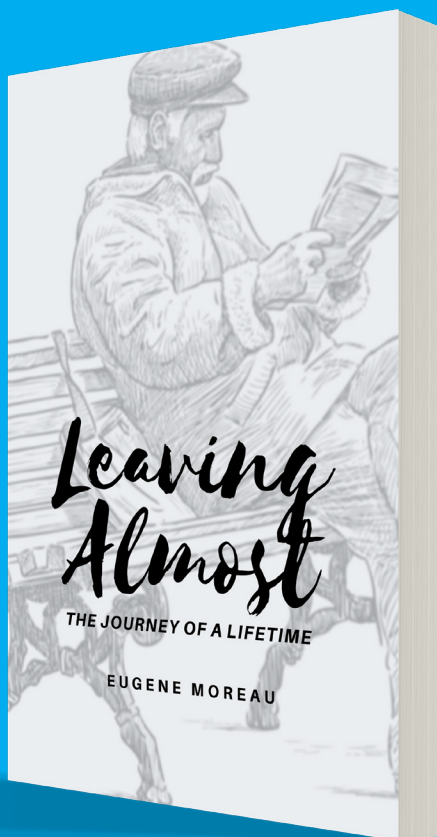


AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2019

# THE CHRISTIAN Writer



## BOOK REVIEW

Leaving Almost

*The Journey of a Lifetime*

BY EUGENE MOREAU

SEE INSIDE FOR

Competitions  
New Members  
& Latest News

**Mission:** Connecting Christian writers in New Zealand.

**Vision:** To cultivate, encourage and inspire a vibrant community of Christian writers throughout New Zealand.

**Values:** Christian faith, God's Word, professionalism, quality and social outreach.



**Editor:** Kathryn Drinkwater

Email Address: [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org)

### **Membership, Subscriptions and Address Changes:**

Caroline Cook ([cnew@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cnew@xtra.co.nz))

### **Annual Subscriptions—2 options:**

1) Digital magazine: Full membership \$40 / Student membership \$20

2) Printed magazine: Full membership \$55 / Student membership \$35

Pay subs by direct or online banking to NZ Christian Writers, a/c 12 3040 0547346 00

Cheques can be posted to Caroline Cook, 179 B St Johns Road, St Johns, Auckland 1072

### **Book Review Requests:** (current members only)

Post a copy of your book to Julia Martin

286 Karapiro Road, RD4, Cambridge 3496

**The Christian Writer** is published bimonthly by 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 10th 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.

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# The Christian Writer

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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:

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

# President's Report



Dear Members, welcome to our brand new magazine of AUG-SEP 2019. Our board are delighted to share with you that our new magazine editor, Kathryn Drinkwater, will now be managing our magazine editorial content. She has a renewed vision for our magazine and is passionate to bring some new ideas to NZ Christian Writers to help serve and bless all our members. We are so grateful for the wonderful work Debbie McDermott has done in providing excellent articles, coordinating contributors and preparing a professional magazine for so many years. Rest assured that Debbie will continue to connect with many of you as she will be managing the competitions and topics, reference sheets and end of year competition results for our members. For a fresh look at the upcoming competitions, we encourage you to click on the 'Competitions' tab on our website. In addition, we've added a new tab in our menu for 'Groups' with local group leaders based in seven locations throughout New Zealand. Our local group leaders are available to help connect you to a community of writers in your area. Together our goal for local groups is to help encourage and inspire a community of Christian writers. Feel free to contact our leaders to find out more about their next meeting dates, times and locations.

We also have a couple of exciting seminar events we are involved with over the next couple of months. Firstly, a seminar for Christian writers with our honorary member, George Bryant, QSM, JP, MA (Hons) on Saturday 17th August, 9am – 12noon at East City Wesleyan Church, Auckland. These seminars are endorsed by NZ Christian Writers because they discuss the importance and power of writing from a Christian world view. Secondly, you are invited to attend our Spring Seminar (and Annual General Meeting) on Saturday 14th September, 10:10am – 3:10pm at my home in Northcote, Auckland. Our inspirational speakers include Dave Firth, CEO of Authentic Christian Trust and Editor of *Authentic Men's Magazine*, and Staci McLean, author of *Footfalls* and *Soaring Out of the Darkness* (see Staci's book review on page 14). Their keynote sessions will positively challenge, encourage and inspire you in your writing. Do join us at these invites. Both are FREE to attend with a koha donation welcomed. For further details on all our events, just click the "Events" tab on our website: [www.nzchristianwriters.org](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org).

Eugene Moreau is this edition's profiled writer with his incredible book featured *Leaving Almost: The Journey of a Lifetime*. This book is a powerful fable about finding purpose again and moving forward in a positive way, making good decisions and moving away from that place which the book describes as Almost. It wrestles with themes of fulfilment, leadership, mentorship, and what a meaningful life looks like through the lens of John 10:10. We trust this book feature and review of *Leaving Almost* is a blessing in your life and writing. Do purchase a copy for yourself and a friend by contacting Eugene at: [eugene@eugenemoreau.com](mailto:eugene@eugenemoreau.com).

Blessings,  
Justin St Vincent

**FREE**

 NZ CHRISTIAN  
**writers**

**SPRING**

**SEMINAR 2019**

**14 SEPTEMBER**



**DAVE FIRTH**

**MORNING SPEAKER**

Authentic Christian Life  
Authentic Writing



**STACI MCLEAN**

**AFTERNOON SPEAKER**

Writing Your Story for Maximum Impact  
How to Write a Book FAST

**DATE & TIME:**

Saturday  
14th September  
10:10am - 3:10pm

**VENUE:**

83A Pupuke Road  
Northcote  
Auckland 0627

**COST:**

**FREE**  
Koha donation welcomed

**ALL WELCOME**

# Editorial: Introducing Myself

by Kathryn Drinkwater



*New NZCW Editor,  
Kathryn Drinkwater*

Greetings to readers of *The Christian Writer*. Our previous editor, Debbie McDermott, has been coaching me into the role of editor for our magazine. I feel very grateful to Debbie for her help. I'm excited I'll be joining the NZ Christian Writers Board.

My writing journey began at school where I was encouraged by my Year Ten (Fourth Form) English teacher. He called me 'The Writer'. At age nineteen I became employed as a telex operator and receptionist for a shipping company. Due to the role my typing speed increased to eighty words per minute. My typing and computer skills are something I've been grateful for as a creative writer.

