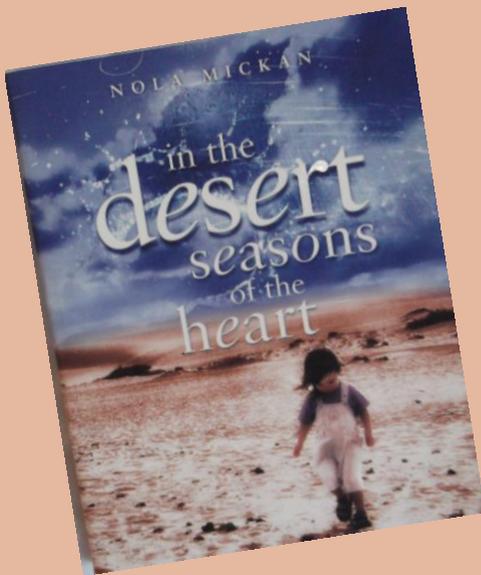


THE CHRISTIAN WRITER



MAGAZINE OF THE CHRISTIAN WRITERS
GUILD NEW ZEALAND

August – September 2013



**Supporting
Members' Books**

**In the Desert
Seasons of
the Heart**

by Nola Mikan

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

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)



Editor: Debbie McDermott (email: sddp@xtra.co.nz)

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The Christian Writer is published bimonthly by the New Zealand Christian Writers Guild 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 Guild members, please send it to the editor (in 500 words or less) for consideration. Please note that hard copy manuscripts cannot 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 views and opinions of authors expressed in this magazine do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

Website:

www.nzchristianwritersguild.co.nz

The site provides useful information on the Magazine, Links, Writing Courses, Groups, Competitions, Workshops and the Library. It also has an interesting 'Current News and Views' blog site, as well as a 'Write to Us' page to inform the committee on matters of interest, or to make recommendations which will benefit the Guild and its members.

From the President

Hello everyone,

It's good to be over halfway through winter and know that summer is coming.

At a recent committee meeting it was decided that we would run a competition for younger writers. All those who enter will receive free membership for a year.

From next year we will also have a competition section for this age bracket in addition to Levels One, Two and Three.

I was interested to see Yvonne Macdonald's winning Level Two entry in this month's magazine. Luke has an amazing testimony and works with Mike and I in the various children and youth programmes we are involved in.

The Spring Workshop is to be held on the 14th of September. Do bring your questions for the panel we hope to have present at that time.

Programme details can be found

on page 5 of the magazine. The AGM will also be held on that day.

This week is an exciting one for us as most of our children are calling in at some time or other. I am also speaking at a meeting in Whangarei and the following is a poem I wrote which I hope to quote at that time. I hope it will also encourage you as a writer.

*Tell others about Jesus,
Of His love and faithfulness,
Of His comfort and compassion –
How He loves to help and bless.*

*Tell others about Jesus,
How He took your sins away,
Of His mercy and forgiveness
And the peace He gives each day.*

*Tell others about Jesus,
That His love is strong and true –
But most of all tell others
Of what He's done for you.*

Keep sharing the Good News.

Janet Fleming



Janet and baby grandson, Zac

NZ Christian



Writers Guild

Spring Workshop and AGM
Saturday, 14th September 2013

9:30am – 4:00pm

Rossgrove Chapel, 12 Rossgrove Terrace,
Mount Albert, Auckland



Morning Speaker: Jan Pendergrast

CWG Vice President and Treasurer, as well as author of
Tui's Friends and *Dam Disaster* will be speaking on:

Writing for Children

If writing for children is your passion, then do come
along to this workshop and receive useful tips on
how to best present and publish your work.

**This will be followed by a question and answer session with
a panel of four or five after morning tea**

Afternoon Speaker: Bryan Winters

Managing Director (2011-13), author and ideas man for
Oceanbooks Publishing Cooperative will be speaking on:

The Reality of Bringing a Book to Market

Born in New Zealand, Bryan has also lived in West Africa, Australia,
Singapore, and UK. Apart from an early teaching career, most of his work has been in IT
marketing. This, he believes, is probably the best skill he can bring to the publishing
industry. Having completed one commissioned non-fiction work, he is currently
launching an IT book on using your Smartphone and will launch a Vietnam travel guide
later this year.



Cost: \$15.00 pp or \$25.00 for a couple

Don't forget to bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

For more details contact:

Janet Fleming or Jan Pendergrast on

Tel: (09) 405 0126 / Email: mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz / Email: jan@roads-end.co.nz

New Professional Development Initiative

By Catherine Hudson

We've started a new initiative in Tauranga—the Professional Development group. Several of our members found there was a need to focus on the more professional aspects of being a published author. We also desired to make this group accessible to writers who work during the day.

The 'PD group' as we humorously call it, is comprised of members who need a focus on the upper rungs of the writing ladder. We gather to discuss the latest trends in publishing, websites, social media, e-books and blogs, and to provide critique partnering. The need to create our platform as authors can be overwhelming. This group aims to share the journey and learn together while growing our skills as writers.

Membership to the group is granted by two moderators—the leader of the professional development group and the leader of the day time group. This ensures that no member is handed the more overwhelming aspects attached to building a platform before their writing career requires it.

So far we have got together a few times and have found the meetings to be extremely productive and inspiring. Any professional members of the guild would be encouraged in supporting such a group starting in their city. Let's stay abreast with what is happening internationally and keep our writing on a par with the best the world has to offer.

Book Launch Amazing Adventure A Journey of Faith

By Patricia Bawden

(Report by Julie Belding of DayStar Books)

Saturday July 13 was a red-letter day for Rev Patricia Bawden of Kerikeri. On this day, 82-year-old Patricia, who is an ordained vocational deacon in the Anglican church, launched her autobiographical book, *Amazing Adventure*, published by DayStar Books. In front of some sixty well-wishers who filled the Kemp Hall of St James Church, Patricia cut a special cake – decorated to resemble the book cover – to mark the occasion.



Rev Patricia Bawden

Patricia's new book is the story of a deeply personal spiritual journey which, in 1965, took her around two continents in the space of seven months. Her primary focus was the island of Iona, off the Scottish coast,

where St Columba, an Irish monk, brought Christianity to Scotland in the sixth century A.D. (Today Columba's abbey at Iona has been restored and serves as a healing and retreat centre for pilgrims from all over the world.) But Pat's journey, while it began at Iona, did not end there. Over the next few months she visited special Christian sites in Britain, Europe and the USA. Her travels included visits to Lourdes in France, Lindisfarne in England and the international headquarters of the Order of St Luke, in San Diego, all centres renowned for their focus on spiritual and physical healing.

Rev Patricia Bawden, who is both an historian and former home economics teacher, has long had an interest in the beginnings of Christianity in northern New Zealand. Her other published books include *The Years Before Waitangi*, published in 1987.

