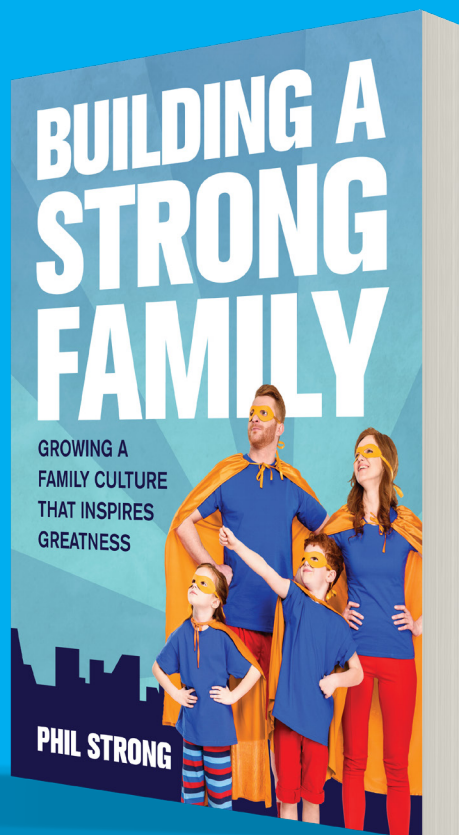


JUNE - JULY 2019

THE CHRISTIAN Writer



BOOK REVIEW

Building a Strong
Family

BY PHIL STRONG

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)



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

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

Website:

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



Welcome to our June – July 2019 edition of The Christian Writer. Inside are seminar insights from our Retreat 2019 where we hosted 27 attendees at Flaxmill Retreat Centre in Whitianga. It was a wonderful time together learning in a group environment and being inspired by our keynote speakers Keith Newman, Angela Curtis, Stephen Shephard, and Jen Gibbs. We also enjoyed watching *Goodbye Christopher Robin* and a couple of other writer-related movies in the evenings. Our church service featured an excellent sermon from George Bryant on 'Why Write?' and Rosie Boom led us in worship. I'm so grateful to all involved for making it such a special time together at our Retreat 2019. One personal highlight was having professional photographer and videographer, Phil Botha, with us to take brand new profile photos for all our attendees. Phil also filmed a fantastic promo video to amplify the online visibility of our community.

In addition, we are thrilled to feature Phil Strong's brand new book, *Building a Strong Family*, just released this June 2019 as our leading book review for this magazine. It's all about growing a family culture that inspires greatness. Phil's first book, *Becoming Money Wise*, is a New Zealand bestseller and has helped thousands of families take control of their money. His new book is an authentic collection of stories the Strong family share with honesty and humour. I'm sure these real life learnings will resonate with many readers throughout New Zealand and around the world.

Our board are enthused by the organic growth we've recently experienced through various marketing initiatives for our collective. Firstly, we've shared our NZ Christian Writers poster with a large number of churches nationwide. Secondly, our promo video has tracked well on social media, thanks to several members who have shared this on their networks via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Thirdly, our best advocates for our collective are always our members. Our board encourage each of you to highly recommend NZ Christian Writers to other writers you may know. To appeal to a wider audience, we've opened our collective to attract all Christian writers throughout New Zealand, whether they are authors, bloggers, editors, lyricists, poets, publishers, songwriters, storytellers and writers.

Thanks to each one of you for being part of New Zealand's leading collective of Christian writers.

Blessings,
Justin St Vincent

Retreat April 2019 at Flaxmill Resort

An Enlightening Experience

Report by Kathryn Drinkwater



Flaxmill Accommodation

I had such a great time at the previous biennial NZ Christian Writers retreat in 2017, there was no doubt in my mind I wanted to attend again this year. I wasn't disappointed. Once again the accommodation, speakers, catering, facilities and location were worth every cent spent. Having everything provided for us meant those attending could relax and enjoy all on offer.

Day #1: Thursday

As part of the Northland NZ Christian Writers group I began my road trip at 8.30am from the Hokianga in the far north, to Maungatapere (near Whangarei) where four of us carpooled the rest of the journey south to the Coromandel, arriving at 5pm.

After settling into our houses and cottages the programme began with a warm welcome from our president, Justin St Vincent. Justin introduced us to Phil Botha who was to be our weekend cameraman, filming for a promotional video and updating our profile photos.

We fellowshiped over a lovely evening meal. It was wonderful to see all the familiar faces from the previous retreat and many new friends to be made. Next began the board game competitions and keen viewers watched the movie, *Goodbye Christopher Robin*, while munching on popcorn.

Day #2: Friday

After a nourishing breakfast we enjoyed a devotional from our current editor for *The Christian Writer*, Debbie McDermott. Debbie's main points were about our journey with God. She shared it's good to travel light and be prepared for the unexpected.

After Debbie, it was time for our first session to begin and Justin invited up Keith Newman. Keith shared from his experience as the published author of several well researched books.

Wrestling with Robust Research

Keith encouraged us to 'get our words out' saying one great way to do it is to join poetry groups. He was inspired by Wyn Fountain.

Here are some of Keith's tips for conducting robust research:

- Avoid rumours.
- Check on and don't fully rely on Wikipedia.

- Beware of opinions without balance and of information on social media unless sourced from experts or verified.
- Be careful of information from press releases without verification and further research.
- Be careful of unnamed sources, quotes or research.



Keith Newman with NZCW
President Justin St Vincent

Once the bulk of the research has been completed, Keith recommended using a timeline to assist with the production of the draft. He explained that using a timeline with dates helps things to make sense and enables us to see the whole picture. It provides a framework and is a little like completing a jigsaw puzzle without knowing exactly what the final picture will be. Content can be shifted around until you begin to see your beginning, middle and end. He said it's good to interview yourself, asking why and how and who will want to read this. Keith reminded us that being confident about our information is important and to only include essential content.

Keith said researching and writing a non-fiction book is about turning uncertainty into creativity. Research brings confidence and is about digging deeper while overcoming threats, fear and self-doubts. He said it's a time to be bold and to tell your story. Don't wait to be asked or prompted. It's a time for restoring trust and creating unity.

After morning tea, Keith launched into his second seminar, entitled:

Rewriting Our History

Keith pointed out we are called to be the voice of truth. As believers we are able to bring the God-thread back in by identifying the spiritual aspects of history. It's about understanding what's already been and looking back for what comes after. Jeremiah 29:11 is a recommended scripture for this. Keith also quoted 'Life is lived forward but understood backward' from Soren Kierkegaard.

