

THE CHRISTIAN WRITER



MAGAZINE OF THE CHRISTIAN WRITERS
GUILD NEW ZEALAND

June – July 2013



Supporting
Members' Books
**DAM
DISASTER**

by Jan Pendergrast

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

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)



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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:

Many thanks to Janice Gillgren and Janet Pointon for developing our new website, which is now up and running. 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, so why not log onto the website on the following link and tell us what you think:

www.nzchristianwritersguild.co.nz

From the President

I would like to pay tribute to Sue Hungerford who recently went home to be with her Lord. Sue was a founding member of the Guild and its second President. We also offer our sympathy to members of her family.

Congratulations to Rosie Boom, whose book, 'Where the Crickets Sing' has won the 2013 Christian Small Publishers International book of the year award for 2013 in the Children's Category.

Do remember the Spring Workshop which is scheduled to be held on the 14th of September. This will also be the date for the Guild's AGM. If you have anyone you wish to put forward as a member of the Guild Committee

please do let us know by the 12th of July.

Mike and I recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. We shared a wonderful evening with friends and family. Just a few moments ago I decided to read something to him for comment. On finishing I discovered he was asleep. So much for writing with interest!

Remember Paul's words to Archippus in Colossian 4:17: '...see to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.' What has the Lord challenged you to write? Why not write it today.

Janet Fleming



Janet and Mike, celebrating 40 happy years of marriage

NZ Christian



Writers Guild

Spring Workshop

Saturday, 14th September 2013

9:30am – 4:00pm

Rossgrove Chapel, 12 Rossgrove Terrace,
Mount Albert, Auckland

Morning Topic: Writing for Children

(Speaker/s still to be confirmed)

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



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 in conjunction with a travel firm.

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, Box 115, Kaeo 0448

Tel: (09) 405 0126 / Email: miflamings@xtra.co.nz

or

Jan Pendergrast on Email: jan@roads-end.co.nz

CONDOLENCES

The Guild would like to express sincere sympathy to the family and friends of

Sue Hungerford

(a founding member of NZCWG)

who passed away on
21st April 2013

She will be remembered with deep love and fondness by all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Mini memories of **Sue Hungerford**

...from Julie Belding

Sue Hungerford gave a decade's wonderful leadership to the Guild after Bill Haythornthwaite, its first president, resigned for health reasons after a year.

Sue took the helm just when computers were coming in, but before emails took off. We used to try to send documents to each other over the phone line. The hours we struggled, trying to transmit

magazine files to one another with a primitive, erratic modem! It was a nightmare, but Sue was never daunted.

She was also resourceful. I recall one workshop when the afternoon's guest speaker failed to turn up at the appointed time, and things were a bit anxious. Sue stepped up smoothly to fill the vacuum. "This afternoon," she said, moving unruffled to the podium, "I'd like to talk about 'transitions.'" (Mercifully, the guest speaker arrived minutes later!)

I never forgot that incident. It reminded me that when you are a president you need to be prepared for anything. I don't have 'transitions' on tap, but I've got the odd sermon ready, just in case!

...from Beth Roose

Besides being an enthusiast and a keen writer, Sue Hungerford was hospitable. In November 1985 the Committee spent a delightful weekend in her Otumoetai beachfront home for business in retreat, one of several such occasions. In 1987 she took delight in demonstrating an Apple McIntosh computer there and gave us a different—and probably new concept then—of publishing. She shared, too, that following her daughter's death a personally written note was appreciated among the many stereotyped cards. Once when she had not been too well, she said the best way I could help her was to continue as treasurer. She liked to go through the list of members' names and check they were up-to-date with subscriptions.

After the big effort of driving up from Tauranga for committee meetings and

workshops, Sue loved the cuppa her hostess provided as she prepared to lead meetings and engender ideas.

...from Jan Pendergrast

I remember the strict way Sue ran our Tauranga group meetings. We began promptly after a short cuppa and biscuits. Sue encouraged 'those in print' to share their achievements and we discovered we had many. Idle talking was kept to a minimum. She had tips ready every time and our assignments were set accordingly, whether stories for children, poetry or tracts, to name a few.

Keeping our writing tight, tying the beginning to the end and replacing phrases like 'ten years of age' with 'ten years old' were a few of the points Sue always stressed.

She was a stickler about us bringing an assignment. We feared the rebuke if we arrived empty-handed! But we learned to write well under her tuition.

Even when I visited her three weeks before she died, she was still interested in how our group was going.

Sue's funeral

Feedback from Jan Pendergrast

About 150 friends and family filled the Monowai Bible Chapel to farewell Sue. Her sons and grandchildren told us entertaining stories of their experiences with a strict but loving mother and grandmother; about her enterprising endeavours to supplement the farm income in tough times, and her contribution to the Girl Guide movement. They all shared about her writing, a passion that flowed from her

experiences as a farmer's wife and mother, and her respect for our English language. Her granddaughter read some of her writing.

I was privileged to speak for a few minutes, on behalf of the Guild and our group, before the family shared.

Everything spoken was wrapped in her love for her Lord Jesus, and her eagerness for all to know him.

Disability of the Heart

Submitted by Dave Palmer

Just thinking about this. Am I right, partly right or wrong?

Disability in the body means that a part of your body is disabled. But disability of the heart or spirit—which is caused by wrong beliefs or thinking about yourself—can, or will, kill you stone dead.

Bodily disability can happen in a variety of ways and may not be curable, but can be helped greatly with medication and the caring of others.

Heart disability may be deeply entrenched. You may be born with these wrong beliefs about yourself, or they may come from the negative things people say to you that you take on board. This disability IS curable, even if you are 'stone dead', through the Word of God, the encouragement of others, and through a change in your own beliefs about yourself.

How to Write Telling Titles

By Janice Gillgren

A title tells the reader what to expect in the content of your writing.

Most readers prefer non-fiction titles that give a clear idea of the content, whereas a title for fiction may give only a clue to the theme which becomes apparent as the story is read.

