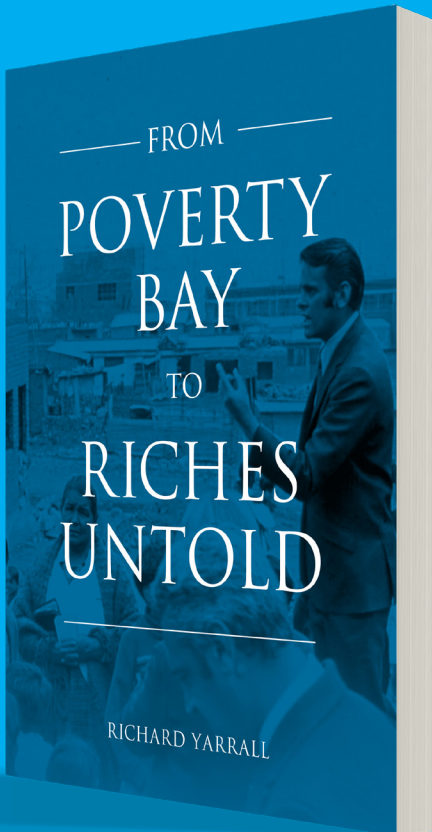


OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

# THE CHRISTIAN Writer



## BOOK REVIEW

From Poverty Bay To  
Riches Untold

BY RICHARD YARRALL

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.

**President:** Justin St. Vincent: [president@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:president@nzchristianwriters.org)

**Editor:** Kathryn Drinkwater: [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org)

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** Debbie Smith

For subscriptions and address changes: [treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org)

### **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 credit or online banking to NZ Christian Writers, a/c 12 3040 0547346 00  
Cheques can be posted to Debbie Smith, Treasurer, NZ Christian Writers, PO Box 34400  
Birkenhead, Auckland 0746

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

Mail a copy of your book to our Book Reviewer, Julia Martin  
286 Karapiro Road, RD4, Cambridge 3496

**The Christian Writer** is our bimonthly magazine published by NZ Christian Writers and distributed to all members. Contributions on the theme of writing are always welcome. If you have some advice, encouragement, or an announcement of some event, of interest to members, do send it to the editor for consideration by the 10th of the month before the next publication date. Submissions should be emailed and 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 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



Welcome to the October–November 2019 edition of *The Christian Writer*. Thank you again for your continued membership of NZ Christian Writers as this helps support our growing collective nationwide. Our featured review for this magazine is Richard Yarrall's book *From Poverty Bay To Riches Untold*. This is the story of God's faithfulness to Richard and Nancye Yarrall as missionaries in Latin America. It is an inspiring true-life story of God's goodness in meeting their needs in their service to him. Copies of the book (\$29.95 + Postage \$5) are available from Richard and Nancye: [richwithnanc@gmail.com](mailto:richwithnanc@gmail.com).

In this edition of our magazine you will also find my President's AGM Report. In this report we share board member updates, highlights from our Retreat 2019, plus three major strategies for 2020. As a board, we are excited to announce that Debbie Smith will be our new Treasurer and Membership Secretary. We also share that we now intend to host our retreats annually. This annual retreat will take the place of the Autumn Seminars and Spring Seminars. Efficiencies in our event strategy will allow our board to be more focused on providing inspirational seminars at world-class retreats. In addition, we will continuously improve our magazine and writing competitions, and develop membership growth that is organic and sustainable.

With this in mind, Retreat 2020 will again take place at Flaxmill Retreat Centre, Whitianga, from Thursday 30th April to Sunday 3rd May 2020. We highly recommend registering early to secure your place. Please note that member writers are always welcome to invite their non-member friends and family to attend our retreat (they are not exclusive events just for members). For Retreat 2020, we have negotiated the best possible price that allows many more members to join us for the retreat experience. All event details are available on the Events page on our website: [www.nzchristianwriters.org/events/](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org/events/).

On a more personal note, our toddler Maxima is now three years old and baby Vivianna will be turning one this October. Sara-Maria and I are learning so much about parenting and the Father heart of God during this season of having a young family. Like a book, parenthood continues to be an adventurous and exciting journey.

I trust you enjoy this new edition of *The Christian Writer*.

Blessings,  
Justin St Vincent



## Notices

### **2020 Changes for NZCW Competitions and Entry Deadline**

Next year we will endeavour to have the printed copy of our magazine out in the post punctually at the beginning of its due month. In order to achieve this, we have changed the NZCW Competition Entry Deadline date to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month prior to magazine publication. Please note there will be mid year and end of year monetary prizes next year for Levels One and Two. This means more opportunities to win!

### **Apologies**

Please accept our apologies for the poor quality of some of the photos in the printed edition of the Aug-Sep magazine.

Also, the correct age for competition entrants is 16 and over, not 20 and over which was incorrectly stated on page 31. Our apologies for any confusion caused.

### **Book Reviews:**

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

### **Free Advertising Offer for NZCW Authors**

Are you keen to have your book advertised in our new free Christmas Shopping 2019 Members' Books Catalogue? We will be collating a list of member's books for sale and sending the catalogue out to all our members in late November. To take advantage of this free opportunity and ensure you don't miss out please send details of your book/s for sale including title, genre, link or email of where it can be purchased and the purchase price. Send to [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org) by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

# Editorial: Distinguished by an Extraordinary Spirit

by Kathryn Drinkwater



I would like to share with you a devotion I prepared for a New Zealand Christian Writers Board meeting earlier this year.

In Daniel 6:3, New American Standard Bible translation, it says, *Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.*

As Christian writers we are not to shy away from the idea of becoming distinguished from others due to the influence of God's Spirit. In the same way that Daniel became distinguished, when we allow the extraordinary Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to express himself through us, we will be the head and not the tail. We can expect to influence and impact the world. This will often cause us to stand out among the crowd.

To be virtuous can be translated as being a force on the earth. Through our writing we have the ability and opportunity to affect millions. Each member can do this in their own special way. We are not to be surprised when God puts us in positions of influence, as he did Daniel. When we and our writing are serving God, God is the biggest supporter of our work. He is our biggest fan. He is our biggest promoter.

Promoting our written work might not come naturally, but we must not hide away as a shy minority. We can lift our heads and be highly effective for God's purposes. As a membership collective we are like a large missions team and can support one another. You are not alone. God is for you and so is NZCW.

As Christians we have the answers our society needs. Recently I read a comment from an international Christian musician who said after his band visited NZ and toured the high schools there was a noticeable drop at that time in the youth suicide rate. As a writer you have the gift to communicate hope to our nation and see a difference being made.

I hope you enjoy reading our October-November issue. When you are finished with your printed copy, if you don't plan to keep it please consider offering it to your local library or adding it to a waiting-room pile of magazines. When you pass on our magazine it's another simple way to share some Christian writing and it allows God an opportunity to reach out to someone.