Keith was first published by Reid Publishers who later changed to Penguin Publishing. Several of the retreat attendees were blessed to receive a free copy of Keith's book, *Connecting the Clouds*.

Keith has taken 20 years of research to produce the book, *Ratana*. He said one of the benefits of writing for Maori but not having his own tribe means it can't be said he's bringing only one tribe's perspective to the work.

Keith reminded us that New Zealand's history is also *His Story (Jesus Christ's story)* in this country and that history takes time. We are not to waste time asking ourselves, 'Is it okay for me to write a book?' He says just do it.

At the conclusion of Keith's seminar, retreat attendees were allowed time to do just that – retreat and write or simply enjoy some free time before reuniting for lunch in the comfortable dining room.

After lunch our second speaker of the day was Angela Curtis. Her first seminar topic was:



Angela Curtis

ProWritingAid: Take Your Manuscript From Boring to Bedazzle

Angela Curtis has been a past director for Mercy Ships and had on display for us her recently self-published children's book. Angela gave us a helpful and instructive demo of computer software called ProWritingAid. She let us know this can be purchased for use online but there is also a free version available.

She showed us the benefits of using this tool to assist us with our manuscript. I haven't used or seen a demonstration of it before and as a writer and 'editor in training' I found it very interesting. Generally it could help writers with the nitty gritty of raising the standard of a manuscript before sending it to a manuscript assessor, editor or publisher. This would reduce the time required from assessors and editors, thereby reducing our costs for their services.

It also can enhance the likelihood of being read and considered by a publisher compared to someone who hasn't taken the time to get their manuscript to a high standard. For showing up potentially weak areas and for those who find it tedious to proofread and pick up all the tiny errors, a tool like this could be of valuable assistance.

Here are just some of the areas ProWritingAid will assess in your manuscript:

- Optional writing improvements
- Shows passive verbs
- Overuse of certain words
- Shows words which miss the targeted readership audience
- Shows vague or abstract words or sticky sentences which have too many joining words
- Shows if sentences are too long
- Monitors dialogue tags
- Helps with consistency and pacing

We stopped for tea and returned refreshed and ready for Angela's second seminar:

Book Trailer Concept to Completion

What is a Book Trailer? After attending Angela's seminar I raised this question the following week with a group of school students who I was making an author visit to. The response was blank faces. One student bravely suggested it was something like a trailer pulled behind a car with promotional advertising on it. So I explained Angela's concept to the students – you know how if you want to watch a movie, you watch the movie trailer first? (The internal lights went on). A book trailer is a video made about a book to promote the story.

I'm very grateful to Angela Curtis for teaching us about this and I'm kicking myself I'd never thought of it. So allow me to recap her lesson:

How to create a fabulous book trailer? Keep in mind her first point of the seminar – it needs to be as epic to watch as a movie trailer. You can even create a poster like a movie poster. These are great visual aids to promote your book.

Angela shared that the creative process can include; mind map, soundtrack, images, story board, actors, filming, film editing and a budget.

Angela encouraged us to dream big for our budget. This can include crowdfunding. She pointed out it's even possible to crowdfund before writing a book. If we want to, the credits on our book trailer film can acknowledge our supporters.

Angela reminded us that sounds and music can capture people and it's a good idea to test our potential music tracks on people first. Our selection needs to relate to the era of the book's setting. It is possible to find royalty-free music which we can use.

Movies are made using a storyboard and we can locate free storyboard templates online for our use. Regarding an artist, Angela recommends we keep our artistic license and any agreements in writing. She explained that for filming we need to ensure the location has enough room for equipment and zoom distance for the camera.

On location things such as tools, keeping continuity, makeup for actors (all need face powder), lighting and background need to be considered as part of the preparation. We need to ensure there is enough extra time allowed for tidying up afterwards and be mindful of any venue rules. It's a great idea to offer a gift of appreciation to the venue such as free advertising in the credits. Before leaving it's important to check the footage and ensure goals have been met and no mistakes have been made.

For film editing Angela asserted we're not to settle for less than what we want. She let us know that the last word of a text or sentence is what people remember most. She said there are also free movie trailer planners online and we can just drop the content in. The trailer should be no longer than 60 seconds and we need to 'make it pop'. If we want to, we can create our own YouTube channel and add other video features. What we are trying to do is create an experience. When filming we can keep our followers updated on progress. This can build excitement as we share the behind the scenes journey with our supporters.

A book trailer can also be used to announce a book launch. If we boost it on a site such as Facebook it can reach many viewers. Angela allowed us to view her book trailer on the big screen.

The rest of the afternoon was provision for free time and some caught the local ferry across to Whitianga. After another great evening meal the board games finals took place and another movie was screened, following on from the evening before, entitled *Christopher Robin*.

Day #3: Saturday

We again began the day with an excellent breakfast and a devotional from Debbie McDermott. Debbie's devotional reminded us that faith is not about getting what we want when we want it. It's about believing in and sharing God's faithfulness through the trials we experience.

Justin introduced our third speaker of the retreat, and first of the day; Stephen Shephard. Stephen's first seminar was entitled:

Bringing Writing to Life Through Film



Stephen Shephard

Stephen shared one of the reasons he likes to use film is because 'today a lot of people aren't reading and like visual'. He has a background in music, has created videos and recently wrote a screenplay.

His first main point to us is to have a plan. A plan has a beginning and an end. Why do we have a plan? Because God has a plan. Stephen said he has his plan on paper for what he wants to say and a plan for visually communicating it which answers *How do I present this?*

Stephen likes to visit and use relevant places as illustrations or points of interest in his films. However he recommends we don't have to travel far. We can make use of the local images of creation around us.

He helped us understand an ancient literary style called chiasmic communication which is a writing structure seen in the Bible. It demonstrates in Revelation 12, for example, that the central theme of the chapter is the Kingdom of God. The beginning of the chapter moves towards the central theme in the middle of the chapter and the second half of the chapter moves backwards from the last scripture to the middle of the chapter and there you spot the central theme. Stephen encouraged us to give the chiasmic literary technique a go in our own personal writing styles.

We stopped for morning tea and returned for Stephen's second seminar, entitled:

Prophecy throughout Scripture

Stephen showed us his PowerPoint presentation which he called 'Cycles in Time'. It demonstrated what might be described as another form of Bible communication. It provides clues to those who study it, how the people of the day understood significant and timely events, both present and future.

Stephen went in depth, sharing through scripture and biblical timeline patterns an overview which can seriously point to our future and help us understand certain events which have taken place, are taking place and are yet to take place.