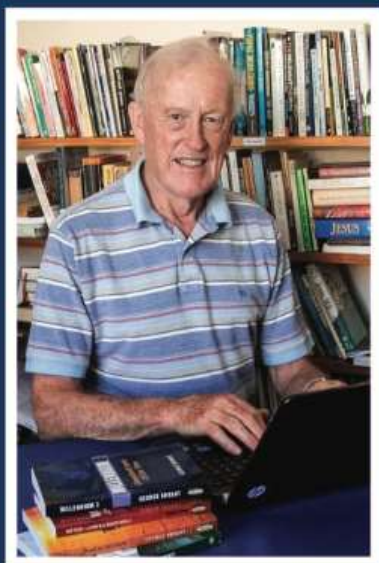
I went on to complete a Comprehensive Writing Course achieving *The Diploma of The Writing School*. The Writing School promised I would earn my course fee back during the course or they would refund my money. I received payments for articles in magazines such as *NZ Wilderness* and a short story in *Woman's Day*. I did earn enough to cover the invested course fee. I also became a member of The New Zealand Christian Writers Guild which is what NZ Christian Writers used to be called. Later, *The Writing School* changed their name to *The Sackville Academy*, and I completed another course with them, *The Certificate of Professional Proofreading and Copy Editing*.

Over the years I have enjoyed using my writing skills for the Lord in a variety of ways. I've written children's church lessons, church stage productions, school plays, skits, songs and puppet shows for outreach into the community. I achieved a finals list for a Northland short story competition and my children's novel was shortlisted for the Tom Fitzgibbon Award. The children's novel, entitled *Dog Tucker*, went on to be accepted for publishing by Scholastic NZ. It was sold in New Zealand and Australia and received a Storylines award for Junior Fiction. *Dog Tucker* is currently out of print but can be requested from most public libraries if you'd like to read it.

For several years, I've had the desire to learn how to produce a magazine. However, I didn't want to invest my time in something which wasn't contributing to growing God's Kingdom. When I saw the advert for this editor role my initial reaction was a lack of confidence, but the Lord encouraged me to apply. I've found the NZ Christian Writers team to be a lovely, encouraging group of people and glory to God, here I am. I'm looking forward to future opportunities to connect with our members, readers and contributors. I believe it's going to be a journey of mutual encouragement as we support each other in our Christian writing. I hope you enjoy this issue of our magazine and please feel free to write letters to the editor at [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org).



# SEMINAR FOR CHRISTIAN WRITERS with GEORGE BRYANT



Discuss the importance and power of writing from a Christian world view with leading NZ Christian author George Bryant, QSM, JP, MA (Hons).

User-friendly (no writing required).  
FREE copy of *My Writing Journey* plus handouts.

#### TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

George Bryant

Email: [bryantgw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bryantgw@xtra.co.nz)

ENDORSED BY :

  
NZ CHRISTIAN  
**writers**

#### DATE & TIME:

**Saturday**  
**17th August**  
9am to 12noon

#### VENUE:

**East City Wesleyan Church**  
219 Burswood Drive  
Burswood, Auckland

#### COST:

**FREE | ALL WELCOME**  
Koha donation welcomed

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

## WRITING BRIEFS

### Inspiring Christian Writing of today and yesteryear-

Series by Frederick Swallow



### Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

A leading place globally has been established in enriching Christian music, with hymns *In Christ Alone* penned by writing partners Stuart Townend and Keith Getty and *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* by Stuart.

Their music includes; the *Sing!* book; television, theatre, films and *BBC Songs of Praise*. Both hold many honours.

Keith and wife Kristyn wrote the *Kid's Hymnal* and participated in classical music. Stuart's outreach includes Royal Albert Hall concerts. He also wrote *Courage* for Phil his brother who was suffering a terminal illness.

## Heaven

by Neil Summers

I met one on a lonely road  
As I walked my empty way  
His face and stride had purpose  
Perplexed, I bade him stay  
And laying hand upon him asked;  
"Friend, what lights upon your face  
And what your destination?"  
Said he, "I am going to my brother's home  
He has sent me invitation."  
"And where your brother's home" I begged  
"And what his habitation?"  
"His home is in our Father's house  
A high and holy place,"  
And even in the telling  
A glory lit his face.  
"There is no need of sunshine there  
For he is himself the light  
Neither need of moon and stars  
For neither is there night.  
The gates are always open,"  
He said with outflung arms,  
"For none may enter or approach  
Who hurt or spoil or harm.  
He has told me of a crystal stream  
And a verdant tree of life  
Whose leaves and fruit bring healing  
Wherever there is strife.  
There is no grief or sorrow there  
For such have passed away  
As pervading darkness flees apace  
From the breaking of the day.  
No cause for bitter crying  
Or fear or loss or pain  
Will trouble those who harbour there  
Or hinder them again."  
But here he paused, and halting said,  
As unsure what to tell,  
"Though I have not seen my brother  
Still I love him well."  
"You have not seen your brother!"  
I said in consternation,  
"How then will you know him  
When you reach your destination?"  
"Ah!" He said with shining eyes,  
"I know that when we meet  
I shall know him by his nail-pierced hands  
And the wounds that mar his feet."



# How Writers Can Use Facebook and Avoid Scams

By Kathryn Drinkwater

Here are some tips for how to use Facebook effectively and what things to watch out for.

## Getting Started With Your Personal Page

Starting with the basics, if you've not used Facebook before you will need to go to the Facebook homepage and sign up, creating your personal page. This page does not have to be for your general readers and my recommendation is you keep it private and only add friends you know personally. As you set up your personal page the helpful tutorial will take you through the steps.

## Protect Your Private Information

With any personal information you provide, such as date of birth, email addresses, postal address locations and phone numbers, it's best to click on the privacy settings and keep them so that only you can see them, no one else. Take time to click on the drop-down menus and learn what all your options are. You can search for people you know in the search bar and it's helpful to look on your friends' lists of friends to find people.

## Sharing Your News

Once you're set up you can type/post on your personal page any updates of your writing news or upload photos and videos. When you post on your page you can choose who will see it. You may choose the public (anyone who views your page but is not on your list of friends) or just your friends or specific friends.

Facebook's software picks up certain words in your page content and targets you with related advertising. Christians may find they see advertising of a spiritual nature which is not Christian. You are able to click the X (usually located in the top right-hand corner) to close adverts or posts if they are something you don't want to see. You can supply feedback as to why you don't want to see it by selecting the suitable answers.

## Connecting With Others

If you wish to speak directly to one of your friends privately, then you can send them a 'pm' or private chat message. For private messages Facebook uses Messenger which is also available as a separate app for internet-friendly mobile phones. It's important to be aware that strangers can try and connect with you via the Messenger app without being on your Facebook friends list. To connect with other Christian writers you can search in the search bar for Christian writers group pages to join. There are many kinds of special-interest group pages available.

## Setting Up Your Public Figure Author/Writer Page

Once you feel confident, separate from your private personal page you can set up a public figure page as a writer. Do this before you log in, from the Facebook homepage where you started your personal page. You will need to select the type of page it will be and you can give it a different title/label from your personal page. If you use the same private details to set it up, it will become linked to your personal page. Then you will be able to toggle between both pages whenever you log in.

The difference with your public writer page is that people don't send friend requests to it. Instead they click 'like' or 'follow' to be able to see the content on it. You can invite your friends to like the page, plus anyone else from the public can access it if they search for you. Having a public writer page enables you to keep separate what you share with close friends and family, from what you share with your reader audience.

