

JUNE - JULY 2020

THE CHRISTIAN writer

SEE INSIDE FOR

Creative Competition
Tauranga Results

New Professional Writing Services

Christian Writing Anthology
Competition: Enter by 30th June 2020

Devotional: Remember How You are
Called to Serve

Book Reviews:
Clash of the Kingdoms
King Solomon's Deadly Legacy

NZCW Mid-Year Competition Prize
Winners

Poetry and more

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers



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

Editor: Kathryn Drinkwater: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Debbie Smith

For subscriptions and address changes: treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org

Annual Subscriptions—2 options:

- 1) Digital magazine: Full membership \$40 / Student membership (up to 25yrs) \$20
- 2) Printed magazine: Full membership \$55 / Student membership (up to 25yrs) \$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 or email: reviews@nzchristianwriters.org

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 an 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.

© Copyright 2020

This issue was printed by

BookPrint.

Making Bookshop Quality Easy

7/1 Greenwich Way
Unsworth Heights
Auckland, New Zealand

09 443 1775
amy@bookprint.co.nz
www.bookprint.co.nz

The Christian Writer

Jun – Jul 2020

ISSN 2537-8708 (Online)

VOL 37. No 3

ISSN 1171-0098 (Print)

Contents

Page 2	Contact Details – Editor Membership Secretary Book Review Requests
Page 4	President's Report – Justin St Vincent
Page 5	2021 NZCW Retreat Poster
Page 6	Wellington Written 2020 One Day Retreat
Page 7	Editorial: Write Through You – Kathryn Drinkwater
Page 8	Important Notices
Page 9	Professional Writing Services – Free Advertising for Members
Page 11	Creative Competition in Tauranga – Ruth Linton
Page 14	Christian Writing Anthology Competition – Karalyn Reid
Page 15	Crossword – Eion Field
Page 16	Writing Briefs: Robert Morrison – Frederick Swallow
Page 16	Remember How You Are Called To Serve – Cindy David
Page 17	Book Review: <i>Clash of the Kingdoms</i> by Brian France – Julia Martin
Page 17	Book Review: <i>King Solomon's Deadly Legacy</i> by John Fergusson – Julia Martin
Page 18	Booklet Review: <i>Path to Life</i> by Graham Ashby – Julia Martin
Page 18	Within My Bubble by Rod Hickman
Page 18	The Wave – by Sheryl Paul
Page 19	Writers Groups Details / Welcome to New and Returning Members
Page 20	June-Sept 2020 <i>Young Christian Writer</i> is out now!
Page 21	Writing Competitions Results / Crossword Solution

CW Competitions

Page 22	Level One Results	Page 30	Level Three Results
Page 27	Level Two Results	Page 35	Competitions for August 2020

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 to join us via our website:

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Report



As we all navigate a 'new normal' in our lives, it's a useful season when we can pause and reflect what we have learned during this time. Let's not go back to how things once were but press on to see what

the Lord wants us to do to create a different 'new normal'. I trust you have had some time that has enabled you to pursue your own writing and publishing projects.

In this magazine you will see a new book review of Brian France's book *Clash of the Kingdoms*. This fascinating book is about the epic battle between the supernatural forces of good and evil. The story was first published under the title *Against the Gates of Hell*. A new final chapter completes this revised version and I strongly recommend you buy Brian's book here: www.brianfrance.co.nz.

During this difficult season we have received enquiries from a significant number of new members looking for authentic relationships and meaningful connections with publishers and writers. Our collective of NZ Christian Writers provides a wealth of connection, inspiration and insights to help people on their publishing journey. There have been many requests from new members asking about placing their writer-profile and book-features on our website. I thought it would be helpful for all our members to remind you what you need to provide, so you can benefit from having your writer-profile and books showcased. The cost of having your own page on our website is included in your membership. Our website provides an opportunity for you to promote your work.

For a [Writer Profile](#), please provide the following:

1. Brief Biography (100-120 words max) Please write in the third person point of view.
2. Profile Photo (300 dpi high-resolution preferred or a 72 dpi web-image is fine)
3. Social Media links (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter if available)

For a [Book Feature](#), do email me these details:

1. Book Synopsis (100-150 words max) (normally text featured from the back cover)
2. Book Cover image (300 dpi high-resolution preferred or a 72 dpi web-image is fine)
3. You can also provide a purchasing weblink for boosting your book promotion and to help generate sales.

When you have your writer profile and book feature content available please email them to me: president@nzchristianwriters.org.

Enjoy this latest edition of *The Christian Writer*.

Blessings
Justin St Vincent

BOOK
TODAY!