Now she is delighted to see plans for the celebration of 200 years of Christianity in New Zealand, which will take place in late 2014 on the anniversary of Rev Samuel Marsden's first sermon preached at Oihi in 1814. The building of a new pilgrimage centre in this part of the Bay of Islands, which is expected to be completed by then, is the fulfilment of a vision Patricia Bawden has had for almost fifty years.

Ed's note: *Amazing Adventure* will be reviewed in the next issue of the magazine. To obtain a copy contact DayStar Books on <http://www.daystarbooks.org> or Patricia direct at pmbawden@xtra.co.nz

New Competition for the under 30s

The NZ Christian Writers Guild is introducing a new **free-to-enter** bimonthly competition for the 11-30 year age group

REQUIREMENTS

The first topic is on
Introducing Yourself
in 500 words or less

DEADLINE

10 September 2013

Entries will be judged by our own enthusiastic and forward thinking

Vicki Nogaj

All entrants will receive feedback on their entries

PRIZES

First Place entry will be published in the *Guild's* magazine.

Both members and non-members are eligible to enter this particular competition and all entrants receive **one year's free membership** to the Guild.

Note: Future competitions in this category will be for members only.

If you are a young Christian writer who wants to grow your skills in a friendly environment, email your entry as a Word doc to Vicki at **nogav@vodafone.co.nz** with 'CWG comp Attn Vicki' in the subject line.

Your Writing IS Your CV

By Janice Gillgren

In a world that is increasingly and stridently demanding qualifications for nearly every imaginable job, writing remains an occupation in which ability and experience on their own can get you published; but you need to be patient.

A CV (curriculum vitae) or a resumé is as helpful for a writer as for any other job application. However, writers need to think differently about a CV for this career than for others because qualifications take second place to a demonstrable writing ability.

Regardless of whether or not you've ever been published before, your writing IS your CV. Samples of your writing will demonstrate your talent far more effectively than letters after your name.

Write well enough and a publisher might not even ask about qualifications. After all, there are young authors who clearly haven't got that far yet.

This doesn't mean that qualifications and writing courses won't benefit you, but your talent is still shown most clearly in your work, not in the degree you obtained. For a CV, that's what counts.

I've got a few framed certificates on my wall for some writing courses I completed some years ago. When I first got them, I photocopied them, thinking I might need to show them to prospective editors or publishers. I've never needed to.

I have, a few times, visited an editor and discussed my writing. Showing a few samples was helpful, but my lack of academically acquired qualifications was no impediment to me. Could I write? That was what the editor wanted to know.

As I said above, your writing IS your CV. What do I mean?

Your first point of contact with an editor or publisher is likely to be a letter written by you. This will be either to simply introduce yourself or – more likely – to suggest an idea for a story, article or book that may be of interest to that publication.

This is where your talent needs to really shine! No sloppy punctuation and poor spelling here. Labour over such letters. Your future work for this publication will depend on it. What editor is going to want to accept writing from someone who can't even compose a decent sentence?

Secondly, samples of published writing will be the next most valuable part of your CV.

I have found my website to be invaluable for this, as I have some samples of my published work on it. I have simply included the name of my website and the name of the page on which my writing samples can be found in my letter to the editor and left him/her to look at them in their own time. And yes, they do look.

If you don't have a website, you could include some scanned copies of published articles as attachments, or offer to send some if required.

Of course, if you don't yet have any work published, you can't exhibit any. In this case, you can either just omit the subject altogether and don't mention your lack; or you can mention it but in the context of why you are well qualified to write on the subject you are suggesting.

Your CV comprises both experience and talent. It can be extensive showing your complete work history, or even simply

some samples of your work. Either way, here are some tips to help you build your very own writer's CV:

Start small. This will build your confidence and competence.

- For non-fiction: If you aren't confident about doing articles at the beginning, you could start with letters that are published in readers-write sections of magazines or newspapers, and then build up to articles.
- For fiction: Although short story writers are not necessarily good novel writers and vice versa, short stories are often best to start with, to help you build confidence and competence.

Learning how to write for an editor is a discipline that will hold you in good stead, regardless of genre.

What should be on your writer's CV? The reason for a CV is to reveal your qualifications, skills, experience, achievements, character, and possibly your aspirations. How is a prospective publisher going to find these out about you?

If you wish to do freelance writing for magazines you probably won't actually be asked to show your resumé. Instead, your communication with an editor/publisher will function in its stead.

A letter of introduction or a query letter about an article or story idea may be the first way a publisher/editor finds out about you. Not only should your writing skills shine in this letter, but the following points should be included if appropriate:

- If you have academic qualifications or achievements in the writing field (e.g. degrees in journalism), list them.
- If you have qualifications relevant to the subject you want to write about,

these should also be noted. However, keep these brief and to the point.

- If you already have some samples of published items that are in a similar subject or style of writing you are expecting to write for this editor, then offer to show a selection of those. (This is where a website is useful, because you can have samples on your site, and just give the editor its web address).
- If you have other achievements that you are sure would be relevant and of interest, you could also mention those.

If you have no samples of published work, it is probably best to send a completed article or story with your letter so the editor can see your style and ability. Before composing it, read at least two editions of the publication for which you are writing, carefully checking the length and style of its articles, and then write yours similarly. When you submit your manuscript, show you're willing to change it if it isn't suitable.

If you've never had anything published at all, be willing to write for non-paying publications, such as a community paper. Just because they don't pay doesn't mean they won't be seeking quality work. See it as an opportunity to grow and prove yourself. Writing for free is not as demeaning as it sounds. I've been grateful for the experience and opportunity it's given me. It's no different to a teen working without pay for a tradesman in order to get experience.

To gain that valuable writing CV, you can go the faster route by studying for qualifications; or you can go the slower route and build up your resumé bit by bit; or you can do a combination of the two.

Whichever way you do it, remind yourself that 'patience is a virtue', and press on.

For further writing tips go to Janice's blog: <http://www.wordsandscenes.co.nz>

GET CREATIVE

Having received no submissions for this issue's topic, I decided to either write a piece myself or do some research to see if I could find anything relating to 'Diamonds in the Snow'. Starting with the latter, I was surprised to find quite a lot, but one story in particular tugged at my heart strings....

Diamonds in the Snow

By Mira Binford

Mira Binford was only a few years old when the Nazis invaded her home town of Bendzin. When she and her parents could no longer hide, she was given to the Dyrda family, who were Catholic, to be taken care of. Her parents were deported to Auschwitz shortly after.

Binford recalled that when she was given to the Dyrda family, her hair was bleached blond and she was given a cross to wear so that she did not appear to be Jewish. When there was no longer any bleach to dye her hair, she was forced to remain indoors so no one would see her.

Although she felt abandoned by her parents, Dora and Mark Reym, they were reunited after the war, and eventually made their way to America.