*A public writer page enables you to keep separate what you share...*

When you post some news on your public page you will likely see a question from Facebook inviting you to 'boost' your post in order to get more people to see it. This is an opportunity to pay for some advertising if you want to increase the chances of the public seeing your post.

## Hosting An Event

If you are hosting an event such as a book launch you can click on Facebook's 'create event' option. You can do this as yourself from your personal page or you can do this as your public page identity. To create it is like creating an invitation. Just fill in the boxes. It's helpful to have a look at someone else's event page first to get an idea of what you can do. You have options as to who you wish to invite.

## Creating Your Own Group Page

If you're up for it you can create your own writers group page if you want to. Group pages can be public which means anyone can see the content or they can be kept 'closed' or 'secret' which means only the joined members of the group can see the content on the group page and comment on it.

## How To Avoid Scams

The not-so-smiley side of the internet is the risk of being tricked or scammed. There's a high chance someone will try to do this to you. But if you know how to recognise it, you can protect yourself. There seems to be two main motives behind the fakers. Either they're trying to make money or they're trying to see how far their post will go. There are many kinds of internet scams including online romance, fake business investment, fake winnings, fake security emails, and scammers posing as someone else, often someone famous or someone you know.

## Fake Posts

Before you share someone else's post, for example a fundraiser for a sick child, click on the picture and view who originally started it. Check the date it started and the comments below. Some posts have been travelling from person to person for years. Keep in mind just because a famous person is quoted it doesn't guarantee it's genuine. I saw an example recently, which was a prayer request about a tragedy, but it wasn't valid. There are all kinds of imaginative fake posts travelling around the internet. Be wary unless verified beyond doubt.

It's good to think carefully and pray before sharing a post which has been written in a way to 'guilt trip' people into passing it on. Posts can be masked as intending to help people but suggest a negative connotation or judgement for those who don't share it. Or they sound like a horoscope foretelling your future if you do or don't share it. I encourage you only to share something because you feel the Lord wants you to, not because you're concerned about other people's judgements of you. There are plenty of encouraging posts which uplift others and don't carry negatively implied wording.

## Fake Profiles

Watch out for fake profiles. Any information you supply on the internet publicly can be copied by someone else, including photographs. A scammer can create a fake new personal page with your friend's photograph and name on it. Then they will send you a friend request. This can happen through the Messenger app as well as through Facebook. Keep in touch with friends by reliable means such as phone if you're in doubt.

If a well-known public figure sends you a friend-request, be suspicious. No, it's unlikely Joyce Meyer is sending you a personal friend-request. She has an official public page for her ministry and if she does have a personal page, I bet she wisely keeps it for only her closest family and friends.

## Dealing with Scammers

When you realise a scammer is trying to make contact, you don't have to accept their friend request or conversation request. You can report it by selecting from options in the message box which alert Facebook to the problem. Just read the options carefully and select the appropriate answers. The more scammers get exposed and caught out the more Facebook can deal with them. It's good to alert your friends about the scam. Do not reply to scammers. Whether it's through social media or through email—it's best to avoid them. Avoid opening their attachments or links. Lately, scammers have been targeting our NZ Christian Writers web page and sending out fake emails or Messenger profiles, pretending to be one of us urgently needing money. Please do not respond.

*Lately, scammers  
have been targeting  
our NZ Christian  
Writers web  
page...*

## Protecting Yours and Others' Information

Another thing to be aware of are tricks to get you to supply your personal information or someone else's. For example a fun and harmless-looking survey may be getting passed along from friend to friend asking—what's your favourite food, what's your middle name, what colour are your eyes? But if you answer these you may be unwittingly giving out answers to personal finance security questions or information on your drivers license. A parent may innocently give out information about one of their children.

You can control what you say but you can't control one hundred percent who will get to read it. A friend of a friend of a friend may be a scammer waiting to take advantage. If you don't want to risk becoming the target of prank phone calls, don't give out your phone number in a social media conversation, even if only other friends can see it. I knew a teenager who received a prank call and was puzzled as to how they'd got her number. I looked at her Facebook page and sure enough, she'd neglected to keep her phone number private. Our children and teenagers always need supervision and support when using the internet. If anyone tries bullying or harassment, there are options to block them.

Let's take back what the enemy is trying to steal. Technology is a great thing in the right hands, and we can use it for God's purposes. Let's get our Christian writing out there.

*Please send in your thoughts, stories or hot tips for using Facebook or other Social Media as a writer. The best entries will be published in the next magazine subject to space and editing. Maximum 100 words each entry. Please email before 10<sup>th</sup> September with your name to NZCW editor, Kathryn Drinkwater at [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org).*

## Reminders

### **Annual Subscriptions for NZCW Members**

Were due August 1st, 2019.

### **Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA)**

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

will be in Christchurch 6-8<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Visit <http://www.arpa.news/conference> for details.

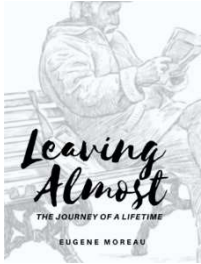
### **New Zealand Christian Writers AGM**

will be combined with our Spring Seminar see poster page five for more details

### **Book Reviews:**

See page two for details on how to have a book reviewed in *The Christian Writer*.

## Featured Book Review



### Leaving Almost

The Journey of a Lifetime

By Eugene Moreau

Review by Julia Martin

Published through Lulu.com

Over many years the author had developed a successful career as an executive coach and consultant. In 2005, however, he had a life-changing encounter with God and discovered he was living in an unfulfilled and debilitating maze called 'Almost'. Since then he has developed programmes and strategies that result in a John 10:10 life of abundance and is keen to share these with others.

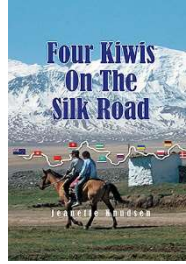
Eugene could have written a self-help manual, but instead he has fleshed out his ideas in the form of a modern day fable involving two main characters—Alex and Oliver, and their wives.

Alex is depicted as middle-aged, seemingly successful, but struggling with a lack of fulfilment and meaning in his life. Oliver is an older man with a similar background, but he has discovered the answer to an 'almost' existence and how a person can move out of the rut they're in and enjoy a purposeful and rewarding life.

Divine destiny brings them together and Oliver proceeds to mentor Alex and show him how his masked boredom, frustration and internal emptiness can be changed into a meaningful existence characterised by drive, determination, dedication, discipline and desire.

This book will challenge readers to evaluate their lives and possibly motivate them to implement some of the strategies Eugene outlines, and thus live the satisfying and meaningful lives God intended for them.

## Second Book Review



### Four Kiwis on the Silk Road

By Jeanette Knudsen

Review by Jan Pendergrast

Published by Daystar Books  
2017

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." Thumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake*. This is what happens when you read Jeanette's three-month journey including 16,000 kilometres along the Silk Road.

Martin and Jeanette, with their friends, Maurice and Anne O'Reilly, in twin 4X4 Nissans, Bilbo and Heehaw, drove for three months from Hong Kong to Denmark through China, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Twelve months of preparation preceded their embarking on an adventure which Jeanette shares with clarity, humour and honesty.