It was a great brain-muscle workout as we followed Stephen through his line of reasoning and PowerPoint presentation to help us see and understand what he was wanting to convey. It was information-packed and afterwards I said to someone who had unfortunately missed his session – please don't expect me to repeat all that, you really had to be there!

Next was free writing time which gave us space to digest, process and discuss some of the enlightening information Stephen had shared.

We enjoyed a great lunch and returned to the seminar room refreshed and ready to learn from the next speaker.

The second speaker on Saturday and our final guest speaker for the retreat weekend was Jen Gibbs, author of the book *SHE*. Her first seminar topic was on:

The Vocation of Writing: Insights from my First Book

Some of Jen's points were:

Voc of vocation means calling. Know you're called. Be obedient to the calling. (Gal 6:4-5)

Know the why: To glorify God and love other people. Creating with God. What God calls you to, he enables you to do.

Warp the time. What practical steps will help you optimise your time? Trust and hustle. Trusting God to do his part, hustling to do my part. We can trust God when we take our Sabbath rests and trust him for our daily tasks.

Whether writing or illustrating, doing administration tasks or marketing, we can be creative.

We need to spend as much time on marketing as we do on our writing.

Jen gave us a list of questions to answer for ourselves, they were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. When did I decide to write? | D. What would I like to have written ten years from now? |
| B. Why did I decide to write? | E. What might stop me? |
| C. What would I like to write next? | |

Jen gave us a quote from TD Jakes: 'Bury your fear and expose your talent NOT bury your talent.' She says we are not to fear making ourselves vulnerable. Satan says, 'Who are you to do this?' Then he says, 'You are going to look bad...' Our answer to that is, 'It's not about me – it's for God.'

Following our afternoon tea break, Jen brought her second seminar entitled:

Writing for Children: Insights from my First Collection

Here are some of Jen's points:

Empower the reader (the child). Not getting adults to solve all the problems.

Plot means the storyline of what happens and solving a problem. The beginning and end are similar while everything changes in the middle.

Make sure the beginning is really the point for the beginning. Have a positive ending with things resolved.

The theme is what it's about. Don't preach but entertain. It can have a subtle spiritual or biblical theme. For humour we can use things that happen to adults and stir emotion.

Regarding illustrations Jen said we need to check our format is attractive to booksellers. Using familiar illustrations between books can bring connectivity between the stories for the reader.



Jen Gibbs

From Jen's experience of bookselling she shared the following points:

Check out the selling price of other books similar to yours.

Know your bookstores and provide terms and details of books. Check if the agreement is for a consignment for which you get paid later OR is it an agreement of 'sale or return'?

Let the bookstore know about your other promotions and events.

Keep in mind gift shops usually want only Kiwiana or books with child-appropriate toilet humour. Remember who your purchasers are; both children and their parents need to know about your book and be attracted to it.

After Jen's very informative session, those participating in the Talent Night went off to prepare and practice while the rest of the retreat attendees indulged in some more free time before the evening meal.

The Saturday night talent show was a great success and we were greatly entertained by poetry, live musical performances and acting, both dramatic and humorous. All participants made a great effort. A big thank you to all those who contributed. We also had fun attempting Justin St Vincent's movie-music theme quiz. Once again the evening finished with an optional movie. This time it was *Miss Potter*.

Day #4—Sunday

The last day of our biennial retreat came all too quickly but I was grateful it wasn't over yet.



*Worship Leader
Rosie Boom*

After a lovely breakfast we joined together for a church service with worship led by Rosie Boom. George Bryant shared on *Why Write*. George has been an English teacher and studied Old English, Icelandic, French and Shakespeare. He reminded us words can be powerful, beautiful but dangerous. They can inspire love or hate. They can build up or tear down. We are to be careful with our words as once they are said they can only be forgiven, not forgotten. As followers of Jesus we can be a shining light and spread hope and love through the written word. We need to get Christian writing into the hands of everyone not only Christians.

After the church service and morning tea, we enjoyed an open forum discussion on publishing and writing. This was a great opportunity for people to ask questions and encourage one another. We fellowshiped over our last lunch meal of the retreat and said our farewells.

Northlanders who carpooled home enjoyed reflecting on the retreat experience and speculated on whether Northland had the highest turnout. The challenge is out for the next retreat. Which area group can surpass our numbers? (See photo right).



A big thanks to the retreat organisers. I'm counting down till the next one!

WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian Writing of today and yesteryear-

Series by Frederick Swallow



Notes of Encouragement

The value of penning encouragement is told in Paul's New Testament letters.

Inmates in a Japanese Camp in China during World War II were puzzled how encouraging war news came into their camp.

A Chinese rubbish collector regularly allowed in was in contact with friendly Chinese soldiers outside hiding in a cave holding a secret radio tuned to Radio India. The rubbish collector rolled brief messages from the radio onto a small rice paper pellet and placed these into his nostril. The collector, on re-entering the camp and out of sight, blew his nose the old Chinese way. A Catholic priest discreetly retrieved the pellet and passed the news on.

Olympic Gold Medallist Eric Liddell, who was known for his fine testimony and friendly encouragement, passed into heaven in such a camp just before the war ended.

Editor Passes Baton

By Debbie McDermott

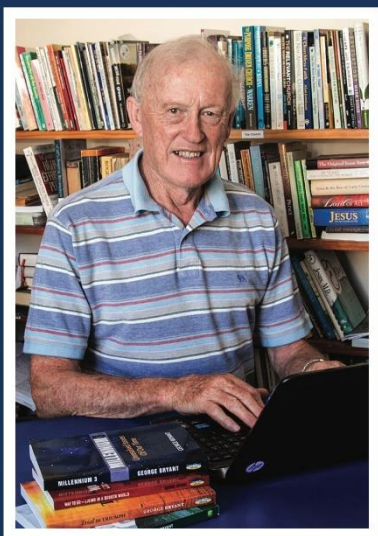
After eight years of being Editor of *The Christian Writer*, it is time to pass on the baton to Kathryn Drinkwater who has successfully completed a probationary period as my Assistant Editor. I hope you will support her as much as you have supported me. She is a qualified and competent writer with fresh ideas and I'm looking forward to the value she will add to our magazine and to the NZ Christian Writers Board.

I will continue to be involved with NZ Christian Writers as a member and Level One competition judge. How could I not? It is because of the teaching I have received via our seminars, competition critiques and writers' groups that I have become the professional writer and editor I am today.