*You are invited to write letters to the editor at [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org).*

# New Zealand Christian Writers

## 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on September 14th 2019 at 83A Pupuke Road, Northcote, Auckland

**Chairperson:** Janet Fleming chaired, Janice Gillgren took the minutes

**Apologies:** Julia Martin, Beth Walker, Janet Pointon, Jan Pendergrast

**Minutes:** from AGM 2018 read by Janet Fleming

Motioned by: Justin St. Vincent, seconded by: Debbie McDermott

**Financial Report:** read by Caroline Cook

ASB Balance at 31/07/2019 \$4,362.31. 173 members at year's end.

Move that the Financial Report be received

Motioned by: Janet Fleming, seconded by: Justin St. Vincent

**President's Report:** read by Justin St. Vincent

Move that the President's Report be received

Motioned by: Caroline Cook, seconded by: Julie Belding

**Board Update:** Justin St. Vincent thanks treasurer Caroline Cook, and magazine editor Debbie McDermott in his President's Report.

**Election of Board Members:**

**President:** Justin St. Vincent

Nominated by: Janet Fleming, seconded by: Caroline Cook

**Vice President:** Janet Fleming

Nominated by: Justin St. Vincent, seconded by: Debbie McDermott

**Treasurer:** Debbie Smith

Nominated by: Caroline Cook, seconded by: Justin St. Vincent

**Magazine Editor:** Kathryn Drinkwater

Nominated by: Debbie McDermott, seconded by: Cassie Cross

**Book Reviewer:** Julia Martin

Nominated by: Justin St. Vincent, seconded by: Debbie McDermott

**South Island:** Janette Busch

Nominated by: Janet Fleming, seconded by: Julie Belding

Board members to stand as above.

**Close:** AGM with prayer by 12:45pm

# AGM 2019

## President's Report

Kia ora koutou, hello, and welcome to the 36th Annual General Meeting of NZ Christian Writers. Throughout 2019, we have expanded and diversified as a nationwide collective of writers, including authors, bloggers, editors, lyricists, poets, publishers, songwriters, and storytellers throughout New Zealand. Along with our bimonthly magazines and competitions we have worked to improve our seminars and writers retreats to encourage, inspire and upskill people in their writing. Our ongoing vision is to cultivate a vibrant community of Christian writers by connecting them to other like-minded writers in New Zealand. As our current members know, we welcome both beginner and experienced writers. Thank you to you all for your commitment to building our growing community of Christian writers.

Firstly, congratulations to all our members who have published books this year. This is always an amazing achievement for every writer. Your success in having a book published is a testament to your tenacity and ability, effectively communicating thoughts and beliefs through the medium of the written word. As Christian writers, our published works can be spiritual signposts that point people to Jesus. My prayer is that the Lord continues to encourage, inspire and support all of us in our individual writing journeys.

This past year, our board's main priority has been to future-proof NZ Christian Writers. In this regard, we have developed a variety of documents that provide clarity to the roles and responsibilities of those on the Board. These include the various functional roles of Board members, plus guidelines for our Competition Judges and Local Group Leaders. We have also provided a framework for our Board Meetings and election process. Our primary goal is to prepare a way for NZ Christian Writers to function and grow into the future. I am extremely grateful for the content preparation and support in proofreading from Ruth Linton and Janette Busch. They have exhibited incredible diligence in preparing these essential documents.

Special thanks also to our former treasurer and membership secretary, Caroline Cook, who has enabled our organisation to step into the online arena of MailChimp, Stripe, and Xero. Her expertise has enabled us to digitally integrate our membership database, streamlining membership renewals and attracting new members. We are also excited to welcome our new treasurer and membership secretary, Debbie Smith. Debbie brings a wealth of experience in church management accounting from her role at Harbourside Church, Takapuna, Auckland.

Our 2019 Retreat at Flaxmill Retreat Centre in Whitianga, during April 2019, was a highlight for our members. Our retreat speakers, Keith Newman, Angela Curtis, Stephen Shephard and Jen Gibbs, each brought a variety of inspirational seminars. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a special time together. A personal highlight was having a professional photographer and videographer, Phil Botha, taking photos and filming a fantastic promotional video to raise our visibility online. Thanks too to the members who shared this video via their own social media profiles.



We are very grateful for Debbie McDermott as previous editor of our Christian Writer magazine. She has been responsible for providing excellent articles, coordinating contributors, and preparing the magazine for printing for so many years. As announced in our recent magazine, our new editor, Kathryn Drinkwater, has taken over this role. She has a fresh vision for the magazine and is eager to introduce new ideas to serve and bless our members. Special thanks, Debbie, for mentoring Kathryn and enabling her to successfully assume the role of magazine editor. Members will be glad to know Debbie will continue to connect with many of you as she manages the competitions and topics, reference sheets and end-of-year competition results.

As we move into 2020, our board will action three major strategies:

### **1) Provide inspirational seminars at world-class retreats.**

As our collective grows in capacity and membership, we now intend to host our retreats annually. We will aim to keep overall costs down while still providing a top-quality retreat experience adding value to our members.

Our Retreat 2020 will again take place at Flaxmill Retreat Centre, Whitianga, from Thursday 30th April to Sunday 3rd May 2020. We have negotiated the best possible price to enable many more members to join us at the retreat. This annual retreat will take the place of the Autumn and Spring Seminars.

In addition, we will continue to encourage and support local writer groups and seminars throughout New Zealand.

### **2) Continuously improve our magazine and writing competitions.**

We will embrace new ideas for the magazine layout and how it can better serve our membership.

We believe that as many more members regularly enter the competitions they will grow and develop their own writing skills. Our judges provide critiques and coaching to encourage members to pursue their passion for writing with increasing skill. This provides a wonderful opportunity for our judges and other experienced writers to mentor the next generation of writers. Inclusion and mentorship will be our key strategies for attracting younger writers.

### **3) Develop membership growth that is organic and sustainable.**

Various recent marketing initiatives have resulted in pleasing organic growth in our membership. Our NZ Christian Writers poster has been digitally distributed and downloaded by many churches nationwide. These posters share our collective throughout the country and demonstrate how easy it is to join.

Of course the best advocates for our collective will always be our members. The board encourages each member to recommend NZ Christian Writers to other writers they know. There are often people in our local churches and communities who are interested in writing. Please also remember our collective embraces many writing disciplines: book authors, bloggers, editors, poets, publishers, songwriters, storytellers and other writers.

At the local level, I'm extremely grateful for our local group leaders—Sara McGuire in Auckland/Onehunga, Dave Palmer in Christchurch, Jennie Chappell in Hawkes Bay, Geraldine Craw managing a group in Kerikeri, Far North and also a Whangarei, Northland group, Cassie Cross who previously convened a group for Orewa/Whangaparaoa, Rodney Hickman in Palmerston North and Ruth Linton in Tauranga.

Thank you to Dave Palmer for posting the printed copies of our magazine, The Christian Writer. Special thanks is due to our graphic designer, Paul Smith, at Blue Sky Creative who designs our magazine covers, event posters and retreat programme. Thank you also to George Bryant whose writer seminars throughout the country continue to successfully boost membership nationwide.