NZ CHRISTIAN
writers

RETREAT

APRIL 29TH - MAY 2ND 2021

FLAXMILL RETREAT CENTRE · WHITIANGA



**STACI
MCLEAN**



**KAREN
MCMILLAN**



**EUGENE
MOREAU**



**PHIL
STRONG**

BOOK TODAY AT
www.nzchristianwriters.org/retreat-2021

WELLINGTON WRITTEN 2020



**GEORGE
BRYANT**



**SUSAN
HOLT**

DATE & TIME:

Saturday
13th June 2020
9am - 5pm

VENUE:

Silverstream Retreat
3 Reynolds Bach Drive
Stokes Valley
Lower Hutt 5019

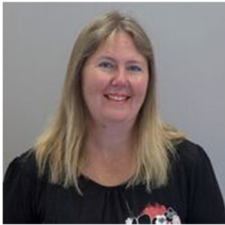
COST:

\$60 (Full-Day, including lunch)
\$20 (Half-Day)
RSVP Paul Devereux | 022-053-3618
paulrdevereux@xtra.co.nz

PAYMENT: Treasurer, Debbie Smith: treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org | 021-174-0174

Editorial: Write Through You

by Kathryn Drinkwater



Have you ever had a moment when you're ready to write, to be creative and your head is bowed, hand poised as you wait on the Lord? Then the answer drops into your mind and you just know without a doubt that it wasn't your idea? You didn't create it—it arrived from somewhere, *someone* external—and you know without question it was from him. It was his answer for you. You know you can't take the credit for the 'brains behind the outfit' because the idea originated from and belongs to God. You get excited as you write with his

brilliant idea. Eventually you see the success of it, including what seem to be coincidental confirmations it was correct along the way.

Recently I reflected on my life's journey of reading the Bible. For me in my rocky teenage years it was like tasting samples of a multi-flavoured foreign dish but not experiencing or encountering the whole meal. Then it became a bit like trying to chew on cardboard-like toast, pushing myself to do it but not enjoying it very much. After my water baptism I experienced a significant spiritual change and reading the Bible became an enticing, pleasant, healthy salad with only the occasional bitter vegetable.

After reading NZ evangelist, Bill Subritzky's autobiography, *On the Cutting Edge*, and discovering how much he read the Bible, I decided, 'If he can do it, I can too!' So, for about four years my Bible became breakfast, lunch and dinner in generous helpings as I sought to achieve a plentiful diet. (One time the neighbours asked me what I did in my house all day because they hardly saw me outside!) When my daughter was born I had to reduce the quantity and the Bible became a sweet dessert, savoured and contemplated. These days I'm able to enjoy unhurried absorption and it's like drinking the cream in the pasturised milk I love. I appreciate it and enjoy it to the maximum, feeling the strength of it seeping into my being. If you're thinking I have an obsession with food you might be right, but it's spiritual food. Matt 4:4 *But He replied, It has been written, Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.* (Amp)

I've learned I can't read the Bible pleurably or understand it correctly without the help of the Holy Spirit. The words of Jesus were so important when he said he wasn't abandoning us, but he was sending a Helper—a replacement 'stand-in' like himself—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is who I ask to help me when I read the Word. He's also who I ask to help me as I write. I ask him to write through me and it's wonderful when he does.

Reading the Word is a partnership. Writing for God is a partnership. Seeing good results means God receives all the credit, all the glory. I hope to encourage you with this comfort—because you are a Christian, you are never reading or writing alone. You have the privilege of the brilliant Helper who wants to write through you. (Matthew 10:20)

As the NZCW membership continues to increase, now heading towards 300, it causes me to be aware there are many Christians called to allow God to write through them. I believe God wants us to take advantage of this digital age and saturate the world with his love and hope, through as many forms of written communication as we can. Let's eat and let's write.

*Members: When writing letters to the editor or sending writing contributions please email:
editor@nzchristianwriters.org*

Notices

NZCW Retreat 2021

We are looking forward to our Writers Retreat in 2021 at Flaxmill Retreat Centre in Whitianga. Place these dates in your diary: *Thursday 29th April to Sunday 2nd May 2021* and visit www.nzchristianwriters.org/retreat-2021/ to register your booking today. There will be carpooling and we anticipate having a great time together as a community of writers. See our poster on page five for information on our guest speakers.

Wellington Written – 13 June 2020 on Zoom

Great news! The Wellington Written team have been working towards this seminar going ahead via internet as a Zoom Meeting or as a small gathering to be streamed on Zoom. See our poster on page six for more information and registration details. Here are the details for joining the meeting on Zoom:

Time: Saturday 13th June, 9am to 5pm

Join Zoom Meeting: (You will need the Zoom app on your device)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88243207876?pwd=Y3QrV2RjS1FXQnMxODZveE40SmVLU09>.

Meeting ID: 882 4320 7876

Password: WW2020

Dial-in: +64 4 886 0026 New Zealand +64 9 884 6780 New Zealand

Book Reviews Criteria

Members are welcome to request a book review for any of their published books, whether recently released or not. The main criteria is that the book has some Christian relevancy. Our chief book reviewer, Julia Martin, has a small team of people who help her with book reviews. For more information on how to have your book reviewed in *The Christian Writer* please refer to page two.