I'm sure that, whenever you read a newspaper or magazine, you scan the titles so you know which articles you want to read, and which ones you will ignore. This is usual, and is the reason why editors choose titles very carefully.

In order to attract the reader's attention, it has become fashionable to make titles as witty as possible. Some may be puns; others may just be devised to make you question what the article or story is about so that you will at least take a look. The results can be very funny, or end up ridiculous. Funny or cute titles occasionally backfire, and I'm sure you have laughed at titles that clearly told a different message than the writer intended.

So, what is a good title?

- It draws the reader's attention. This is best done using active verbs, specific nouns, and well-chosen, descriptive adjectives.
- It is appropriate to the content, giving an honest clue to what is contained.
- It is appropriate to the style of the content. (e.g. you wouldn't write a cute title for a eulogy.)
- It should be as concise as it can be, while saying all that is needed. Lengthy titles went out of fashion decades ago.

Your title will either draw the readers, or tell them your article won't interest them. It is okay for a reader not to be interested. Not all writing appeals to everyone.

As you are now aware of what you are trying to achieve, how do you write terrific, 'telling' titles?

Here are some tips:

- Try to condense the meaning or theme of your writing as concisely as possible. However, this doesn't mean you have to wrap up the whole story and conclusion so well that there is no incentive for people to read it at all.
- Can you use a quote or key phrase from within your article or story?
- An appropriate play on words may work. This could be done by rewording a cliché or familiar phrase.
- Alliteration, in which each of the main words in the title begins with the same sound, is often effective.

If you are writing an instructive article, including 'DIY tips' or 'how to' in your title may seem boring, but are still useful because people search for information using these sort of phrases.

Sometimes a title will form clearly in your head before you start, but at other times it won't, so it doesn't matter if you decide on the title before or after you've finished the item.

Spend time to compose the best title you can, and your efforts will be rewarded with interest.

For further tips, go to Janice's blog at www.wordsandscenes.co.nz

GET CREATIVE

Thanks to Jean Shewan for her thoughtful contribution on *Look to the Ant*.

ANT – ICS

By Jean Shewan

It has been said that the difference between a weed and a flower is a judgement. The same could be applied to the animal kingdom. So the next time your bench is overrun with ants, before you reach for the fly spray, take time to study them.

A single ant is helpless and weak, but they have learned to live in a colony with their fellow ants and each one works for the good of the whole group. They are obedient and persistent, doing the task that they have been set without question and following in the footsteps of the one before them. The goal is the collection of food so that the whole colony can be sustained over winter. They take only what they need and on the way they enhance their environment, so that others can live.

There are so many lessons here for us as we seek to walk in Christ's footsteps. How many generations will it take before we learn to work as one with our community and tread gently in our environment? How often do we scurry about trying to do the task that someone else is called to do, rather than seeking God's will for our lives?

So before we pass judgement on the place of the ant in our world, we would do well to think what we can learn from it. Then, maybe, we can better fulfil our calling to love our neighbour as ourselves and walk closely with Jesus our Saviour.

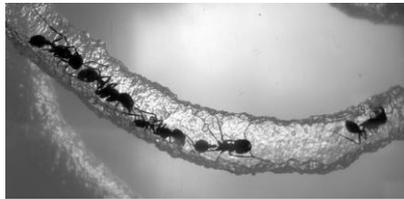


Photo by Steve Jurvetson – 'Miners'
www.photographyblogger.net (Used with permission)

The next topic will be **Diamonds in the Snow**

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 2013

Write to Right

By Janet Fleming

Recently with various events occurring in New Zealand I have felt urged to write. As Christians we are called to be salt and light, so as writers how can we best meet this challenge and why is it that so often Christians are silent on subjects that are so blatantly wrong?

I guess one of the first things that may stop us is fear. What will others think? Will I be attacked by the media or by members of the public, like the couple in Whangarei, who have been abused since refusing to have a gay couple stay in their accommodation?

Then I may be simply just lazy. I don't have the time to do this task or at least I am not prepared to make the time?

As a nation there is no doubt that our standards are deteriorating. Murder is on the increase, sexual sin is rampant, while drugs, assault, theft and forgery are commonplace. How can I help even a little to stem this tide of darkness?

Firstly I need to know and believe the Bible. Psalm 119:105 says, 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.' This book is what sets the standard. Someone may believe that stealing is okay if they don't get caught. It doesn't depend on feelings. Stealing is wrong because God says so! And this applies to every other evil.

If I decide to write I need to think about how I will do this. I can 'slam' someone, but will they want to listen to me? Instead they will probably label me as fanatical. I need to add salt if I wish to make any impact. As Colossians 4:6a states, 'Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt...'

What I write needs to be brief and to the point. There's a paper that I buy regularly and enjoy, but I scarcely ever read the letters to the editor. Why is that? They are too long. My writing also needs to grab the reader's attention from the start and hold it throughout. Then of course, my work should be well written. Remember to read and re-read.

I also need to be sure I have my facts right. What did the news item state? What really happened? Have the witnesses to the event given a true account of what happened?

So what is going on around you today? Is there a Member of Parliament you could write to? Could you send a letter to an editor or a note to a friend who you realise is getting drawn into error?

If what is happening is going to affect you, your family or your neighbours, what will you do about it? In deciding to write you just might stop that darkness spreading or at least slow it down. If you never do anything I guess the old adage speaks for itself: 'silence gives consent.'

Why not put pen to paper and begin writing today?

Seasons

By John Milne

In my childhood and adolescence, life was clearly defined. Everything was organised and much more black and white than today. Living was simpler. No agonising over decisions of should I or shouldn't I? There were far less choices then. Things were more predictable.

The rhythm and movement of the seasons reinforced this. Like sunrise and sunset, their progression was unchanging and reliable. Some years were mild, others harsh, but they never failed to come around. Swiftly the years came and went. The more that passed the faster they seemed to come.

