### General Comments

*There was only one entry for this competition, so perhaps it wasn't very appealing or challenging.*

*Concerning formatting, it is now common to put a space between paragraphs rather than using tabs to indent new paragraphs. However, it isn't necessary to manually insert spaces between paragraphs, as this can be done automatically in the line spacing format in most Word programs. (Check your Word program's instructions if you're not sure what I mean.)*

*If you format automatically, rather than inserting spaces, it is then just as simple to delete all the spaces. I have often had to delete spaces manually from entries before sending them to the NZ CW editor, who prefers no inserted spaces.*

*Do keep trying as many assignments as you can, and I'll look forward to seeing more next time.*

## First Place



**Susan  
Flanagan**  
of Pahia

### The Truth About Sugar

“I always thought a low fat diet was the way to go... and then there was a big war on good old salt... but now it seems it's sugar,” remarks presenter Fiona Phillips in the opening sequence of BBC's 2015 documentary *The Truth About Sugar*.

The documentary follows four volunteers as they embark on a voyage of changing their diets and eating habits in order to reach the World Health Organisation (WHO) target of six teaspoons of sugar or less per day.

Britain's current guidelines recommend we aim at less than 12 teaspoons of sugar per day, although WHO recommends a target of no more than six teaspoons of sugar per day in order to gain even bigger health benefits, and avoid conditions such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

I was surprised to learn that all sugars are natural and come from plants. Brown sugar is not better for you than white. In fact all sugars are pretty much the same. However a level teaspoon of honey actually has more calories than a level teaspoon of sugar because it has more nutrients and is denser. If you want a sweet treat, fruit is the answer

because the naturally occurring sugar in fruit comes with so much goodness, such as vitamins, minerals and fibre.

The three main sources of refined sugar in diets are; sweet treats, savoury foods (in which we may not necessarily expect to find sugar) and fizzy drinks. It's the sugar added to processed foods that amazed me most. Dry, unadorned bran flakes have three teaspoons of sugar per serving! I had my suspicions about tomato sauce and baked beans but bran flakes?!

Fiona uses experiments and interesting illustrations with some help from a biologist, nutritionist and food scientist to convey what might otherwise be boring facts and statistics.

Although Fiona touches on artificial sweeteners I would have liked to hear more about these but realise that, after all, the documentary is about sugar. I personally just felt relieved that my family's diet minimises the three main sources of added refined sugar, and feel justified in maintaining my one teaspoon of sugar in my cuppa twice a day.

For those who struggle with cravings and have real difficulty in resisting those sweet treats? I leave you with Fiona's closing words. “Sorry, but this time you really can't have your cake and eat it.”

Source – [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
Presenter – Fiona Phillips  
Executive Producer – Ian Holt  
Producer – Jeff Wilkinson  
Director – Jeff Wilkinson  
Production Company – Maverick Television

## Judge's Comments

*Hi Susan. Although you gain 1st place by default, this doesn't mean that your entry was not well done, although I will suggest a number of improvements.*

*Both your introduction and conclusion are strong and interesting. I like the way you tie them in well together, especially by using quotes from the documentary. You have included plenty of interesting snippets throughout the review as well.*

*You have listed the details as requested, although the year of production would have been helpful too. As your review title is the same as the documentary's, it would be better to state: 'Review by Susan...' so it doesn't appear as if the documentary was written by you.*

*Remember that readers will consider any people or characters introduced near the beginning of an article or story to be important. I therefore expected to see some more about the volunteers mentioned in paragraph two, to be satisfied whether or not they were successful in their voyage to reduce sugar.*

*In your 7th paragraph you write: '...justified in maintaining...'. Here 'justified' implies they have been proved right, whereas I think you probably mean something like 'free to continue enjoying...'*

*The 6th paragraph starting 'Fiona uses experiments...' should be brought nearer to the beginning, as it adds some authority to the information presented. It would also flow better.*

*Using a question mark followed by an exclamation mark (end of your 5th paragraph) is not really suitable for writing anything other than informal communications, or possibly some dialogue in fiction.*

*I'm not sure why you also insert a question mark in the middle of your last paragraph,*

*(or at the end of an incomplete first sentence) except perhaps to add emphasis to the difficulty in resisting sweet treats. Whether you were writing an incomplete sentence or inserting a question mark in a whole sentence, both practices are best avoided, as they will mark you as unacceptably 'amateur' to editors.*

## Level Three

### Judge: Ruth Linton

**Requirement:** WRITING STYLE: PASSIVE VOICE AND ACTIVE VOICE—Research the 'passive and active voice.' (Google is helpful here.) Write a short report on a local event using the active voice. Now re-write the article using the passive voice. Maximum 150 words per report; total of 300 words.