Hopewriters

Discover an online community of writers and learning resources by visiting www.hopewriters.com. Hopewriters has been recommended by some of our members.

Omega Writers Retreat 2020 Postponed Until 2021

The new date for the Omega Writers Conference is 8-10 October 2021. Peppers Kingscliff is rebooked for 2021. The keynote speaker will still be USA Today Bestselling Author, Susie May Warren. Visit www.omegawriters.org/conference for more details. This conference is recommended by many NZCW members who have attended.

Big Toe Foundation and Flaxmill Bay Hideaway

Big Toe Foundation's primary purpose is to 'help those who are helping others'. One way they do this is by providing reduced rate accommodation at Flaxmill, Whitianga to team members of registered Not for Profit groups. To get in before mid-December 2020 visit: <https://www.bigtoe.org.nz/flaxmill/> and check out their not-for-profit rates.

Professional Writing Services

Free advertising! Are you a member who can offer other members a professional service relating to writing or book publishing? If so, you are welcome to send in your advertisement – maximum 100 words, to editor@nzchristianwriters.org.

ANNA'S EDITING

I'm excited to offer my services to you as a proofreader and copy editor. Working with authors to help produce a professional finish and to make their writing shine is my passion.

I achieved my Diploma in Proofreading and Copy Editing (with Excellence) in 2016 and also successfully completed a Copy Editing for Fiction course. It has been a delight since to work on a variety of interesting projects.

Feel free to check me out at:
facebook.com/Annas.Editing.Co/ to learn more and to read author reviews.

Anna Cullen: 021 717903.

E: annas.editing.int@gmail.com

ASTUTE EDITING

Candice Hume

E: info@astuteediting.co.nz

A WORD ABOUT EDITING

I am a freelance editor having received a Diploma of Proofreading and Editing from NZIBS in 2012. I have edited a large range of documents including novels, biographies, magazine articles, websites, and university assignments.

In August 1968, while beginning teacher training, Jesus Christ changed my heart and the whole direction of my life. I am passionate about working with Christian writers, helping them polish their work until it shines.

I endeavour to read the writer's intentions, not just their words, helping them shape their writing into a more accurate, natural and pleasing form.

Graham Pedersen: 0274405851

E: gpedersen@hotmail.co.nz

CAVIT ENTERPRISES

Proofreading and Copyediting Services

I offer assistance to enable your manuscript to be free of annoying mistakes, repetitions, wordiness, etc, so that it can be sent to a publisher as a 'clean' document.

Most genres considered.

Fees to fit your budget.

Brian Cavit Dip Edit

E: cavitent@gmail.com

There's something missing from this list—could it be your advertisement? Make this space yours and bless our members by offering everyone your professional service.

CHRISTIAN EDITING

My name is Lola Goulton and I run Christian Editing Services.

I hold a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in marketing and have twenty years' experience in human resources, including writing and editing a company newsletter, developing a government website, contributing to a textbook, and writing and proofreading more client reports than I can count.

I specialise in editing Christian fiction and advising pre-published and self-published authors on the business side of writing, publishing and marketing. Find out more at <https://christianediting.co.nz/resources/> or <https://christianediting.co.nz/blog/> and sign up for a free two-week course on revising and self-editing your novel.

Iola Goulton

E: igoulton@christianediting.co.nz

DAYSTAR BOOKS

Christian Publishing Services

Do You Want Help With Your Manuscript?

- What to do with it. (Free assessment available.)
- How to get it published.
- Where to find an editor.
- Help with self-publishing.
- Tips on writing.
- Ideas for publicising your book.

The one-stop shop of the DayStar team of consultants, authors, editors, graphic artists...are keen to help you.

We specialise in non-fiction but will also look at other genres and make appropriate referrals.

Ask for our brochure and discussion about any aspect of your manuscript:

Info@daystarbooks.org Check our website www.daystarbooks.org

PINPOINT PROOFREADING

Present your important written work in perfect English! Qualified, experienced teacher, English specialist, will proofread your article, book, academic or business document, web page, magazine, inter alia, returning it to you in concise and error-free English.

Competitive fee. Quick and efficient service.

Good references. I do not publish but I can point you towards help.

For a quotation, contact:

Lissa Weight: 021 0851 6944

Pinpoint Proofreading

E: lydiaweight@gmail.com

POETRY HELP

Looking for someone with experience in editing and producing poetry books? If so, member poets please reach out to Marie Anticich.

Marie Anticich

E: marieanticich@gmail.com

WILDSIDE PUBLISHING

Demystifying the self-publishing process

Writing a book is hard enough without all the annoying and persistent questions about the next stages of the process (and the costs) buzzing your brain! We get it! Wild Side Publishing can help. Here's all you need to understand the process and costs:

- Submitting your manuscript.
- Proofreading and editing.
- Cover design and text layout.
- Printing quotes for NZ stock.
- Worldwide listing for print-on-demand paperback and eBook.
- Distribution to NZ stores and libraries.
- MailChimp and Facebook targeted marketing.