My journey with NZ Christian Writers began at a 2008 workshop led by John and Elizabeth Sherrill—ghost writers of *The Hiding Place* and other biographies. I'd just completed the manuscript to my first novel but soon discovered it was far from print-ready. After eight rewrites and plenty of mentoring in between, *Voyage of the Redeemed* was published in 2010. My second novel, *And the Lion Roared No More*, was published in 2018.

As I look at past magazines, I can see how basic my skills were when I began as editor in 2011, and how much they have improved since then. Rebranding NZCW and *The Christian Writer* was also a great step forward and I've received many compliments on what a good little magazine we have. May Kathryn's expertise take it to even greater heights.

SEMINAR FOR CHRISTIAN WRITERS with GEORGE BRYANT



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George Bryant

Email: bryantgw@xtra.co.nz

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VENUE:

**Mangapapa Church
314 Ormond Road
Mangapapa, Gisborne**

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FREE | ALL WELCOME
Koha donation
welcomed

www.nzchristianwriters.org

The Danger of Procrastination

A story with a twist by Julia Martin

I've been studying the book of 1 Samuel recently and have been touched by the obedience of Hannah. I let my imagination loose and created this version of the story to show how the outcome could have been vastly different for Israel at the time. If we know God wants us to do something and we procrastinate, often with legitimate reasons, there can be consequences and we may miss out on God's blessings.

Hannah was at breaking point. She had no appetite and couldn't stop crying. It got worse every year. Somehow the pilgrimage to Shiloh where the family worshipped and sacrificed to the Lord in the tabernacle brought all her troubles to a head. Though dearly loved by her husband, Elkanah, Hannah was childless and the associated stigma and shame caused her great pain and anxiety.

To make matters worse, Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, had produced many children and she made it her business to taunt and ridicule Hannah.

On the last day in Shiloh, in desperation Hannah slipped away to the temple where she poured out her heart silently to the Lord.

"Oh God," she prayed. "Please remember me. If you will give me a son, I promise to give him back to you for all his days."

Eli, the elderly priest, observed her behaviour and assumed she was drunk.

"Stop making a drunken show of yourself," he scolded. "Sober up and cease drinking."

Hannah explained that she was not drunk but deeply troubled and was pouring out her heart to the Lord. "Go in peace then," Eli replied, "and may God grant your request."

A wave of peace swept over Hannah and she returned home a different person.

A few months later, to her joy and excitement, she was pregnant and when her baby boy arrived, she named him Samuel, saying, 'I asked him of the Lord.'

The next year, Hannah didn't go to Shiloh. "As soon as Samuel is weaned, I will take him and present him to the Lord and he will live there for evermore," she explained.

By his third birthday it was time for Hannah to fulfil her promise. But somehow Samuel seemed so small and vulnerable, so Hannah decided to nurse him for a bit longer to give him a good start in life.

Another year went by and then another. Hannah knew she must keep the promise, but she dreaded the thought of leaving her precious son at the tabernacle with Eli and his sons. It was no place for a small child. There were no home comforts and who would care for him if he was ill or had an accident? She would never forgive herself if anything happened to

him. Everyone knew about the evil deeds of Eli's sons and that Eli failed to restrain them. No, she would wait a little longer until her boy was older and able to look after himself. Once he's mature he'll be ready to cope with life in the tabernacle.

The day finally came when Hannah made the tough decision. The family were setting off for their yearly visit to Shiloh. "This time you won't return with us," she announced to her son. "You will stay on at the tabernacle with Eli and his sons and you will serve the Lord there for the rest of your life."

"You must be joking," Samuel retorted. "Why would I want to do that?"

Hannah explained how she had made a vow that if God granted her a son she would give him back to the Lord.

"That can't happen," shouted Samuel. "What about my friends and my life here in Ramah? Besides, I'm an outdoor person. I can't stand the thought of being cooped up in a temple all day. It's just not going to happen!"

"But Samuel, I promised the Lord and I must not break my promise. I believe God has a special work for you to do."

"Well that's your problem. You made the promise but I didn't. I have my own life to lead and I'm going to do it my own way. I won't be going to Shiloh anymore. The deal is off. Sorry, but that's how it's going to be. Your God will have to get another plan!"

Reminders

Annual Subscriptions for NZCW Members

Due August 1st, 2019.



NZ CHRISTIAN
writers

SPRING

SEMINAR 2019 + AGM

Saturday 14th September

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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 & Returning Members:

Bruce Tong

Tanita Brensell

Gisborne

Sarah Calder

Nelson

Neil Evans

Albany, Auckland

Vivianne Flintoff

Coromandel

Allen Foote

Rotorua

Ossie Fountain

Porirua

Adeline Hill-Wu

Christchurch

Candice Hume

Invercargill

Duncan Leighton

NJ Mauchline

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Hauraki

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Remember to email your NZCW website profile photo and mini bio to Justin (editor@xtrememusic.org)

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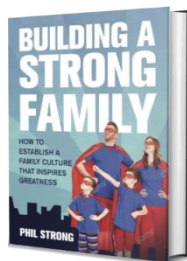
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Featured Book Review



Building a Strong Family

By Phil Strong

Review by Julia Martin

Phil Strong had it all it seemed. He was an ambitious, highly successful businessman with a lovely family; but when his world crumbled, he was left a broken man.

Prompted by a 'seed-thought', he decided to embark on an 'adventure' overseas to rebuild a strong and stable family. While few of us can replicate such a journey, his practical, faith-based advice and wisdom are suitable for families everywhere.

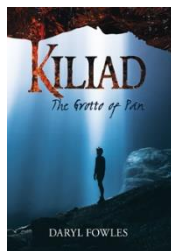
Written ten years later and with hindsight, Phil's book contains family stories and experiences which he uses to show the strategies, principles and core values he and Kathy learned and put into practice with their two children.

Phil outlines five keys – intentionality, diligence, integrity, faithfulness and commitment as the foundation stones for success. At the end of each chapter, he gives a wise summary statement such as: 'Allow your family to learn the consequences of choice'.

Inevitably the journey wasn't all plain sailing, but I commend Phil and his family for their honesty, transparency and humour.

I thoroughly recommend this practical, down-to-earth guidebook. I particularly liked the challenge of his final statement: 'A legacy is more powerful when who you leave behind trumps what you leave behind'.

Second Book Review



Kiliad The Grotto of Pan

By Daryl Fowles

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Castle Publishing Services 2016

This book is a genre I wouldn't normally choose to read, but once I started, I couldn't put it down.

The story is set in post-millennium times after a peaceful period of 1000 years, as depicted in the book of Revelation. Weird things have happened to the cosmos and mankind has had to adapt in order to survive the new conditions.