Finally, a massive thank you to our supportive board members who serve NZ Christian Writers: our Vice-President, Janet Fleming; former Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Caroline Cook; previous Magazine Editor, Debbie McDermott; Book Reviewer, Julia Martin; and South Island Representative Janette Busch. We look forward to being joined by new Magazine Editor, Kathryn Drinkwater, and new Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Debbie Smith, and the contribution they will bring to the team.

My prayer continues to be that every member is encouraged to actively pursue their writing and publishing journey for the greater glory of God's Kingdom. Once again, thank you to every one of you for being part of New Zealand's leading collective of Christian writers.

With Blessings and Gratitude,

Justin St Vincent

President, NZ Christian Writers

September 14th 2019

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***Do we have any cartoonists out there? Please send in a funny cartoon for the magazine!***

H A B A K K U K I N  
A U H S O J E Z R A  
I S U T I T X X J C  
R E T E P J O H N T  
A M O S O O D A A S  
H A M E P B U G H N  
C R L U K E S G U A  
E K I H C A L A M M  
Z Z H A I A S I L O  
N O I T A L E V E R



*Hidden above in the word find are twenty books of the Bible. Can you find them? To make it harder we're not telling you which ones! Check your Bible's contents page if you get stuck. 😊*

# NZCW Spring Seminar 2019

Report by Kathryn Drinkwater

Our Spring Seminar was held at the lovely Northcote residence of our NZCW President, Justin St Vincent. The venue was full with an excellent turn out. Our morning speaker was Dave Firth, editor of *Authentic Men's Magazine*.

Dave spoke about what it means to be an authentic Christian. He said the word 'truth' comes from the word 'aletheia' which means 'nothing hidden'. To be authentic means not hiding an ungodly private life or speaking in half-truths. Dave gave some examples of people from the Bible who demonstrated authenticity. He also spoke about what it can be like to be a sincere and honest friend.

After morning tea Dave spoke on authentic writing. He said a pen is insignificant except for the hand using it. He asked, "What makes you different from other writers?" Dave gave us an overview of some of the famous writers of the Bible and what they achieved despite things like age such as Moses who was over eighty, or a difficult setting such as Paul who was in prison.

Dave reminded us not to get involved in meaningless content as we are warned about in 1 Tim 1:4-7. He pointed out that the apostle Paul did his best writing when he was alone. He also mentioned that sometimes a writer might be asked by God to write something which they don't understand. John was given the words of Revelation and asked to write it down even though he wouldn't have understood everything. In Psalm 22 the crucifixion was foretold and described in writing hundreds of years before that cruel type of death was invented. Dave reminded us if we don't give people Jesus we haven't given them anything.

After a sociable lunch our afternoon speaker was Staci McLean. Staci has published three books and has been to over 50 countries. Her first book is her testimony (see book review Aug-Sep edition of *The Christian Writer*). Staci spoke to us on the topic of writing for maximum impact.

Staci's main points were:

- Understand your purpose by creating a purpose statement. You will be able to refer to this statement as it gives you the big picture. Is your writing an autobiography or testimony? Ask yourself which will have the greatest impact. You don't have to tell everything, only what achieves your purpose.
- Identify your audience. Who will want to read your book and why? What type of book will suit their needs; short or long, simple or challenging? Are you writing for your readers or yourself? What will help them?
- Use stories to convey your purpose and illustrate your message. Stories can paint a picture and share feelings. People connect to feelings.

- Place emphasis on what is important. Less clutter or details can be better. Evaluate your content against your purpose. Remove unnecessary or confusing details. If it's not relatable leave it out.
- Deal well with big or serious issues or leave them out. They are not to be mentioned flippantly. Consider whether they might be better for a separate book.
- Write with heart and honesty. It can be healing to share openly. Use effective language readers can relate to. Share what you felt about what happened and what you learnt from it.
- Be considerate of real people mentioned in your story. Get their written permission if possible. It's best not to use real names of people involved in delicate subjects. (There can be a cost for sharing your perspective about real life events.)

Staci's second session, following afternoon tea, was about writing a book fast. She supplied us with great notes helping it look very achievable. In brief here are her main points:

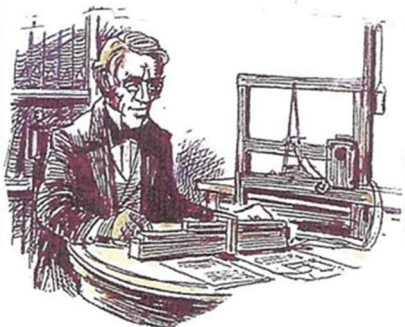
- Establish prayer and purpose.
- Do a 'brain dump' which is brain storming all your ideas and thoughts about your project on paper. You can then sort and organise from this page later.
- Outline your book by outlining the chapters using your brain dump. You can allocate word counts to each chapter which gives you smaller goals to work toward.
- Make a plan and set deadlines. Here you can use a chapter planning page. A good plan and structure before you start writing can save a lot of time. You can estimate separate deadlines for planning, writing, editing, proofreading, formatting, proof copy, print run and book finished. Staci's sample deadline plan covered a total of 6-8 weeks.
- Staci's notes also gave us an example of a book planning check list or 'to do' list. Creating one of these will help you keep up the momentum as you complete tasks. For example while waiting for your book to be printed you can be preparing advertising.
- When you first send your book and cover to the printer you should receive a 'proof' copy. It's essential you check the pages carefully and proofread again, before confirming the printer can print your entire print order of books.

A big thank you to Justin St. Vincent and his family for providing hospitality for our seminar. Also a big thank you to Dave Firth and Staci McLean for giving us their valuable time and sharing from their life and writing experiences. Our next big event will be our New Zealand Christian Writers Retreat April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020. (See poster page five of this edition). Further details will be coming soon!

## WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian Writing of  
today and yesteryear-

Series by Frederick Swallow



### Inspiring Christian Writing in Dots and Dashes

Samuel Morse in May 1844 sent the Bible verse Numbers 23:23, the first message in dots and dashes by wire, 60km from Baltimore to Washington.

— — — — —     . . . . .     — — — — —     . . . . .  
W   H   A   T            H   A   T   H

— — — — —     . . . . .     — — — — —     . . . . .     — — — — —     . . . . .  
G   O   D            W   R   O   U   G   H   T

After 12 years of hard work, he developed a way to make electricity run through a wire causing a metal lever to fall on to paper, marking dots and dashes representing alphabetical letters. So began the Morse code.

Born 1791, Samuel from boyhood learnt Bible truths. A keen Christian he used his wealth for Sunday Schools in America. Morse code served world communication for over 150 years. He joined Heaven's achievers in 1872.

## August Seminar with George Bryant

Report by Caroline Cook

Information and humour flowed freely at George Bryant's seminar in East Auckland on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The topic was 'Writing from a Christian World View'. We covered much more besides that including publishing, networking and what to do with manuscripts in the bottom drawer.