Visit www.wildsidepublishing.com/get-published/#publish-or-print and download the free guide to self-publishing.

WRITING ANSWERS

I have 20 years of experience as a copy editor and proof reader. I work on non-fiction books/articles/memoirs and also academic editing/proof reading.

I work with authors to prepare their work for self-publishing. I make sure their documents are print ready and, for example, I tell them that they do need to use mirror margins on their documents and no, the printer won't do that for you.

I have qualifications in technical and professional communication, editing and proof reading, science and laboratory technology.

I am in my happy place when editing and thoroughly enjoy turning people's prose into award winning documents.

Janette Busch

E: WritingAnswers1@gmail.com
or Janette.Busch@gmail.com

Creative Competition in Tauranga

by Ruth Linton

In April David Kidd, a Tauranga pastor, coordinated competitions to inspire and encourage people to think creatively and bring Christian hope during the Covid-19 lockdown. There were three categories in both the senior (over 16) and junior sections: a poster of an encouraging Bible passage, prose discussing a Bible verse and a poem based on a passage of scripture conveying hope. Generous money prizes were awarded for the first two places in each section.

I was approached to judge the writing sections and enlisted Jan Pendergrast's help to judge the prose while I concentrated on the poetry. We both received a good number of entries and it was gratifying to see many of the entrants were members of NZ Christian Writers. I was especially thrilled that several of the prize winners were also members of the Tauranga Christian Writers group.

When announcing the winners David also suggested the writers take up NZCW membership and I hope many will follow his suggestion. There is certainly a lot of creative talent in the Bay of Plenty area.

Below is Lesley Ayers prize-winning entry in the senior prose section and the first two placings in the senior poetry section written by Belinda McCallion and Jean Crane.

A Message from a Bubble for Covid 19

by Lesley Ayers

We hear of messages placed in bottles and sent out on the ocean. But how about a message that's not in a bottle, but written in a bubble, centuries ago? It is perfect for today for it's written by someone who knew all too well what isolation and living in a time of threatening circumstances was like.

Nowadays, I find myself going to the letters St Paul wrote from prison. There he shared his bubble with a guard, was very limited in where he could move and was grateful for the help he received from people like Timothy and Epaphroditus.

It starts to feel somewhat familiar. We too are confined to "house-arrest" and dependent on the kindness of friends or family to make sure we have the essentials of life.

For us, isolation and social distancing are part of a positive plan to save lives. Paul's situation was very different, with the threat of martyrdom always present.

This makes it all the more incredible to read his words to the Philippians in chapter 4 v 7. Paul has encouraged the church to take their concerns to God, in a spirit of thanksgiving. Now he says "...the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus". If Paul could experience this peace of God, so can we!

Like Paul we can still communicate with, and encourage, others. We can be thankful for the friends who support us. We can take all our fears and heartaches to God, and focus with thanksgiving on the many blessings we have.

Ultimately, we can be a people who share the secret of a "peace that passes all understanding" in this world which has been suddenly turned upside down.

Agony in Gethsemane

by Belinda McCallion

It happened that night in Gethsemane
Yeshua came out with disciples—just three
The purpose was set, they came there for prayer
So Yeshua chose the friends he held dear.

Like descending dark clouds came sorrow and woe
Of magnitude which nobody could know
How heavy the weight, the sin of mankind
He cried to the Father, sharing his mind.

“Oh, let this cup pass, but thy will be done.”
His submission revealed, an obedient Son
A picture so perfect, unlike any other
Total surrender, to the will of the Father.

“Now stay here and watch,” His urgent request
James, Peter and John, now facing a test
There’s power in numbers, a message for all,
If we band together, then Satan will fall.

He bids us to pray against the schemes of the foe
Pray during the storm so victory we’ll know
We all need each other, in the battles of life
To ward off the evils of destruction and strife.

He comes back again and finds His friends sleeping
Instead of the watch, they should have been keeping
With earnest of heart He pleads for their sake
May they understand just what is at stake.

With mercy and grace for their weakness pre-empted
He warns “Watch and pray! Then you won’t be tempted.”
Let’s not be sleeping, when we ought to be praying
So within God’s will, we all will be staying.

Yeshua left again, returning to pray
For the third time that night, and in the same way.
When standing alone, your friends are not there,
Do not forget, the power of prayer.

From these desperate hours, of seeking His face
You’ll muster the strength, you need for the race.

He's in Your Bubble Too

by Jean Crane

The lake was rough and stormy
The waves tossed all about,
The followers of Jesus
Were crowded in a boat.

Around them like a bubble
Was the darkness of the night,
The little ship rocked to and fro
The men all held on tight.

Just then upon the water
They saw a fearsome sight,
Someone was walking on it
Whose clothes were bright as light.

A voice spoke softly to them,
"It's I, don't be afraid,
Take courage my dear children
The waves my hands have made."

Peter called out loudly
As he clambered from the boat,
And when he looked at Jesus
His feet began to float.

