

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017

THE CHRISTIAN writer



BOOK REVIEW

Play in the Garden

BY SARAH O'NEIL

SEE INSIDE FOR

Competitions
New Members
& Latest News

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)

Postal Address: 18 Matai Street, Waiuku 2123

Membership, Subscriptions and Address Changes:

Jan Pendergrast (email: jan@roads-end.co.nz)

Annual Subscription: Single \$35 (digital mag) / \$45 (hard copy mag)
Double \$50 (digital mag) / \$70 (hard copy mag)
Student \$15

Subs are payable by direct or online banking to NZ Christian Writers, a/c 12 3040 0547346 00
Cheques can be sent via post to Jan Pendergrast, Seales Road, Oropi RD3, Tauranga

Book Review Requests: (members only)

Post a copy of your book to Julia Martin

286 Karapiro Road, RD4, Cambridge 3496

(NB: Your book will be added as a donation to the NZCW library on completion of the review.)

The Christian Writer is published bimonthly by the New Zealand Christian Writers and distributed to all its members. Contributions on the theme of writing are always welcome. If you have some advice or encouragement for Christian writers, or an announcement of some event of interest to members, do send it to the editor for consideration by the 20th day of the month prior to the publication date. Submissions must be emailed as Microsoft Word or Open Office documents and are to be no more than 500 words long, except at the discretion of the editor.

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.

© Copyright 2017

This issue was printed by:

Pure Print

36 First Avenue
Tauranga 3110
New Zealand

Tel: +64 7 578 5704
Fax: +64 7 577 0291
Email: enquiries@pureprint.co.nz

The Christian Writer

Feb – Mar 2017

VOL 34. No 1 / ISSN 1171 0098

Contents

Page 2	Contact Details – Editor Membership Secretary Book Review Requests
Page 4	President’s Report – Justin St Vincent
Page 5	2017 NZCW Writers Retreat Details
Page 6	He Prayed—God Answered – Janet Fleming
Page 7	Looking in the Right Direction – Debbie McDermott
Page 8	The Word—A Writing Tutor – Ruth Linton
Page 9	This New Year – Janet Fleming
Page 9	On Playwriting – Various Helpful Tips & Quotes
Page 10	Word Matching Puzzle – Ruth Linton
Page 11	Writing Briefs: Reflections from Visits to Austria & Germany – F Swallow
Page 12	Literary Devices: Cadence
Page 13	His Poem – Ruth Linton
Page 14	Get Creative: One Day at a Time – Lynda Otter
Page 15	Article Writing Made Easy: Six Top Tips – Iona K Lister
Page 16	When I Heard Jesus had Died – Dave Palmer
Page 16	What is Plagiarism? – Janice Gillgren
Page 18	Welcome to New and Returning Members
Page 18	NZCW Writers’ Groups / Professional Editing & Writing Services
Page 19	Featured Book Review: Play in the Garden – Sarah O’Neil
Page 19	Library Additions / Recent Publication
Page 20	Second Book Review: Maybury Place – Keitha Smith
Page 20	Notice Board

CW Competitions

Page 21	Under 20s	Page 26	Level Two Results
Page 22	Level One Results	Page 28	Level Three Results
Page 31	Competitions for April 2017		

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

Website:

Our vibrant, user-friendly website is full of interesting information, such as details of seminars and copies of past magazines. It also gives each individual member an online presence. So please encourage other Christian Writers you know to join us via our website.

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Report

Happy New Year! I'm sure for some of us the New Year season was a delightful rest from the busyness of work, and offered the opportunity to relax together with family and friends.

For others, this season of life may have brought its own unique set of challenges. Perhaps this new year will provide the opportunity to refocus your minds on what is really important in life.

For some, you have established a personal goal to publish your book during 2017. If you have made this commitment to yourselves and others, I congratulate you. It is an important and significant step in your publishing journey and I trust you will be successful.

Once again I encourage you to register for our upcoming Retreat 2017. Spaces are limited to 40 people and our Retreat will sell out. Our keynote speakers will be Kaylene Subritzky, Iola Goulton, Sarah O'Neil, plus a selection of elective speakers. Our goal with the Retreat is to provide a relaxed space where we can all be inspired and refreshed in a beautiful setting. The fantastic Flaxmill Retreat Centre is located in Whitianga, and

will be a great place for us to share time together. Dates are Thursday 27th April 2017 to Sunday 30th April 2017. Secure your place at our upcoming Retreat 2017 by emailing Jan Pendergrast: jan@roads-end.co.nz

During the Christmas and New Year season Sara-Maria and I were able to share many precious moments with our baby daughter Maxima. As she approaches six months young, we have been so privileged to witness her hilarious giggles, many dribbles, and delightful burps. Having our first child has reminded me of the Father-heart of God. I believe God's desire is that we increasingly understand His Father-heart in our daily lives. One of the most powerful declarations of the Bible is that God is 'Our Father'. The Bible shares with us many insights into the amazing closeness, intimacy, and tender-heartedness of God. When each of us receives this truth it gives amazing grace, love and power in our lives as believers.

I trust you enjoy reading this latest edition of our magazine.

Blessings,

Justin St Vincent



Justin & Sara-Maria with Maxima



NZ CHRISTIAN
writers
RETREAT



27TH - 30TH APRIL 2017
FLAXMILL RETREAT CENTRE · WHITIANGA



KAYLENE SUBRITZKY



IOLA GOULTON



SARAH O'NEIL

Keynote speakers will be Kaylene Subritzky, Iola Goulton, Sarah O'Neil, plus a selection of elective speakers to inspire, refresh, and up-skill each of us on our writing journey.

SPACES LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE MAX!

To reserve your place, please email: jan@roads-end.co.nz

www.nzchristianwriters.org

**BOOK
TODAY!**

He Prayed—God Answered

By Janet Fleming

The door was open as he knelt to pray—a big man with a big heart. He prayed, not just once, but daily and I knew he prayed for me. My father prayed and God answered

Mum wasn't an outspoken person but she had a beautiful voice and she sang as she played the piano. She sang hymns that contained the message of Jesus and their verses became imprinted on my memory.

Each evening Dad read the Bible and prayed with us. His words, "that we might be an unbroken family in heaven", touched my heart.

I was born on 19/10/52 at Whangaroa Hospital, Kaeo, New Zealand. I was the third child in the family, my parents Don and Ethel Gow already having a five-year-old son and a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. Later my younger brother was born. Our home, which was an old kauri villa, was situated on a dairy farm on the shores of the beautiful Whangaroa Harbour. We spent an idyllic childhood, boating, swimming, fishing and playing with the farm animals

The Gospel Hall we attended played an important part in my life. This meant travelling 38 kilometres each Sunday morning after milking the cows. Sunday School was held after a shared lunch and most Sundays I had time after lunch to nip up to Grandma Lane's on the hill above the church, where we'd pick grapes and other fruit. Then it was home to milk the cows again before returning to church for the night service. The old Fordson truck wasn't exactly comfortable to travel in and was chilly at night-time, but no one stayed home unless attendance was impossible!

Not only did Mum and Dad teach us the Bible, they lived it. Generosity was the order of the day and although they had little they gave much. For me it seemed that Christianity must be worthwhile for Mum and Dad to make such sacrifices when they were poor.

Many times during my childhood I heard truths from the Bible and gradually I became more concerned. I was a sinner, Jesus had died for me and was coming again, but was I ready to meet Him?