Living in the north of Scotland, winters of cold snow and ice were harsh realities. Even the swift flowing River Dee would freeze over, and the surrounding countryside be clothed in a thick mantle of pure white. Untrodden, breathtakingly beautiful, pristine and clean. Inevitably, winter slowly released its grip. Miraculously, salmon encased in ice were freed from their long, cold winter prison by the arrival of spring. As the earth drew life from the sun, buds and blossoms, plants and birds rose in harmony, as if to praise their creator. The song writer eloquently expressed it with, 'Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird'. The wonder of spring burst upon us with invigorating newness of life.

Movement, development and growth follow closely on the heels of fresh new life. But spring must give way to summer. What we walked on in winter, we now swim and fish in.

Memories come flooding back of teenage years. Warm summer evenings, playing cricket on the grassy banks of the river till well after midnight. The sun never really went down so we didn't either. What a lovely sense of freedom—of breaking through into manhood and independence. Probably more to do with that than the game itself. Above, trees benevolently looked down on the transient scene below. Recently leafless, they now gently nodded their thick bushy heads to each other in the warm breeze. They stood there long before we started. It seemed like they were saying, 'Everything is in order. This is as it should be. We will be here long after they're gone'.

Years later, I revisited the scene, the sole survivor of that childhood game a lifetime ago. I felt strangely overwhelmed by nostalgia so strong, tears could not be suppressed. Faces and personalities of boyhood friends came powerfully before me like a final passing parade.

In a moment of time, a million actions and reactions—organised and controlled—harmonised into an unfolding panorama we call creation. Life, my life, a tiny part, a second of time in this ageless saga.

Gradually the days shorten—leaves turn a golden brown and fall. There is a

nip in the air. Change becomes more and more perceptible. Autumn is here. Its presence is felt everywhere. No amount of rejection or protest will alter the reality. Prudence demands that I accept, even welcome it.

Thus the full cycle is repeated over and over again. Swiftly the years come and go, as we all must. How then do I respond to all of this? Resentful for such a short stay? I think not. From a thankful heart I must give thanks and be grateful for being part of this magnificent plan. The seasons of my life were foreshadowed in childhood. Spring with its planting, preparation and early growth. Summer with its strength, energy and development. Autumn with its harvest time. Reaping, storing and preserving. Winter. The pace slows down. Quieter living. Time to reflect and enjoy what has been gathered and preserved. A season to ponder, assess and share what the years have taught. It is now my winter time. I must embrace it and be thankful.

Regions vary. Life varies. Permeating such incredible variety there is that which never changes. Details and characteristics differ, but they are controlled and managed by a few laws and principles that are enduring and changeless. In the turmoil and movement of modern living, we can shift our gaze beyond the here and now to a distant shore. Outside of circumstances, fortune or misfortune. To a place that is higher, more durable than what we can see,

or feel, or touch. Beyond the reach of trouble and heartache. A place of peace. As the old Scottish ballad puts it, 'Rest in peace now soldier laddie—rest in peace now the battle's o'er'. That place of peace is not imaginary. It does exist. It can be reached. Just as a few principles and laws control the natural world, we can embrace principles and laws to control our one too.

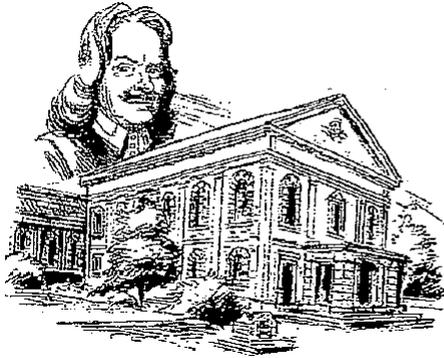
The three great pillars of faith, hope and love not only support quality living, they give purpose and meaning to all that we are, and all that we do, throughout the changing seasons of our lives.

Author's Note: Just in case it isn't abundantly clear, this is the Season of my life I am in now. Winter is not all bad—there are some benefits. Memories are precious and there are a few of them—clear as crystal



The glory of the
young is their
strength; the grey
hair of experience is
the splendour
of the old.

—Proverbs 20:29



Happy 335th Birthday to *The Pilgrim's Progress*

John Bunyan had a happy childhood but as a youth was a hooligan. He changed on meeting with some Christians and reading a Bible.

His job was a tinker or mender of pots and pans. For not obeying harsh laws preventing him preaching the Gospel, he was sent to Bedford Prison in 1665 for twelve years. There he wrote with a quill pen *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the story of Christian, a pilgrim wanting his burden of sin and doubt lifted as he journeyed to reach the heavenly city.

The Pilgrim's Progress, first published in 1678, was an immediate success. Countless editions have since been printed.

In 1672 John Bunyan preached in a barn he purchased in Bedford. This was replaced in 1707 with a Meeting House. The present Bunyan Meeting Free Church, built in 1850 on the 1672 site, was impressively refurbished in 1974. Displays in the excellent Bunyan Museum, opened in 1998, include a life-size audio model of John Bunyan giving a welcome, his reconstructed prison cell, *The Pilgrim's Progress* in 170 languages, a metal violin he made in prison, his tinker's anvil and a panorama of Christian's life.

Today attractive copies published for all ages are available from Christian bookshops.

Bibliography

John Bunyan Museum. If visiting first check times on the website:
www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk (An easy rail trip from London.)

The Many Paths to Plotting

Part Two

With acknowledgements to Marg McAlister

In Part One of this series, we looked at two approaches to plotting a story. They are:

1. **Writing on the Fly**—whereby writers simply have a 'flash' of an idea and off they go. They write while being able to see only a short way ahead and write the whole book that way.
2. **Mind-Mapping**—whereby writers basically dump lots of ideas on a page so you can see the plot at a glance.

Let us now look at the third, and probably most complex approach:

Linear Plotting

Some writers like to feel they have their bow in hand and all arrows steel-tipped and ready in the quiver before they start the trek.

I know of writers who can't start writing the actual book until they have written an 80-page outline first. This is more like a slim version of the final book. They then go back and rewrite, fleshing it out. But before the 80-page outline came the list of characters, the timeline, the back story for each character, the setting checklist ... and so it goes on.