The basic theme is good versus evil and this is played out in the images of Mars versus Earth and also in the two characters Chen0 (anagram for Enoch) and Mordin (anagram for Nimrod). The evil Mordin claims, 'that if you mixed a little truth with a whole lot of lies, you'd be able to make people believe anything you say. Truth is the topping that coated and hid the nasty stuff underneath.'

The story follows a young leader's search for the truth regarding the mysterious disappearance of his father ten years earlier. A gruesome discovery sets Joshua on a dangerous journey with its twists and turns which threaten to destroy his world.

The author has carefully researched place names, historical references, symbols and foreign languages, and there are parallels with events and characters in the Bible. His descriptive writing and character profiles are excellent. The story has an inconclusive ending which could suggest a sequel to come, a book I will want to read.

Competition Results

Level One

Judge: Debbie McDermott

Requirement: Write a modern chorus or hymn and set it to a familiar tune or piece of music. A repeated refrain or bridge will be counted as one verse. Include details of the music you have chosen for your chorus/hymn with your entry. 4 verses maximum, comprising 4 - 6 lines each.

General Comments

I received two excellent entries to this competition, one from Felicity Logan and the other from new member Jean Crane. Welcome to our collective Jean. I hope you have a long and happy association with New Zealand Christian Writers.

Writing and setting lyrics to someone else's music is seldom as easy as it seems and Felicity and Jean are to be commended for doing such a great job of it. They also provided me with full details of the well-known music they'd chosen for their lyrics, including the sheet music which I greatly appreciated as it helped me see exactly how their songs should be sung.

Due to the quality of each entry, I have decided to award Felicity and Jean First Place Equal and hope their songs will be used often to praise and celebrate our Lord.

NB: For layout purposes, my comments on each entry are directly below and the entries are on the pages following.

Judge's Comments: Jean Crane's Entry

Jean's hymn, based on the theme of the Lord's Prayer, has been set to the familiar tune of Amazing Grace. While there is some slight inconsistency with the number of syllables in the second, third and fourth lines of each verse when read as a poem, this inconsistency is not noticeable when the words are sung to the chosen music. I really enjoyed the simplicity of the words and how each verse begins with 'Our Father'.

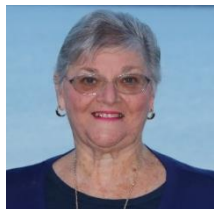
Well done for a great entry Jean. I hope to receive more from you.

Judge's Comments: Felicity Logan's Entry

There is great originality to Felicity's lyrics which she has written in good contemporary language. I was particularly moved by her prayer for our country in the last two lines of verse four. Her syllable count for each verse is consistent with the unusual meter of the music she has set her modern hymn to (8 8 10 8). I did, however, find the third line of verse three a little tricky to sing, but this could have been caused by the upbeat into the next line.

All in all an excellent entry Felicity and I hope you will keep up the good work

First Place Equal



Jean
Crane
of Tauranga

Our Father God

Music Arrangement
By Michael Kravchu

1. Our Fa ther God is how we pray as
2. Our Fa ther God is all a round in
3. Our Fa ther God Your King dom come this
4. Our Fa ther God give us this day pro

1. Ho ly is His Name; We
2. sky and space and hea ven; The
3. is your Sov e reign Re alm; And
4. vis ion of our bread; Par

1. li ve in H im day by day and
2. He re and now is where He's found and
3. ma y Your will on earth be done as
4. do n from what we do and say and

1. in our God re maln.
2. we can breathe Him in.
3. it is done in hea ven.
4. forms of e vil dread.

First Place Equal



Felicity
Logan
of Feilding

Lord be my Shepherd Saviour, Guide

Words by Felicity. Music by Stuart Townsend
(written for his version of Psalm 23)

For the remainder of my days,
I ask you Lord to guide my ways.
Oh let me hear your voice and taste your truth,
See your handwork with ev'ry gaze.

And when on ev'ry side I find
Distraction there for heart and mind
Lord touch my ev'ry urge, each deed and thought,
As I put the old self behind.

Lord be my Shepherd, Saviour, guide,
Lord overcome all stubborn pride.
I need your wisdom, strength, direction and
Feel Your presence here by my side

Deception lurks at ev'ry hand;
May I discern what evil planned.
Oh let my country turn and call on You,
Lord have mercy upon this land.

For the - re main - der of my days I ask you
And when on ev' ry side I find dist - ract - ion
Lord be my Shep - herd, Sa - viour, guide. Lord o - ver -
De - cep - tion lurks at ev' - ry hand; may I di -

Lord to guide my ways. Oh let me hear your voice and
there for heart and mind, Lord touch my ev' - ry urge, each
come all stub - born pride. I need your wis - dom, strength, di -
seem what e - vil planned. Oh let my coun - try turn and

taste your - truth, see your hand - work with ev' - ry gaze.
deed and - thought, as I put the old self be - hind.
rec - tion - and feel your pres - ence here by my side.
call on - you, Lord have mer - cy u - pon this land.

Level Two

Judge: Janice Gillgren

Requirement: Rewrite an eventful portion of the life of a missionary (recent or not) into a newspaper article of 300 – 350 words.

General Comments

Writing an effective article for a newspaper is a different skill than needed for other forms of writing. Sue did this well and I awarded her first place.

Newspaper articles have a unique arrangement likened to an upside-down triangle: a powerful introduction followed by supporting items in lessening priority as it progresses. When telling a story that involves a change across eras, be careful to introduce the change to your readers. Starting with a date or saying 'Back in (what year)' may be all that's needed.

Be careful to keep tenses consistent within sentences. Sentence length is becoming shorter generally, as we are all aware, but there are differences in their use. Newspaper articles don't tend to have the incomplete sentences that are seen more often in punchy fiction writing.

These entries would all be more suitable for a Christian publication than secular, which is fine as I didn't specify either. When writing for a secular publication you need to beware of using 'Christianese'. If my advice seems a bit uncertain in places, this is because newspaper styles are also dependent on the editor, so the best thing is to study the publication you aim to write for.

First Place



Sue
Thatcher
of
Whangaparaoa

Seemingly Undaunted!

April 1940, during the Japanese invasion. A woman, delirious and near death, her coat riddled with bullet holes, was unceremoniously delivered to the American Mission in Hsing-P'ing, western China. Diagnosis—typhoid fever and internal injuries. A full month passed before she was identified as Gladys Aylward, a 38 year old Westerner. Missionary to China.