I can remember waking in the night and listening for the sound of my parents' breathing. What if Jesus had come back and Mum and Dad had gone home to heaven leaving me behind. It was a great relief if I heard my Dad's snores and I could settle back to sleep. If not, I would creep up the darkened passage and listen at my parents' bedroom door until I knew they were still there.

When I was around 10 years old an evangelist, Barry Reed, visited Totara North and my sister became a Christian. (Incidentally my husband, Mike, also made a decision to follow Christ at this time.) Those services made a great impression on my life.

One night when I was 11 years old a Mr Dimock spoke at church. From that night I accepted that Jesus had died for me and that my sins were forgiven. I invited Jesus Christ into my life and 1 John 1:9 became very special to me. It says, 'if we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

When I was 12 years old my Grandmother celebrated her 80th birthday at our home. I remember sitting in front of the open fire as my Great Aunt Dora sang an item. She

sang ‘Jesus is all the world to me’ and those words are still etched on my memory. Some years later when my Auntie Dora (as we called her) turned 80, I mentioned that I remembered her singing at my Grandmother’s 80th birthday. “And what did I sing Dear?” she asked.

“Jesus is all the world to me,” I replied, to which she responded, “I’d sing it again.”

I thank God for my godly parents and I pray that my own life may be an example to our children and those I have contact with, so that they too may experience the difference that Jesus Christ can make in their lives.

Looking in the Right Direction

By Debbie McDermott

We are often so busy looking for rainbows in the sky that we fail to see the rainbows in the sand. This was vividly brought home to me one sunny day while walking on Kariotahi Beach after a very high tide. I was gingerly scanning the lumps of seaweed and froth for jellyfish when I saw them—hundreds of rainbows in the foam-flecked sand. My heart skipped a beat. They were so vivid, so beautiful!

I do not believe God allows anything to impact us without teaching us a lesson at the same time. For me, the rainbows were windows of hope in a very trying situation; a strong reminder of God’s love and tender mercies throughout the ages; an assurance that the promise He made to Noah in Genesis 9:14-15 to never again destroy the earth with a flood still holds true.

As I looked at those rainbows in the sand, I also remembered that lovely verse in Psalm 119:105, which says: ‘Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.’ No matter how dark our way may seem, the Lord is always there directing our steps. All we need to do is seek His help and guidance.

Psalm 121 of the NIV version of the Bible puts this so well:

‘I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—He who watches over you will not slumber... the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.’

The long em dash after ‘I lift up my eyes to the hills—’ clearly emphasises what the rest of the psalm goes on to declare: **our help comes from God alone.**

Sometimes I’m a bit like Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*, longing to fly to a land of light and colour somewhere beyond the rainbow. But I have learned it’s at times like these that I need to remember Jesus is the One Who lights my path.

He is also the One seated high in the heavens, praying for me and watching over me—just as He prays for and watches over you. Whether our lives are ‘up in the clouds’ or ‘down in the dumps’, He sends His rainbows to remind us He is always with us, and that nothing can snatch us out of His Hand.



The Word—A Writing Tutor

By Ruth Linton

Christians understand the power and importance of the Word of God. Second Timothy 3:16 says: *‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.’ (NKJV)*

During his temptation Jesus declared: *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4 NKJV)*

The Bible includes many genre or styles of writing. There is historical writing in both Old Testament and New Testament, poetry, prophecy, teaching and exhortation. There are examples of narrative, the spoken word, stories, letters and parables.

Because we are of a different culture, and Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek are not our native language, we often miss the full impact of the writing style used.

Recently, while reading the New Living Translation Study Bible, I started reading the footnotes. I was amazed at the information they contained, including different writing styles. The notes on Matthew 4:23-25 said: *‘This summary marks the central theme of the section (4:23-9:38), the ministry and message of the Messiah. In ancient writing, chapter divisions were unknown; so authors would begin and end a section with the same expression (called an **inclusio**: see Matthew 9:35)’.*

That comment caught my attention so I checked it out. Matthew 4: 23-25 begins: *‘Jesus travelled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness...’* Matthew 9: 35 reads: *Jesus travelled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogue and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness...’*

So what can we learn from all this?

First of all, good writing usually has an introduction and conclusion which tie together often using similar thoughts and word patterns. God knew this when he inspired the Bible writers. In fact, he used an *inclusio* to tie together the whole Bible. He begins by providing herbs and fruit trees to eat of, as well as granting access to the Tree of Life. (Genesis 1:29; 2:16; 3:22). He concludes, in Revelation 22:2, with fruit trees, growing beside the water of life, for the good of all who eat, and in verse 14 the Tree of Life is again available for us to enjoy its fruit.

Secondly, when considering the audience for whom we are writing, and the characters we are portraying, we need to remember and cater for cultural differences, even using styles of communication preferred by the culture. This gives our writing greater acceptance and credibility.

When God breathed inspiration into the writers of the Bible He knew all this and had each writer share **His** thoughts in the most appropriate way possible. That, I think, is amazing!

This New Year

By Janet Fleming

A new year is just getting started,
The old year is over and past,
The picture I've painted won't alter,
The pattern I've printed will last.
I look with regret at my failures,
The chances I lost by the way,
I want to watch out in the future
The things that I do and I say.

If friends in the past I've discouraged
Today let me bring them a song,
If someone I've never forgiven
I'd sooner forget what was wrong,
If once I was rather too busy
The sick and the needy to tend,
Today may I bring them some comfort
If simply by being a friend.

So quickly this year will be over
Will this one too end with regret?
For hurts I've afflicted on others
And things I would rather forget.
Far better to look back with gladness
On people I met on life's road,
And know that I brought them
some comfort
By helping them carry their load.



On Playwriting

Various Helpful Tips & Quotes
(submitted by Jan Pendergrast)

"A play is a journey you take alone first, then with your collaborators, and ultimately with an audience. By the time this final passenger steps on board, your journey is in some sense over, while theirs is just beginning."

—Stuart Spencer



Four conditions of playwriting according to Thornton Wilder:

1. The theatre is an art which reposes upon the work of many collaborators.
2. It is addressed to the group-mind.
3. It is based upon a pretence and its very nature calls out a multiplication of pretences.
4. Its action takes place in a perpetual present time.

—Quoted in *American Playwrights on Drama* edited by Horst Frenz



"An audience pays to see a play, they expect it to give them a satisfying emotional experience. Success or failure in this is the criterion of good or bad playwriting. The spectator is always right."

—Raymond Hull



"A play combines all the elements of storyline, suspense, spectacle and language to arouse an emotional response in the audience—laughter, tears, pity, indignation, etc—but finally, and most importantly, a release of those

emotions... In that manipulation of events and characters to produce an effect on the audience lies the art of playwriting. Never underrate your audience. The audience is the playwright's ultimate reason for existing. Writing a play without considering the audience is like shooting arrows without a target—useful as exercise maybe, but in the last analysis pointless."

—*Becoming a Playwright*
by David Campton



"A play is like life with all of the boring bits taken out."

—Alfred Hitchcock



"Theatre takes place in that space—the mind, the senses, the imagination—between the stage and the audience..."

Theatre is a collective conspiracy on the part of the players and the audience. The audience 'suspends its disbelief' for the duration of the performance."

—*The Art & Craft of Playwriting*
by Jeffery Hatcher



Elements of Drama:

- action or plot
- character
- thought or ideas
- language, diction or verbal expression
- music or song
- spectacle, image or visual adornment

—from *Poetics* by Aristotle

WORD MATCHING PUZZLE

Below are Bible words or words commonly linked to the Bible. Can you match the words with their meanings?