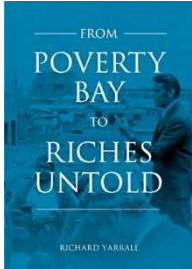
There was a great turnout at the seminar with most of the attendees already being members of our collective. The morning tea break afforded us the opportunity to look at each other's books on display and also to meet and chat to one another. It was a great way to encourage and support other writers.



*George Bryant (left) with seminar  
attendees*

The morning disappeared very quickly and before we knew it, we were heading off home, enriched from the experience and equipped with some nuggets of wisdom to apply to our writing in time to come.

## Featured Book Review



### **From Poverty Bay to Riches Untold**

By Richard Yarrall

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Castle Publishing Services 2019

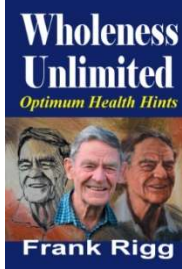
Growing up in Gisborne in a loving Christian family, Richard had a great start in life. In his autobiography he tells of his childhood, schooling, teacher training, military service and Bible College study – all preparation for missionary service for which he felt God was calling him.

In 1970, as newly-weds, Richard and Nancye sailed to Colombia – a country steeped in Catholicism and known for its crime and corruption. The first years were spent learning Spanish, adjusting to the culture, and serving alongside fellow missionaries. In great detail, Richard tells of the challenges, disappointments and triumphs during their 14 years of service in Colombia, followed by a further 24 years working among the mixed Latino population of Los Angeles.

Now based in Tauranga, the Yarralls continue to serve God locally, and thanks to social media, they are still able to counsel and encourage people in Latin America.

This book will appeal to those who are mission-minded. I also believe this captivating story will inspire others to hear God's call and to step out in faith and obedience. As Richard concludes: 'I still marvel that He called me, an ordinary boy from the small town of Gisborne in Poverty Bay, to a wide ministry in Latin America. The key is availability. What if I had not obeyed?'

## Second Book Review



### **Wholeness Unlimited**

Optimum Health Hints

By Frank Rigg

Review by Kathryn Drinkwater

Published by Frank Rigg 2017

Foreword by George Bryant

Frank Rigg pastored in New Zealand for 34 years and lives in Hibiscus Coast with his wife, Gwen. His heart for this book is to bring renewed hope to those who are struggling. He desires the Church to lead society into God's wholeness.

Frank teaches that health and healing isn't just one-dimensional. He identifies and addresses other dimensions of a person which must not be neglected if we want to receive whole and complete healing.

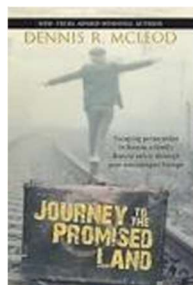
Are you being robbed of a healthy life? Has your health been sabotaged? Frank teaches us how to bring balance back to our triune nature. He encourages us not to settle for less than what God desires for us. We can be determined to find out, with God's help, what the root cause is of a sickness or complaint.

He warns us of the dangers of spirituality not rooted in Biblical revelation. He encourages us to be aware of the responsibility we have to be good stewards of our bodies.

Frank is now in his healthy nineties and this book brings an opportunity for readers to glean gems from his lifetime of learning and his years of experience compassionately praying for and helping others.



## Third Book Review



### Journey to the Promised Land

By Dennis R. McLeod

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Wild Side Publishing 2019

A great deal has been written about the horrors Jewish people faced during WWII, but less is known about their fate during the aftermath of the war. Displaced and unable to return to their homelands, thousands of Jews faced ongoing persecution, anti-Semitism, and uncertainty as to their future.

Based on true accounts of Jewish survivors who lived through these perilous times, and his own research and close connections with Israel, the author has woven together a fictitious but powerful historical novel.

The story is told from the perspective of a young Jewish boy named Simon, who, along with his Christian parents, leaves Russia to escape persecution under Stalin. Their arduous journey takes them through Poland, Germany, France and on to England.

Providentially, they meet characters on the way who have their own stories to tell, and although some incidents and reunions are contrived, we can learn a great deal about modern Jewish history. Simon and his wife later move to Israel where they encounter the culture and historical places of their homeland, but their welfare is constantly threatened by grave dangers and regular attacks from surrounding enemy nations.

These are events that need to be known and I recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Jewish history.

## Mini Book Reviews



### It's Time To Go!

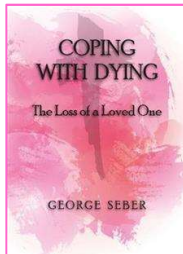
By Carol Duffy

Review by Julia Martin

Published by The Copy Press, Nelson. 2019

Retired teacher, Carol Duffy, has written this delightful children's book for 5 to 8 year-olds featuring a variety of our native birds escaping from an erupting volcano. It's not only fun to read aloud with its rhyme and repetition, but it's also educational.

It shows the work of DOC in rescuing endangered birds and taking them to predator-free sanctuaries around our country (map and details included). The book is beautifully illustrated by 14 year-old Bailey O'Malley of Nelson.



### Coping With Dying

The Loss of a Loved One

By George Seber

Review by Julia Martin

Published by DayStar Books Ltd 2019

The subject of death may not be popular, but it cannot be ignored.

In this helpful little booklet, the author, an experienced counsellor, outlines many aspects of the end-of-life process; not only for the person dying, but also for caregivers and those left behind.

He covers practical matters such as will making, funeral arrangements and hospice care; along with the more difficult issues such as suicide and sudden death, dementia, the stages of grieving, children's grief and the death of young ones.

# New Audiobook Opportunity

Article by Janet Curle

## **Wild Side Publishing has expanded their services to include the recording and distribution of audiobooks worldwide.**

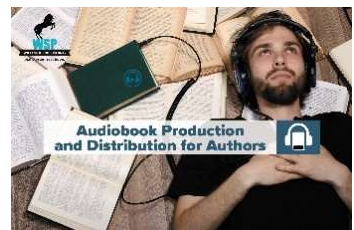
- The Good e-Reader Global Audiobook Report for 2019 was published recently and it shows some fascinating information:
- Audiobooks continue to be the fastest growing segment in digital publishing
- Listeners are finding that most of the new books that come out are getting the audio treatment and publishers are redoubling their efforts for their backlist by notable authors.
- Audiobooks are nostalgic and bring back the memories of being read to when you were a kid.

Ray and Janet Curle of Wild Side Publishing stumbled across the world of audiobooks when a professional narrator, Ian Miller, dropped in to see them about a book he had just written. They discovered he had a small studio in his home at Paparoa, only 15 minutes from where they lived in Ruawai.

To cut a long story short, Ian has now narrated and recorded several WSP books and Janet has done the same for female authors. Once proofed and edited, the files are sent to Audiobooks NZ in Auckland who check the quality, then upload the books, chapter by chapter, to over 32 international audiobook selling websites around the world. Over 170 countries have access to these sites.