The film's title, 'Diamonds in the Snow', is based on one of Dora Reym's experiences at Auschwitz. She found a diamond, a symbol of beauty and perfection, lying in the snow of the deadly concentration camp, and traded it for some bread.

This documentary film is a tribute to a community destroyed by the Nazis, to the children who survived the terror, and to those extraordinary people who saved the lives of others while risking their own.

Binford's film has won many awards, including first prize in the National Jewish Video Competition and the CINE Golden Eagle Award.

*Part of a news article written by Pamela Morello in The Quinnipac Chronicle—
March 22, 2001*

The next topic will be Spring Chickens

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 October 2013

A Kairos Moment:

The Exact Instant in Time When God Acts

With acknowledgements to Bill Yount

(used with permission)

Kairos is a Greek word meaning: 'The appointed time in the purpose of God,' the time when God acts. We have entered a unique kairos moment. God has heard our cries for, "Why not now? Why not here?"

Godly secrets of hearts will be manifested. Our moment to change history has arrived. I sense strongly a couple of those God-moments taking place on the earth.

For one: There will be those who will change history with a pen. An innocent pen will become the axis that will turn the world upside down and birth a nation in a day (see Isaiah 66:8).

And the other one: Many who have wept long, lonely nights will discover that their tears were seeds of flowers that are now blooming for their wedding day. Many will discover their once-in-a-lifetime moment and why they were born. The door is open!

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written—John 21:25.

I saw gold pens falling from Heaven as though they were thrown by the angels. They were hurled like javelins into the hands of unknown people. These pens

turned into spears and swords as they fell into these hands. As their fingers began to write, books, songs and poetry were becoming lethal weapons to war against the enemy! Psalm 144:1 was being activated throughout the earth:

"Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight!"

In the Spirit, I saw huge warehouses in Heaven that were full of books, songs, and poetry. I noticed these books had no titles on their covers or any words written on their pages. These were wordless books, blank bundles of sheet music, and empty pages of poetry stacked high to the ceiling. A sign was over the huge door that read: 'Stationery to be released and published in the last final hour upon the earth.'

I heard the Father give a command to the angels: "Empty those warehouses and deliver it to the earth! There are books yet to be written, new songs yet to be sung, poetry yet to be recited that will woo hearts back to Me! Drop the pens down first and empty those warehouses!"

Is there a book in you? A song stirring in your heart? Poetry that keeps coming to the surface? Perhaps the Lord is calling you this hour to pick up your pen!

A member of Bridge of Life in Hagerstown, Maryland, Bill Yount is currently an advisor for Aglow International. For further information go to www.billyount.com



Hymn first quickly written on a scrap of paper

JOSEPH GILMORE

—a pastor, teacher, preacher, professor of Hebrew and hymn writer at 24—one evening in 1862 quickly penciled the words of ‘He Leadeth Me’ on a scrap of paper. These were based on ‘He leadeth me’ from Psalm 23, which he spoke about earlier that day at his home church, The First Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

Handing the scrap of paper to his wife, he forgot about it in his busy life. Unknown to him she sent it to a Christian magazine.

Three years later when about to preach at the Second Baptist Church, Rochester, New York, he was surprised and pleased to see his words, ‘He Leadeth Me’ in their hymn book, with music written by William Bradbury. He penned more hymns but ‘He Leadeth Me’ is included in some of today’s hymn books with a singable tune.

The Rochester Baptist church where Joseph Gilmore served no longer stands, but this hymn is prominent on a bronze tablet on a building at the same site.

Bibliography

Hear this hymn on Google, played in song on the harmonica and piano:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG2hfXKEYTg>

For the words go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds7RFCndtUM>

How to Blend Character Information into Your Scene

With acknowledgements to Marg McAlister's *Writing4Success*

Writing a book doesn't seem like such a difficult task... until you begin! That's often when you find, to your dismay, that characters seem to turn into store dummies.

Before you start typing, characters mill around in your head, just waiting for you to get moving so they can leap onto the page and start their journey. These characters are vibrant, exciting and articulate. You just know readers will love them.

But ... there's a problem. The vision in your mind is excruciatingly hard to get onto the page – or more precisely, onto the screen sitting in front of you. The characters that you found so easy to visualise seem to lose definition. The shape isn't so defined; colours are not so bright, and the words they speak ... *well*.

How *do* you make dialogue come to life, so it sounds like two real people talking?

Let's take a look at some possible problems faced by beginners.

The short extract below comes from a scene sent to me for assessment. I have changed everything but the sentence pattern and structure, because that's what I want to focus on here; the names and actions are irrelevant.

Setup: The story is being told from the viewpoint of a middle child, Chrissie. The setting is the family kitchen. The author wants to introduce the characters

and show where they fit into the family.

'Mummy! I can't find my sports socks!' yelled Chrissie's older sister, Jenna.

'Back of the third drawer!' called her mother.

'Mummy! I need help with my shirt buttons,' yelled Chrissie's younger brother, Sam.

That's a very short excerpt, but it's enough to illustrate some problems with technique.

FIRST, we'll address the problem of repetitive structure and speech tags.

Notice that all three sentences use this structure:

Speech + speech tag + name/title of person speaking.

Repetitive structure like this gives sentences a dull, mechanical feel. You can restructure dialogue to avoid using speech tags at all – but if you *do* use tags, don't use two identical tags like 'yelled' so close together, unless you're using the very useful and almost-invisible 'said'.

SECOND, the writer has 'labelled' all the people in the story almost as though they're exhibits. (Here is Chrissie's older sister, Jenna. Here is her mother. Here is Chrissie's younger brother, Sam.) This sounds too much as though the author is force-feeding information to the reader – otherwise known as info-dumping.

It's better to find ways to bring your characters on stage in a way that *shows* readers who they are. Always try to give a sense of relationships between characters *from the mind of the viewpoint character, in a way that is natural*. e.g. it would not be natural for Chrissie to hear Sam's voice and think of it as coming from 'my younger brother, Sam', because she *knows* who he is. However, she might think of him as 'little Sam'.

You might or might not get in the information that Jenna is her 'older' sister. Not everything has to be included right up front. We might find out on the next page that she's older than Chrissie. Or perhaps a comment from Chrissie's mother might make that clear.

Here's an example of how to rewrite this short excerpt so that (a) repetitive sentence patterns and speech tags are avoided and (b) you 'show' readers where the characters fit into the family, rather than 'tell' them.

Upstairs, Chrissie could hear Jenna banging around in her room. 'Ma! I can't find my sports socks!' she yelled.

Her mother sighed, slapping sandwiches into lunch boxes. "Nearly fourteen years old and your sister still can't keep track of her belongings," she muttered. Raising her voice, she called back, "Back of the third drawer!"

Little Sam's plaintive voice came next. "Mummy! I need help with my shirt buttons!"