Upon the water surface
With rough waves all around,
Peter took his eyes from Christ
And started sinking down.

The Lord reached out for Peter
Took him by the hand,
Peter looked at Jesus
And again began to stand.

With Jesus in the boat with them
His peace calmed all their fears,
He lightened up the darkness
And wiped away their tears.

Don't let life's circumstances,
Depress and frighten you,
Just keep your eyes on Jesus,
He's in your bubble too.

2020 Christian Writing Anthology

Competition from Karalyn Reid

“Here I am, Lord”

SUBMISSION RULES

Isaiah 6:8: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I, send me.”

Pleasant Point writer, Karalyn Joyce (Reid) has had short stories and poetry published widely in New Zealand and edited a number of anthologies including three other Christian anthologies: writing ‘Fuel for the Soul’, ‘I Saw Love Today’, and ‘The Journey’, ‘Ragworts & Thistles’ for NZ Rural Women, and four children’s books. She invites members of NZCW to enter this competition.

Submission Rules

Are you called to use your creative writing skills to provide a poem or short testimony to minister God’s love, grace, peace and healing to others? Is this you?

The theme of this new collection is ‘Here I am, Lord’. I am looking for Spirit-filled poetry or testimonies of hope and inspiration from believers for people who are lost and looking for peace and love in this time of Covid-19 (and post Covid-19) as we move forward into a new world—socially, economically, and globally. I want this anthology to be uplifting and positive and speak to the reader’s spirit. I am after poems or short pieces of Spirit-filled writing about healing and peace that only God can give us.

God has given me a challenge to get a copy of this anthology, via our local churches, to every doctor’s waiting room, hospital or hospice around New Zealand for non-believers to pick up and read. He wants his Church to have a voice and speak out to those seeking meaning and purpose. So, I am looking for contributions. Write your poem or prose in a way that does not preach the Bible, but rather shows the love and peace of God. Tell your story in a way that will touch the reader’s heart.

Submissions must be the original work of the entrant, previously unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere. The maximum length for poetry to be no more than 40 lines, and prose 1,000 words (however, I may make exceptions).

I will select a suitable number of poems and prose from the submissions received to publish in an anthology and will contact the submitters to have their submission emailed as a word file, as well as a brief bio (description) of the writer that will be included in the book.

First publishing rights will be given for each poem/prose, but copyright will remain with the writer. Contributors published in the anthology will receive two free copies in lieu of payment and will be able to order further copies at a reduced price.

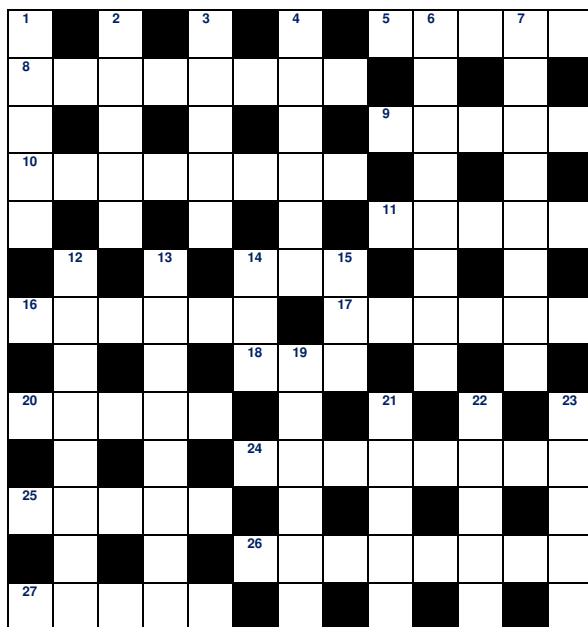
The submission fee is \$10 per poem, \$20 per prose; and writers are welcome to submit more than one entry. The competition is open to all ages but you must be a New Zealand resident or have a New Zealand work visa.

The submission fees will go towards the publishing costs of the book, together with limited sponsorship opportunities and/or a Givealittle page may be established to fund the balance of the publishing costs. The books, once they are published, will be available at a cost to enable us to provide free copies to be distributed in places where members of the public can access them. This initiative is not a money-making scheme, and all funding will go towards the publishing and distribution costs.

Entries are to be typed and attached to the official submission form and emailed to karalynjoyce@xtra.co.nz. Entry fees are to be paid into the bank account supplied on the submission form with the submitter's name and title of the poem in the fields provided. Once payment is cleared, all entries will be confirmed by return email (this will also be the receipt for payment). To obtain a submission form email karalynjoyce@xtra.co.nz.

My decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. Submissions will be chosen prayerfully and there may be other believers involved in selecting the final content. The closing date for entries will be 30 June 2020. Successful submitters will be contacted by email/telephone in July 2020. All other entries will be destroyed, so please keep a copy.