The cost to record and distribute a book of say 20,000 words is \$1265 (inc GST) and for a 50,000 words book \$1995 (inc GST). This is about half the price to record in an Auckland studio. Audiobooks NZ set the RP (less than a print book) and pay out the authors a royalty of 65%. The following authors have their book recorded or are in production:

- Neven MacEwan – When the Crowd Stops Roaring
- Richard Brunton – The Awesome Power of Blessing
- Chontae Taingahue – I Cancel You
- Dick Tripp – The Hero of Nithdale Station
- Neville de Villiers – Doumar and the Doctor
- Bernadette Soares – Outrageous Living
- Tuhoe 'Bruno' Isaac – True Red
- Ingrid Coles – Two Slices of Bread



Ray says they are happy to arrange for audiobooks to be produced for authors that WSP haven't published in print and will quote each book separately. The cost varies on word count which dictates the studio recording time.

More information is available at: [www.wildsidepublishing.com/audiobooks.html](http://www.wildsidepublishing.com/audiobooks.html)



# Writers Groups

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If you are interested in joining a local group, please contact the group leader for details. If you are keen to start a new group, please contact Justin at [president@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:president@nzchristianwriters.org)

# WELCOME

## New and Returning Members:

**Miriam Leah**

**Adomea**

Northland

**Keith Aitken**

Dunedin

**Carol Chessum**

Rangiora

**Shirley Crump**

East Auckland

**Pam Davies**

Oxford

**Robert Densem**

Auckland

**Emily Faso**

Christchurch

**Carolyn Geddes**

Waipu

**Jennifer Gibbs**

Auckland

**Justin Jones**

Christchurch

**Perise Iupeli**

Porirua

**Neven MacEwan**

Palmerston North

**Susan Maiava**

Auckland

**Nigel Mander**

Upper Hutt

**Christal Nair**

Auckland

**Michael**

**Richardson**

Melbourne

**Suguna**

**Sandepudi**

Auckland

**Esther Scarlet**

Mangakino

**Jennifer**

**Somervell**

Oxford

**Rick Stokes**

Wakefield

**Bineeta Strid**

Auckland

**Yolanda Tuheava**

Auckland

**Josephine Van**

**Den Berg**

Otaki

**Jennifer Woods**

Auckland

**Pauline**

Nelson

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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## Madwords and Englishmen

Don't ever dare to say you've got the English language sussed,  
for English can be crazy, mixed-up, maybe even cussed.

To learn it is hard work, you see, and smarter souls than me  
have tried to fight it. Some have died, some lost their sanity.

We think that French is funny for its nouns aren't gender-free,  
but male or female. With a chair, how silly can they be?

Don't they know better? I can't see two tables holding hands.

There must be other tongues with nonsense in at least some lands.

But sadly, inconsistent English almost is the norm,  
and words like thorough, through and though could do with much reform.

Some words like worm and germ might sound as though they 'fit the bill.'

Huh! Truly, half-baked English causes some to take a pill.

This calms them from its weird effects before they're nervous wrecks.

Or else its complications could make people break their necks,  
from sliding wildly downhill while they get it in their heads.

Do you know wacky English drives some people to their beds?

They pull a cover over them and mutter to themselves,  
turn pages of their textbooks, start to sound like hyper elves.

They pile books on their book-cases – no, some folk call them shelves,  
then enter psychiatric rooms, vent pent-up safety valves.

We English speakers don't do things by halves. Take horse and worse,  
reverse, rehearse, then add a purse ... enough to need a hearse.

How do we ever learn to say it, spell it, read it, think it? Honestly, I tell you some find English pretty stink.

Now how can 'stink' be 'pretty'? Shouldn't pretty spell like kitty?

And pity should be pitty, look the same as witty ditty.  
Whoever did invent such words sure didn't use a book

of rules, or even guidelines, like good chefs do when they cook.

They just tossed letters willy-nilly in a great big pot.  
They stirred a lot, increased the heat, but then they all forgot

the recipe, got in a stew, grew hot and lost the plot.  
So English came out wonky – and no-one can say it's not.

But English has some virtues, though they may be hard to find.

Some people do big crosswords, and they say it helps their mind

to slow down just a little bit. That way they may unwind,  
and let the breeze blow cobwebs out until their mind's aligned.

So really it's all up to us, how far we go with it.

We can be silly, serious, sad, use a bit of wit,  
or we could end up driven far away, quite round the bend.

Right now I think it's time my crazy rhyme came to an end.

by Beth Walker

# Competition Information – Be In To Win!

This magazine edition contains a copy of next year's Competitions Topics Reference Sheet. Please save it so at any time during 2020 you can write an entry. Do note the change to next year's entry deadline and be aware that the judges' email addresses have been updated on page 31.

Welcome to New Student Members! Several students have joined NZCW. At present we don't have a competition running for members under sixteen but the NZ Christian Writers Board are discussing options to get something going for you. We'll keep you updated! Student members are welcome to send an original poem or artwork with name and age for use as a filler in one of our future issues. Please email to: [editor@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:editor@nzchristianwriters.org).

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 2019 contestants' points will be added up and prizes for first, second and third overall will 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: Entering, format and layout 15%, Topic requirements 25%, Creativity, flow and impact 25%, Grammar and punctuation 25%, Spelling 10%.

Below is our points leader board as at Oct-Nov 2019. There's one more competition to go before the end of year prizes will be awarded. Check out December's topics on page 31 of the magazine and send in your entry. All effort brings profit in some form. *Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (Amplified Bible).*

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Kathryn Drinkwater	45	Sue Thatcher	69	Pamela Lowery	42
Felicity Logan	27	Alex Treat	45	Jean Shewan	39
Allison Wilson	21	Ruth Jamieson	21	Pat Kerr	27
Christine Platt	15	Susan Flanagan	15	Keith Willis	27
Jean Crane	15	Eion Field	12	Janet Fleming	21
Adeline Hill	12	Pauline Marshall	9	John Lindsay	15
Sarah Bedwell	9				
Sara McGuire	9				
Taryn Dryfhout	9				
Allen Foote	9				

# Competition Results

## Level One

**Judge: Debbie McDermott**

**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.

### General Comments

*Congratulations to the ten people who entered this competition. Each of you presented me with a well-written devotion that clearly testifies to what Proverbs 13:12 means to you. While it was pleasing to receive so many good entries, it made my job of choosing the winners difficult.*

*After much re-reading and comparing of entries, I awarded Christine Platt First Place, Felicity Logan Second Place, and Allison Wilson and Allen Foote Third Place Equal. Also worthy of mention are Adeline Hill, Kathryn Drinkwater, Sara McGuire, Jean Crane and Jennifer Woods for their highly commendable entries, and Corrine Sinclair for her commendable rendition of a well-known Bible story and heart-wrenching prayer for lonely, angry, sick, homeless, misunderstood, suicidal and desperate people. Well done to you all.*

*With regard to Christine Platt's winning entry, please note that the Douay-Rheims Bible refers to Hannah in 1 Samuel as Anna. I therefore accept this version of Hannah's name as correct.*