After four days' delay caused by 'frustrating bureaucracy' at the port in Shenzhen, their vehicles were released. They were now behind schedule. They began their journey north to Xian, the fascinating first leg of their adventure.

Jeanette's gift of noticing detail, and her ability to weave myriads of information into her narrative, create an exciting, as-if-you-were-with-them, experience. We meet 'friendly and delightful' people, visit interesting sites, and learn how to buy diesel on the black market. Their journey culminated in Denmark where Martin's family lives.

Jeanette writes, 'Has it been worth the extensive planning, the effort, the cost, the occasional discomfort, long days in the vehicles, the pit toilets and the dust and dirt? Overwhelmingly, yes! Every bit has been a fantastic experience.' As readers we too can enjoy this adventure.

## Third Book Review



### Letters in a Different War

By Joan Braddock

Review by Julia Martin

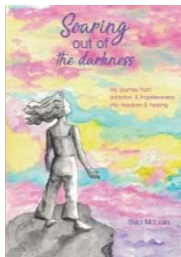
Published by Daystar Books  
2017

The subject of conscientious objectors during wartime has always been controversial. Some people regarded them as courageous individuals who were prepared to stand up for their convictions regardless of cost. Others, especially those who supported the taking up of arms, viewed them as cowards and treated them and their families with contempt.

The book is fictitious, but the author has based her story on facts and personal information she has derived from close family members caught up in this dilemma in the past. The story is set in a typical urban community during 1942 when New Zealand was facing a potential invasion by the Japanese. The main character is a young girl named Beverley who lives next door to a conscientious objector and his family. When he's taken away to a detention camp, Beverley observes the different reactions of neighbours and friends and sees the hardship and public scorn experienced by those left behind.

Letters between conscientious objectors and their loved ones was restricted and heavily censored—hence the title. The author doesn't attempt to persuade the reader, but seeks to portray the dynamics of the situation and what made someone swim against the tide of public opinion for the sake of conscience, and at considerable cost. I felt this book throws new light on a subject which is seldom talked about nowadays. As one of the characters concludes: 'There's more than one kind of courage.'

## Fourth Book Review



### Soaring Out of the Darkness

By Staci McLean

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Cherry Rowe  
Publishing 2018

Growing up in a dysfunctional, broken family, Staci often felt unloved, unwanted and abandoned. At 14 she tasted alcohol and was immediately addicted. 'With the stepping stones of shattered self-esteem, depression, feelings of inadequacy and a generous helping of family genetics set in place, my path to addiction was an all-too-easy one to follow.'

For the next 10 years Staci's life spiralled downwards into self-destruction due to drunkenness, immorality, loneliness, depression and self-loathing. When suicide seemed the only way out, Staci cried out to God and a small seed of hope was planted within her. She gave up alcohol, started attending church and, in time, became a Christian.

Although Staci knew Jesus offered complete forgiveness, she struggled to forgive herself and others. But the knowledge that God's grace is unearned and undeserved set Staci on the right path towards true freedom, emotional healing and recovery.

Staci tells her story with honesty and transparency in the hope it will help others. I recommend her small book to anyone who is struggling with life's challenges and problems and doesn't know where to turn.

She concludes: 'God is not the creator of our prison, but He will rescue us when we trust Him, accept Him, and take action to step into His freedom'.



## Writers Groups

### AUCKLAND, ELLERSLIE

Sara McGuire

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[sara.mcguire81@gmail.com](mailto:sara.mcguire81@gmail.com)

### CHRISTCHURCH

Dave Palmer

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[davepalmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davepalmer@xtra.co.nz)

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Jennie Chappell

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### NORTHLAND

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[kaycross@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaycross@xtra.co.nz)

### PALMERSTON NORTH

Rodney Hickman

Mob: (022) 676 3640

[rodneyhickmanpoet@gmail.com](mailto:rodneyhickmanpoet@gmail.com)

### TAURANGA

Ruth Linton

Mob: (021) 408 661

[ruthlinton2015@gmail.com](mailto:ruthlinton2015@gmail.com)

If you are interested in joining a group in your area, please feel free to contact the group leader or host for further details.

## WELCOME

### New and Returning Members:

**Paul Devereux**

Waikanae

**Wendy Farrow**

Putaruru

**Cathy Harris**

Tauranga

**Lorna Jane**

Harvey

Lower Hutt

**Angelique Healey**

Oamaru

**Audrey Ingram**

Auckland

**Robert Lake**

Porirua

**Zee Lansdowne**

Tauranga

**Nova Lawrie**

Auckland

**Joanne Marsden**

Kapiti

**Eugene Moreau**

Waipa

**Danny Mwiinga**

Auckland

**Vanessa Paton-Myers**

Dunedin

**David Powell**

Howick

**Sheenal Prakash**

Papatoetoe

**Kim Prier**

New Plymouth

**Valerie Robb**

Auckland

**Corrine Sinclair**

Silverdale

**Gerlinde**

**Stradwick**

Auckland

**Christine Sullivan**

Auckland

**Cherith Joy**

**Vahaakolo**

Auckland

**Karl Valpy**

**Trish Warnes**

Rangiora

New members please remember to email your NZCW website profile photo and mini bio to Justin at [president@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:president@nzchristianwriters.org)

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## Competition Information – Be In To Win!

Entering our competitions is beneficial for members for a variety of reasons. Our competitions provide a challenge and motivate writers to learn and improve their craft. Often the topics and genres provide an opportunity to try something new. Contestants receive individual feedback from our experienced judges.

Please note that previously the place-getters' individual critiques from judges were published but from now on they will only be emailed privately to the individual contestants. We will only be publishing the judges' general comments for each level.

There are points allocated for place-getters in every magazine edition for every level. Points earned are: 15 points for first, 12 points for second and 9 points for third. At the end of the year contestants' points are added up so end-of-year prizes for first, second and third can be awarded in each level. The end of year monetary prizes are \$60 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place and \$40 for Third place.

Entries are judged on the following:

- Entering, Format and Layout 15% *(These requirements are on the inside, final page of the magazine).*
- Requirements 25% *(Pay attention to the instruction details for the topic you've been assigned).*
- Creativity, flow and impact 25% *(Test your entry by reading it aloud).*
- Grammar and Punctuation 25% *(Study examples from good publishers; computers and proof readers can help too).*
- Spelling 10% *(A dictionary is an essential tool for a writer).*

Contestants must be current members of NZCW and 16 years or over. The idea is to earn your way from Level One in steps up to Level Three.

1. **Level One** is for new members and all other members who haven't yet competed enough to be promoted to Level Two.
2. **Level Two** is for members who have been promoted by the judges up from Level One.
3. **Level Three** is for members who have been promoted by the judges up from Level Two and is open to members who are on the NZCW Honours List. The Honours List can be found on our website.

To be promoted by the judges to the next level, a contestant must achieve enough placings and supply consistent quality entries throughout the year. Entries must demonstrate the contestant has been learning from the critiques and improving over a period of time.