Note that I've also changed 'Mummy' to 'Ma' for teenage Jenna – it sounds better than 'mummy' for her age group.

It can take time to learn to write in a way that feeds information smoothly and unobtrusively to the reader. Once you master it, though, you'll find the words flowing easily.

Remember that writing is a craft – and technique can be learned.

REMINDER

Annual Subscriptions

were due on 1st August 2013

\$30 single; \$35 double; \$15 student

To renew your membership, please post your subscription fee to

Jan Pendergrast, Seales Road, Oropi RD3, Tauranga

Or pay online to: NZ Christian Writers Guild, a/c No 12 3040 0547346 00

(Be sure to include your name as a reference if using a business account.)

My mini-memory of Sue Hungerford

By Beth Walker



Sue just before she passed away in Apr 2013

We need a group or something so we don't lose this momentum, I felt. It was August 1983 and Challenge Weekly's School of Christian Writing and Communication had just finished. Nothing like it had ever been held in New Zealand, and Kiwi speakers included bigwigs like Tom Bradley and John Hawkesby.

This woman looks as if she knows what she's doing, I thought, as people gathered for a 'where-to-meet' session. Christian Writers' Guild began then and how right I was, as 'this woman' was Sue Hungerford.

A year later, Sue became CWG's second president when Bill Haythornthwaite retired. Bill commented that the Guild needed a woman's touch, as so many members were women.

Quickly Sue realised that many members lacked basic writing skills, so she began the competitions. Later she remarked how people who entered them and took note of her comments were 'zooming ahead.'

Sue was strict in the way she ran her CWG group and the assignments, but people respected her and benefited.

Warm Welcome to New Members

BELINDA MCCALLION
TAURANGA.

PIP DUMBILL
KHANDALLAH, WELLINGTON

TRACEY ADAMSON
CENTRAL AUCKLAND

Mini Report Annual Retreat Tauranga Writers' Group

Tauranga Christian Writers enjoyed their second annual retreat weekend at Jan Pendergrast's home from 21-23 June. They came with plans, goals, writing projects and tonnes of enthusiasm. They shared ideas and expertise, relaxed and wrote.

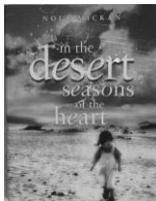
A movie (about writing, of course) was Saturday evening's entertainment. All left buzzing.



The Tauranga group with Jan's dog, Charm, in the foreground

Library Corner

Debbie's Book Review



In the Desert Seasons of the Heart

By Nola Mickan

In the Desert Seasons of the Heart is one of the finest inspirational books I have read. Based on Nola's experiences during her time as a missionary in Chile, each chapter provides valuable insights into how spiritually dry and painful seasons in our lives can become times of great blessing and growth when we trust God in and through them. The tender loving heart of our heavenly Father is beautifully portrayed as Nola learns to do just that in this land of many challenges.

Most of this book is compiled from what Nola experienced in the Atacama Desert, where some areas have not had rain in recorded history. It was in the isolation of these barren lands that she realised how clearly God could speak when she chose to listen. In her own words, 'The desert became God's schoolroom to me' (p.12).

As Nola listened, the Lord turned her thoughts to Christians who may be passing through wilderness experiences in their lives—weariness, unfulfilled dreams, despair, disillusionments, to name a few. As a result, she often speaks directly to the reader in this book, but in a manner that is empathetic and loving rather than being preachy. Each chapter is undergirded by Scripture which also makes *In the Desert Seasons of the Heart* suitable for both individual and group study. All in all, an excellent book.

To obtain your own copy, please email Nola Mickan direct on jonnola@xtra.co.nz

Donations to the Library

Many thanks to
Patricia Bawden

For donating a copy of her recently
launched book

Amazing Adventure *A Journey of Faith*

NB: Pat's book will only be available for borrowing after it has been reviewed in the next issue of the mag.

CWG 30th Anniversary Anthology



Containing 41 devotions written by Guild members and a lovely photo on each page, anthologies are still on sale at \$10.00 each.

To order, email Jan Pendergrast on
jan@roads-end.co.nz

Magazine by Email instead of by Post

Some members have indicated they would prefer to receive the magazine by email rather than through the post.

If this is your preference, then please email Jan Pendergrast on

jan@roads-end.co.nz

so we can update our mailing lists to meet your requirements.

Please note that membership fees remain the same for whichever option you prefer.

Notice Board

Notice to CWG Competition Entrants

If you are a new member to the Guild or have only recently started entering the competitions, you may not be aware that small prizes will be awarded to the overall winners for 2013 for each competition level, as well to the overall winners of the newly introduced Under 30s competition.

**Log Onto
JANICE GILGREN'S
weekly blog**

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

www.wordsandscenes.co.nz

Enclosure for new members & Spring Workshop advice

Members are asked to please place the enclosure on their local church or public library noticeboard, and / or request it be included as an item in their church's news sheet.

Many thanks. Guild Committee.

NZ Writers' College 2013 Short Story Award Theme: Breaking Out

The contest is open to any emerging New Zealand or Australian writer, who has had fewer than four stories/articles published in any format.

GUIDELINES:

- Only one story per entrant allowed.
- Maximum 2000 words. (*Entries 50 words above won't be considered.*)
- Only e-mail submissions are acceptable, with stories attached as Word Documents, and sent to Nichola Meyer at the following: nichola@nzwriterscollege.co.nz.
- The title page (first page) of the Word Document must only include the story title, your name, email address, and total word count. These details must not appear on any other page as all entries will be judged blind.

PRIZES:

First Prize: \$1,000.00
plus entry into a short course
Second Prize: \$500.00
People's Choice Award: \$250.00

DEADLINE:

30 September 2013

*For more detailed information, go to
<http://www.nzwriterscollege.co.nz/2013+NZ+Writers+College+Short+Story+Competition.html>*

Notice Board

Albury/Pleasant Point Presbyterian Parish Writing Competition

Publishers of the highly-acclaimed 'Fuel for the Soul' and 'I Saw Love Today' anthologies are asking for submissions of

POETRY OR PROSE with a 'hope' theme.

in order to compile a third anthology to provide hope and encouragement for people whose lives are touched by cancer.

REQUIREMENTS

Entry fee — \$5 per poem
(50 lines or less)
— \$10 per short story
(up to 1,000 words)

The competition is open to all ages. Writers are welcome to enter two or more times. Submissions by post only.

PRIZES:

First prize \$250; Second prize \$100;
Third prize \$50
plus over 50 submissions
to be published in the anthology

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES
31 August 2013

*To obtain an entry form, email
karalynjoyce@xtra.co.nz*

Creative Bookmarks

Colour bookmarks of a series written about Christians who have done much for mankind are available.