A book launch event for successful submitters will be held in Timaru in September/October (or as soon as possible after that date depending on Covid-19 regulations). All successful submitters will be invited to the launch, and further details on the book launch programme will be available closer to the time. For any enquiries please contact Karalyn Reid on karalynjoyce@xtra.co.nz



CROSSWORD

Supplied by Eion Field

Clues Down

- 1 Church steeple
- 2 Jobs to be done
- 3 Paul is an example, Mother Theresa also
- 4 Disciple who said, 'Lord, show us...'
- 6 High Priest with dubious distinction
- 7 Places which produce fruit
- 12 State of mind (should be positive)
- 13 Notes, letters, information sent
- 14 Quick way to get down the mountain
- 15 Methuselah's record in this category remains unbeaten
- 19 What soap and water does
- 21 Describes people depending on others for help
- 22 Stream
- 23 The queen from this country visited King Solomon

Clues Across

- 5 Movie star
- 8 Egyptian kings
- 9 Hike but need a ride
- 10 Restart the fire
- 11 Talk coherently
- 14 Thermal spring
- 16 What a young man did to escape the Gethsemane mob
- 17 They fell down on the job beside Jesus' tomb
- 18 Don't skate on it if it's thin
- 20 'Seek... the kingdom of God.'
- 24 This young prophet doubted his ability to... (see 11 across)
- 25 Deborah was one, so was Gideon
- 26 Show, don't tell; don't use... (two words)
- 27 The Passover, for example

(Solution on page 21.)

WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian Writing of
today and yesteryear-

Series by Frederick Swallow



Robert Morrison

The first protestant missionary to China became a Christian at 12 years old when he could recite Psalm 119 verbatim. His Scottish parents taught him Bible stories as a child.

He learnt Chinese and studied Greek and Latin. With a Chinese colleague he translated Chinese manuscripts in the British Library.

Robert Morrison sailed for China in 1807. In 1823 he translated and printed with William Milne the first entire Chinese language Bible. He also compiled and printed a hymn book and a Chinese dictionary.

During 1835 at 52 years old while in Canton, he met the Author of all Scripture. His wife, Mary, who supported him, died in 1821. His second wife, Eliza, passed away in 1874.

Remember How You are Called to Serve

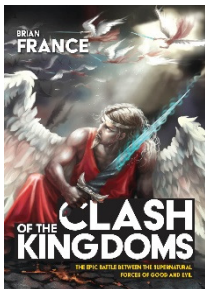
Devotional by Cindy David

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. (Col 3:23)

We're slowly easing our way out of the recent pandemic. But even as we respond to our craving for a McDonald's burger or an excellent takeaway food, many of us will continue to be gripped by fear. We know that it's not entirely over until a vaccine for this virus has been discovered. It's therefore understandable that we'll not only do our best to protect ourselves but also hesitate to march our way back to work, except for economic reasons.

Forget about fear for at least a minute though. Think about those who stepped out of their homes at the height of the pandemic—to serve others. Nurses, doctors, essential workers. Those who kept the production of food going, filled in the supermarket shelves, delivered food to our doorsteps, provided the news, and ensured that everything was managed well and kept under control. Where would we be today without these people? They were like soldiers who went to war, not knowing if they would ever come back home in one piece.

As Christ's soldiers, we are to demonstrate the same courage and willingness to respond to our 'service call.' Serving is not only what we do at church or in our ministry, but it's what we do for our community and in the jobs we have been employed to do. Our work is not only our means to earn money for a living. It is our principal area of service—where we are called to witness for Christ.



Clash of the Kingdoms

By Brian France

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Wild Side Publishing 2020

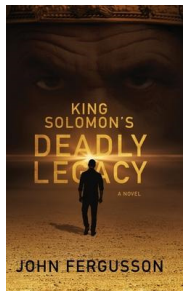
If you've ever wondered about the origins of evil and its pervasiveness, then this book gives some answers. Based on the scriptures, the author uses powerful descriptive language and imagery to portray the horrendous conflict between angels and demons, and the forces of good and evil.

This battle began with Satan's pride, lust for power, and the desire to be worshipped; all of which resulted in his ousting from heaven by God along with the multitudes of demons who chose to follow him. His target was now the human race which God had created in his image and had given the gift of a free will.

In graphic detail Brian depicts Satan's attempts to overthrow God's order, corrupt his relationship with men and women, and prevent their redemption by the Incarnate One who was promised at the time of the Fall in the Garden of Eden.

The author traces 'the most cunning, depraved and vicious power in the universe' and the part he played instigating the betrayal and gruesome death of the Redeemer. But as we know, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ sounded the death-knell to Satan's schemes and in a coming day he and his cohorts will be defeated forever.

Written by an ex-military man, this book is not for the faint-hearted. But for those readers who want to understand the presence of evil in our world and the cause of mankind's depravity throughout history, this story will be an eye-opener and will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.



King Solomon's Deadly Legacy

By John Fergusson

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Koehlerbooks USA 2020

With a struggling marriage and an unwell daughter, English scientist, Simon Archer, travels to Malaysia in search of medicinal plants to find a cure for his daughter's cancer. While cooling off in a swimming hole, he is mysteriously sucked down into an underwater tunnel and emerges half-dead from the water into a strange environment at the time of Solomon, King of Israel—3000 years in the past.