### General Comments

*What an interesting competition this has proved to be—and very difficult to judge. Congratulations to all who entered. I was especially impressed with the quality of sentences produced: simple sentences with one noun and one verb; compound sentences formed by two simple sentences joined with a conjunction such as 'and', as well as complex sentences with several phrases and clauses supporting and expanding the core thought. That said, it is certainly harder to switch compound and complex sentences between the active and passive voice. And there is no one correct answer!*

*The article in the last Christian Writer magazine (Passive vs Active Voice, Page 13) is excellent and should be referred to when checking which voice you have used, especially when your work appears slow, mundane and wordy. When marking I used two criteria to ascertain which voice was being used: I identified the main noun or subject and then the verb or action the*

subject performed. Next I checked the main verb. Where the verb was a 'to be' verb (put simply, a part verb or participle, usually in the past tense, accompanied by another 'tricky' verb such as 'is, was, were, have, be...') then the sentence will be in the passive voice. Also, when changing to the passive voice the subject often becomes the object or secondary noun in the sentence. If you are writing a complex sentence make sure the verb tenses are consistent throughout.

## First Place



**Julia  
Martin**

of Cambridge

### Festival Antics

#### ACTIVE VOICE

Well-known nursery rhyme characters gathered last month for their annual festival in the park.

A series of mishaps and misdemeanours, however, marred the day

Humpty Dumpty fell off a wall and suffered serious injuries; and while climbing a hill to fetch water, both Jack and Jill fell down and Jack fractured his skull.

Little Bo Peep lost her sheep; and a large spider terrified Miss Muffet as she was eating her curds and whey.

Meanwhile, the Knave of Hearts stole the Queen's tarts and disappeared. Likewise, Georgie Porgie ran away after he kissed some girls and made them cry.

Three blind mice chased the farmer's wife and she cut off their tails with a carving knife.

Despite these unfortunate incidents, most attendees regarded the festival as a success.

#### PASSIVE VOICE

The annual festival for well-known nursery rhyme characters was held last month in the park.

The day was marred, however, by a series of mishaps and misdemeanours.

Serious injuries were suffered by Humpty Dumpty after a fall from a wall; and a fractured skull was sustained by Jack, as he and Jill both fell down a hill while fetching water.

The sheep belonging to Little Bo Peep went missing; and Miss Muffet was terrified by a large spider as she was eating her curds and whey.

Meanwhile, the Queen's tarts were stolen by the Knave of hearts before disappearing; likewise after some girls were kissed by Georgie Porgie and made to cry, his absence was noticed.

A farmer's wife was chased by three blind mice and their tails were cut off by her carving knife.

Despite these unfortunate incidents, the festival was regarded as a success by most attendees.

#### Judge's Comments

*Well done, Julia. You have presented two samples of interesting and concise writing. I did wonder if the final sentence*

*of paragraph one in the active voice should have been rearranged as 'Most attendees regarded the festival as a success despite these unfortunate incidents.' This makes the subject, 'most attendees', easier to identify for this exercise.*

*The first sentence of paragraph two in the passive voice has one inconsistency in the tense. The final clause should read '... as he and Jill both **had fallen** down a hill...' as this changes the verb into the 'verb to be' as in the clauses at the beginning of the sentence.*

*By way of interest, several times the subject of the sentences in the active voice became the object in the passive voice. An example of this is the second sentence of paragraph one (active) where the subject was '**mishaps and misdemeanours**' and the object '**the day**'. In the passive voice their role is switched. The same is true in the final paragraph where '**most attendees**' (the subject) and '**the festival**' switch roles.*

*You have also chosen a title that fitted the mood of the articles.*

## Second Place



**Lois  
Farrow**  
of Christchurch

### Street Party

#### ACTIVE VOICE

At Riccarton Community Church we held our seventh annual Street Party recently where we met on the street instead of huddling inside. Planning begins months ahead as co-ordinator,

Mark Wells, books bouncy castles, music truck, children's farmyard, candy floss machine and many other attractions. Home Groups mobilise to take charge of different activities and run the food stalls.

Each time God answers our prayers for fine weather. Neighbours come from far and wide and the street resounds with children laughing and everyone having fun.

Attitudes change. People are enticed to step inside the building as Devonshire teas are served in the foyer. Some folks who were too shy to come in now attend craft groups or children's pre-school groups. As church and community mingle and get to know each other barriers break down.

God is good. Thank you Lord for answered prayers and increased interaction with our neighbours.