If this is the way you like to work, DO IT. Who says it 'wastes time'?

Who says it 'takes the spontaneity out of your work'? So what if you could have written two books in the time it took you to prepare for one? People who make comments like this show their preference to work in other ways. You probably wouldn't like their way of plotting. Remember, there's no 'right way' to plot. The right way for you is the one that works. If you like to spend six months preparing before you start to write, then do it. It's your book, and your time.

The Advantages of this Method:

- You know exactly what you're writing next. No sitting there playing Solitaire or Free Cell while you're desperately wondering how to get the characters out of the impossible situation you've engineered.
- You can map the highs and lows of the plot and subplots so there's never a flat patch in the story.
- You know your characters and their motivation well before you begin.
- You can insert any necessary hooks, red herrings, and clues as you go along. (Writers using the first two methods above get around this by writing extra scenes later and planting them where necessary, and rewriting other scenes if required.)

The Disadvantages of this Method

- The finished book can have a stilted feel to it, because you've locked yourself in from the start.

- You turn away from interesting alternative plot twists.
- It can take a long time to prepare.
- You are tempted to make the characters fit the plot, even if they 'want to' evolve in a different way.

The methods outlined above merely give you a sense of both ends of the spectrum and the middle ground afforded by 'mind-mapping'. There are countless variations in between. Experiment with different methods of plotting your story; be prepared to adopt whatever works. And don't be surprised if a method that works for one story doesn't seem right for another!

Be flexible. Listen to your instincts. Listen to your characters! Then choose.

WRITING TIPS

The possessive form of people's names

With acknowledgements to Tim North

STEP 1: Making names plural

The rules for making names plural or possessive are the same as they are for other words. Here are some examples of making words plural:

book	books
North	Norths
Smith	Smiths
Tim	Tims

Dress	dresses
Bellis	Bellises
Jones	Joneses
Woz	Wozes

The first group of words were simple. We pluralised them just by adding "s".

The second group of words end in "s" or "z" sounds. We pluralised these by adding "es".

STEP 2: Making singular names possessive

Now let's look at the case where the words are both singular and possessive:

The book's binding was damaged.
Mr North's table is this way.
Is this Jane Smith's desk?
Tim's car is over there.

The dress's hem was taken up.
Mr Bellis's cat is a Persian.
Mike Jones's work is excellent.
Where's Woz's iPad?

We see that both groups of words add apostrophe-s to become singular and possessive.

STEP 3: Making plural names possessive

Now let's combine these steps together to make words that are both plural and possessive.

The books' bindings are all damaged.
The Norths' table is this way.
Is this the Smiths' house?
The Tims' contributions were appreciated.

The dresses' hems have all been taken up.
The Bellises' cat is a Persian.
The Joneses' work is excellent.
The Woazes' iPads are both missing?

In each case we've simply taken the plural form from step 1 and added an apostrophe.

Building Healthy Writing Habits

by Diana Barnum

Do you have good writing habits?
Are you meeting or exceeding your own expectations?

Consider this gentleman:

A 19th century British postal clerk decided to start writing 3,000 words each day so that he could author his very own first novel. He placed his watch on the table and wrote before leaving the house every morning. This new habit paid off, and later Anthony Trollope published not one, but many novels; among them, *The Macdermots of Ballycloran* (1847), *Phineas Finn* and *He Knew He Was Right* (both 1869).

What do you think? Maybe it's time to think about changing or starting some of your own writing habits. If you want more out of your non-fiction plans, here are five tips, the FIVE A's, to build healthier habits:

1. **ACCOUNT:** Make a written account of any habits you'd like to work on: get more organised,

make more telephone calls to potential business clients for writing projects and assignments, quit checking your email 10 times a day. There's no need to be grammatically correct, just write something down so you can see the habit you want to improve in front of you.

2. **ACQUIRE:** Gather information about the habit from several sources: marketing chat rooms on the Internet, library reference books about organisation, online newsletters from motivational speakers like Zig Ziglar with improvement tips, etc. Check around for activities and groups in your area and sign up for workshops and speakers. The Small Business Administration also hosts workshops and offers free marketing materials and advice. Sign up. Take notes. Ask questions. Everyone has to start somewhere!
3. **ACTION:** Develop a course of action for working on each habit. Be as specific as possible. For instance, to increase phone calls to potential clients, maybe start with two calls per day. Then increase to three, gradually building up until you get the number you'd like. If you get sidetracked or let a couple of weeks go by due to busy scheduling, late meetings or too many commitments, catch up! Work overtime, ask someone to take notes at the next meeting for you, just say 'no, maybe next time,' but get caught up and keep calling.

4. **ASSESS:** Log your progress to follow ups and downs. A scientific assessment isn't necessary. Even one line jotted down each day or so on your calendar can let you track good days and bad, days you cheated and days you excelled, etc. Try placing a sticker on each day or some type of art to follow your progress. It's for your own self-improvement, so have fun and express yourself! Did you check your email only twice today? If you missed making some calls or organising a portfolio one day, did you catch up the next? Why / why not?
5. **APPEARANCE:** Take time to relax and reflect on this change of habit. How do you appear now? Happier? Healthier? Feedback from friends can be helpful now, too. Are adjustments needed? Perhaps a little more time will be necessary;

maybe a little less. If you have an already hectic workload, and three more calls per day on top of organising your entire home and office space is stressing you and your family out, try cutting back to one or two calls, along with organising only one room at a time. Maybe a self-help group or class is needed to learn time management skills?

Put these five A's to work. Make modifications in your own plans, then go back to tip number one. Old bad habits that took time to develop will take time to eliminate. But remember, none of us are perfect. Each one of us has something to work on for self-improvement. It's a process!

About the Author

Diana Barnum is president of Moving Ahead Communications, a company that offers marketing, public relations and freelance writing services. She teaches a 4-week course called, 'Marketing and Public Relations Using Computers for Writers' at Word Museum at <http://movingaheadcommunications.com/class>

Annual Subscriptions

Due 1st August 2013

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

Post 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.)