Apocalypse	Short saying embodying a general truth
Proverbs	Register of events in order of occurrence
Genesis	Violent and destructive events often prophesied. Revelation
Covenant	Mass departure
Chronicles	Leather pouch containing scripture verses
Feast of weeks	Letter
Propitiation	Festival on 50 th day after Passover; Pentecost
Advent	Atoning sacrifice or cover; traditionally the mercy seat
Exodus	Literary assistant, especially one who writes from dictation. (Paul and Jeremiah had one)
Phylactery	Solemn agreement or contract between two parties
Epistle	Important arrival. e.g. Jesus at Christmas
Amanuensis	Origin; mode of formation

WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian writing of
today and yesteryear—

by Frederick Swallow



Reflections from visits to Austria and Germany

A tour in the picturesque Vienna Woods took us through the Cistercian Monastery where Bernard of Clairvaux in 1112c penned the hymn ‘Jesus the Very Thought of Thee’.

A Frankfurt highlight was in the Alte Cathedral, playing ¹‘Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken’ on my harmonica, hearing the music echo, and being given a note with these verses:

Sing unto the
Lord. Psalm
71:23

Behold I am
with you and
will keep you
wherever you
go. Gen 28:15



Bibliography: Images Cistercian Monastery and Frankfurt Cathedral. ¹John Newton

Noteworthy Mention

Submitted by Fred Swallow

82% of Poland was destroyed by Nazi forces in World War 2 including churches. St John’s Cathedral in Warsaw, which we visited and which is now restored, was left with only walls standing.

Hitler raved that his German Reich would reign for a thousand years. It lasted twelve.

‘Forever O Lord thy word is settled in Heaven’. Psalm 119:89

Promote your book in Christian Life



Low-cost package with **free**
synopsis of your book in the
editorial pages and advert in
the Resources section

Contact Ray Curle, Initiate Media
p 09 281 4896 or email
advertise@initiatemedia.net
Check out www.initiatemedia.net

Literary Devices

Cadence

Definition

Cadence is derived from a Latin word ‘cadentia’ that means ‘a falling’. It is the term used to signal the rising and falling of the voice when reading a literary piece. In poetry, it is the momentary changes in rhythm and pitch. Cadences help set the rhythmic paces of a literary piece.

Types of Cadences

Most of the cadence examples in literature fall under either one of these:

- **Imperfect or half cadence**—In poetry, a half cadence is a pause. Half cadence is represented with a comma and semi-colon in poetry and prose. This rhythm does not sound final and often the lines end with indecisive tension.
- **Perfect or authentic cadence**—It comes at the end of the phrase in a poem.

Examples of Cadence in Literature

Example 1

The curved cane chair has dented
cushions, the cats
Catch spiders and craneflies on the
wardrobe tops,
The guitar lies in its funeral case, the road
is quiet,
The apple trees have dropped their fruit in
the grass;

Rain is coming in from the west; the
garden is lush and damp,
The draught is over, and the day is at the
eleventh hour,

Sleep is nearly here on fern-patterned
pillowcases,
Books slither to the floor, cats are
stretched on the quilt;

*(Painting of a Bedroom with Cats by
Elizabeth Bartlett)*

In this poem, cadence appears in the
middle of the fourth line of each stanza
that gives the speech a pause. This pause
is shown by a semi-colon. It also gives a
momentary variation to the rhythm of
poem.

Example 2

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I
pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume
of forgotten lore—
While I nodded, nearly napping,
suddenly there came a tapping,
“’Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “tapping
at my chamber door—”

And the Raven, never flitting, still is
sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above
my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming of a
demon’s that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o’er him streaming
throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that
lies floating on the floor.

(The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe)

The Raven is a perfect example of
cadence. Here we can see breaks and
ends within a piece of poetry. These
endings come in the middle of the poem
represented by dashes and semi-colons.
Due to these pauses, it speeds up and
slows down the tone of the whole poem.

Example 3

It is not the sunset
Nor the pale green sky
Shimmering through the curtain
Of the silver birch,
Nor the quietness;
It is not the hopping
Of the little birds
Upon the lawn,
Nor the darkness
Stealing over all things
That moves me...

(London by FS Flint)

The style of this poem is a free verse that does not have a distinct meter. Since most of the free verse poems have cadences, the same is the case here. In this poem, cadence is used in the middle as a little pause that changes the rise and fall of the tone when reading out loudly.

Function of Cadence

Cadence is a musical movement. It can be described by melodic, rhythmic or harmonic characteristics. It is used to establish sectional articulation and closure. However, the basic purpose of cadence is a communicative function that indicates to the listeners when a part ends and therefore helps them elucidate the formal composition of the piece.

Cadences are used in poetry and in music where they sync with a variety of musical idioms. Poets use cadence to put rhythm in their poems. Cadence plays a significant role in making the sounds and the senses in a poem connect to each other.

For more information on literary devices, visit <http://literarydevices.net>

His Poem

By Ruth Linton

You said that I'm your poem, Lord,
Etched on the page of time,
That trusting and abiding
Would produce a Christ-like rhyme.
With rhythms, strong as sagas
Or flowing as an ode,
You record a challenge conquered
And some weaknesses exposed,
The throb of disappointment,
The pulse of happiness,
His discipline, my striving
To attain His righteousness.

A poem for God's glory?
No! To my weary heart
Life seems an unsolved puzzle
And not a work of art.
Then... Jesus takes the poem
And lovingly recites
The words He's written on the page
And soon the darkest night
Lights up with holy purpose,
With hope and strength and praise;
He knows the good He's planned for me,
He's ordered all my days
Transformed into His image pure
Through gazing on His face
I'm a poem for His glory
Being written by His grace.

Based on Ephesians 2:10 where 'workmanship' can be translated 'poem'.



*For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God prepared
in advance for us to do.*

GET CREATIVE

Many thanks to Lynda Otter for the following devotion on ‘One Day at a Time’

One Day at a Time

The Christian walk is accomplished one day at a time. Don't allow the failures of yesterday ruin the hope of today. God created the world one day at a time¹ and He will work in us one day at a time² as we spend time daily meditating on his Word³.

Psalms 118:24 proclaims that this is the day the Lord has made. He tells us to proclaim his salvation day after day⁴; He satisfies us in the morning with His unfailing love⁵; His goodness and mercy will follow us all the days (each day) of our lives⁶. Not just today, but all our tomorrows are given to us by the Lord.

God provided manna from Heaven one day at a time and exhorted His people just to gather enough for that day⁷, and Jesus taught us to ask God for our daily provision⁸.

His followers met each day to hear His word⁹ and encouraged each other daily¹⁰. We are told to deal with today's troubles and not worry about tomorrow¹¹ and also to deal with today's sins before the sun sets¹².

God is God of today. We cannot change the past and we must not let worry about tomorrow rob us of the present. Daily seek Him. Trust Him to forgive our sins, renew our minds and enable us to live each day with a positive attitude as we seek to obey and serve Him. It just takes one day at a time.

—Lynda Otter

¹ Genesis 1:5-22, ² 2 Corinthians 4:16, ³ Joshua 1:8, Nehemiah 8:18, Acts 17:11, ⁴ 1 Chronicles 16:25, ⁵ Psalm 90:14, ⁶ Psalm 23:6, ⁷ Exodus 16:4, ⁸ Luke 11:3, ⁹ Acts 2:46, ¹⁰ Hebrews 3:13, ¹¹ Matthew 6:34, ¹² Ephesians 4:26

The next topic will be Why do we do that?