Sporting a past that amazes and a future that astounds, Gladys, a single woman, felt called to be a Christian missionary to China. Others dismissed her call. Undaunted she departed England for China in 1930, walking alone for a significant portion of the journey to Yuncheng in Shensi.

"If God has called you to China or any other place and you are sure in your own heart, let nothing deter you. Remember, it is God who has called you and it is the same as when he called Moses or Samuel." Gladys Aylward.

While working in an inn she learned the language and taught travellers about the Bible. She became a Chinese citizen in 1936. Her love for the people saw her formally adopt five orphaned children and take in around 95 others!

When war broke out Gladys began spying on the Japanese. Successful in her endeavours, she was such a threat that the Japanese put out a bounty for her capture, dead or alive!

She knew she had to get herself and the children out of the area. Barely escaping the Japanese gunfire, she embarked on another walk. 100 miles with 100 children of all ages, to Sian. Against all odds she succeeded. But at a cost. A bullet wound, 7 degree nights and the 12 day journey took its toll on her fragile body and she succumbed to typhoid fever, unable to help even herself.

Remarkably she survived and continued in her courageous dedication to her call—believing that God had more work for her to do.

Gladys Aylward—a woman who lived undaunted by man, unswervingly serving her Lord..

Judge's Comments

Hi Sue. I have awarded you first place for your entry. Your introductory paragraph is a good lead in to this very inspiring biography. Your title is suitable too, though I think most editors would shorten it to simply 'Undaunted'. The conclusion is also appropriate.

Incomplete sentences are generally not used much in newspapers, so I recommend adding 'It was' to the start of your first sentence. In your second sentence, you begin to talk about Gladys' history, but with no introduction to the change in era. You could start it with 'In (what year)...'. The phrase about her past and future is inspiring, but perhaps too eloquent for a newspaper style. It would probably be better suited for a feature article.

Was it Mandarin Chinese Gladys learned? This would probably be of interest to many readers.

Although I agree with your last phrase, that she was '...unswervingly serving her Lord,' this wouldn't be suitable if you wanted to use it for a secular paper, as some other religions also use the name 'Lord' for their deity. Adding the title 'Jesus' to 'her Lord' removes misunderstanding. I found your article very interesting. Well done.

Second Place



Ruth
Jamieson
of Kawerau

Missionary Recalls God's Goodness

By first appearances he appeared to be an ordinary kiwi bloke, but Graham soon radiated the passion and zeal necessary to endure years of missionary service abroad. The audience at this Easter Convention sat silently as he recounted an incident of his time in Sudan during an uprising.

Only six weeks post-op from open heart surgery, this 79 year old kept us engaged with humour mixed into what, to many, would be a faith shaking moment.

Dragged from their beds in the early hours of the morning, he, his wife and young family, must have wondered what would happen.

Graham, along with two of his male peers, was roughly handled and lined up outside—himself in the middle.

In the course of events, his wife was shot twice in the legs—the children miraculously spared as she shielded them with her body.

Graham joked of the eight murderous eyes looking at them from the darkness—that was the only thing they saw, and the last earthly view for his two colleagues.

The three of them were shot with AK 47 rifles—the doctor after 30 years service, followed by Graham, then the doctor's son.

After several minutes, Graham came to the realization that he was not in heaven's glory but still on planet earth.

He told of lifting his head, only to see and be seen, by one of the executioners who was carrying loot from the doctor's house—a big mistake. Graham said he learnt at this moment to hold his breath for one long minute, pretending to be dead, while the gunman stood over him.

Jokingly, he told of the reflex action of a decapitated chicken that would flap its wings. He thought his assailant may have concluded his head-lifting to be a similar movement and would not have wanted to waste a bullet.

Graham related this near death experience of his younger days to his recent health crises where again he felt close to death. He concluded by testifying to God's goodness and faithfulness.

Judge's Comments

Congratulations, I have awarded you second place. Graham clearly gave an exciting testimony. Your title is appropriate, and your word count is good too.

I did have some difficulty following the sequence of events in your article, as you go back and forth between what Graham said at the meeting, and what happened in Sudan. If you need to change eras in a person's life, try to introduce each change with a phrase to tell the reader where they are now.

*Beware of passive language, which weakens your writing. For example, the first paragraph could be better said: 'Graham looked like an ordinary kiwi bloke, but quickly showed he had the passion and zeal necessary to endure ... abroad. He had recently had open heart surgery, at 79 years old, but he kept our attention with surprising humour as he talked about a frightening incident he experienced during an uprising in Sudan.' Normally, the **subject** is the person or thing doing something, and the **object** is having something done to it. In passive language, the subject has the action happening to it, rather than doing the action.*

Although it is good to keep paragraphs concise, it is also important to group sentences together into a paragraph if they are closely related to the same subject, making sure you have a variety

of length of paragraphs too where you can. These sentences go together: ‘Dragged from their beds...’ then ‘Graham, along with two of his peers,...’ then the next sentence, starting from ‘His wife was shot...’ (‘In the course of events’ is unnecessary).

Your next paragraph or two could be in the form of a quote from Graham on one of three possibilities: those murderous eyes, holding his breath while pretending to be dead, or the joke about the chicken. Direct quotes can be alternated with indirect quotes, such as you have used. (An indirect quote usually starts or ends with ‘he/she said’, but the words are not in speech marks which are used in direct quotes)

Further along, in the 9th paragraph, you write ‘He told of lifting his head’, whereas ‘He lifted his head’ would be simpler and more direct. At the end of this sentence is also a sample of the confusion that passive language can cause, as it appears the big mistake was that the executioner was carrying loot, rather than the fact that Graham lifted his head. Using the active rather than passive voice, this could be rewritten as: ‘Graham made the big mistake of lifting his head just as one of the executioners was carrying loot from the house.’

The article also needs a stronger conclusion, such as; ‘Graham told us of crises in his earlier days too, bringing him close to death.’ Then I suggest you finish with a direct quote from Graham, in which he expresses his gratitude to God.

Third Place



Alex Treat
of Hamilton

The Challenge of the Sawi

What if the greatest barrier to evangelize an unreached cannibalistic tribe wasn't the language but the message itself? This is precisely the dilemma Canadian missionary, Don Richardson, encountered as he ventured among the Sawi tribe located in New Guinea, Indonesia.