WHY BOTHER PRAYING?

By Rod Hickman

I felt overcome by the problems
of life
Discouraged and fearful, torn and
in strife
So I knelt by my bed and started to
pray
Perhaps God can hear me and help
guide my way

But the heavens were silent, I
heard not a thing
'cept the beat of my heart and the
cry from within
Yet through it all, He knows all
my pain
He knows all my losses and such
little gain

All of my days were recorded in
His heavenly book
He saw my substance, and the way
I would look
His thoughts for me outnumber
the sand
I cannot conceive how vast is His
plan

So I wonder, why do I bother, why
then do I pray?
For there's nothing I can do, to
change Him today

And then it dawned on me; prayer
only changes me
I get a clearer picture of how I'm
supposed to be

Cause God is just the same;
yesterday, today and tomorrow
He is full of grace, mercy, and
compassion for all my sorrow
So when I kneel beside my bed, I
can take all that away
It fills my heart with faith, hope, and
strength, there as I pray.

Psalm 139:17.

How precious also are your thoughts
to me, O God. How great is the sum
of them. If I should count them, they
would be more in number than the
sand. When I awake, I am still with
you.

Warm Welcome to New Members

GAIL LOCKE
PAEROA.

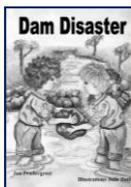
MARCIA & FRED BAKER
BRYNDWR, CHRISTCHURCH

MELISSA PARSONS
AVONHEAD, CHRISTCHURCH

Library Corner

Book Review

By Debbie McDermott



DAM DISASTER
By
Jan Pendergrast

(illustrated by
Julie Butt)

Well-written and easy to read, this well-illustrated story for boys is not only fun, it also contains information that children—particularly those with a rural background—will find useful and interesting. As for those who don't live in the country, this book reveals there's a lot more fun to be had in the bush than in playing computer games!

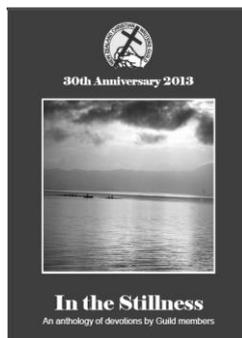
Comprised of six short and easy-to-read chapters (each ending with a 'cliff-hanger' to hold the reader's interest), a glossary to explain 'those big words' younger children may not understand, and even the recipe of the gingernut smoothies the boys in the story had for lunch, this is an interactive book that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

It is particularly important when writing for children to not 'over tell' and Jan has achieved this well. With just enough descriptive detail to trigger the imagination, this story has the potential to open a world of adventure to the young reader.

Whether you're a parent, a grandparent, or a kid who simply enjoys reading, then *Dam Disaster* is the book for you and your family.

To obtain your own copy, contact Jan Pendergrast direct on Jan@roads-end.co.nz

CWG 30th Anniversary Anthology



Containing 41 devotions written by Guild members and a lovely photo on each page (several of which are in colour, including the photo on the cover), this anthology costs only \$10.00 and is the perfect gift.

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

(NB: A copy of the anthology has also been lodged with the Guild's lending library.)

Letter from the Editor-cum-Librarian

Many thanks to Jan Pendergrast for judging Level One competition entries in my absence, as well as to all those who have provided me with material for this issue of the magazine. Getting straight back into the saddle after an overseas trip is never easy, especially when there is a tight deadline to meet, but your contributions have enabled me to get the mag to the printer just that bit quicker than I expected. So sit back with a cuppa and stick a feather in your cap. You deserve it.

—Debbie McDermott

Notice Board

Marilyn Nutter

new editor of

Penned from the Heart

needs your devotions for this very worthy publication. Please send her some of your best.

Deadline for submissions is
August 1st 2013

For further information, please contact Marilyn at nutter4penned@gmail.com



Creative Bookmarks

The attractive and full colour Bookmark, enclosed in the April / May 2013 issue of the *Christian Writer* magazine, is a sample of a series written about Christians of today and yesteryear who have accomplished much for mankind.

Some of these include Lord Lister, medical discoverer; John Newton, hymn writer; Helen Steiner Rice, poet laureate etc.

Enquiries welcome:

Fred Swallow rise@xtra.co.nz

Kobo / NZ Authors E-Publishing prize

This competition offers two budding New Zealand authors the opportunity to be professionally published in e-book form. Fiction or non-fiction manuscripts accepted (30,000 – 120,000 words)

Each Prize is worth over \$10,000

Deadline: 31 July 2013

For further details go to <http://www.authors.org.nz/wa.asp?idWebPage=38553&idDetails=202>

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Jan Pendergrast

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Notice Board

2013 BNZ Literary Awards

New Zealand's most distinguished short story competition is back for its 54th year.

With categories for both aspiring and established writers, everyone has the chance to join an impressive lineage of past winners.

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

Katherine Mansfield Award

for writers over the age of 13
(no maximum age limit)

\$10,000 prize money
1,000 – 5,000 words

Novice Writer Award

for unpublished writers
over the age of 13
(no maximum age limit)

\$1,500 prize money
1,000 – 3,000 words

BNZ Young Writer Award

for writers at secondary school
\$1,500 for the student
and **\$2000** for the winner's school
750 – 2,000 words

Deadline for Entries 30 June 2013

For more information go to
<http://www.bnz.co.nz/about-us/sponsorships/bnz-literary-awards>

SuperPower Magazine

New Zealand's newest publication, is aimed at providing news, stories and articles that will be of interest to our senior citizens—the SuperGold Card holders in our society—as well as their family, friends and all New Zealanders.

Writers who would like to contribute short stories, photo interviews, 'I remember' pieces, and articles on good health, happy living, hobbies, travel, reading and music to this worthy magazine are invited to do so.

For further information, contact Ian Macfarlane at Superpower@orcon.net.nz

Log Onto

JANICE GILGREN'S weekly blog

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

www.wordsandscenes.co.nz

Storylines Festival

is held in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Northland and Auckland in August annually.