Below is how our current points board stands for 2019 so far. It's not too late to get your name on this leader board. Check out the next competition topics on the inside final page of the magazine and have a go. To all who have entered so far—great work and keep sending in your entries—anything could happen as the points aren't too far apart!

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Kathryn Drinkwater	45	Sue Thatcher	54	Jean Shewan	39
Felicity Logan	15	Alex Treat	33	Pamela Lowery	33
Jean Crane	15	Ruth Jamieson	21	Pat Kerr	27
Ally Wilson	12	Susan Flanagan	15	Janet Fleming	21
Adeline Hill	12	Eion Field	12	Keith Willis	15
Sarah Bedwell	9	Pauline Marshall	9		
Sara McGuire	9				
Taryn Dryfhout	9				

Do you need more time to write for a competition? Download the Reference Sheet from our NZCW website under the 'Competitions' tab. The Reference Sheet tells you all the competition topics for the entire year.

Happy writing!

# Competition Results

## Level One

**Judge: Debbie McDermott**

**Requirement:** Write a glowing tribute to someone who has been a positive role model in your life, particularly in relation to your Christian walk. 350 words maximum.

### General Comments

*I received several good entries to this competition. Each entrant met the requirements very well by writing passionately about someone who has been a life-changing role model in their lives. Each entry was also well-written and a pleasure to read. This made judging and selecting the winners of this competition a bit difficult.*

*I finally awarded Kathryn Drinkwater First Place for making the best use of the limited word count and submitting a 100% grammatically correct entry.*

*I awarded new member Adeline Hill Second Place for being the only entrant to address her tribute directly **to** her role model (which was a requirement of the competition topic), rather than just writing **about** him. Apart from a couple of minor grammar, punctuation and spelling errors, her writing is excellent and she went to the extra effort of including an end note of scripture references. While this was not necessary, it makes her entry a contemplative devotional as well as a tribute.*

*After much consideration and re-reading their entries, I decided to award Sara McGuire and Taryn Dryfhout Third Place Equal. Apart from a few minor mistakes, their tributes are beautifully written and worthy of publication.*

*While few mistakes were made by entrants, there are three key areas for improvement:*

#### **1. Keep commas to a bare minimum**

*An overuse of commas interrupts the flow of writing as well as slows down the pace of a story. This is because a comma tells the reader to pause when in many instances it is not necessary to do so, particularly if you keep your sentences reasonably short instead of long and drawn out. Remember, too, that there is usually no need to put a comma before a conjunction such as 'and'. One of the ways in which to check if you have too many commas is to read your work aloud.*

#### **2. Hyphens vs long dashes**

*In several instances, (such as: '...emotionally - and can still feel her imprint on my life') a hyphen was used instead of a long em (—) dash. A hyphen should only be used for compound words preceding a noun (e.g. a faith-filled life), or to split a word over two sentences.*

*MS Word should automatically create a long em dash when you IMMEDIATELY insert two hyphens, then IMMEDIATELY type the next word followed by a space. If it doesn't, go to your Replace menu and type a hyphen into the 'Find what?' line. Then move your cursor to the 'Replace with?' line, use your mouse to click on the More>> option, click on the down arrow in 'Special' and select 'Em Dash'. NB: The shorter en dash option is usually used in lists of numbers (e.g. 1860 – 1880).*

### **3. Incorrect or missing words**

*One incorrect or missing word can change the entire meaning of a sentence, so be diligent in carefully proofreading your work before submitting it. Reading it aloud, or listening to it being read back to you, is also a sure way of identifying such errors.*

*I would once again like to congratulate all those who entered this competition. While it was not possible to award you all a place, each of you made a wonderful effort and I look forward to receiving more entries from you.*

## **First Place**



**Kathryn  
Drinkwater**  
of Hokianga

## **Tribute to the late NZ Evangelist Bill Subritzky**

---

Bill Subritzky was unforgettable. The first time I saw Bill was at one of his Dove Ministries evangelical healing meetings. I was a teenager, emotionally messed up and wearing an 'I'm okay' mask. As I listened to him preach and observed him ministering with authority in the gifts of the Holy Spirit I thought, 'He's scary – I'm glad he's not my father.' He was very direct and told people what God wanted them to hear not always what they wanted to hear. The presence of the Holy Spirit was strong at Bill's meetings and there I saw the reality of the spiritual realm including people being set free from demons.

I appreciated Bill's meetings so much I attended as often as I could. His testimony was anointed and powerful. One time I was watching Bill minister and I asked God, 'How do I get faith like that?' Bill interrupted himself unexpectedly, lifted his Bible in the air and declared emphatically 'To get faith you read this!'

I signed up to sponsor my first World Vision child at one of his meetings and have never stopped. Bill was dedicated to advocating child sponsorship through World Vision. If someone could add up the number of children who received help over the forty-plus years of his ministry due to his diligence it would be a wonderfully large number.

I personally experienced the reality of God's power through Bill's ministry and it was life changing. I responded to his public salvation or recommitment call more than once as God dealt with issues in my life. This was an essential part of my Christian journey.

About ten years ago I had the privilege of joining Bill's ministry team, travelling overseas and within NZ. I also participated in the music team for his meetings. I grew in confidence and had an awesome time of spiritual growth. My final impressions of Bill were that his children were blessed to have him as a father, and I was blessed to have him as a mentor and spiritual father-figure. I miss him a lot. He was truly unforgettable.

## Second Place



Adeline  
Hill  
of Christchurch

## Friend Forever

What a privilege and a blessing to know you, my friend. You call me friend<sup>1</sup> and you tell me wonderful things<sup>2</sup>. You will never leave nor forsake me<sup>3</sup>. You answer me when I call, and you calm all my fears<sup>4</sup>. I will give thanks to you with all my heart<sup>5</sup>.

My victories in life depend not on exercising more of my willpower, but on faith in your power - resting in you, learning from you<sup>6</sup>. You show me how to know God.

You are kind and gentle. *You will not break a bruised reed, and will not extinguish a dimly burning wick*<sup>7</sup>. When I am with you, your kindness and gentleness rubs off on me. I am influenced to also extend that hand of kindness and compassion to others in need like you do. When you are in my world, I experience the *fruit of your Spirit* - love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control<sup>8</sup> - all amazing!

You fill my heart with hope and strength when I am troubled. Like a good friend, you work quietly behind the scenes so that everything will work out to my good and for my growth<sup>9</sup>. Often, on hindsight, do I realize your faithful love is gently working things out for me.

When I am confused and lack understanding, you give me the wisdom I need to take on the right path in life<sup>10</sup>. You protect me from danger, harm and evil<sup>11</sup>.

My friend, there is no one like you. I worship and adore You - You are my God, Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer and LORD. You are Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, who loves me, died for me and rose again. Today you live and because you live, I also live<sup>12</sup>. Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord Jesus for this precious friendship with you.