Maximum 250 words for prose and 4 verses (6 lines or less per verse) for poetry. Include the words ‘Get Creative’ with your submission, as well as set the next ‘Get Creative’ topic. You may also include a picture with your piece if you wish.

Deadline: 10th March 2017

Email submissions for consideration to
sddp@xtra.co.nz

Article Writing Made Easy

Six Top Tips for Magazine Publishing Success

By Iona K Lister

Advice for freelance writers on writing magazine articles. Target your market, impress commissioning editors and create good relationships with your employers.

Many magazine articles are written by full-time staff of the publication, but some also carry material that has been written by freelancers—such as you.

These tips will help you to publishing success once you have chosen some suitable writing topics:

- **Decide which magazine you aim to write for.** It is a mistake to complete a manuscript and then wonder what to do with it. Find a magazine that may publish your article, and research the readership. Aim to engage with your readers in a way that they will find enjoyable. Who are these people? Read some copies of the magazine and get a feeling for the level and style of what is written and how long the feature articles are. The magazine advertisers will have done some work for you. Are there advertisements for disability aids, dating agencies or activity holidays? These provide you with valuable information about your target readers. You will need to engage with the readers in a way that they will find interesting and relevant. It is essential to obtain Contributors' Guidelines of the magazine and adhere strictly to guidance on presentation, word-count and style.
- **Research your information carefully.** Make sure factual information is correct. Do not insult someone by spelling their name wrong. You face ridicule and legal action if you give unhelpful or inaccurate advice. Double-check your sources. Ask

yourself—what will your target reader want to know about this subject? In your research, never be tempted to 'copy and paste' from other material, plagiarising other people's work. You may be sued. How would you feel if someone stole your work? There is no copyright on facts, but you should never reproduce databases or someone else's creative use of facts. If in doubt, look into copyright law. If the editor receives complaints from readers, your work will not be used again.

- **Write an outline.** This will prevent you from straying from the subject when writing. Omitting this process may tempt you to present your information in the order it was gathered or leaving out important information altogether.
- **Write your text in draft form.** Allow the flow of ideas to be expressed freely. Editing and tidying up comes later. You do not have to write good English at this stage. Start writing about what you feel most confident, then fill in the gaps later.
- **Take some time off**—perhaps overnight—and then return with a fresh outlook to review your manuscript. Revise any obvious errors. Rearrange the order of the text so that it flows better. Try reading the text out loud. Does it sound clumsy? If so, re-write it to be smoother. Achieve this by making any passive verbs active, removing repetitions and simplifying your grammar. If possible, ask a friend to read it, inviting constructive criticism.
- **Put aside your writing for another break.** You may find errors in a piece that you thought was perfect, the next day. Now—proofread, proofread, proofread. Yes—three times! It is a myth that the editorial department enjoys correcting your mistakes. Most people find hard copy easier to read than on-screen text, so print off your article, and

examine each line, running a finger under each word. Check unusual words for correct spelling. Then check those Contributors' Guidelines again, so that your work is as perfect as it can be.

Read more at [Suite101: Article Writing Made Easy](#)

(Article submitted by Jan Pendergrast)

When I Heard Jesus had Died

By Dave Palmer

I will probably always remember where I was when I heard Muhammad Ali had died: right where I am now, in front of my computer.

When I heard Elvis had died I was at work in the old Addington Railway Workshops. Radio Avon was playing a whole lot of Elvis, and I'm thinking 'what's going on? Has he died?'

When I heard President Kennedy had died I was having breakfast when (what is now) Radio NZ news started with 'there are unconfirmed reports that...'

I have only the faintest idea, or none at all, of where I was when I heard of the deaths of any other famous people.

Except one. I had heard many times of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But I truly 'heard' for the first time in November 1974 while lying in bed, on my own, at about 9pm one night. And unlike any of the other deaths, this one has completely impacted me and changed everything for the past 40+ years.



Writers Stealing from Other Writers

What is Plagiarism?

By Janice Gillgren

Ripping? Downloading? Copying? Extracting? Whatever you call it, obtaining free copies of other people's artistic work has become incredibly easy in the past decade or two. So easy, in fact, that it has completely fudged the lines between theft and honesty.

There are several versions of this old quote, listed by [quoteinvestigator.com](#)... 'If You Steal From One Author, It's Plagiarism; If You Steal From Many, It's Research.'

The problem as a writer is that you need to do research. How do you do this without stealing from a fellow writer?

Until photocopiers became common stationery appliances, copying had to be done by hand, so obviously that limited copying to a very reasonable level. When I first bought a word processor that enabled me to 'cut and paste', I thought how marvellous! It helped me tremendously when rearranging my written work, and putting it in a more logical order. Then came the ability to 'cut and paste' from other writers' work on the internet. What a boon. It made saving researched material a breeze.

It took me a while to realise what a hazard this was to writers everywhere.

It took even longer for laws to change, and recognise that the old laws—based on the limited ability to hand copy—were hopelessly out of date. Lawmakers have, to their credit, tried repeatedly to improve laws since then. Unfortunately, all their efforts are outsmarted by new technology before the ink is even dry on the new law.

Because all forms of plagiarism are so easy and so common today, it can be difficult to pin down a suitable definition. Here are the four most common examples of plagiarism, from *Writers Digest* (writersdigest.com) which may help you.

Stealing parts of someone else's work and inserting it into your own without citation.

Submitting someone else's work with your name on it.

Paraphrasing someone else's words and attempting to pass it off as your own.

Taking your own previously published work (to which you've sold the rights) and reusing all or parts of it in a new work. (This is called self-plagiarism.) This one is like selling a house with existing outbuildings, then going back, lifting the shed from the property and taking it to resell somewhere else.

Here are some guidelines to assist you.

Whenever copying written material from anywhere for an item intended for publication, give credit to the author where possible. Word for word copying needs to be enclosed in speech marks; paraphrasing doesn't, but both should be credited to the author.

Although it is permissible to copy a 'small amount', defining this small amount is like asking 'how long is a piece of string?' so credit should be given where credit is due. Obtain the author's permission to quote anything longer than this proposed 'piece of string'. (I agree: this is obscure, but do your best.)

The amount you quote may depend more on the proportion of the original item. For example, 30 words isn't much, but may be a whole poem. What you really need to

consider is the substance. Are you giving a true impression of the original?

To use items gleaned from several resources without copying directly and having to name every source, rewrite carefully so that no author can claim you are using his or her material directly. This is more work than simply paraphrasing. Even in this case, however, it is usually best to give credit in a bibliography.

Information considered 'common knowledge', such as historical dates, population figures, or commonly accepted facts and beliefs doesn't need to be credited to anyone.

Copy items (such as from the library) for your own use only.

It is easier, I think, to go by personal principles than by dictates of changing laws and lax social attitudes.

Endeavour to keep your own reputation the best possible.

Common Idiom Meanings

Basket Case—The term originated from WWI, indicating a soldier missing both his arms and legs, who needed to be literally carried around in a litter or 'basket'. Today it means a state of helplessness, usually in the context of mental health or aptitude.

Cut the Mustard—Possibly derived from the idiom 'to pass muster', an expression for assembling military troops for inspection. It means to suffice or be good enough.