Simon meets King Solomon and gets caught up in the activities and dangers of the times. This proves to be the first of several transitions he makes from present-day life in England with all its struggles and conflicts, and then back into his encounters with the people, places and events of ancient Israel.

Whilst in these parallel worlds, Simon searches for the truth. He realizes that 'knowledge without truth is of little value.'

Eventually he discovers truth is not a thing but a person—and Simon abandons his atheism and becomes a true follower of Jesus Christ, and his life is changed.

In subsequent visits to the past, Simon notices a deterioration in King Solomon's priorities and behaviour which parallels alarming changes he sees in his modern-day society.

'We want prosperity, but not the God who gives it.'

On a positive note he concludes, 'You cannot change history, but you can change the future.'

This historical work of fiction is the result of five years' meticulous study and research including two trips to Israel.

I found the book fascinating, educational and thought-provoking, and am pleased the author has finally found a publisher.

Booklet Review



Path to Life

Gospel Tract

By Graham Ashby

Review by Julia Martin

Self-Published

NZ evangelist, Graham Ashby, has rewritten this little booklet to aid those counselling children for salvation. Skilfully illustrated by Carol Herring, this modern, attractive and relevant little booklet is designed to be multicultural so that it is suitable to be used in any English-speaking context. It will prove useful for anyone seeking to help a child discover God's good news in Jesus Christ and to grow as a Christian. For enquiries contact: graham@gaministry.co.nz

Within My Bubble

by Rod Hickman

All my writing up till now has been poetry. It's the least popular of the Arts and has been so for many years. When we found ourselves locked down, at first I thought: *How good is this. I can do what I like without interruption.* However, the flow of new poems went from a stream to just a trickle. I felt restless. The urge to write was still there, but what to write? A large project seemed a 'step too far'. But from a series of dreams I penned some short stories. I had no idea of what to do with them and thought: *Well, it's just part of 'keeping occupied'.* However, the weirdest thing happened to me.

Around midnight I awoke with a Bible verse in my mind—*Isaiah 52:7*. I had no idea what that actually was. I knew this happens a lot to others and I love the Bible but this way of God speaking to me had not happened before. In the Amplified version the verse reads, 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who PUBLISHES peace, who brings good tidings of good, who PUBLISHES salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns.'

I went back to bed with a joy within my heart, knowing that God has a plan for each of us and for me, at least I knew the next step to take.

The Wave

by Sheryl Paul

Late in the year 2019
We gazed towards the horizon
As a wave formed.
It seemed so far away, now and then a white streak visible,
Like imperceptible lightning.
The wave drew nearer; its swirling curls now menacing.
Suddenly, it was upon us.

The wave broke,
People, houses and businesses engulfed,
In the dark, green tunnel.
Overcome with fear, they turned to each other.
"It's a judgement!" some cried.
"No, a conspiracy!" others called out.
"The earth is being shaken," still more averred.

The wave lifted me up;
I rode its smooth crest
With, seemingly, not a care in the world.
In a place of peace, infused with creativity
And time.
With such a view!

I saw the nearly deserted streets:
The dogs continued to walk,
Tails waving in delighted pleasure,
At this change in the balance
Of human to man's best friend.

As the wave continued
To roll the inhabitants of the earth,
God's creatures came out to play.
There was a reclaiming,
While the wave owned the people.

Then the wave began to ebb.
Its powerful walls broke,
Its prisoners emerged from the tumult.
"Is it safe now?" they asked one another,
With dishevelled hair and clothing,
Wet from their baptism.

The wave lowered me gently to the ground,
Surveying the fruit of my brief journey.
As the shore cleared,
The heart-breaking cruelty of man
Was again being exposed;
The wild animals had to hide.

"Are you awake yet?"
Cried the watch-people to the bleary-eyed;
Even as they heard, their eyes began to close,
And again, they slumbered.
Already, just out of sight,
The next wave was coming. (Copyright © 2020 Sherri Bee Ltd)

Writers Groups

AUCKLAND, ELLERSLIE

Sara McGuire

Mob: (021) 116 8702

sara.mcguire81@gmail.com

CHRISTCHURCH

Dave Palmer

Mob: (027) 216 5743

davepalmer@xtra.co.nz

FAR NORTH (KERIKERI)

Geraldine Craw

Mob: (027) 614 0445

fcraw@xtra.co.nz

HAWKES BAY

Jennie Chappell

Tel: (06) 877 5874

heughandjenniec@outlook.com

NORTHLAND (WHANGAREI)