*The criteria I used to decide on the top three winners are as follows:*

- How relevant is their devotion to the issues many of us face today?*
- Does their devotion challenge the reader in any way and is it thought provoking?*
- Does their devotion contain any analogies or word pictures the reader can relate to?*
- How effective is their concluding prayer and takeaway message?*

*Errors which impacted the marks of some entrants include the following:*

#### 1. **Word Count**

*It is important to ensure the word count of the main content is within 5% to 10% of the set word limit for the competition. This means titles and footnotes or bibliographies should not be included in the word count unless the competition requirements stipulate otherwise.*

#### 2. **Mixed Tenses**

*Using mixed tenses in a sentence or paragraph can either mislead or irritate the reader. The following sentences from one entry are a key example: '...once we have received what we desire, our whole attitude changes. We brightened up and become energised and exhilarated.' It should be written as: '...once we receive what we desire... We brighten up...'*

#### 3. **Punctuation and Sentence Structure**

*In some entries, commas have been used to break up sentences instead of full stops. Speech marks and commas are also in the wrong place in a couple of instances. To identify punctuation errors, take the time to read your work aloud or have it read to you.*

## First Place



Christine  
Platt  
of Whangaparaoa

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life (Proverbs 13:12).**

---

“Give me children or I’ll die!” Rachel flung these angry words at Jacob when she saw that her sister was having children and she was not (Gen. 30:1). Her heart became sick and envious.

That made me wonder. Does hope deferred always make the heart sick? Can we carry on trusting when there is no visible evidence on which to pin our dreams?

In 1 Samuel chapter 1 Anna shows us a better way. She was desperately sad but she clung on to her faith in God, believing that he would answer. The longings of both these women were fulfilled. Rachel gave birth to Joseph and Anna to Samuel.

Did these miraculous births become a tree of life for them both? Did these baby sons strengthen their faith and overflow into fruitfulness? Anna’s response was a prayer of praise and joy (1 Sam. 2). Rachel said: “God has taken away my disgrace ... May the Lord add to me another son” (Gen. 30:23). Anna’s thankfulness erupted in praise. Rachel wanted more. She sounded quite cross with God for the disgrace she had suffered and was not content with his answer.

Disappointment is a natural response when our dreams lie dormant with seemingly no spark of life. I endured a huge set back in my life plans and I, too, was cross with God. Eventually I got over my tantrum and submitted to his plans and timing. As a result I experienced God’s grace in a deeper way than ever before. I would have missed that had I remained resentful.

Gracious God, I choose to trust you with the longings of my heart and that you will answer at the right time in the best way.

## Second Place



Felicity  
Logan  
of Feilding

**Sweet Satisfaction**

---

In supermarkets I depend on my list. At home, lists are my specialty. They tabulate my hopes and fulfilments. I ceremoniously cross off items accomplished.

Surely God is interested in the details of our lives—our lists. In Proverbs 13:12, Solomon (who had everything) nevertheless acknowledged: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life” [NIV]. Verse 19 says how sweet satisfaction is to the soul. Imagine Abraham and Sarah’s long wait for Isaac’s birth; old Simeon’s wait to bless baby Jesus, the promised “salvation”.

At age 48 I hankered after an overseas trip. At church one Sunday we prayed for two couples’ safe travel overseas. After the service I chatted with a new congregation member. He said he was about to leave for Australia.

“Have you been before?” I asked.

“Oh sure, I go every two years.”

Tears welling, I hissed in my husband’s ear: “Car keys please! If anybody else mentions overseas holidays you will find me waiting outside!”

Soon after, AMP insurance company floated shares and all policy-holders got some free! We sold our shares and headed for Europe. How wonderful that a large company’s decision fulfilled my hope! Sweetness to the soul indeed.

Earlier, my parents’ business had prospered amazingly while many others slumped. Then during 2004-2014 my husband and I faced relocation, family issues, cancer and redundancy, becoming seniors unlikely to meet our mortgage. But my father’s God-blessed legacy, prepared decades previously, was a Trust freeing his offspring from debt. Now we’re mortgage-free in a modern home, but not by our own efforts.

**Father God**, we hand you our private hopes: to be fulfilled in your time, not ours. Please mould those hopes, encourage us during the wait, and accept our gratitude for every resolution. Amen!

## Third Place Equal



Allison  
Wilson  
of Gisborne

## A PATCHWORK HEART

Our journey through life is a montage of various experiences; much like the intricate square patterns stitched into a patchwork quilt. Every fragmented square is another deep yearning of our heart – made vulnerable through desiring its precious fulfilment.

Sometimes our patches snag and becomes ripped apart! Disheartened, we lift our shattered dreams up to the great Craft Master, praying that all isn't lost.

Seeing our ruined patch, God gives us a needle with thread of pure gold. Restoring our sight, we now see an exquisite quilt spread before us with previous answered dreams woven in.

In various areas, alterations are inlaid with ribbons of silver and the finest of lace. These too started off as dreams ripped to shreds. These were areas of growth. Pricking our fingers as we wove in the past; we learnt patience, perseverance, faith and hope.

For me, one of these patches depicted a longing of salvation for a hard-hearted woman in my life. For years I'd tried to convince her to walk a new path. Yet day by day, she drifted further from the light. Her ailing health and age was a constant source of anxiety for me. Deeply grieved, I took my stressful burden and handed it all over to the Lord. I was done.

After a year, my heart leapt for joy when this woman turned up to church. Although it has only been three times so far, I can see a budding change of heart. Through this experience, the Lord was building faith up in me.

*Heavenly Father, the bible states, 'Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.' Our deepest yearnings are precious to you, so please guide us towards wholeness and sculpt our characters as required. Thank you for your wisdom. Amen.*

## Third Place Equal



Allen  
Foote  
of Rotorua

## Hope Renewed

How deep is the love of God for us. Yet how often that love and the hope it engenders, is eclipsed by our problems and trials. We get all stewed up and miss the blessings He offers.

That's what happened to me, early one morning, when I set out on my exercise walk. I was distraught with stress and disheartened. I reached the top of a hill ready to walk down to a bridge over a stream that often had trout swimming there.

Then somehow, through my gloom He reached my heart. A longing for His touch penetrated my thoughts. "Lord," I pleaded, "please give me a sign of Your love. Could you put a fish in the stream for me? I walked to the bridge and looked down, but there was no fish!

A bit despondent, I walked on into a park. The stream flowed through it, so I kept looking into the water to see if He still might have a blessing for me. Again and again I looked as I walked along. Then, where the stream finally flowed away from the path I looked and there were *three* fish. "Oh, thank you, Lord, I exclaimed! Father, Son and Holy Spirit!" Truly a blessing of Divine proportions. I walked with renewed hope, deeply moved by that Presence, my step lighter, my faith renewed.

I certainly proved Solomon's wisdom that, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12

Father, help us to hold fast our confidence in You, to remember that You are there all the time, especially when we are surrounded by life's challenges. Thank You for Your grace and peace, the source of our spiritual wellbeing, our eternal hope, our tree of life. Amen.