From Scratch—meaning to make from original ingredients or start at the beginning with no prior preparation, this idiom originates from the scratch drawn in the ground as the starting line of a foot race. A runner 'starting from scratch' received no handicap, but started at the beginning of the course.

Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Iain Bibby	Papamoa Beach
Kelvin Deal	Whakatane
Taryn Dryfhout	Papakura
Iola Goulton	Otumoetai, Tauranga
Sara-Jane McGuire	Onehunga, Auckland
Karena Poyner	Torbay, Auckland
Lesley Robbins	New Plymouth

and RETURNING MEMBER

Jennie Chappell
Havelock North

REMEMBER

to email your photo and mini bio to Justin St Vincent (editor@xtrememusic.org) for uploading to our website

Need Professional Editing/Writing Services?

These NZCW members can help:

Janette Busch

E: WritingAnswers1@gmail.com
Mob: +64 21 233 7691

Marie Anticich

E: marieanticich@gmail.com

Sue Beguely

E: sue@triplecoilscript.co.nz
Mob: +64 27 533 0188

Selina Chan

E: selina_chan@hotmail.com
Mob: +64 21 104 3686

NZCW Writers Groups

AUCKLAND – WEST

Dianne Spain
Tel: (09) 626 3141
dispain54@gmail.com

CHRISTCHURCH

Dave Palmer
Mob: (027) 216 5743
davepalmer@xtra.co.nz

HAURAKI

John Milne
Tel: (07) 862 6861
johnrmilne38@gmail.com

HAWKES BAY

Jennie Chappell
Tel: (06) 877 5874
heugh.chappell@clear.net.nz

NORTHLAND

Janice Gillgren
Tel: (09) 433 9752
jangill1359@gmail.com

TAURANGA

Jan Pendergrast
Tel: (07) 543 2147
jan@roads-end.co.nz

WHAKATANE

Ruth Jamieson
Tel: (07) 323 6774
subhouse@xtra.co.nz

If you are keen on joining one of these groups, please feel free to contact the group leader / host in your area for further details.

Library Corner

Featured Book Review



Play in the Garden

By Sarah O'Neil

Review by Julia Martin

At a time when many children seem obsessed with electronic gadgets and prefer the indoors, it's great to find a book that encourages young people to rediscover the outdoors. From Sarah's vast gardening knowledge and experience, she has produced a beautiful book, jam-packed with outdoor fun projects and activities, delightful coloured pictures, plus a wealth of horticultural information and interesting facts.

For each gardening project Sarah clearly outlines the equipment needed and gives simple instructions. Starting with the basics of gardening such as choosing the right location and understanding soil makeup, she then divides her book into activities associated with the various seasons.

By recruiting her two young sons, Tim and Joey, to feature in the pictures, a human touch is added and makes the book more interesting for young readers. Most of the activities have something to be discovered or explored. Others, such as making a scarecrow, writing names on pumpkins as they grow, or carving sail boats out of large marrows, are included just for fun.

I thoroughly recommend this book for children and to any grownups who enjoy spending their time with young people, especially outdoors. Together they can discover new skills, produce delicious fresh produce, and above all have loads of fun.

Additions to the Library

Many thanks to the following members for donating copies of their published books to our library:

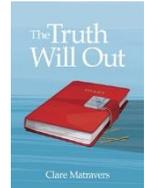
The Truth Will Out

(Sapphire Series Book 2)

—Sapphire Nord has a big secret. But when will be the right time to reveal it to her loved ones? And how will they react?

By **Clare Matravets**

www.castlepublishing.co.nz



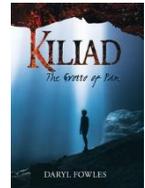
Kiliad:

The Grotto of Pan—

Earth is a peaceful place 1000 years into the future. But that peace is about to be shattered as Joshua is thrust into the middle of an evil plot to destroy it.

By **Daryl Fowles**

www.castlepublishing.co.nz



Recently Published

Out where the fish are

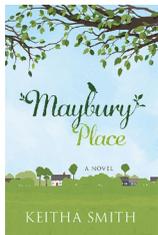


Published by Open Air Campaigners (OAC) to celebrate 60 years of ministry, this book is full of inspiring stories of God at work. Starting in Australia, then to New Zealand, the ministry of OAC is now in around 30 countries worldwide.

General editors of the publication are Ivan Grindlay and NZCW member, Frederick Swallow.

Copies available through
www.castlepublishing.co.nz

Second Book Review



Maybury Place
By Keitha Smith ©2014

Published by Blue Sky
Creative Ltd

Reviewed by Jan
Pendergrast

Maybury Place could be the average street in any New Zealand town. Marrieds, families, singles, the elderly and professionals live in the seven homes in the little cul-de-sac.

It's what goes on behind closed doors that makes this novel a page-turner. All is not as it seems, especially after they convene a Neighbourhood Watch group to deal with new residents in Number Seven.

Keitha has woven intrigue, personalities, situations, opinions, love, confrontation and deception into an enjoyable novel. Each character is believable; some attempt to hide history; some, weakness and insecurities. Others just keep to themselves—or did until the meetings began. True colours begin to emerge. New Zealand becomes a 'very small place'—and Maybury Place even smaller.

Maybury Place covers a few months from an omniscient point of view. While this could be confusing for the reader, Keitha has organised each chapter into sections of more-or-less parallel timing so we know what is happening, and who is thinking what—except those at Number Seven. We 'see' them from the outside until the final chapter when all is revealed.

Keitha's writing is relaxed and conversational. She has the knack of 'thinking' in each character's mind in a way that shows their unique inner world.

Make some time, put your feet up and 'enter' *Maybury Place*. You won't be disappointed.

NOTICE BOARD

Memo to NZ Christian Media

Christian Today New Zealand is almost here... the Kiwi young writer program is ready to go.

Now the task at hand is to double our Kiwi young writers. I'm asking you to recommend this Kiwi program to Christian young people in your orbit.

Please make an effort to help with this. Initial contacts to be referred directly to Dr Mark Tronson at info@markt.id.au.

AWCT Book & Manuscript Awards

The \$10,000 Ashton Wylie Charitable Trust Book Award is for a book in the Mind Body Spirit genre, published between April 1 and March 31

The \$10,000 Ashton Wylie Charitable Trust Unpublished Manuscript Award is for a manuscript in the Mind Body Spirit genre.

Deadline: 31 March

For further details, go to
www.awct.org.nz

Competition Results

Under 20s

Judge:

Vicki Nogaj

Requirement: There are some unique symbiotic relationships in creation like the crocodile and the plover bird. Write a conversation that occurs between these creatures. 200-300 words

First Place



**Sydney
Nesbitt**

of Tauranga
(12 years old)

The Shark & the Remora

Deep in the sea, it was a wonderfully clear morning. The water was warm, the coral was healthy and thousands of brightly coloured tropical fish leisurely floated here and there. Wave, a simple remora (or suckerfish), was cheerfully swimming along on his way to work.

"Lovely water today, Fin!" he sang, "Hey, Splash, how's the wife?"

Suddenly, the peaceful haven was interrupted by a giant grey shadow. The vast creature slipped through the water so easily and quickly that, without his shadow, none of the fish would have noticed him – not until it was too late.

Colours darted in all directions. The only fish left was a small, plain, silver remora. Wave swam bravely up to the giant tiger shark. Meanwhile, hidden in each dark crevasse of coral, fish of all sizes gasped with horror.