The festival gives children (and adults!) a chance to meet their literary heroes—authors, illustrators, storytellers or book characters.

For further details go to
<http://www.storylines.org.nz>

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:
Jan Pendergrast

Requirement: AUTOBIOGRAPHY—Write a short account of your life, with a primary focus on what has inspired you along your life journey to become a writer. Try to highlight no more than two to three milestones that have had a significant impact on you.

500 words maximum.

General Comments

I am impressed. Three of the six entries this time are from new members—two from our Tauranga group. Congratulations and well done to everyone. The quality of your entries is amazing, making my job an enjoyable challenge. I have awarded three places and three Highly Commendeds!

All presented tidy manuscripts; the three place-getters included title and author at the start—the newbies one or the other, or none.

The issues for the three newbies were around punctuation and italicising titles. Their stories of how they were influenced to write are fascinating, as are these published.

First Place



**Ruth
Jamieson**

Once upon A Time...

The long hot days of summer bring back childhood memories of the noise of cicadas; the smell of dried grass, and the long hours spent watching the cows while they grazed our country roadside. My sister and I, from about the age of ten, seemed to land this unpaid job. We spent the day at each end of the herd of cows to alert the few cars that would pass through and to be a physical presence should the cows seek grass beyond us.

Most kids today would not be willing to spend their holidays with their own company and no modern entertainment devices but we knew no different. Besides, I would take along a notebook and pencil - and dream. My drawings were a poor attempt to express the pictures in my mind, but I would write stories, caught up in the moment, until

some road or cow noise brought me back to reality. What I wrote I do not recall, but I know it was for children and I probably read them to my four younger siblings.

My world very much centered on our farming life and I often envied townies. Perhaps this was behind a story I wrote at the age of twelve for a school assignment. I vividly recall sitting on my bedroom windowsill, which opened out onto the staircase landing, and fantasizing of being caged in. I was pleased with my effort but the teacher wasn't – obviously, he had no imagination!

The busy years of marriage and family swallowed up many dream moments and writing was confined to a diary, letters and a prayer journal. From the time our three children were young, my husband and I have been involved in child evangelism, working with the small churches in the areas we shifted to. As the pianist, I chose the songs, but soon found myself in a director's role, organizing Christmas, Easter and other Whanau service programmes. After much prayer and brainstorming, I often ended up writing our own dramas, puppet plays and the occasional song to suit our gatherings.

With the arrival of grandchildren, I took on a writing course by correspondence with the initial aim of writing for them. I then panicked. English had not been my best subject through college. However I have recently completed this course.

I enjoy writing but I am fully involved in our horticultural business, which

means grabbing any spare moments to write. I relish these times to put pen to paper but my writing must have a purpose and to this end, I try to weave in a message without preaching. I am presently working on our family histories which, although interesting, is intensive. Through this, I hope to convey to the younger generations not only their physical heritage but also the spiritual journeys of their ancestors who passed this way before them. Although none were authors as such, their written diaries and letters are treasures that stir the imagination...

Judge's Comments

Ruth, I have four corrections for you: a comma to replace the semicolon, and a change to 'pass through, and be a physical...' in the first paragraph; and a comma before your 'but's in paragraph two and six.

Your story was written actively which gave it pace and interest. Maybe that is something to do with being a well occupied person.

Second Place



**Judith
Powell**

The Road to Writing

Books have accompanied me all my life. I was given them when I was young and later bought my own.

They grew in number as I moved from Masterton, to Tokomaru Bay, to Christchurch, and finally to Oxford after our marriage. Reading was an adventure. I remember sitting with dad, by the fire, learning words on cards for school. I had difficulty with 'was' and 'saw.'

I told stories to my twin sisters in bed at night, even after they were asleep. Sometimes I crouched in bed reading my book by street light. I wrote a book about a game we invented. I named it *Nature Club Island* and illustrated it with 'borrowed' pictures. It is in my bookcase with the *Swiss Family Robinson* I won for a story written for a Girl Guide competition.

After our children left home I worked in an Early Learning Centre. My heart leapt with excitement when our Supervisor read out the Christchurch College of Education Prospectus for a Diploma in Children's Literature. I knew this was what I had been waiting for. I worried that it might be selfish to spend so much money and time on something just for me but several people encouraged me with words from God. Our pastor, who had no idea what I was considering, told me God was telling me I was in the centre of His will. For seven years I immersed myself in children's books. Completing one paper a year gave me time to spend with our grandchildren who were able to help me with many assignments.

As part of the Diploma I researched and wrote an article, 'The Role of Dragons in Children's Picture Books.'

I was proud when this was published in *Talespinner* magazine. My final course was 'Writing and Illustrating for Children.' The story I wrote was rejected by one publisher who told me it was too complex. I was discouraged and unsure where to go from this point.

Last year I had a strong feeling that 2013 would be a time to carry on writing. I began by entering my first Christian Writers' Guild competition. At the same time I sent two stories to an editor I met at a wedding. They accepted one for a collection of comprehension exercises. I felt even more encouraged that I was to be paid. The same week I was notified I had been placed third equal in the Christian Writers' Guild competition to write a Lullaby.

I am feeling encouraged. Books still surround me and I continue to share my love of reading with children as often as I can. I eagerly anticipate the day I can read them a book containing a story I have written, had accepted and published.

Judge's Comments

Well done, Judith.

I have three suggestions: a capital letter for 'Dad' in paragraph one, and a comma after 'just for me' in paragraph three. Your last sentence would be better written, "... read them a story I have written, had accepted and published."

Be encouraged; it will happen.

Third Place



**Elaine
Given**

My Writing Life

“Dear Mummy and Dabby,
Please may I have some sweets.”

Thus began my early missives as a six and a half year old staying at boarding school in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Writing later became a source of comfort and my mother commented that the scripture verses I wrote at the top of the letters would frequently be exactly what they needed to encourage them.