#### PASSIVE VOICE

For the seventh year running a Street Party has been held by Riccarton Community Church. Instead of being inside, everyone is out on the street. A lot of thought and planning is evident for the event where we have bouncy castles, music truck, children's farmyard, candy floss machine and many other attractions. Different activities and stalls are run by the home groups.

We always have fine weather, thanks to our prayers. Many neighbours from far and wide join us and it is great to

hear the laughter of the children and everyone having fun.

We have seen a change in attitude. Devonshire teas in the foyer mean barriers have been removed and our craft groups and children's pre-school groups have seen increased attendance. Church and community are getting to know each other better.

Thank you Lord for answered prayer and that our bond with the community has increased.

### Judge's Comments

*Lois has presented an interesting report and has changed from active to passive smoothly. Her sentences are well formed but in some cases I wonder if they would have been better divided into two sentences especially when using the passive voice (e.g. the second sentence of paragraph one in the active voice.) The same sentence would also read better by inserting an article ('the' or 'a') before each of the entertainment options. e.g. '...the music truck, ...a candy floss machine...' and so on.*

*The final paragraph in the passive voice starts very directly, almost as if it were still active. I suggest rephrasing it something like 'We are thankful to the Lord for he has answered prayer so our interaction with the community has increased. 'Are thankful', 'has answered' and 'has increased' are all good examples of the 'verb to be'.*

*The expression 'far and wide' used in both voices is not appropriate. It gives a sense of distance rather than neighbourhood. I would suggest leaving it out all together or perhaps describing the people as being from the area around the church or the local community.*

*Lois used a good title and has met the competition requirements. Well done.*

## Third Place



**Vicki  
Nogaj**  
of Tauranga

## Otumoetai Soccer World Cup Tournament Grade 8-13

### ACTIVE VOICE

Miniature versions of Nigeria, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Uzbekistan (to name a few) culminated on Fergusson Park in Tauranga last weekend to 'kick off' the junior soccer season. Each team dressed in their adopted nation's colours to battle it out in six, 12 minute elimination round games to reach first place.

The balmy autumn weather drew out many supporters and the Tauranga Samba drummers spiced up the atmosphere with their ethnic beats. I only had eyes for one team on the day. My eight year old son and husband, the coach, represented Nigeria in brilliant green. They were the youngest grade, but they played like champions scoring 35 goals and only 5 scored against them. Nigeria took home the trophy after a nail-biting final against Switzerland, and were crowned Grade Eight World Cup Victors.

Pride and relief won my internal, emotional soccer tournament!

## PASSIVE VOICE

Fergusson Park was culminated upon by miniature versions of Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Uzbekistan in Tauranga last weekend as the junior soccer season was ‘kicked off’. Six 12 minute elimination round games were played by teams dressed in their adopted nation’s colours to reach first place.

Many supporters were drawn out by the balmy autumn weather and the atmosphere was spiced up by the ethnic beats of the Tauranga Samba Drummers. On the day, I only had eyes for one team. Nigeria was represented by my eight year old son and my husband, the coach, in brilliant green. 35 goals were scored for and only 5 against them and despite being the youngest grade, they played like champions. After a nail-biting final against Switzerland, the trophy was taken home by Nigeria and the crowning World Cup victors were the grade eight team.

My internal, emotional soccer tournament was won by Pride and Relief!

### Judge’s Comments

*Vicki has written an excellent report using some long and complex sentences which would have made it more difficult to change from active to passive voice. Well done to try. In the change between voices make sure the verb use is consistent throughout. Again there are many places where the subject of the sentence became the object. (Some examples are ‘the balmy weather’ and ‘Many supporters’ in*

*paragraph two, and the ‘names of countries’ and ‘Fergusson Park’ in paragraph one.) This is not incorrect but it is good to be aware of it as pointed out in the magazine article I mentioned in my introduction.*

*There were several other issues to note, however. ‘Culminated’ means ‘reached its final or highest point’. This would be most appropriate for the end of season rather than the ‘kick off’.*

*The title was unnecessarily wordy. Something like ‘Otumoetai Junior World Cup Tournament’ would be adequate.*

*Beginning a sentence with a number in numerals is a bad idea (35 in paragraph two, passive voice). In this case the number could have been written in words, ‘thirty five’.*

*The word order of the third sentence, in paragraph two should be changed with an extra word inserted for clarity: My eight-year-old son ... **dressed** in brilliant green, represented Nigeria’*

*In the final sentence of paragraph two, passive voice, ‘crowning’ and ‘victors’ repeat the same thought. Choose which one is preferred and reword the sentence accordingly.*

*I really enjoyed the final paragraph. We Mothers become emotionally involved in such events!*

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*

—Psalm 89:1-2

# Notice Board

## NZ Young Film Makers Competition

The aim of the competition is to give all New Zealand school-age kids the opportunity to make and enter a super cool mini drama or doco. Entries can be made through schools or externally, according to the competition rules.