Enquiries welcome:
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Competition Results

Judges do not edit entries before they are reproduced in the magazine. Major weaknesses and errors are discussed in the judge's comments, and entrants also receive a more detailed critique on an individual basis.

NOTE: If you're not sure which level you're on, check the criteria on the 2013 reference sheet sent to you with the December 2012 issue of the magazine.

Level One

Judge:

Debbie McDermott

Requirement: CREATIVE — Writing in the first person, put yourself into the shoes of a lesser known Bible character and tell the story of an event that happened in their life. Ensure you remain true to the facts while using your imagination to fill in the unknown gaps. 500 words maximum.

General Comments

I was very pleased to receive twelve interesting entries for this competition. Each one targeted a different Bible character and, in some cases, a younger audience. Unfortunately, most entrants forgot to mention the scripture verses on which their piece is based, which is an important aspect when retelling a Bible story. References can easily be added as a subheading or footnote, neither of which are included in the word count unless stipulated in the competition requirements.

When writing professionally, you should not use ampersands (&) instead of 'and'; nor should you begin every other sentence with 'And' or overuse the word 'that' if you want to maintain good sentence structure and flow.

Apart from these common mistakes, the grammar and punctuation in most of the entries was very good, which made judging between them a challenge. I finally awarded the top three places based on the following criteria:

- *The story's impact and flow—did it hold my attention all the way through? Was there anything in it I didn't understand? Did it stir me? Could I relate to it?*
- *The author's creativity—did the author fully put themselves into the shoes of their character? How well did they use their imagination to fill in the unknown facts?*
- *The takeaway message—is there one? How strong is it? Is it coming through to the reader clearly enough for the story to be effective?*

Well done to the winners of this competition for achieving these criteria so well. They are always important aspects to remember because they apply to all the writing genres.

To those who were not awarded a place, please don't feel discouraged. With only eight points difference between first and last place, you all did well, so do keep writing. I look forward to seeing more entries from you.

First Place



**Colin
Gallop**

Jailhouse Rock

I knew there'd been trouble. I'd heard the uproar and wasn't surprised when they brought in these two Jews. I wasn't given their names, just ordered to lock them up and guard them as if my life depended on it, and it did. Those Chief Magistrates are ruthless tyrants and they made it quite clear that if anyone escaped I would pay with my life. So I locked them in the dungeon and secured their feet in the stocks. Not that they could cause me any trouble; they'd already been given a sound beating.

I'd settled down for the night. The next thing I was wakened by an earthquake. The whole building was rocking. Dazed, I looked up and, even in the gloomy prison light, could see the cell doors wide open. The inevitable outcome of the situation flooded my mind. I knew what was coming. I drew my sword. "Good-bye stinking world!"

I heard a voice.
"Don't harm yourself! We're all here!"
The words brought me to my senses. Trembling with fear I ordered more lights to be brought in and then went into where the prisoners were held. No one was missing. I went limp with

relief. To think that just a few moments earlier I was going to kill myself. That Jewish prisoner had saved my life. I knelt down and unlocked the stocks and took them to my quarters.

Once there the full impact of what had happened hit me. The shock of it all brought tears to my eyes and, amidst my sobs, I heard myself saying, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

With the rest of my family present, they told us about Jesus.

I felt like a different person. Gone was my hardness of heart, replaced by a sense of love and acceptance I had never known. It was the same for my wife and children. Later, when we had washed their wounds, they baptised all of us.

The following day I discovered these two Jews – Paul and Silas – had Roman citizenship. When the Chief Magistrates found out they were scared stiff. Mistreating Romans was a major offence and it could spell the death penalty for them. They came to the prison to beg forgiveness and pleaded for Paul and Silas to leave town. Incredibly, Paul forgave them and let them go.

What's even more incredible, just a few hours earlier I learnt that Jesus had been beaten and wrongly put to death for all my offences; how I too had been forgiven and, even more importantly, given a new life.

Thank you, Jesus, for saving me and my whole household.

Judge's Comments

Colin's entry held my attention from his opening line to his strong conclusion. He has taken care to not give too much extraneous information (a potential pitfall when retelling Bible stories in so few words) and has concentrated solely on the feelings and responses of the jailer to this awesome event. He also fully put himself into the shoes of his character, thereby adding strength and credibility to both the story and its takeaway message.

The title of the piece is also excellent in that it hooks the reader in from the start—although I must admit I did think of Elvis Presley when I first saw it!

With regards to layout, direct speech (which may comprise several sentences) is now usually put into its own paragraph, and separated from the previous or ensuing paragraphs with either an indent or a line space. Note: Dialogue can be preceded or followed by a sentence which is in direct relation to what is being said. For instance, in paragraph three, a colon rather than a line break should be inserted after 'I heard a voice:' followed on the same line by "Don't harm yourself....".

There were also a few other errors which need to be corrected:

- *Para 2—'I'd' should be 'I'. No hyphen is needed in 'Goodbye'.*
- *Para 3—In order to clarify the last sentence, I recommend inserting: 'It was one of the Jewish prisoners' after 'I heard a voice.' Also replace the first 'and' in the last sentence with a comma.*

- *Para 6—'had Roman citizenship' would read better written as 'were Roman citizens.'*

Apart from the above, this is a well written and highly commendable entry. Well done, Colin.

Second Place



**Elaine
Given**

Famous Benaiah

"Benaiah's my name. You haven't heard of me! Let me tell you how God looked after me on a cold winter's day. It had been snowing in the night. The sky was still pearly grey showing there would be some more snow. I had been away fighting for our land. It was good to be back – but what was this? My wife running in a panic,

'Benaiah! Benaiah!' I could hear her yelling long before she came round the corner of the house.

'You... have... got to... come quickly!' she gasped. Gulping twice she continued, 'There's a lion in that pit where we got out the clay for our bricks.'

"I grabbed my club and prayed a quick prayer – LORD be with me. As I neared the pit I could hear growls and snarls so I went to the edge, looked over and saw this animal. Its fur was

silhouetted against the white of the snow as it tried to puff itself up. Well, I couldn't stand there gawking so I jumped down and attacked the beast. That certainly wasn't hard with God on my side. I got a few scratches down my arms where it clawed me when I went in for the death blow. They healed quickly. Sarah was wide-eyed with admiration and I felt quite proud. You should have heard my son Jediah bragging to his friends!"

"It's just as well I had that experience because what do you know, I had to face a huge Egyptian not very much later. Sometimes mercenaries joined with other enemies in our land. Again, all I had was my club but I knew that God was with me. It was certainly a wrestling match getting that man to let go of his spear! We must have tussled for a quarter of the morning. But I was able to finally get the spear and finish him off with it. I was very humbled this time to be brought to King David and honoured by the thirty mighty men of valour. I knew that God had helped me. We have so many battles that we often grow very tired. Now I'm part of King David's bodyguard I cannot come home as often as I used to."