## End Note

- |   |                                    |    |                |
|---|------------------------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | John 15:15                         | 7  | Isaiah 42:3a   |
| 2 | Jeremiah 33:3                      | 8  | Galatians 5:22 |
| 3 | Deuteronomy 31:6,<br>Hebrews 13:5b | 9  | Romans 8:28    |
| 4 | Psalms 138:3                       | 10 | Psalms 16:11a  |
| 5 | Psalms 86:3                        | 11 | Psalms 91:9-10 |
| 6 | Matthew 11:29                      | 12 | John 14:19     |

## Third Place Equal



Sara  
McGuire  
of Auckland

## TRIBUTE: FIONA GILDERSLEVE

It was early into my Christian walk, soon after I accepted Jesus into my heart that the Lord brought a precious gem into my life. I believe God brings the right people into our lives at the time. Everything happens for a reason and is not wasted. His timing is perfect.

The special friend I would like to pay tribute to is a dear friend by the name of Fiona. This precious lady has had a life-changing influence on my life and my faith journey.

This dear one together in partnership with the Holy Spirit as her helper has helped shape me into the person I am today. Fiona has taught me many things but by far the best thing she has ever taught me is to bring things out into the light. To be authentic and open and be afraid of sharing my heart but most importantly the things that upset me.

It wasn't until I started sharing the inner most, dark places that I had not previously talked about that I realised that this was going to catapult me into freedom. It is this freedom that Jesus died on the cross for you and I. This freedom I am now able to enjoy by fully embracing and stepping into the very things I am called to do and the destiny that Jesus longs for me to have and to fulfil the plans he has for me.

I will be forever grateful for the amazing, gentle, kind but persistent and loving way she kept working with me on unlocking the things and it is those things that God is now using. He is a faithful and gracious father and he uses things for good. What the enemy meant for evil, God meant for God and now look at what God is doing!

I am now a much different, more confident and lighter person having had Fiona's guidance and support. I am no longer stuck in that place of despair anymore. My life is now brimming with joy and hope and the best is yet to come.

## Third Place Equal



Taryn  
Dryfhout  
of Papakura

## In Loving Memory of Jenny

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I remember vividly, the first time I met Jenny. We didn't hit it off right away, but the friendship that did eventually grow, became the most significant one of my life.

Jenny was exceptionally ladylike - grace and poise radiated from her. She was calm, and confident, and lit up the room when she came in. Jenny loved people, especially children. She had a personality that was warm and inviting, and she graciously put the needs of others ahead of her own. Her amazing love for her family resonated with me deeply, and profoundly impacted the way I view my role as a parent. Jenny worked hard to share her Christian faith with her family, and often spoke of the importance of faith as a foundation for life. She saw God in her garden, and in the face of her children, and looked at life through the lens of her beliefs.

It's so rare to find someone who invests in your life, the way Jenny invested in mine. She faithfully came to family birthday parties and baptisms, and took on the role of Godmother to my children. If I told her I had an important appointment or a meeting, she would remember the date and time, offer prayer, and then call me later that day to see how it went. When I moved my family across the country, she still called just to see how we were. Even when we hadn't spoken for a while, she was always there, in the wings. I could call for advice, for prayer, or simply to chat. For five years Jenny had an on-going presence in my life - one that I feel honoured to have had. I grew immensely during the time I knew Jenny - both spiritually, and emotionally - and can still feel her imprint on my life.

Next month will mark eight years since Jenny went to be with the Lord. I can still feel the space in my life that she once inhabited, but feel richly blessed for the contribution that Jenny made to it, just by being in it.

## Level Two Judge: Janice Gillgren

**Requirement:** 'A day at the park.' Write a nostalgic story on this theme. It can be based on a true event or be entirely fictional, but should be believable and have an inviting title and strong ending. Use clear, descriptive language. 500 words.

## General Comments

*Nostalgia is more than just remembering an event. It is a wistful, sentimental or bittersweet yearning (or homesickness) for situations, people or conditions of our past. This required a particular approach in the way the story was written and was a primary requirement. Only the first-place entry achieved this requirement reasonably well, so the other entries were critiqued on the remaining requirements.*

*As your stories could be fictional or true, my critiques won't deal with what I think they are. The stories were all believable, so that was good. Grammar and punctuation were generally well done, and the word counts were all good.*

*It is important not to clutter up your story, whether it is with a detailed list of things that happen, or with a detailed account of an emotional experience. Either of these extremes will obscure any plot you have.*

*Stories, whether fictional or true, need a balance of characterisation and plot to hold attention. These two aspects don't need to be in a 50/50 balance, but they do both need to be evident. Each of us tends to be stronger in one of these areas and has to work harder at the other aspect.*

*'Keep your sentences short!' is a frequent admonition to writers today. However, variation in sentence length is also important, so what should you aim for? It depends. Rather than just looking at how many words you should fit into a sentence (or paragraph, as the same advice applies), think instead about the effect you are trying to achieve by them.*

*A lot of short sentences create a snappy effect well suited to high-action plots and dialogue, but don't suit the moody description of a stormy beach or lovers walking along a moonlit lane. Vary your sentences within a range that seems appropriate to what you want to write and have some that are longer or shorter than that range.*

*Characterisation is similarly affected by sentence length. If you want to describe a laid-back or elderly person, for example, using lots of short sentences seems out of place. Likewise, longer passages won't suit the depiction of a busy little toddler.*

*Grammar and punctuation were mostly well done, though there were some mistakes that could be easily seen with a thorough check-over, and most writing programs, such as Word, automatically highlight spelling and grammatical errors.*

*A problem seen in one entry was of paragraphs being far too long. Although each paragraph was reasonably well based on one mini-theme, breaking those blocks of words down into smaller paragraphs would improve their appeal on the page, as well as their readability. One way to do this is to create a new paragraph for each speaker (whether dialogue with God or with another person).*

*One of the best lessons I learned early on was to start the writing project in plenty of time to scrutinise my work carefully before sending it. This often requires some period of time to let it 'rest' and re-read it. Mistakes are much more easily seen then.*

## First Place



Sue  
Thatcher  
of  
Whangaparaoa

## Hooked on a Feeling

Aah! Can you feel it? Is the peace enveloping you? This separate world. See that tree, the lazy river and the story book bench?

Grandma and I used to come here every chance. She'd sit with her knitting needles clicking while I played out each stage of my life.

I loved my Gran. She gave me time. Shared her wisdom. Knew me better than anyone. I sought her approval with all the big decisions in life. My education. My love life. My dreams. Nearly every big step I'd taken had been decided with her and usually right here!

I remember that day vividly. She'd called me. Asked could I come over for a bit? Like she knew I needed her. I lived in the snobby part of town back then. Flash job. Kids in the best school. High flyer—that was me! Well, until my spectacular redundancy. Unemployed, my wife anywhere I wasn't, kids embarrassed, debts mounting in proportion to my depressed state. Yes, I was available to visit Gran.

I turned up and helped her to the park. We both sat. Quiet. Gran—her signature peace covering us both. Me—stressed, restless, thoughts spinning and darting.

"So?" she'd said.

"Huh?"