After arriving in New Guinea, Don worked gruesome eight to ten hour days immersing himself in the immensely complex Sawi language. Yet as he drew closer to mastery and began to share the gospel a seeming impassable barrier materialized before him; culture. As Don told of Jesus life on earth, his betrayal and his sacrifice on behalf of mankind the Sawi respond by praising, not Jesus, but Judas. Within their culture cunning and deception was valued so highly that “In their eyes, Judas, not Jesus, was the hero of the Gospels, Jesus was just the dupe to be laughed at.” Upon realizing that the only thing that could not be sacrificed, the gospel itself, was what kept these people from salvation, Don gave up hope and made plans to leave the Sawi people. Yet when the Sawi heard of Don's eminent departure the three tribes that had been at war until that time came together and made peace with each other in an effort to convince him to stay. And, amidst this effort, Don discovered what he called a “Redemptive Analogy” that gave him hope that he might be able to reach these depraved people; the concept of “the peace child”. So hateful and embittered were the warring tribes that the only way they managed to achieve peace

between them was to give their very children to their hated enemies. As he witnessed this, Don Richardson wrote: “if a man would actually give his own son to his enemies, that man could be trusted!” Using the redemptive analogy of the peace child, Don preached the gospel of Christ to these people and many understood and were saved. So, though miraculous means, Don Richardson overcame what might be the greatest obstacle a missionary ever had to face and brought the gospel to the Savi people.

Judge’s Comments

Hi Alex. I’ve awarded you third place this time. Your title is good, though is passive. ‘The Savi Challenge’ is more active and thus more engaging.

Your first paragraph is a marvellous introduction to your subject. Unfortunately, despite the rest of your content also being very interesting, you lump it all into one long paragraph. This is a common mistake made by beginner writers and guarantees rejection by all but the most patient of editors. As I have seen previous writing by you, and have not noticed you do this before, I wonder if you didn’t remember to check your work before sending it.

You also have a number of other spelling and punctuation mistakes. Commas are missed; ‘Jesus life on earth’ should have an apostrophe after the s (i.e. Jesus’; or sometimes Jesus’s); ‘the Savi respond by praising’ (should be ‘responded’ here); and ‘was’ should be ‘were’ if your subjects are plural. This is a sample of problems, as it is too difficult to point to them all in one paragraph. You have also not followed format requirements.

The concept of the ‘Redemptive Analogy’ is an important one. It therefore needs to be introduced nearer the beginning of your article, rather than the end, and then explained. This is because of the style of newspaper articles, in which information is introduced as soon as possible. You could also shorten or miss out the part about the tribes making peace to convince Don to stay, even though it is important, as that would leave more room to tell about the central concept. Focus is essential when you have a small word count.

Level Three

Judge: Julia Martin

Requirement: From the Bible, choose a bad character and write their profile explaining why they were bad and how they influenced other people. (250 words)

General Comments

As this was a straightforward assignment, I was hoping for a few more entries. My thanks to the three writers who sent in their Biblical character profiles for judging.

A limited word count (250) requires clear and concise language free of verbosity and irrelevant detail. The ability to do this is the mark of a good writer.

I also looked for an arresting beginning to capture my attention. Writers must work on their opening and closing statements if they want to impact their readers and retain their attention. As we know, the Bible contains a wide range of characters, both good, bad and in between.

It's intriguing to discover that the characters in Scripture are presented 'flaws and all'. Even the more noble characters are presented with their failings and weaknesses, and there is no attempt by God to cover up or 'air brush' their personalities or misdemeanours.

While so-called experts today debate the issues of 'nurture and nature' in attempting to explain good and bad character, it's clear from the inspired Word of God that we all – regardless of past or present circumstances – have a choice how we act and behave and that we are ultimately accountable to God.

The three characters chosen by the entrants were suitable choices, but I did not award a first placing this time as I felt the standard of writing overall was not high enough at this level.

Second Place



Pamela
Lowrey
of Havelock North

Menahem the Monster

Born into the Tribe of Gad during the 7th Century, his parents chose the name Menahem for their son, meaning 'counsellor' and 'comforter' ironically symbolizing the character of the Holy Spirit. Menahem is mentioned briefly in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 15:14-20, but the carnage he perpetrated during his 10 year reign of terror is unbelievable.

Menahem is portrayed as totally self-absorbed, power hungry and exceedingly callous. The new King Shallum had only been in office for one month when Menahem cold bloodedly assassinated him, seized the throne and made himself King.

Then hearing of a rebellion nearby, he sent his strongest men to take back control of the city. When the people refused to accede to his demands he promptly annihilated the entire population of Tappuah including surrounding Tizrah. Hungry for more power and dominance, his cruelty knew no bounds when he slaughtered innocent, vulnerable pregnant women and split their stomachs open!

Menahem deliberately turned the people away from worshipping God into adulating golden calf worship. Then his calculating actions forced Israel into paying an exorbitant annual tax to the more powerful Assyrian King, Tiglath-pileser. This remained in place until after Menahem's death when the new King Hoshea refused to pay this tribute money prompting Assyria to attack taking most of the people captive.

Menahem's **callous**, **cruel** and **calculating** legacy turned what potentially could have been an outstanding reign of 'counsel and comfort' into a living hell for everyone.

References

www.biblegateway.com www.Britannica.com www.en.wikipedia.org

Biblical : 2 Kings 15:14-20.

Judge's Comments

Pamela has chosen an obscure character from among the Israelite kings in the Old Testament. She is commended for consulting websites to gain more information about his character and has listed the references at the end. Her title is a suitable one as Menahem was obviously a wicked ruler and nothing good is said of him.

The two requirements for this competition were to say why the character was bad and how he/she influenced other people. It would seem by the naming of their son, he may have had good parents with high hopes for his life ahead. Something must have gone wrong to turn him into such a ruthless killer, extortionist and idolater, as evidenced by his behaviour.

Suggested changes:

- *Para 1: Too much information in the first sentence. Aim for shorter sentences. No need for capital letter for 'Tribe'.
7th Century. This is obviously BC but must be made clear to retain credibility.*
- *Para 2: Leave out the first sentence for now. Better to show rather than tell.
Your description of Menahem's actions shows what he was like and readers can draw their own conclusions without being told by the writer. Your final sentence draws this all together in an effective conclusion.*
- *Para 3: First sentence – delete 'Then' at the start. Place a comma after 'demands'.*
- *Para 4: First sentence – 'adulating' is the wrong word here. Change to '...turned the people away from worshipping God to golden calf worship'.
Sentence two – spelling mistake 'payng' should be 'paying'.
Commas after 'money' and after 'attack'.*

It's helpful to read your work aloud to locate necessary pauses for punctuation. I don't see the need to highlight the key words 'callous, cruel and calculating' even though this is an effective way of summing up Menahem's character.