"Good morning, Tiggy!" he exclaimed happily, and he meant it.

"Yes, it is a lovely morning isn't it?" replied the shark in a deep rumbling voice, appreciatively gazing at his surroundings. "I'm afraid that you'll have to start a little early today as I have an important meeting with my cousin, Pearl."

"No problem, Tiggy, right away sir."

And with that he swam up and clung to the shark's rough back. His job was to eat nasty parasites that might harm Tiggy and in return, he was provided with safety from predators. As he worked away, they chatted about all sorts of things. They really were close friends and loved to talk as Tiggy swam and Wave ate. They drifted away happily together. Slowly, all the other fish crept out of hiding, puzzled at this strange friendship. They stared after the shark and many could still hear their faint conversation.

"Did you hear about Zoe Lyretail's promotion?"

"Yes, of course! Ocean Beautification and Rehabilitation spokesperson is quite something. . ."

Judge's Comments

Hi Sydney. Thank you for your refreshing piece on the remarkable relationship between the tiger shark and the remora. I enjoyed how you set the scene quickly and moved nicely into highlighting the main characters and their unique relationship. This is a great skill to have considering the limited word count. I liked your use of

personification to 'humanise' the fish to make them more relatable.

You used the contrast of size and the reactions of the other fish to paint a great visual image of the two engaged in friendly banter. The only thing I would have liked to have seen is more distinct paragraphing, especially to separate the introduction from the main body of the piece, i.e. 'Suddenly...' would be better as the start of the next paragraph.

Overall, a great piece of writing, well done.

Level One

Judge:

Debbie McDermott

Requirement: Write a short story involving conflict between two or more people, showing how the situation is diffused by putting into practice the principles taught in the Bible. 400-450 words.

General Comments

Although I only received two entries to this competition, each was well written and worthy of the placing it received. I enjoyed how each entrant mainly used dialogue to set the scene and convey the tension their characters were experiencing. This, I felt, brought their stories to life far better than a more reflective style of writing would have.

Of the two entries, only one had a satisfying conclusion and a clear takeaway message relating to the theme of the competition—which was to diffuse a difficult situation using biblical principles. Both these aspects (that is, a satisfying conclusion and a strong takeaway message) are critical if you are to impact your reader in the best way possible.

Remember when submitting entries to follow the formatting guidelines, listed at the top of the last page of our bimonthly magazine. Learning how to typeset your work to high editorial standards is important when it comes to publishing it. The less an editor has to do, the more chance you have of your writing being accepted for publication.

First Place



Yvonne Mossom
of Whangarei

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The family was in the car parked outside Bunnings, the hardware store. They had been there for half an hour and tempers were fraying.

“When can we go to McDonalds?” whined Andrew.

“I’m cooking hot,” wailed Susie.

“Open the doors and try to catch the breeze,” this came from Mom, the peace maker.

“Let’s go for a stroll and find some shade over there.” Gran was calling on her years of experience of settling crises.

The Christmas rush was on. Frustrated motorists were circling the parking lot, hunting for a space. The family found a tree, its leaves shrivelled by the scorching heat, and they clustered around it.

“How will Dad find us?” “Is he buying a lot of stuff?” “Why do we have to get floor tiles before Christmas?” Rapid-fire questions were typical of Andrew.

At last, a triumphant Dad, pushing a trolley, wound his way to the boot. The family converged and the kids immediately started a chant: “McDonalds, McDonalds, McDonalds.”

“Quiet, your parents are just as tired as you are,” commanded Gran.

They clambered into the car, Mom thanking God quietly that Susie had not reached ‘tantrum’ level.

Mom was looking at the till slip, as she always checked where the money was spent. “You have only been charged with one box of floor tiles and you bought six boxes.”

“Great, its our lucky day.” This comment came from Dad.

“You can’t say that. Its cheating.” Mom interjected.

“Come on,” said Dad, “the companies always factor in a loss due to errors at the till. They know that mistakes are made at busy times. It doesn’t pay them to try and get back the loss. It means it hasn’t cost us so much.”

“Humf” grunted Gran. “That’s not what I taught you. How you have changed!”

Mom has found the name of the till clerk on the slip. “Its Miriam. I know her. She is bringing up her grandchildren on her own. Their parents were killed in a car crash. I met her at ‘Play-school’ when I picked up Susie. She really needs this job - maybe she will lose it.”

“Wow!” said Andrew. “What would we do if Dad lost his job. We would have to leave our house and sell the car and there wouldn’t be enough food and....”

Dad muttered to himself, “I don’t know what came over me!”

“I think we should go and tell them at the enquiries counter. I’ll say it was my fault. Just drop me at the door and drive around.” said Mom, who always resolved any conflict,

Judge’s Comments

*Yvonne met all the requirements of this competition very well. There is a good flow throughout her entry and her takeaway message is strong and clear. However, putting the takeaway message in the title as well as in the story itself is inadvisable as this gives away too much to the reader too soon. I suggest changing the title to something more simple and original, then weaving the words ‘Do unto others...’ into gran’s statement as follows: “That’s not what I taught you **about doing unto others as you would have them to unto you.**”*

While Yvonne used dialogue effectively, some of her taglines could be simpler; e.g. ‘this came from Mom’ would be better as ‘said Mom’. It is important to avoid long taglines when using snappy dialogue, as they can slow the story down.

Yvonne’s grammar and punctuation are very good. The only corrections needed are as follows:

- Paras 4 & 16—‘peacemaker’ and ‘Playschool’ should be one word.
- Para 7—as the rapid-fire questions are all from Andrew, only put speech marks before and after “How will Dad...? ...tiles before Christmas?”

- *Para 8—sentence 1 is clumsy. Rewrite it as: ‘At last a triumphant Dad wound his way to the boot, pushing a trolley.’*
- *Paras 12, 13 & 16—it’s (meaning it is) should be written with an apostrophe.*
- *Para 16—last sentence: replace the hyphen with a full stop and write ‘Maybe she will...’ as a new sentence.*
- *Para 17—there should only be 3 ellipsis points at the end of the sentence.*
- *Para 18—the opening speech marks are facing the wrong way.*
- *Final para—replace the comma after ‘conflict’ with a full stop.*

Well done for an excellent entry, Yvonne. Do keep up the good work.

Second Place



Elaine Millard
of Whakatane

The Laundress

Rhona burst through *Administration*’s doors, flushed and panting. Two wide-eyed office workers looked from behind computer screens as Boss Bates sprung from somewhere unseen. Rhona flinched; new job – first morning – big trouble.

“I’m sorry”, she blurted. “I didn’t think getting a signature would be . . .”, but Boss sucked the signed documents from Rhona’s shaking hands.

“Time is quintessential here, Miss Grant.” A speedily collated folder came swiftly back. “CEO’s PA, fifth floor.”

The phone rang. “Bates, administration; Yes M’am, the certificates are with Marshall, as we speak.” Rhona regretted looking back. Weak knees doubted her ability to reach the fifth floor.

By lunch Rhona wondered why she’d got the job. Huddled in the staffroom she hot-chocolate’d her tense stomach, supposing that her ‘trouble’ was alleged window shopping. Her co-workers arrived. She hoped their tray-laden lunches would preoccupy them. “So you’ve met our honourable Chairlady?” Ted asked.

“I met a thorough performance in washing-line protocol.”

Cream from atop Maureen’s donut left its perch, landing directly onto Ted’s pizza.