Nothing. "Ok," I said, "You always know anyway. I'm in a mess. The job was never my thing. Julie didn't want the house, she's not the flashy type. I feel like I've lost my kids too. It all looked so inviting. Thought I'd really made it when I got the offer. I guess I got carried away by it."

"Mmmnnn."

"I don't have a way out of this Gran."

Nothing. Just that knowing look, filled with love and compassion. The one that always made me take a breath and look for a different perspective.

Then we saw him. He was so young. Helpless. So much life ahead—and yet. I raced to the river and pulled him out, holding him close and warm, willing life back into him.

She smiled and nodded. I remembered. It was like coming home. All those dreams, the study, the reason why. How could I have gone so far off?

The rescue shelter was born that day. Me as CEO and head vet—and if I'm honest, everything else! We named him Genesis because he was the beginning. That puppy survived and thrived—and so did I!

Gran passed away a few weeks later. The devastating grief threatening to derail me again. Slowly, I realised what she'd left me. I inherited her home—that helped financially, and it was more 'us' too. But there was so much more! Her example, her influence. I found myself again just in time. Before my family disintegrated. Moved back to a close relationship with God the way she'd always modelled. In turn, I found purpose, reigniting my passion for life.

Now, holding my little granddaughter's hand, stepping out the same back gate into the same park behind the house, I'm content. Thankful. At peace.

She feels it too.

## Second Place



Eion  
Field  
of Waikato

## Friends at the Park

It was 9am on Saturday when Dennis got a call from his friend Greg. "How about we have a picnic at Forest Lodge Park, our two families? The weather forecast is good." Dennis and Greg were buddies, and their wives and kids were friends.

Dennis already had half-formulated plans for the day. He hesitated. "Look, I'll discuss it with Bonnie and call you back." Bonnie wasn't very keen either. She'd had a busy week; preparing a picnic at short notice was a bother. Dennis would have to dash to the supermarket for picnic stuff, then they'd throw it together and bustle the three children into the ute.

But Greg's wife Susan had recently lost her Mum; it would be kind to spend time with them. Bonnie would be a comfort to Sue whose two children were about the age of Bonnie and Dennis's two oldest, six and eight. So after a slightly heated discussion, Dennis phoned back Greg, saying OK.

Now began a scramble. Dennis unloaded gear from the ute and fitted the child-safety harness for Teresa, their toddler. Trent, 8, tried to help but got in the way. Sparks flew. Then Dennis drove to Countdown, stopping for gas on the way. Bonnie decided to cook a quiche. She was anxious about the stuff Dennis was getting and upset with seven year-old Jane who'd lost her sneakers. The weather wasn't looking great either.

Finally they were ready. Bonnie had slightly over-cooked the quiche a little. She'd got the thermos packed, and chucked in apples and bananas. Jane was co-operative but had burnt her fingers helping with the cooking. Teresa was crying as they strapped her into the harness. After they got going, Jane and Trent began bickering in the back seat; Bonnie, herself flustered, had to turn and settle them. The tension remained high all 22 km to the park.

Greg & Susan and family were there already sitting at a vacant picnic table. It was cool and overcast. Bonnie worried if the children had enough clothing. Susan was calmly preparing the lunch and soon had the table all set. Realizing that Bonnie was frazzled, she spoke a few soothing words in her quiet manner. Bonnie quickly brightened up.

Greg and Dennis supervised the kids kicking Trent's soccer ball on the grassy area. "That ball's flat!" yelled Dennis. But Greg had a pump; soon the ball was flying back and forth. Bonnie squealed when an errant shot just missed skittling the picnic table.

The ladies had prepared a lovely spread. "It's ready – come and get it!" Everyone tucked in, no-one starved. The quiche was actually OK, Susan's pies and muffins were prize-winners, hot tea and laughter followed, and Greg forgot his pettiness. Bonnie was smiling too.

When lunch was over, everyone was in high spirits. The wind dropped and the sun was warm. "You guys can clear up", announced Bonnie. She and Susan found a shady patch of grass at the edge of the pines. They sat and Bonnie spoke from the heart. "You've been more of a boost to me, Sue, than the other way round. I'm so glad we came – but I should be consoling you."

Susan also talked candidly, in her soft way, telling of God's comfort at the time of her Mum's death. Greg had been very kind, and it was wonderful to have "friends like you".

Meanwhile, the kids were having a great time playing hidey in the forest; even little Teresa joined in. Watching them, the men were discussing cars of course – and rugby. What else?



## Third Place



Alex Treat  
of Hamilton

## God Within the Gardens

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Jonathan took one more step and the cool grass poked in between his toes. Throwing back his hood and letting the tension fall from his shoulders he drew a deep breath. No more exhaust, no more asphalt, no more responsibilities; just peace. Jonathan leaned his head back and exhaled deeply. His gaze searched the clear night sky and focused on a pin-point of distant light. He forced a smile and whispered, "That's what I'm here for Dad...peace." He lingered a moment; cars and crickets were his only reply. He sighed and the sounds of the city faded away as he ventured deeper into the gardens.

Johnathan glanced to his right and the sight cut his prayer short. Fear's icy finger brushed his heart as he stared into the darkness of a path which lead away from the safety of the street lamps. Jonathan tugged his jumper a little closer to his neck and turned to go down the old brick path. "Get over yourself," he muttered softly. "It's the same path that's here in the day..." He plunged his hands into his pockets and focused on the dimly lit way before him. The thick foliage closed in around him. Jonathan felt his heartbeat rhythmically within his chest. He shook his head and focused. "God, I want to talk, I really do, it's just..." The hair on the back of his neck stood on end and he felt something behind him; like he was being watched. Without losing his stride Johnathan jerked his head around just in time to witness the last of the yellow light disappear from view. No one. He shook the feeling off and picked up his stride *What's wrong with you man.*

Minutes of silence elapsed and with each step, Johnathan could feel fears cold grip tighten. He looked over his shoulder once again. Nothing. "Argh!" he growled and immediately regretted it; even his heavy footfalls felt like a crime in this place. *Stop doing that!* He thought to himself. Yet the feeling he was being watched; it was still there and it was growing stronger. He spotted a small open space ahead and pushing his pace just short of a jog, made his way toward it. Finally, Jonathan emerged from the tunnel-like path and rushed to the center of the lawn. He allowed himself a breath and risked a glance at the star-lit sky. *Why am I so scared! I'm seventeen for goodness sakes!* Suddenly a thought, clear and firm, cut through the fear like a knife. *Because you forget God's not up there, He's right beside you.*

Johnathan lowered his gaze and looked to his right. He couldn't see anything but at that moment he felt courage crash over his heart; fear drowned beneath the waves. He let out a breath he didn't know he was holding. "Thank you, God," he whispered. Jonathan turned to face the dark path once more and cracked a peaceful smile. *He's right beside me.*

## Level Three

### Judge: Julia Martin

**Requirement:** Choose an old style hymn (pre-1900) and re-write it retaining rhyme, rhythm and meaning. Provide a copy of both. (36 lines maximum).