"This evening is preparation for the Sabbath. We will be thinking of God's goodness to me and my family. I can look at my son Jediah again. When I arrived home, he put his hands around my biceps and tried to wrestle with me. He has grown so much since I was last home. He is getting stronger and is

beginning to help Sarah with caring for our goats and sheep. I want to teach him how mighty and strong God is and how He can help us in whatever battles we face."

Judge's Comments

Apart from the title which could have been a bit more inspiring, and the unnecessary speech marks at the beginning and end of each paragraph, this is another well written story that actually covers quite an extensive time span. Well done, Elaine, for successfully achieving this in so few words.

Perhaps what I most enjoyed about Elaine's entry is how she began it with the one event that would impact Benaiah for the rest of his life, not only as a warrior but also as a person who truly understands God is their help in times of need—which is the story's takeaway message. Apart from beginning her narrative at a climax point, Elaine continued to maintain a good pace by using short, action-packed sentences. Each section of her story also flows on nicely from the previous one.

There are a few other mistakes that need to be corrected. They are as follows:

- *Para 3—'dug out the clay...' would read better than 'got out the clay'.*
- *Para 5—'the thirty men of valour' would read better as 'his thirty...'. The last sentence would also read better as 'and cannot come home as often as I used to.'*

Apart from the above, this is an excellent piece of writing. Well done.

Third Place Equal



**Susan
Flanagan**

Rachel's Rejoicing

(based on Genesis 29 + 30)

It was after midday on a beautiful, sunny, spring day before I was able to get away from the chaos of home and escape to my favourite place of peace. After the hustle and bustle of a house filled with family and all the chores that come with it, it was pure bliss to be able to sit in solitude. I was in my favourite place; next to the stream, under the shade of a blossoming apricot tree, close to my beloved companions, our sheep, and rest. The sheep were used to my company and to my voice. They had heard my prayers. They were silent witnesses to my pleadings to God for a child, and they didn't mind my presence. They accepted me far more readily than most of my own family.

But today I wasn't pleading. Today I was praising! I had a secret. I had a child growing inside me. A much longed for child. At times I thought I would perish with longing and the grief of being barren. I had even demanded of my husband, "Give me children or I'll die!⁽¹⁾" While my sister, Leah, and our maids produced sons year after year, seemingly without effort, I waited month after month, hoping each time for an absence of blood, an absence of

those familiar cramps. It was so hard to keep hope alive when every 28 days your dreams are dashed, and disappointment threatens to drown you in a sea of despair.

I had taken comfort in my husband's lineage. Jacob's own mother, Rebekah, had been barren before bearing him and his brother Esau. And his grandmother Sarah, the same, and finally God had answered her heart's cry. And now it was my turn!

I looked forward to the day, not too far away, when I could tell Jacob my news. I knew Jacob loved me very much, and as much as I wanted his love to be enough, it had not filled the hole which was being taken up now by this little soul. Why did life seem to be a continual test of trusting God, depending on Him Who creates life and giving Him the glory for the gifts He bestows? This unborn child of God, I prayed now, would always bring glory to His Mighty Name. This God, My God, Who loved me, Who had listened to me and given me the desire of my heart. Surely this God would protect my child and watch over it all the days of their life?

As I reclined on the bank, soaking up the warmth of the sun's rays, and enjoying the gentle sounds and movements of the sheep, my heart was filled to overflowing with thankfulness to my Father in heaven. I had a good and loving husband, and soon I would have a child to hold in my arms.

(1) Taken from Genesis 30:1 New Living Translation

Judge's Comments

Susan fully met all the requirements of this competition, including presenting the scripture references, both as a sub heading and a footnote. I particularly enjoyed the sensitive way in which she spoke of Rachel's grief at being barren and her total joy over at last being with child. The way Rachel clung to hope is a strong takeaway message that could possibly minister to women in similar situations. There is also a lot of normality in the story (getting away from the humdrum of everyday life, for instance) which adds a credibility to which the reader can relate.

Although the standard of writing is generally good, Susan has written a number of her sentences in a way that has resulted in an overuse of commas. This has caused some of the story's flow to be a bit stilted—especially when read aloud. Susan has also made the mistake of beginning a few consecutive sentences with 'And...' While it is now acceptable to use conjunctions such as 'and' and 'but' to start a sentence, you should still use them carefully and efficiently, or else the text may become 'choppy'. The third sentence in paragraph one is a good example of 'choppy' text. This can be easily corrected by deleting a couple of words and commas so that it reads as follows: '...of a blossoming apricot tree, close to my beloved sheep and rest.'

Other recommendations are as follows:

- *Para 3—Sentences two and three don't read well. I suggest removing the word 'and' and rewriting them as follows: 'His grandmother Sarah*

had been the same but God had finally answered her heart's cry. Now it was my turn!'

- *Para 4—Replace 'Jacob' in the 2nd sentence with 'he'. The last part of the 2nd sentence would also read better as: 'which was now being taken up by this little soul.'*
- *The 4th sentence would read better as: 'I prayed this unborn child of God would always bring glory....'*
- *Para 5—1st sentence: There is no need for a comma after 'rays'.*

This is otherwise a well written story. Well done, Susan, and do keep writing.

Third Place Equal



**Keith
Willis**

The Fishing Day

I knew this was going to be a special day, but little did I know how special. Dad was taking me fishing. Just me! No pesky sisters allowed !

Mum put a small loaf of bread into my backpack for lunch. I was hoping she would give us two loaves but she said, "One was enough, in view of all the fish we would catch."—Such confidence!

At the lake I quickly caught two fish. Both rather small, but when you are young any fish is a good fish & so

exciting. Then no more bites. Just when it was becoming boring, down the nearby road came a whole crowd of people. Dad had to find out what was going on. So we packed up our lines and followed the crowd.

Eventually, way out of town, everyone stopped on a hillside and a man started to talk to the now silent crowd. I wasn't interested. I was thinking, "Maybe the fish in the lake were biting again by now." Then I heard the man ask if anyone had any food with them. Nobody responded. I felt Dad looking down at me and I knew what he was thinking. I shook my head. I was hungry. Why should I give my precious fish to a stranger?— But then I somehow felt compelled to hand over my backpack.

This strange man pulled out my bread loaf and broke it in half. "Ah," I thought, "maybe he was only going to take half." But he handed both halves to the big man beside him. Then he drew out one of my fish & then the other one and handed them to the big man. "There goes my lunch," I thought as my tummy rumbled!

Then I stared in disbelief as he pulled another fish out of my bag. This one was bigger. Then another-and another! He kept on pulling out fish. Then I noticed that the other men around were still pulling the loaf in half but it wasn't getting any smaller!

Was I dreaming? I looked up at Dad and saw his look of bewilderment.