Schools will benefit through an engaging filmmaking extension to their curriculum.

There are also great prizes to be won.

### Requirements / Who Can Enter?

Any New Zealand school or school-age child can enter in ONE of 3 categories, Primary, Intermediate, or Secondary. Make any original short drama or mini documentary (under 5 minutes) that is entertaining, positive and uplifting.

### Prizes

\$1,000 cash prize for the overall winner in each of the three Age Categories!

### Deadline

31<sup>st</sup> July 2015

For more information and to register go to [www.inspiredfilmfund.com/nz-young-film-maker-competition](http://www.inspiredfilmfund.com/nz-young-film-maker-competition)



## Log Onto

## JANICE GILLGREN'S fortnightly blog

offering inspiration, encouragement and useful tips for writers at all levels.

[www.wordsandscenes.co.nz](http://www.wordsandscenes.co.nz)

## SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE #2

### 1.GET:

O	P	R	A	F	S	A	E	G
B	R	E	C	E	E	T	A	A
T	O	C	Q	T	C	T	R	I
A	C	E	U	C	U	A	N	N
I	U	I	I	H	R	I		
N	R	V	R		E	N		
	E	E	E					

### 2.VERY:

D	E	G	H	R	T	E	P	R	H
E	X	R	I	E	E	X	R	E	U
E	T	E	G	A	R	C	O	M	G
P	R	A	H	L	R	E	F	A	E
L	E	T	L	L	I	E	O	R	L
Y	M	L	Y	Y	B	D	U	K	Y
	E	Y			L	I	N	A	
	L				Y	N	D	B	
	Y					G	L	L	
						L	Y	Y	
						Y			

### 3.NICE:

A	E	C	D	P	F	K	D	F	E	D	T
T	N	H	E	L	R	I	E	I	X	E	I
T	J	A	L	E	I	N	L	N	A	L	D
R	O	R	I	A	E	D	I	E	C	I	Y
A	Y	M	G	S	N		C		T	C	
C	A	I	H	A	D		I			A	
T	B	N	T	N	L		O			T	
I	L	G	F	T	Y		U			E	
V	E		U				S				
E			L								

## God Riddle

What is greater than God and more evil than the devil?

The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die.

What is it? (To find out the answer, unravel the letters below.)

i-n-t-o-h-n-g

— — — — —

# Competitions for August 2015

Due by July 10th

EMAIL ENTRY AS AN ATTACHMENT, COMPLETE WITH WORD COUNT AND YOUR NAME.

**Font:** Times New Roman, 11 points.     **Line spacing:** single.

**Spaces between Paragraphs:** 6 points     **Paragraph Indentation:** None.

**Please send a high resolution photo** of yourself in the event you are awarded a place.

## **Level One**—for members 20 years old and over

**Requirement:** A CAT’S POINT OF VIEW— Have you ever wondered why cats often treat their owners with just the slightest bit of disdain? Using your imagination, pretend you’re one of those snooty cats and write about what’s going through your head as you turn your nose up at your master or mistress. 350 words.

**Email entry to:** Debbie McDermott at:     sddp@xtra.co.nz



*Debbie  
McDermott*

## **Level Two**—for members 20 years old and over

**Requirement:** CHILDREN’S PLAY— Write a play based on a Bible story, suitable for up to six children aged about 9-11 years old. Avoid preaching and moralising. It can be up to three acts long, and between 400-500 words. (The word count includes details of cast, scenes and characters.)

**Email entry to:** Janice Gillgren at:     jangill1359@gmail.com



*Janice  
Gillgren*

## **Level Three**— for members 20 years old and over

**Requirement:** RESEARCH the pattern of immigration over the past ten years. Identify three major groups/nationalities. What issues could result from their increased participation in our society? How should we, as Christians, respond to these challenges? Maximum 450 words.

**Email entry to:** Ruth Linton at:     ruthlinton2015@gmail.com



*Ruth  
Linton*

## **Under 20s**—for members 7-19 years old

**Requirement:** You’re a reporter and you just saw Jill push Jack down the hill. What happens to Jill? Write the resulting article. 200-250 words (standard press article).

**Email entry to:** Vicki Nogaj at:     nogaj@vodafone.co.nz



*Vicki  
Nogaj*