“She hangs washing out by age, gender, colour, article size and function,” Rhona reported; “from centre out, right to left, right-side out and outside outfacing, except for trousers which are inside out and upside down. She relocated three items and changed six coloured pegs; flung the bars so fast I was nearly beheaded. The certificates fell into the wet wheelbarrow. I just wanted her to sign, but the whole laundry had to get out.”

“That accounts for half the time,” Maureen provoked. Rhona responded. “Misunderstanding my interest in laundry skills she explained how her husband insists on clothes being hung with optimum air circulation; that all remaining pegs must slide along the wires; that sunlight soap’s efficiency is reliant on direct sunlight because chemical stain removal is abhorrent -

hence shadows must be prevented; that peg marks can be avoided with proper hanging as ironing is out; and she hates double handling, so folding is done in the sunshine.”

“Were you convicted of phosphate poisoning?” Ted cried.

“I’ll never use normal laundry powder again. I’m killing all those poor fish,” Rhona moaned.

“She’s chaired the Board over twenty years,” Ted informed Rhona. “And was CEO twenty-five years before that.

Legend is she spoke the business into being from her dreams. By-the-way, Board meeting’s this afternoon, you’re secretary”. Rhona went white.

“Don’t worry,” Maureen said, reading Rhona’s fear. “You’ll do fine.”

“I wish I was as sure as you are,” Rhona winced.

“Sure you will. Just attend to the detail, same as you did the laundress because she’ll give you the same treatment as she gave her washing.”

“Is that so,” Rhona said with a smile. “Selah!”

Judge’s Comments

Welcome to Ellaine, who has only recently joined NZCW. As a first-time entrant to our competitions, she has presented me with a well-written, entertaining piece of writing. Her one downfall was that she left me wondering how the situation was diffused by using biblical principles. There is also no takeaway message. On a positive note, her dialogue is excellent and lends itself to being converted into a short play.

With regards to the layout of Ellaine’s entry, presenting the second section as a

long, single block of text makes reading difficult for those who are very busy or have low attention spans. Modern layout methods include short paragraphs and lots of white space—which Ellaine’s would have had plenty of had she followed NZCW’s formatting guidelines by inserting automatic 6pt spacing after each manual line break. In modern typesetting, a line space is also inserted between each piece of dialogue, to create mini paragraphs that are easy to read at a glance.

Apart from some over-long sentences, Ellaine’s grammar and punctuation are good overall. The only corrections are:

Section 1:

- Sentence 8—‘M’am’ should be written ‘Ma’am’.

Section 2:

- Sentence 5—put a comma after “So,”.
- Sentence 6—no hyphen in washing line.
- Sentence 8—is very long. I recommend replacing the comma after ‘outfacing’ with a long em dash.
- Sentence 14—the ‘s’ in ‘Sunlight soap’ should be a capital because it is a brand name. Replace the hyphen after ‘abhorrent’ with a long em dash.
- Sentences 17 & 18—rewrite twenty and twenty-five as 20 and 25. Numerals ten and under are written as words now.
- Sentence 20—‘By the way’ does not need to be hyphenated.
- Sentence 20—replace the comma after ‘afternoon’ with a full stop. Then write “You’re secretary” as a new sentence. You also need to put the full stop before the closing speech marks, not after.

Well done for a good entry, Ellaine. I look forward to receiving more from you.

Level Two

Judge:
Janet Fleming

Requirement: Write a simple song or chorus for use in Sunday School. You may use an existing tune or write your own music. 4 verses maximum.

General Comments

There were six entries in this section, and of these just one person had written a tune to go with their words.

I did have difficulty in judging this competition as some of the tunes were unknown to me. However, the internet is certainly helpful.

Some managed very well in keeping to the rhyming pattern and rhythm of the song they had chosen while others struggled. As I have said before, I find it helpful to beat out the rhythm to find where the emphasis should be placed.

One entry, although cleverly written, did have a hint of plagiarism about it.

The two who were placed second equal each had a small spelling mistake which may have affected their placing. Do remember to read and read again.

Maybe another time it would be helpful if the guidelines were a little tighter. (i.e. Write a song or chorus to fit a well-known nursery rhyme.)

Thanks, however, to each of you for taking the time to enter.

First Place



**Susan
Flanagan**
of Paihia

God, our Father

(sung to the tune 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star')

God, our Father, way up high
He made earth and sea and sky
He is mighty, He is good
Love, respect Him as you should
God, our Father, way up high
He made earth and sea and sky

Jesus is our superstar
He can see you where you are
When you're in your bed at night
Head on pillow, tucked up tight
Jesus is our superstar
He can see you where you are

Holy Spirit, He's our guide
He is always by your side
Call on Him when you have need
If you ask Him, He will lead
Holy Spirit, He's our guide
He is always by your side

Judge's Comments

This was a great entry. Susan chose a simple tune and her rhyme and rhythm were perfect. By repeating the first and second line of each verse at lines five and six, this song becomes simpler for younger children.

The only other comment I would make is that Susan kept changing from 'our' to 'you' or 'your'. I would have tended to keep this constant throughout the song staying either with 'our' or 'you', rather than alternating. Keep up the good work!

Second Equal



**Ruth
Jamieson**
of Whakatane

Who is this Babe?

Who is this Babe in
a Bethlehem manger

Who is this One asleep on the hay
Who is this Babe, the child of Mary
Whose star lights up the sky
Whose star lights up the sky.

His name is Jesus, Saviour for all
He is our God, the Son from above
He is the Christ, the promised Messiah
He is the Lord, Almighty God.

Who is this Babe, angels sing
at His coming
Who is this One whom
shepherds adore
Who is this Child who
brings Wiseman seeking
The King of Israel
The King of Israel.

He is the Lord of all lords
He is the King above all kings
He is the One who came to save us
He is my God, Immanuel.

Judge's Comments

You did well Ruth in writing both the music and lyrics for your song, and what lovely words they are. This song had good substance but I did feel some words and phrases could be difficult for younger children, as could the music being set in a minor key.

Do remember when writing the music to place the appropriate word beneath the note to which it will be sung. A great entry!

Second Equal



**Pamela
Lowrey**
of Havelock North

The Walking Song

(to the tune of 'Brother let me be Your Servant')

Help me Lord when life's uncertain.
Show me Lord just what to do
When the road seems rough and rocky,
Help me, Lord to follow You.

Help me pray and read Your Word
Spending time just to talk,
Telling you my hopes and troubles
As you show me where to walk.

When my friends would want to
take me
Down a path of drugs and dope,
Help me Lord, to remember
All Your plans are full of hope.

I know Lord You have a plan
That You've worked out just for me.
Help me follow in Your footsteps
To the place of victory.

Judge's Comments

When writing her words, Pamela had set out her song indicating where the emphasis needed to be placed. I did not feel this to be necessary and generally the song fits very well to the tune it was written for, with good rhyme as well. On the first line of the second verse, however, she had written 'pra-y' which would not give the correct emphasis to fit the music.

This tune, although lovely, lacks that beat which encourages children to sing enthusiastically.

She also included a lovely message. Well done.

Level Three

Judge:
Julia Martin

Requirement: Write a submission to a Government Select Committee on a current issue, following the rules of making a submission. A Christian viewpoint is optional. 250 words max.

General Comments

Making submissions to a Government Select Committee is the democratic right of all NZ citizens to express their views on bills being considered by Parliament.