Every person in the crowd ate as much as they wanted and there were

hundreds of people there. Dad reckons there were 4,000! "How could they all have been filled by one little loaf & two tiny fish," I pondered as I filled my backpack with some of the leftovers for Mum & my sisters.

Dad didn't talk much as we walked home. I knew he was deep in thought. That evening I listened to a group of men talking in the street. They were discussing who that man was who had been doing all the talking on the hillside. "Jesus," they said was his name. But who was he? Dad reckoned he was the Messiah, the Son of God but most of the others said he was just a visitor from Gallilee.

How silly grownups can be!
Obviously he was the Son of God.

Judge's Comments

I enjoyed Keith's take on this story. The contemporary style he has used makes it particularly suitable for a modern young audience. His simple yet graphic portrayal of the multiplication of the loaves and fish as seen through the eyes of a child also stirs the imagination and leaves the reader with a sense of awe.

Although it is not immediately obvious, there are two very strong takeaway messages at the end of the story. The first tells the reader who Jesus is; the second is the importance of having childlike faith in order to see Jesus as He really is. Well done, Keith, for putting these across so well. You clearly have a knack for telling Bible stories.

With regards to typesetting and layout, there are a few aberrations caused by

not putting a space where it is needed. i.e. the opening speech marks in paragraph two are facing the wrong way because there is no space before them. Some words are also too close together because there is no space after the full stop or comma between them.

Keith has also used four ampersands in his story. Ampersands should only be used on signs, logos and suchlike, not in narrative text.

Other recommendations are as follows:

- *Para 2—There is no need for speech marks because the statement is in past tense, which indicates it is the boy's recollection of what his mother said and not what she actually said in direct speech. This part of the sentence should also be entirely in lower case.*
- *Para 4—last sentence: There should be a space before 'But....' not an em dash.*
- *Para 5—Replace the hyphen in the 3rd sentence with a long em dash.*
- *Para 9—Gallilee should be spelled Galilee.*

Apart from the above, this is a well written story, Keith, and I hope to receive more entries from you.

Level Two

Judge:

Janice Gillgren

Requirement: INTERVIEW—Interview a person you would consider to be a role model in any field. Write a Q & A type of article, showing your questions and your

interviewee's answers, explaining how this person got to be where they are now, and what advice they would give to those who would like to excel in the same field or in life generally. 350-400 words

General Comments

There was only one entry this time, which was unusual, and disappointing. Interviewing people for articles is a valuable skill for any writer, and it is wonderful to be able to show how society's role models got to be where they are today, and how we can learn from them. Interviews like this furnish material for many articles all the time.

Although Yvonne's entry has several problems, she deserves first place for being the only one to give this a go.

First Place



**Yvonne
Macdonald**

The Luke...Interview

Yvonne: "Luke, what was your childhood like?"

L: "I grew up in a dysfunctional family with my mother. I had a dad who was barely there. I also had a stepmother and half brothers. I began getting into trouble at thirteen and it spiralled at age sixteen after my father died."

Y: "Until recently you lived in a tent by a beautiful beach, how was that?"

L: “Wonderful, last year the beach was named as one of the most beautiful in NZ

The tent included all the household appliances including a dishwasher and the internet etc. Close by is where Samuel Marsden preached officially for the first time in New Zealand. A translator interpreted for the Maori Chief.”

Y: “Do you own a pet?”

L: “Yes, Bella a soft-natured dog. I bought her six months ago.”

Y: “What are your hobbies?”

L: “Mainly in the outdoors, hunting, bush craft and four –wheel driving.”

Y: “Do you view your job as a green-keeper at a prestigious golf-course, long term?”

L: “Yes, I’ve nearly completed my final papers.”

Y: “How did you become interested in Christian things?”

L: “When I was 21 I started wondering what was life all about? I would go tramping around the East Coast where I met a Christian hunter. He taught me how to use a bow and arrow, also he told me to read John’s gospel chapter three. After reading 3.16 that salvation was free I found my school Gideon’s New Testament indorsing the same. I knew then that was it! I asked the Lord for forgiveness and I felt immediately saved! God promised it also in Romans 10:9.”

Y: “How do you balance all your areas of Christian service: church elder, Sunday school teacher, occasional speaker, children’s camp leader, youth bible study, rally and visitations?”

L: “I remind myself that the work of the Lord doesn’t become more important that the Lord of the work.”

Y: “How much time do you put aside for daily devotions?”

L: “About forty minutes in the morning and I pray and read throughout the day.”

Y: “Are there other believers in your family?”

L: “Yes, a cousin and a step-brother.”

Y: “As a 36year old where would you like your spiritual aspirations take you?”

L: “I would like to continue sharing the gospel with young people with the hope, that they will carry on doing the same.”

Thank you Luke, you have been real encouragement to many.”

Judge’s Comments

Hi Yvonne. You have done this in a Q & A format as asked, which is good. You don’t really need to use speech marks for this format, but this isn’t a big issue.

There are some problems with your entry though; primarily with lack of focus and direction, and some with punctuation. Please don’t be put off by this list. You’re making great progress!

The title is what I would call a ‘working title’: a temporary title that you might use while you are working on a project, but not suitable for publication, as it doesn’t tell the reader anything.

While it makes sense to ask your interviewee about their childhood first, this is often not the best way to start such an article, because a reader first wants to know the focus of an article. Chronological questions can follow. You would probably have been better to start with an introductory paragraph before getting into the Q & A’s.

Your article doesn’t have a clear focus. What is it about Luke that makes him a role model? Is it because he works at a golf course, or because of his other areas of service, or because he manages to do so much?

Focus needs to be clear from the beginning (and titles can help establish your focus), and maintained throughout.

Filter out the Q & A’s that don’t really fit with that focus – for example, whether Luke has a pet, and how he liked living in a tent by the beach. Unless they add something to the article (which these questions don’t appear to do), then leave them out.

Your article also lacks some direction; by which I mean that your questions don’t seem to relate well to each other, or to show any sort of progression. For example, you follow an interesting answer about the Maori Chief with an irrelevant question about owning a pet.

An example of clearer direction could be a focus on Luke’s golf course work.

For this, you could start by asking questions such as: why it’s important to him, how he got into it, how he’s progressing in his training, how it fits into his Christian life, what he would like to do with it in future, and the highs and lows of the job.

There are several other possibilities you could follow, using the material you have provided from this interview.

Finally, there are some problems with punctuation – particularly with commas either missing, or being where they need not be, or replacing other punctuation marks incorrectly – but I’ll send you a separate critique about these if you would like it.

Level Three

**Judge:
Julie Belding**

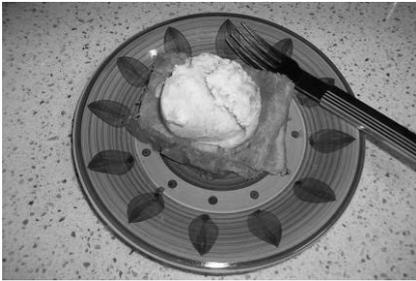
Requirement: RECIPE—Write instructions for baking a cake or cookies, using words of one syllable only. (Recipe must be tested! Taste will count in the judging.) 300 words max.