## Level Two

### Judge: Janice Gillgren

**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.

#### General Comments

*Congratulations to Sue Thatcher for winning first place, and Alex for earning second.*

*I had only these two entries this time, for which I have written personal critiques to each author. I will summarise points for these general comments.*

*As the requirements for this article included being suitable for newspapers, I have judged according to non-fiction rules.*

*I am well aware that rules of grammar are not static items but guides on how to best use language to relate ideas. Sometimes we eagerly embrace change, but most times we resist it. My own compromise with the constantly ever-changing nature of grammar is to use mostly old and familiar rules, and start using new ones as they become better known. This way, you should be understood by most of your readers, most of the time!*

*Tenses: consistency avoids confusion. Word ends and verbs are the primary ways in which we indicate the tense we mean. Is, was and will be are the most common variants of the verb 'to be', but there are many others. A grammar book will help, as will reading your work aloud to listen for changes. Be particularly careful not to change back and forth between tenses.*

*Paragraphs: The days of page-long sentences(!) or paragraphs are well past us, and a sentence of more than 25 words is often considered too long today. If there are only 3 or 4 sentences per paragraph (also commonly advised), that means about 100 words at most. They shouldn't all be the same length either, we are told, because that becomes boring.*

*Single or double quote (speech) marks: which are best? International variation of writing styles makes it harder to determine what is right for us in NZ. Whether double or single speech marks (and other grammar rules) depends mostly today on who you are writing for, so it is best to read guidelines if you are unsure of a specific publisher's style. However, in NZ anyway, it is currently more common to use double quote marks for direct quotes, and single quote marks when want to emphasise something particularly, or to write a quote within a quote. (For example: "John told me: 'I can't do that!' when I asked him to..."). Most importantly, be consistent. If an editor wants to change them around, that can be easily done.*

*Clichés. Any common saying which you've seen around for a while is probably well on the way to becoming cliché, if not already. Try to be original.*



*Incomplete sentences – Incomplete sentences (or fragments) are missing the action (the verb). No-one is doing anything, nothing is happening, they don't make sense without nearby sentences for context. Are they okay?*

*This is one way in which writing differs from speaking. People commonly speak in sentence fragments. Ask someone where something is, and they may just nod in a direction and say, "Over there." In the context of the question and the nod, the fragment makes sense, but on its own, it is meaningless.*

*Incomplete sentences are far more acceptable in fiction because it seeks to be more realistic, and uses far more dialogue. However, in non-fiction, clarity is the primary goal, so use incomplete sentences sparingly. If you are interviewing a person who speaks in sentence fragments a lot, use a few in direct quotes and summarise the rest in indirect quotes.*

*A sensible guideline is to limit your use of incomplete sentences mostly to direct quotes, and perhaps a few elsewhere.*

*Finally, beware of using language that doesn't convey much information overall. The sentences may be properly composed, and the vocabulary at a good standard, but what does it mean? How will it help me understand the person you are writing about?*

*You can make your writing more meaningful by using strong verbs rather than weak, and avoiding passive language, but start with asking yourself what you really want to say.*

*Communication involves both ideas and action. Readers and listeners want both.*

## First Place



Sue  
Thatcher  
of  
Whangaparaoa

## Foster Mum Extraordinaire!

Sally Collings is a foster carer who, on short notice, provides refuge for vulnerable babies. It's her passion, her "happy place". Fifty-five babies over fifteen years.

Born drug addicted, physically abused and/or premature. Some stay four hours, some two plus years, most around nine months before being placed in permanent care.

She believes God has called and enabled her in this ministry. Unpaid, she and her supportive husband keep giving.

Sally has become proficient in dosing fragile babies with morphine—monitoring them as they 'come down' from drug addictions enforced on them during pregnancy. She nurses sometimes horrific wounds and disabilities inflicted on the babies.

Most of all, best of all, she loves them. Each one. She gives of herself fully to each one. They are given a place to belong, a home.

Eventually and unpredictably that distressing “goodbye” moment always arrives. “A broken heart is the greatest risk in this work—and it always happens. Each baby, each time. But I continue to give myself fully to each one—they deserve it!”

When asked to identify the greatest lesson she’s learned through this work she says, “A greater understanding of God’s heart and his love both for the babies he gives me and his overwhelming love for me personally.”

Sally never asks for thanks in this work. Her focus is always on the babies. Their needs, their potential. Therefore she remains an unsung hero. Someone who deserves our thanks for selflessly giving to those too vulnerable to help themselves.

## Second Place



Alex Treat  
of Hamilton

## Unsung Hero

Matthew Graham; a marvelous mind in a malnourished age. A man in whom true intellect and perfect love combine to embody the essence of wisdom. Born in a Christian home, and like many during college, he began to doubt the faith. But unlike many, Matt's doubts were a force to be reckoned with. The battle within his mind was one fiercer than most of us will ever experience or could even imagine. Yet, despite the struggle, Matt emerged from the fire; his faith reborn and ironclad. He refused to sacrifice his intellectual honesty on the altar of ignorance and risked losing it all for the sake of truth. But his story doesn't stop there. He then took upon himself his calling and embarked upon yet another journey. No longer seeking the destination, he began to search for the traveler. To seek out those who journey upon reasons harsh and perilous path as he once had. For those who sought the truth but feared they should never find it. For this reason, Matt is a man the world is blessed to know. For not only did he fight for truth with valor and integrity but, upon emerging victorious, he did not treat truth as a reward for him to hoard. Rather, he took up his sword once more and choose to give up his life to save those who would become his friends. There is no greater love.

## Level Three

### Judge: Julia Martin

**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)

## General Comments

*The purpose of a film or television programme review is to inform the readers of its content and to give them your personal opinion and recommendations so they can decide if it's something they would choose to see for themselves. The review needs to be written in a cohesive, logical and interesting manner.*

*Some general guidelines for writing a film review.*

- 1. Start with the title, date, director/producer's name, lead actors and genre, where applicable.*
- 2. Capture the readers' attention in the first sentence, followed by a short, clear statement which gives your overall impression of the film.*
- 3. Write a brief summary of the plot without giving too much away. Identify the main characters, describe the setting and give a sense of the central conflict and theme of the film.*
- 4. Give your overall opinion of the film with reasons why you liked or disliked it. The review does not have to be all positive.*
- 5. Your review should conclude with an effective summary and your personal recommendations.*

*This assignment asked for a review of a film or television programme that conveyed strong messages capable of challenging the viewer about their life values. This aspect therefore needed to be a strong point of the review.*

*I received several excellent reviews which covered the above requirements and were enthusiastically written and interesting to read. One entry was disqualified because it was more of a devotional than a review.*

## First Place



John  
Lindsay  
of Christchurch

### Food from the Dust

*The Biggest Little Farm* is an inspiring story of transformation. The transformation of two hundred acres of dead California hill country into a productive farm in less than ten years.

The film, produced by John Chester in 2018 featured in the New Zealand International Film Festival 2019.

John and Molly Chester faced eviction from their Los Angeles apartment because their dog, Todd, annoyed the neighbours with his barking while alone during the day.