In 1964 there were daily love letters to my boyfriend who was at NZ BTI (now Laidlaw College). Again Scripture featured in these as well as very personal ‘love-dovey’ sentiments. Embarrassment caused me to burn these letters before we left New Zealand. But my father’s letters to my mother are still in my possession; a cherished part of a father who was so passionate about his God, that he was willing to give up the love of his life if that was required.

We have a photograph of our two toddlers sitting on the ground, strewn with autumn leaves and pecan nuts. Deborah is holding letters from their grandmother who was in Africa. I did

not write much in those difficult days because a stamp was not on our meagre budget. But there were occasional newsletters telling of our son wandering before we were awake, resulting in a police visit. Then there was petrol found in a neighbour’s laundry, followed by a fire ball with resulting burns to our son. In three days new skin formed over the raw flesh. He was wonderfully healed in answer to prayer.

Our missionary work took us to the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire), the country of my birth. Sending my children to boarding school was hard. They in turn received letters from ‘Mummy and Daddy’. Our old newsletters remind me of God’s faithfulness to us as we travelled on atrocious roads through war zones and road blocks. He provided mushrooms when we had little to eat and gifts of food that reminded us of His knowledge of our desires. Sickness and accidents involving our children were only written about after all was well. Without email, it was not good to write about something which would likely be over by the time people read the letter.

The Bible is full of encouraging letters from those facing their own difficult circumstances. So each morning or afternoon I write to my mother’s elderly friends to let them know how Mother is and to encourage them by the thought that they are important enough for a letter.

Writing personal birthday messages began as a job. Little rhymes and scripture verses became inspired by

God – rather like sending them ‘some sweets’ from their Heavenly Father. The first time a man thanked me for his birthday message, I realised that God was speaking to individuals through words He gave me.

No I have not written a book, although I helped my mother to produce her life story. Maybe I will write an autobiography for my grandchildren but until then, I will keep writing letters and birthday cards.

Judge’s Comments

Wonderful. My only suggestion for you, Elaine, is to create a new paragraph at, “But there were occasional...”, and a comma after “No” in your last paragraph. You have conveyed well the importance of writing letters and messages; something that’s missing in these days of emails and texts.

Highly Commended Level One entries are:

Carys Edwards, Andrew Court and Susan Flanagan.

Level Two

Judge:

Janice Gillgren

Requirement: IN A NUTSHELL— Using exactly 150 words (excluding title), briefly explain a Biblical doctrine and tell why it is important. Do not use 1st person POV at all.

General Comments

Well done to the three people who entered this time, as my requirements were very specific, and I don’t think the topic appealed as much either. Each one deserved a place, and as they were so close, it was difficult to decide which place to give to which entrant.

Of course, I’m not judging you on your beliefs, but on the way you have expressed them, and how well you followed instructions. This isn’t being pedantic, as it is important to be able to follow editorial requirements.

Each entrant provided a sound structure, including introduction, supporting points, and conclusion.

The hardest work of writing goes into making something simple and clear to understand, and this is where I felt Heather’s entry edged her into first place. Her layout was more readable than that of the other two entrants (who had squeezed everything into just the one paragraph), the scriptures were relevant, and the whole essay pulled more weight than the 150 words would suggest.

A small note about punctuation, as I’ve written something similar for each entry. Commas in sentences have a lot of uses, but one of them is to separate words, or sometimes phrases, that are listed within the sentence. If you have such a list, you need to separate it from any phrases in the sentence that are not included in the list by using a semi-colon. However, sometimes it is better to just make the whole sentence into a list, rather than have the two separate sections of the sentence.

First Place



**Heather
Vincent**

A Basic Biblical Doctrine – The Word of God

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

The Word of God is a person - Jesus. He existed before the world began, he became flesh and walked amongst us. His story comes to us as the written Word, the Bible. The central point of all Scripture is Christ and the cross.

This Word is foundational to our Christian faith, one of the basic doctrines and inseparable from God himself. As God’s love letter to man it stands alone as the authoritative, inerrant, clear, necessary, infallible, sufficient and inspired word of God.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Tim 3:16

Everything we need to live an authentic Christian life of godliness is found in the Bible. God says we will be blessed if we meditate on it day and night.

Judge’s Comments

Hi Heather. Well done for gaining first place.

You’ve written a concise and tightly focused article, explaining a hefty doctrine simply without weighing it down with too much detail.

A small point—and possibly one that not everyone agrees with—is the use of commas where a semicolon could be better.

‘He existed ... began’ should either have a semicolon after ‘began’, or miss out the ‘he’ after the comma, which would change the whole sentence to a short list.

I also suggest you use your last sentence earlier in the article, as the second to last sentence would be a stronger conclusion.

Second Place



**Jean
Shewan**

THE TRINITY—*Refer to critique

Most people are aware that ice, water and steam are made up of the same constituents. The state in which they appear depends on the circumstances. In the same way we can think of the Trinity – three persons in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are

all part of the same being from the same root, but appear in different forms and have different purposes. God is our heavenly father, our creator and judge. Jesus Christ is God's first born son and our brother, he is our saviour, lover, teacher, shepherd and friend. He gave up his life for us. The Holy Spirit is the enabler, the breath of God, who gives us new life and strengthens us to go out into the world. They work together, as one, to bring God's kingdom into our hearts and lives, so we like them can be unified in one body.

Judge's Comments

Hi Jean. I've awarded you 2nd place, as you have followed all requirements as asked, though you nearly missed out on this placing for not spelling your title correctly.*

You have started with a clear introduction, and followed it up with equally clear points, which are simply expressed.

Although this paragraph is all on the same subject, it would have been much more palatable broken down into smaller paragraphs. The first four sentences could fit into one paragraph, but the sentences describing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit each deserve their own paragraphs, followed by your last sentence as a conclusion.

A little note about punctuation: I suggest after 'brother', you either use a semi-colon (because the remainder

of the sentence is a separate list), or you make the whole sentence into one list by omitting 'he is' after 'brother'.

Adding commas before and after 'like them' in your last sentence would make it sound stronger.