General Comments

This was an enjoyable competition to judge, with some mouth-watering recipes sent in. But the difficulty of writing an entire recipe in words of one syllable was obvious. The challenge was to use words that sounded as natural as possible under the circumstances. Some sent in recipes that followed this rule, but unfortunately their list of ingredients didn’t. Others were almost natural but one or

two words still sounded a tad contrived. And the use of abbreviations was 'borderline'.

Julia's recipe was the most natural-sounding of all the recipes, with not a single abbreviation. I decided to try it out, wondering how a dessert recipe with no sugar and no baking powder could possibly work. But it was remarkably good – especially with ice cream. Below is a photo of 'Gran's Fruit Square' that I made, using a can of apricots:



First Place



**Julia
Martin**

Gran's Fruit Square

In a bowl sift two cups of flour with a pinch of salt. Grate one cup of hard fat (your choice) and mix in the flour with a knife.

Drain the juice from some stewed or tinned fruit (most soft fruits can be used) and add drops of cold juice to

make a firm dough. Knead well. Wrap the dough and leave in a cool place for half an hour.

Roll out the dough and cut in two halves. Place the first half in a greased swiss roll tin and prick with a fork.

Spread the mashed fruit on the base, then place the next half of the dough on top and press down. Brush with milk or egg.

Bake in a hot stove for half an hour. When cool cut in squares and serve with whipped cream.

Gran served this cake each time we called to see her. It tastes so good and will not last long!

Judge's Comments

A delicious dessert, creatively expressed. Well done, Julia.

Second Place



**Lesley
Edgeler**

Jam Rock Buns

For these buns you will need:

1 ½ cups of flour used to raise height of buns; 10 x 10 grams of fat; pinch of salt;

2 big spoons of jam; two eggs; some milk; ½ cup of dried fruit to your taste.

Sieve the flour and the salt. Add the fat and rub it in to the flour and salt to form crumbs.

Add the dried fruit to the crumbs. Use a knife to stir in the eggs. Then stir in some of the milk. Add a bit more milk if you need to do this.

Form some small balls with two forks – you can make up to twelve balls. Place the balls on a flat, greased tray. Leave some room for each rock bun to spread or use two trays to give them more room to cook.

Bake the rock cakes in a stove which is not too hot for 1/6 of an hour. Use a cloth or two to pull out the tray. Check the rock buns. How high are they? They should not be flat. Now, what do they feel like? If they are firm to the touch then they are cooked. If they are not cooked leave them in the stove for a short time. If cooked take them out of the stove and leave them to cool.

Lift off one at a time to air on a cake rack. Put a cloth on top so that flies will not land on them. The buns should be crisp and short. They may be iced when cold. Add what you like to their tops to make them look nice. Chill them in the fridge. When set, store the rock cakes in a tin with its lid closed tight.

Judge's Comments

I liked your translation of 'self-raising flour.' Perhaps the oven temperature is not precise enough for an inexperienced cook. But a good effort anyway.

Third Place



**Deborah
McDermott**

Cheese and Ham Scones

What you need:

Two bowls.

One flat tray on which to bake the scones.

3 cups of flour.

1 pkt of dry yeast.

40 grams of cheese, plus some with which to top the scones. (Note: Cheese with a strong taste is best.)

80 grams of lean ham.

A bunch of chives.

1 egg.

150ml of milk (plus some with which to glaze the scones).

150ml of cream.

How to make the scones

1. Grease a flat tray with lard so the scones do not stick to it.
2. Grate the cheese.
3. Chop the ham and chives in small bits.
4. Put the flour, yeast, ham, cheese and chives in bowl one and mix well with a fork or spoon.

5. Pour the milk and cream in bowl two. Crack the egg and add both the white and the yoke, then whisk till well mixed.
6. Go back to bowl one and make a well in the dry mix.
7. Add the whisked egg, milk and cream to the dry mix in bowl one. Stir till a soft dough forms.
8. Put the dough on a floured bench top. Use a light touch to knead and pat the dough till it is a rough square, 2-3 cm thick.
9. Cut the dough to shapes of choice and place on the greased tray.
10. Brush the scones with milk and top with cheese.
11. Bake at 190°C for ¼ of an hour.
12. Slice the scones in half while still hot, top with cheese and serve. (If you want to add more strength to the taste, top with blue cheese.)

Note: The scones should be a light brown when cooked. To test, pierce one with the tip of a knife. If the tip comes up clean, the scones are cooked.

Judge's Comments

The recipe looks great and you've handled it creatively, but your use of abbreviations, while understandable, lost you a couple of points. Excellent try.

Honourable mentions:

Pat Kerr, Lois Farrow

Look to the Ant

*Of all God's creatures –
 consider the ant
 fragile yet fearless
 tenacious and wise
 achieving through teamwork
 spectacular eats
 resourceful, intelligent
 persistent, astute
 In a unified colony
 they toil to survive
 If only mankind could live like
 the ants
 Our families, communities
 and nations would thrive.*

—Julia Martin

(Ed's note—Having received two excellent *Get Creative* submissions for the last issue of the magazine, it was a toss of the coin as to which one to publish first. Well done to Jean Shewan and Julia Martin for giving me such a challenge.)

*Taste and see that the
 Lord is
 good;
 blessed
 is the
 one who
 takes
 refuge in him.*



—Psalm 34:8 NIV

Competitions for October 2013

Due September 10th

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

Font: Times New Roman, 11 points. **Line spacing:** single
Spaces between Paragraphs: 6 points **Paragraph Indentation:** None

To determine which level you're on, check the criteria on the 2013 reference sheet sent to you in December 2012 or email Jan on jan@roads-end.co.nz

Level One

Email entry to



Debbie McDermott

sddp@xtra.co.nz

Level Two

Email entry to



Janice Gillgren

mj_gillgren@ubernet.co.nz

Level Three

Email entry to



Julie Belding

julie@belding.co.nz

Requirement:

LETTER: Write a letter to a grieving friend who isn't a Christian. Express your sympathy from the Christian perspective, but in such a way that you are not preachy.
200 words.

Requirement:

MEMORIES OF DAD:
Tell us about a terrific Dad (your own, or someone else's) and how he helped you to understand our Heavenly Father better. Show don't tell. Use plenty of dialogue and action rather than narrative to do this.
Approx 300 words.

Requirement:

UPDATE FAIRY TALE:
Rewrite an old fairy tale, giving it a modern spin.
500 words.

Note to Entrants

If you have not yet had any of your work published through the CW competitions, please email a **HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTO** of yourself with your entry in the event you are awarded a place.