Select committees are appointed by the House of Representatives and comprise various members of Parliament responsible for examining bills before they become law in the House. Requests for submissions from the public are advertised in newspapers and on the parliamentary website www.parliament.nz. Submissions are received by letter or online and can be reinforced by an oral presentation before the committee.

Guidelines for writing a submission

1. *Research the bill thoroughly so you know what it entails.*
2. *Present your submission in the correct format to be received before the closing date.*
3. *State clearly why you (or your group) support or oppose the bill (or part of it) in clear, accurate and logical language.*
4. *Conclude with a concise summary.*

As Christian writers, we have the opportunity with government submissions to be proactive in expressing our views and concerns on matters that affect our society, thus exercising our responsibility to be salt and light.

It was disappointing to receive only two entries, but it was a demanding assignment and I commend those who entered.

First Place



**Pat
Kerr**
of Roxburgh

Cover Letter

Committee Secretariat
Education and Science
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Education (Update) Amendment Bill
Supplementary Order Paper #250
Re amendment to ban forced seclusion
and to regulate the use of physical
restraint of a student
Hekia Parata
Education and Science

From:

Mrs P Kerr

patroxx@hotmail.com

P. O. Box 25

Roxburgh 9441

(03) 4468977

Ms Hekia Parata

MP in charge

Education (Update) Amendment Bill
SOP No 250

New clause 96A

Section 139AB to 139AE No seclusion at or on behalf of registered school or early childhood service

Submission

- 1 seclusion of student or child
- 2 physical restraint on a student by a teacher or authorised staff member

My experience is as a short term relief teacher over 20 plus years in Dunedin and surrounding rural schools and in Central Otago. I believe more funding for teacher aides is necessary: mainstreaming creates difficult students and situations.

Seclusion of student or child:

In rural schools there are few adults and no facilities to isolate a child who needs to be removed from the class: the sole teacher has no back up if the office is closed and the grounds person is unavailable. Back up takes time.

Physical restraint on a student:

In my career I have witnessed few dangerous or explosive incidents, but one is too many. One example involved a knife; another individual found even pencils great weapons so we (teacher, aide and children) operated on high alert all the time; a demonstration police siren caused an autistic child to be traumatised.

Each incident is serious.

Conclusion:

Teacher aides are a necessity in mainstreaming not a luxury, especially when a relief teacher is employed.

I am in favour of the adults present, teachers and aides, having the

knowledge that they can intervene without fear of retribution in emergency situations such as outlined above.

Judge's Comments

Pat carefully researched the requirements and rules for presenting a submission to a parliamentary select committee and has made a strong case on the bill in question. She laid out clearly all the details as required on a covering letter.

Pat then proceeds to outline her interest and experience in these matters and gives reasons why she supports the seclusion of difficult students and the need for teacher aides particularly in smaller rural schools. She concludes with a brief summary of her concerns.

Pat's submission is well laid out and easy to read, but some of her points could be better organised into a logical progression of ideas. Pat's argument that more funding for teacher aides is necessary, does not seem to be part of the submissions laid out at the beginning.

Paras 1, 2 and 3: Use short sentences rather than linking ideas with colons and semi-colons.

Para 1: Replace 'over 20 years plus with 'more than 20 years'.

Your assignment should be in Times New Roman, 11pt with single spacing as laid down in our rules. This may seem trivial, but level three writers should follow instructions as this can be important when sending material to editors or publishers.

Well done Pat! You've made a great effort here and I hope you continue to submit your views on subjects that concern you.

Commended



**Janet
Fleming**
of Kaeo

Whatever Happened to our Public Health System?

Health Committee,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.
10/1/17

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the Public Health System in the Kaeo Area.

64 years ago I was born at Whangaroa Hospital, Kaeo, and back then that was the norm unless there were major complications regarding the delivery. My other siblings were also born there.

Each of our first four children was born at Whangaroa Hospital from 1974 through till 1980. In those days there was a four bed maternity unit, around four acute beds, a men's and a women's ward. and an operating theatre. In the early 1970s there was also a Nurse's Home. Today none of these exist.

Around 35 years ago my husband broke his wrist in three places. The doctor on duty, (after hours), x-rayed his arm and set it. Today patients with a broken bone are sent elsewhere and there is no longer an x-ray machine in operation at Whangaroa Health Centre. The sign at the gate states that there is no after hour service available.

We do still have a clinic which is run by a doctor who has stood by the community for many years, but apart from her it is largely locum doctors who help out. What was once a busy hospital has now been turned into an old people's home and administration rooms.

What does the government plan on doing about the Public Health System in this area?

Yours,

Janet Fleming,
Box 115,
Kaeo.

Judge's Comments

Janet has written a well-argued letter which includes personal anecdotes about her family's experiences at the public hospital in Kaeo. Unfortunately, it is a letter rather than a submission requested by a government select committee. As such, it is not going to be treated seriously as it is not a topic about which a select committee is seeking opinions within a set time and framework.

For the standard required of level three, I cannot give Janet a placing, but do commend her for giving it a go. Her letter is suitable for sending to the Health Minister, local MP, or newspaper editor.

A few suggestions:

Para 2—Write 64 in letters (Sixty-four) at the start of the sentence.

Replace 'through till' with 'to'.

No need for capitals for 'Nurse's Home'. Apostrophe is in the wrong place.

'Today none of these exist'. The subject (none) is singular, so write 'exists'.

Competitions for April 2017

Due by March 10th

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

Font: Times New Roman, 11 pt. **Heading:** Bold, 14 pt. **Line spacing:** single.

Spacing between Paragraphs: 6 pt. **Paragraph Indentation:** None.

Send a high resolution photo of yourself in the event you are awarded a place.

NB: If you are not sure what level you're on, email the editor at sddp@xtra.co.nz

Level One—for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: Put together a 'bucket' list of four to five things you would really like to do one day, explaining why you would like to do them. 250-300 words.

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



Debbie

Level Two—for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: Write a short story of an event that significantly impacted your life, and why. 400 words.

Email entry to: Janet Fleming at mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz



Janet

Level Three—for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: Write a 4-5 minute children's play suitable for an Easter production at a public primary school. The message and directions should be simple and clear, for children aged about 8-10 years old. Have a maximum of 5 characters, although some extras for background effects and props are acceptable. 500 words maximum (including necessary stage instructions).

Email entry to: Julia Martin at: pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz



Julia

Under 20s—for members 7-19 years old

Requirement: Write a Gratitude or 'I am Thankful' poem. Maximum of 5 verses, with each verse consisting of 4 lines. Rhythm and rhyme optional.

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



Vicki



NZ CHRISTIAN writers



SARAH O'NEIL is an award-winning blogger and professional gardening writer based in Waiuku. She is author of the bestselling gardening book *The Good Life: Four Seasons in my Country Garden*, branded by Yates and published by Harper Collins

in 2013. She also wrote *Play in the Garden*, published by New Holland Publishing, and rated by The Listener Magazine as one of the 'top fifty children's books of 2014'.

Sarah is a regular gardening contributor for the NZ Herald, Yates Brand Ambassador, motivator and moderator of The Yates Veggie Growing Challenge, as well as featuring on various TV shows including *Seven Sharp*, *Get Growing* and *Cook the Books*. She has also written and recorded one minute inspirational spots for nationwide radio network, Rhema.

Sarah is a passionate home gardener, growing all the vegetables for the family on a rural lifestyle block.

www.sarahthegardener.co.nz