Following their fantasy of a simpler life on the land, they moved to a worn-out block of dusty soil containing straggly avocado and citrus orchards.

John is an Emmy award-winning filmmaker and his record of the development of Apricot Lane Farms provided the material for *The Biggest Little Farm*.

Little would have happened without the expertise of Alan York whose knowledge of biodynamic gardening provided the vital information needed to start bringing the land to life. Step one: build a worm farm to supply high-octane nourishment for the ground.

After only three years, as they were beginning to see the rewards of their hard work, the Chesters' world was rocked when their mentor, Alan, was diagnosed with cancer and died. They needed the support of a growing number of friends and volunteers to carry on and by the end of the film they had 850 animals, thousands of fruit trees and more than 60 workers on their land.

The story tumbles through the highs of first harvests and a huge litter of 17 piglets to the lows of snail and aphid infestations.

I was absorbed from start to finish and had to stay seated for several minutes to consider what I had witnessed – an affirmation that God's creation is amazingly productive if we nurture and replenish the soil rather than extract all we can from it.

## Judge's Comments

*I awarded John's review first place because I felt he fulfilled most of the requirements of a good film review. His opening was interesting and he gave adequate background details about the film. He then proceeded to outline the plot which piqued my interest and made me want to see this film.*

*He rounds off the review with his reaction at the conclusion of the film which clearly challenges one's values in life with regard to the environment; and while he doesn't make any particular recommendation as to who would appreciate this film, it's obvious that it's a film worth seeing.*

## Second Place



Keith Willis  
of Kaukapakapa

## The Lion King

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"Wow! That was amazing."

That was my first reaction as the credits rolled and the lights came up at the end of the film, 'The Lion King.'

This film, a remake of the film that you may have seen in your childhood, has all the features needed for a good family drama:

The downfall of the magnificent leader by murder, made to look like an accident.

The youngster believing the death was his fault until the eventual exposure of the villain

The rise in the power of evil and the appearance that all is lost, until the climactic battle resulting in the total destruction of evil and the restoration of order.

The inquisitive nature of youth resulting in unforeseen disaster.

The rescue and adoption of the young and weak leading to his nurture and growth to reach his full potential.

The initial rejection of responsibility but its eventual wholehearted acceptance.

The full round of life from one generation to the next.

All this acted out by what appears to be real live animals - magnificent lions, threatening hyenas, stampeding wildebeests, a loveable warthog and all the other jungle creatures. These are not cartoon characters. The computer wizardry has resulted in amazingly realistic animals and birds.

This film is both enjoyable and inspirational, in as much as it models many of the characteristics that most of us value in society. It is suitable for all ages, however small children could be terrified in some of the more violent scenes, though I actually saw no evidence of this.

If you have seen the original film of 'The Lion King', you will recognise the songs and the theme of the story, but that will not diminish your enjoyment of this remarkable remake.

## **Judge's Comments**

*An enthusiastic beginning that immediately captures my attention and tells me that Keith strongly favours this film. A few more background details would have been helpful (i.e. Disney Production). Keith has given an excellent summary of the themes of the film which he states are characteristics most of us value in society.*

*He describes the computer wizardry of the realistic animals and birds and gives his reasons for recommending this film to all ages.*

*The entire review exudes enthusiasm and excitement and would persuade me to go along and watch this film.*

## Third Place



Pamela  
Lowrey  
of Havelock  
North

## Overcomer

In August when the Kendrick Brothers hit the Movie Theatres with yet another Theme-based film, one can guarantee a winner. This is definitely the case with 'OVERCOMER' their sixth Christian Movie following hard on the heels of the No 1 box-office hit, 'WAR ROOM'.

Selectively choosing a strong character cast that includes Priscilla Shirer and Aryn Wright-Thompson, brothers Alex & Stephen Kendrick are to be congratulated for producing another top quality Family Movie rated PG.

In a close-knit community the sudden closure of a major manufacturing plant has huge repercussions affecting everyone in the whole town. One by one as families move away to seek work elsewhere, a handful choose to remain. Though reeling from the initial shock something very unexpected happens and everything changes.

A depressed High School basketball coach who loses his job, a student suffering from asthma, a dying man in hospital and an angry woman become caught up together in the classic tale that everyone loves where the underdog triumphs to become the top dog.

In the beginning it appears extremely unlikely that any of them are candidates to achieve anything of significance, yet within all of us we are powerfully reminded that we all have the God-given potential to become overcomers. This film excels in the way it squarely and realistically faces and answers the hard questions with a range of emotional challenges, drama and humour. The result is an extremely sensitive and masterful piece of film-making incorporating a very encouraging and satisfying story.

The viewer is left with a deliberate and challenging question.

What have I allowed to define me?

As a film reviewer I am delighted to give 'OVERCOMER' a Five Star Rating, and would reiterate the strong and haunting challenge to potential viewers -

What do you allow to define you ?

### Judge's Comments

*Apart from punctuation mistakes and too many capital letters (which I will point out in my private critique of Pamela's review), I feel she has given this film a very good assessment. Pamela has given all the background details necessary and immediately praises the film so we can expect a positive expansion of her support for the movie. She skilfully analyses the theme and then challenges herself and the reader with the searching question concerning what defines each one of us. This was exactly what I was looking for in a review of this nature. Well done Pamela.*

# Competitions for December 2019

Due by November 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 [level1@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:level1@nzchristianwriters.org)

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

**Requirement:** Write a true or fictional story of a family celebrating Christmas in a third world country that has outlawed Christianity. 500 words.

**Email entry to** Debbie McDermott at [level1@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:level1@nzchristianwriters.org)



*Debbie*

**Level Two**—for members 16 years old and over

**Requirement:** Write a letter to the editor of a secular paper about a current moral or political issue. Using clear arguments, explain your position in exactly 150 words without being 'preachy'. If including Bible passages, use brief quotes, preferably from modern translations.

**Email entry to** Janice Gillgren at [level2@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:level2@nzchristianwriters.org)



*Janice*

**Level Three**—for members 16 years old and over

**Requirement:** You've been asked to present a five minute devotional at a church function based on a verse from the Bible. Make sure the application is suitable for modern times and will challenge and encourage your listeners. (300 words)

**Email entry to** Julia Martin at [level3@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:level3@nzchristianwriters.org)



*Julia*



# NZ CHRISTIAN writers



**RICHARD YARRALL** After 43 years of missionary work in Colombia, South America, and Los Angeles, USA, working among Spanish speaking people, Richard and his wife, Nancye, returned to New Zealand in November

2013 making Tauranga their home base.

Richard's main missionary focus was preaching the Gospel, Bible teaching, church planting and pastoral care. In Los Angeles, he had a weekly radio programme on a local station reaching out to Spanish speakers. An annual highlight was bringing young people to Los Angeles for a short-term mission to be exposed to Latinos and their culture.

With a wealth of adventures in Latin America, Richard has spent the last four years writing his memoirs that have now been published in the book, *From Poverty Bay To Riches Untold*.

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