I like the way you have linked the final words 'counsel and comfort' with the meaning of his names at the beginning.

A good attempt Pamela but more careful editing would help to eliminate careless mistakes and help your writing flow more smoothly. I look forward to more of your entries.

Third Place Equal



Janet
Fleming
of Kao

Like Father, Like Son'

King Ahab had Omri as his father and we read that Omri did evil in the eyes of the Lord and sinned more than all of those before him. It is stated of Ahab that he did more evil than any before him, which suggests that he was even worse than his father. Not only did Ahab follow

in the ways of his own father but his example led his son Ahaziah into sin. He in turn worshipped Baal just as his father had done.

His wife was Jezebel, and the person we marry can make or break us. Sadly as a result of his marrying Jezebel Ahab turned to the worship of Baal. The influence she had on Ahab is also seen when she orchestrated Naboth's death as Ahab sulked after Naboth refused to sell his inheritance. When Elijah challenged Ahab regarding this matter, Ahab showed no remorse, but instead referred to Elijah, God's servant, as his enemy.

The saddest statement is made of him when the Bible says, there was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols.

What a lesson it is to us to watch our own example to our children. Thankfully though, we can decide that no matter what our background is, our life can be different when we have trusted Christ.

1 Kings 16:25, & 31

1 Kings 21:4, 20, 25 & 26

1 Kings 22:51 – 53

Judge's Comments

Janet's title is a good one as it gives the hint that her chosen character has been influenced by his father who was also a bad man. This inherited wickedness is added to by Ahab's choice of a wife and is then passed on to their son Ahaziah.

I would have liked a more arresting start to the profile to engage my attention. At the end Janet gives a suitable application for readers today from this sad story written many years ago.

Janet's grammar and punctuation are generally good. It's useful to have Bible references for follow up reading.

Suggested changes:

- *Para 1: Comma after 'father' in the third sentence.*
- *Para 2: Change the first sentence and leave out 'and the person we marry can make or break us'. This comment does not fit here even though it is appropriate to add at some point – possibly at the end.*

Comma after 'Jezebel' in the second sentence.

The reference to Elijah is not necessary here as this is adding too much information and is a distraction, especially to those who are not familiar with the story.

- *Para 3: Put quotation marks around 'there was never a man...'*
- *Para 4: Good conclusion and application.*

Third Place Equal



Pat Kerr
of Roxburgh

One Bad Apple'

(Joshua 7)

Achan, as a soldier in Joshua's army, was no stranger to customs, rules and unusual methods of warfare. Achan was part of the overthrow of Jericho. Maybe he was sceptical of the events but he was a witness.

Jericho was destroyed after ritual marching and shofar blowing. The walls fell, the city vanquished, because Joshua obeyed God's intricate instructions with the promise of protection for obedience. Victory was not by might, but by God's spirit and man's obedience.

All living things were to be killed. Only gold, silver, iron and bronze goods were to be brought back for the Lord's treasury.

Achan probably killed as instructed, but he succumbed to temptation when he handled the valuables. He stole some, hiding them in his tent. This was God's property. Stealing put his entire family, and Joshua's army at risk. Because...

...Joshua's next foray into battle, which was conventional and low key, was spectacularly unsuccessful. The soldiers turned cowardly and were killed in retreat. Joshua and his advisors, humiliated, fell prone before God until dusk, fearful and confused. Why was God's hand of protection withdrawn?

Someone disobeyed God's orders.

Process of elimination uncovered the thief, with the goods: Achan.

Punishment was swift and final. Achan and family were cast out of the camp, stoned, their bodies burned and buried under a rock pile.

Achan demonstrated ignorance of God's demand for obedience and omniscience. His sin cost many lives: family and fellow soldiers.

One bad apple spoils many.

Judge's Comments

Pat has chosen an appropriate title and links it again in the final sentence.

Achan is a good choice for this assignment, but I felt she has given too much information about the circumstances and background of the story. With a small word count she needed to focus on the facts that were relevant. The first two paragraphs contain a lot of details that don't necessarily deal with Achan's character. As I said in my general comments, your

opening statement must capture the reader's attention even in a small piece of writing such as this. Here is an example of an alternate opening for this story to illustrate what I mean:

'The moment he spied the plunder in Jericho's ruins, Achan knew he must take some. Despite knowing this was flagrant disobedience to God's instructions, he felt he deserved a reward. And who would know if he sneaked something for himself? How could it affect anyone else?'

This opening shows rather than tells what Achan is like.

Suggested changes:

- *Para 1 & 2: Take out unnecessary details such as, 'Maybe he was sceptical of the events but he was a witness.'*

Replace 'vanquished' with 'destroyed'.

- *Para 4 & 5: Remove 'Because' as a link word.*
- *Para 5: Replace 'prone' with 'prostrate'.*

The next four statements could be together in one paragraph.

Use a dash instead of a colon after 'with the goods – Achan'. Also after 'His sin cost many lives – family and fellow soldiers'.

As I've already said, we must read and re-read our scripts in order to pick up careless mistakes. Practice makes perfect as they say and the more we write the better our efforts should be. Thank you for your regular entries Pat. I look forward to receiving some more.

Notice Board

Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA)

45th Annual Conference

will be in Christchurch 6-8th September 2019

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

Sargeson Prize

new short story competition
sponsored by University of Waikato.

First prize \$5000, Second prize \$1000, Third prize \$500

Visit: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/about/school-of-arts/english/sargeson-prize>
for details on how to enter. Deadline 30th June 2019. No entry fee.

Competitions for August 2019

Due by July 10th

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

Level One—for members 16 years old and over

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.

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



Debbie

Level Two—for members 20 years old and over

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.

Email entry to Janice Gillgren at jangill1359@gmail.com



Janice

Level Three—for members 20 years old and over

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)

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



Julia



NZ CHRISTIAN writers



PHIL STRONG is a successful published author who loves to share insights based on real-life situations and teach principles that are easy to apply. His stories will impact you deeply as you share his journey. His writing style is honest and straight forward.

As you read Phil's writing it is almost as if he is lying on your couch with a cup of coffee chatting and reading his book to you. Phil has written for online magazines, blogs, newspapers, columns and co-authored with other writers. He has been a regular guest on TV shows, radio talk-back, webinars and is often asked to speak at business mentoring meetings. As you read his books you'll be inspired, you'll be challenged, you'll be educated, you'll be provoked and you'll be activated!

Writing on the subject of money, property, business, family, faith and personal success, Phil relates his personal successes and failures in a way that empowers others.

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