Third Place



**Vicki
Nogaj**

The Cross in a Nutshell

It is Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that provides the basis of the Christian faith. When Jesus cried out "It is finished" (John 19:30) it signified the completion of His work on earth: The payment of mankind's debt of sin (Hebrews 10:26-28), destroying the works of Satan (Col 2:15), reconciling us to God (Col 1:20) and providing access to eternal life (John 3:16). All Bible doctrine points to the Cross and if it doesn't it is false. It unifies all Christians regardless of denomination yet sets us apart from other religions. We are not required through works or ritual to prove ourselves worthy. The Cross gives us power (1 Cor 1:18) due to the supernatural resurrection of Jesus, position due to our no longer being slaves to sin but sons and priests

(Hebrews3:1) and purpose in the Commission (Matt 28:19,20).

...who for the joy set before him endured the cross...

Judge's Comments

Hi Vicky. I've awarded you third place. You had clearly worked hard to fit as much in as you could (153w), and you narrowly missed getting 2nd equal.

You were only a little over the word limit, but because I asked very specifically for exactly 150 words, I marked you down for this. Tough, I know, but I expect entrants should be able to do this for a level two competition.

I also felt you tried to squeeze too much in; perhaps leading to a bit of 'indigestion'!

Most of my criticism is actually on layout though, because your one paragraph is rather like a thick piece of steak—tasty, but much easier to eat if cut into pieces. Likewise, this article would be much better if spaced out.

The first sentence is strong on its own. The next sentence contains a list of evidences of Jesus' completed work, and this would be much better set out in bullet points, or at least in short sentences. The last four sentences aren't so well focused as the first two, especially the sentence about proving ourselves worthy.

Finally, the first part of your last sentence would actually make a better

conclusion, which could be done by rearranging it. The scripture you used doesn't really seem to quite fit, and as I've suggested amending your sentence, the relevant portion of 1 Cor 1:18 would make more sense here.

Level Three

Judge:
Julie Belding

Requirement: POETRY—Write a sonnet on a winter theme. It must consist of 14 lines. It must be written in iambic pentameter (duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH). It must be written in one of various standard rhyme schemes.

General Comments

Sonnets are fun—but hard work, as all the contestants will affirm. The three place-getters all understood the requirements well, and wrote almost perfect sonnets from a technical viewpoint. They all deserved an A+ for their perfect rhymes, perfect rhythms and perfect rhyming schemes. In terms of content, only a whisker separated them. (Like the judges on Master Chef, I had to nitpick.) Ruth and Lesley began their poems in a traditional, old-fashioned style and ended them on a modern note. While this was in one way refreshing, and fun to read, I'm not sure the mixture of styles in the same sonnet totally "works." So Julia had the edge simply for her consistency of style.

Well done to all.

First Place



**Julia
Martin**

Metamorphosis

As naked trees pierce through a
troubled sky
An icy blast pervades the countryside,
Large flocks of birds to warmer
places fly
While plants lie dormant and small
creatures hide.

In this harsh world of drabness
and decay
Hope fades and pessimism dulls
the mind,
Despondency and boredom rule
the day
And satisfaction nowhere can I find.
Amidst this gloom I sense a gleam
of light.
With hands outstretched I reach
towards its source,
A warmth, a glow, a calm of
sweet delight
Sweeps o'er my soul and frees me
from remorse.

As Winter's night gives way to
Spring's rebirth
God's grace transforms with peace,
contentment, mirth.

Judge's Comments

A lovely sonnet, Julia. The only change I'd suggest would be to put winter and spring in lower case.

Second Place



**Ruth
Linton**

Faces of Winter

The golden glaze of autumn's dress
from trees
Now brown, a crackling carpet 'neath
my feet.
The crunch of frost on pastures;
icy breeze
Exhilarate the new day that we greet.

Now wrapped in cloak of shining
crystal snow
The mountains pose—a cragged
majestic sight –
Criss-crossed by skis and boards till
faces glow—
Are winter scenes that bring our
eyes delight.

But though the sun is up, the day
seems fair,
Warm clothes above a snug merino
vest,
A scarf and gloves and woollen hat
I wear
To venture out to live the day with
zest.

Despite the sports and vistas that I see
It's cup of soup and log-fuelled fire
for me!

Judge's Comments

I liked your whimsical touch, from the rather sonorous beginning to a more contemporary-sounding conclusion. But see my comments above. Nitpick: Avoid a poetic abbreviation (e.g. "neath" in Line 2) unless it is absolutely unavoidable. In this case it was avoidable, as you could have said, "Now brown, a crackling mat beneath my feet."

Also cragged in Line 2 disturbs the rhythm somewhat (if you pronounce it with two syllables, as my dictionary insists you must).

However, I liked the warm images in this evocative poem.

Third Place



**Lesley
Edgeler**

Winter's Cold Love

As drought breaks clear upon the
earth so strained,
My love, my passion for you fails
to glow.
Oh winter, destitute and sorely
drained,
You stop my thoughts from gaining
love's sweet flow.

For leafless trees expose their heat-
singed boughs
As I, depressed, seek fresh desire
in vain.
Rain breaks the drought and now my
mind allows
Fresh thoughts of love to warm my
heart again.

But slushy snow and ice conflict my
thoughts
As winter seems to drag in heartfelt
groans.
Yet travel brochures promise lush
resorts,
To bring some needed warmth into
my bones.

And so I book to take a tempting
flight,
Then change my mind as spring
comes into sight.

Judge's Comments

*Good sonnet, Lesley. Like Ruth, you have brought in a fresh contemporary thought at the end, after a somewhat ponderous start (so ponderous, in fact, that I wasn't even sure what line 4 meant). Nitpick: In Line 3 "Oh winter" should be "O winter." As every pedantic English teacher knows, O is the correct vocative form, as in *O God, O Lord, etc.* Oh is an exclamation, as in "Oh bother!" (Sadly, most modern worship leaders who do PowerPoints have no idea of the distinction. Sigh...) That said, the content is something with which we can all identify. Well done.*

Competitions for August 2013

Due July 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:

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 max.

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.

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.

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.