### General Comments

*This was not an easy assignment and I applaud the three members who attempted it. Most hymns written prior to 1900 have words and expressions that are not used in modern times. While the old hymns may have dignity and poetic excellence, their meaning may be lost on the younger generation.*

*It was a matter, therefore, of understanding the meaning of the old hymn and then transforming the lyrics into more contemporary language while still retaining the rhyme and rhythm of the original piece. This meant the number of beats in each line of the hymn must be consistent, otherwise the lyrics will not match the tune and the hymn will be difficult to sing. The rhyming pattern at the end of the lines of each stanza must be consistent as well e.g. abab.*

## First Place



Jean  
Shewan  
of Christchurch

## Psalm 145

### Psalm 145

We would extol thee, ever blessed Lord;  
Thy holy name forever be adored:  
Each day we live to thee our psalm we raise;  
Thou, God and King, art worthy of our praise,  
Great and unsearchable in all your ways.

Age shall to age pass on the endless song,  
Telling the wonders which to thee belong,  
Thy mighty acts with joy and fear relate;  
Laud we thy glory while on thee we wait,  
Glad in the knowledge of your love so great.

Thou, Lord art gracious, merciful to all,  
Nigh to the children when on thee they call;  
Slow unto anger pitiful and kind,  
Thou to compassion ever art inclined;  
We love thee with our heart and strength and mind.

By Nicol Grieve (1868 – 1954)

### Psalm 145 (new version)

We will worship you, ever loving Lord,  
Your holy name will always be adored.  
Each day we live, to you our song we raise,  
You, God and King, are worthy of our praise,  
Great and mysterious in all your ways.

Generations shall learn your endless song,  
Telling the wonders, which to you belong:  
Your mighty acts with joy and awe relate,  
We praise your glory as on you we wait,  
Glad in the knowledge of your love so great.

You, Lord, are gracious, merciful to all,  
Close to your people when on you they call,  
Slow to anger, understanding and kind,  
Caring deeply for your people at all time:  
We love you with our heart and strength and mind.

## Judge's Comments

*Every line in the original version of Grieve's hymn has 10 beats and Jean has managed to keep this consistency except for one line (second to last line in third stanza).*

*Throughout the three stanzas she has maintained the aabbb rhyming pattern by simply using the same word at the end of each line as in the original.*

*By removing old words such as 'thy, thee, and thou' she has modernised the hymn and has made it flow more smoothly. Well done Jean.*

## Second Place



Pamela  
Lowrey  
of Havelock  
North

## This Day You Gave Us, Lord, is Ending

### The Day Thou Gavest, Lord is Ended

The day Thou gavest Lord is ended,  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
'Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

By John Ellerton (1870)

### This day You gave us, Lord is Ending (new version)

This day you gave us, Lord is ending,  
The night descends at Your request;  
To You in the morning, our praises blending,  
Transcending to Your glorious rest.

We thank you that Your Church, is never sleeping,  
While earth moves forward toward the light,  
Through all the world Your watchmen are keeping  
And interceding by day and by night.

On country and coastland and isle each hour,  
Dawn spreads its mantle across the day.  
The sound of prayer continues to power  
All those who give their time to pray.

The sun that has set and brought us our sleeping,  
Now gently wakes the far side of earth,  
As moment by moment new prayers are keeping  
And blessing Your name for all Your worth.

Your Throne, O Lord will last ever more  
While worldly kingdoms crumble and fall  
To You, Your people will come and adore.  
Forever. For always. You rule over all.

## Judge's Comments

*The original version of this hymn has a consistent number of beats in each stanza—9, 8, 9, 8. Pamela has not managed to maintain that consistency and every stanza has a different number of beats. In places this makes it difficult to fit these words to the music.*

*To her credit, Pamela has managed to maintain the meaning in most of the lines and has kept the rhyming pattern a b a b throughout each stanza. She has chosen a difficult hymn and has made a good attempt to modernise it. Well done!*

## Third Place



Pat Kerr  
of Roxburgh

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

### All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful-  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours  
He made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter  
The pleasant summer sun  
The ripe fruits in the garden  
He made them every one.

The purple-headed mountain  
The river running by  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky.

He gave us eyes to see them  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well.

### All Things Bright and Beautiful (new version)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful-  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little plant that shoots up,  
Each little dog that barks-  
He made their leaves and flowers,  
He made their different marks.

The icy blast in winter  
Is followed by the sun-  
The juicy fruity harvest  
Were all made by the Son.

The snow-capped alps and ranges,  
The flowing creeks and streams-  
The bright pink, red and blue skies,  
All paint the changing scenes.

Thank God for sight and senses,  
For speech to tell our mates-  
He's great, Our God Almighty  
Who created our Fate.

Hymn by Cecil Frances Alexander ( 1818 – 1895)

## Judge's Comments

*From this well-known hymn, Pat has chosen four verses to modernise, while leaving the original refrain unaltered. It would have been helpful if she had provided the original verses, but I have sourced them and written them beside her revised versions.*

*Pat has retained the same beats in each stanza—7,6,7,6 which is good, but in attempting to match the rhyming at the end of each line, she has struggled and some are not appropriate—particularly in verses one and four.*

*Thank you for trying this assignment Pat and I appreciate your effort.*

# Competitions for October 2019

Due by September 10<sup>th</sup>

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

**Font:** Arial, 10 pt **Heading:** Bold, 18 pt **Line spacing:** Multiple 1.2

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

**Alignment:** Justified. **Send a photo** of yourself for publishing purposes.

**NB:** If you are not sure what level you're on, email Debbie McDermott at [sddp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sddp@xtra.co.nz)

## **Level One**—for members 16 years old and over

**Requirement:** Write a devotion based on the verse 'Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life' (Proverbs 13:12 NIV). Include a testimony (yours or someone else's) and conclude your devotion with a short prayer. 300 words, including the verse.



*Debbie*

**Email entry to** Debbie McDermott at [sddp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sddp@xtra.co.nz)

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

**Requirement:** 'Unsung heroes'. Write a biography of a person in your community who you believe has contributed much, but with little recognition. This should be suitable for a eulogy page in your local paper if appropriate. 250 words.



*Janice*

**Email entry to** Janice Gillgren at [jangill1359@gmail.com](mailto:jangill1359@gmail.com)

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

**Requirement:** Write a review of a recently produced film or television programme. Your choice need not be Christian but should convey a strong message that challenges the viewer about their life values. (300 words)



*Julia*

**Email entry to** Julia Martin at [pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz)



# NZ CHRISTIAN writers



**EUGENE MOREAU** helps to unlock vision, inspire passion and encourage growth in leaders and executives who are in a time of change and transition. Currently he sits on the Board of Trustees

for Rosetown Community Services Trust, based in Waikato, New Zealand, and is a member of the Executive Team at ZION People, formerly North End Church, in Te Awamutu.

Eugene is a director of a private, boutique consulting firm in Auckland. He has self-published four books and completed thousands of hours in consulting, coaching and public speaking.

Eugene brings a wealth of experience, wisdom and humour to any platform he communicates from.

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