Geraldine Craw

Mob: (027) 614 0445

fcraw@xtra.co.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH

Rodney Hickman

Mob: (022) 676 3640

rodneyhickmanpoet@gmail.com

TAURANGA

Ruth Linton

Mob: (021) 408 661

ruthlinton2015@gmail.com

WELLINGTON

Paul Devereux

Mob: (022) 053 3618

paulrdevereux@xtra.co.nz

Our local group leaders are available to help connect you to a community of writers in your area. Contact our leaders here to find out more about meeting dates, times and locations:
www.nzchristianwriters.org/groups/

WELCOME

New Members and Renewals:

Graham Ashby

Alexandra

Alan Day

Franklin

Lynne Hall

Gore

David Kidd

Tauranga

Derek Kruger

Huntly

Sheryl Paul

Dunedin

Graham Pedersen

Tauranga

Dianne Ross

Nelson

Gwenda Smithies

Christchurch

Jonathan Squirrell

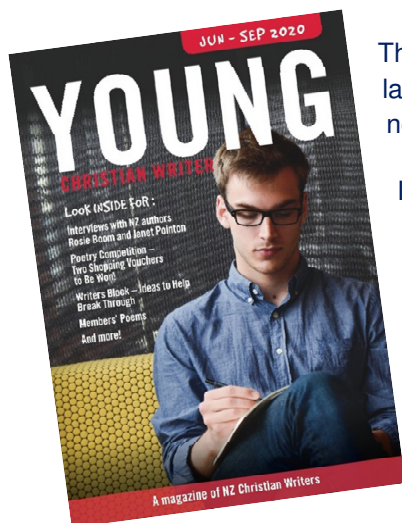
Red Beach

Dr Edwin Yip

Auckland East

New members please remember to email your NZCW website profile-photo and mini bio to Justin at:
president@nzchristianwriters.org

June-Sept 2020 *Young Christian Writer* is available now!



The first issue of *Young Christian Writer* was launched by NZ Christian Writers in February and now our second issue has been released!

If you haven't received a printed copy and you're a print subscriber you can request one by emailing our membership secretary, Debbie Smith at treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org.

Our next issue will be October 2020-January 2021. Let's spread the word and encourage our young writers around NZ to write for Jesus.

BookPrint.

Making Bookshop Quality Easy

At BookPrint you will find a company and staff that are 100% committed to transforming your book from an idea and a manuscript into a physical book you will be proud of. This commitment to quality means several things:

- Your book will be produced by a team that makes books everyday, and who spends their time practicing and perfecting this craft.
- Our customers benefit from informed conversations around specification, design, local and offshore production. Sometimes these conversations take 5 minutes, sometimes hours over several meetings and phone calls.
- When you work with a company committed to excellence they insist on investing time into every job.

09 443 1775
amy@bookprint.co.nz
www.bookprint.co.nz

Actual price example
A5 portrait (or 5x8" etc)
Softcover, perfect bound
Text: 160pp (80 sheets) on 100gsm smooth, warm white, printed black only
Cover: Printed 1-sides (2pp), 210gsm 1-side coated bulky cover board + gloss laminate
Spine: 10.3mm
Qty 150 copies
\$979+gst
It costs an additional \$0.12 per 10 printed pages

Crossword Solution for Page 15

Across

5 Actor 8 Pharaohs 9 Hitch 10 Rekindle 11 Speak 14 Spa 16 Streak 17 Guards 18 Ice 20 First 24 Jeremiah 25 Judge 26 An adverb 27 Feast

Down

1 Spire 2 Tasks 3 Saint 4 Philip 6 Caiaphas 7 Orchards 12 Attitude 13 Messages 14 Ski 15 Age 19 Cleans 21 Needy 22 River 23 Sheba

Writing Competitions Results

Congratulations! The points board below shows our mid-year **prize winners** for Levels One and Two. The annual points competition for Level Three is heating up—well done, writers! These three competitors have been **promoted** to Level Two; Jessica Mounter, Caroline Cook and Allison Wilson. Points for Levels One and Two now return to zero and the points competition begins again for the second half of the year.

Place-getters receive points in each magazine edition. Points earned are: 15 points for first, 12 points for second and 9 points for third. At the end of May and November contestants' points in Levels One and Two are added up and monetary prizes for first, second and third overall are awarded in each level. Level Three points totals for the year are tallied at the end of November. To be **promoted** to level two or three, contestants need to receive points at least three times on their current level, plus our judges desire regular entries and your writing to improve.

Monetary prize-winners are announced in our Jun-Jul 2020 and Dec-Jan 2021 editions. **Prizes are \$60 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place and \$40 for Third place.**

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Jessica Mounter	27	Jean Crane	24	Jean Shewan	30
Caroline Cook	24	Carole Sarsfield	15	John Lindsay	27
Allison Wilson	21	Pauline Marshall	15	Pat Kerr	15
		Felicity Logan	12	Lois Farrow	15
		Ruth Jamieson	12	Keith Willis	12
				Sue Thatcher	9

Competitions for this month are on the last page. To locate a copy of our Competitions Topics Reference Sheet for 2020 visit www.nzchristianwriters.org and click on the competitions tab. This sheet lists the topics for the entire year and explains the levels criteria. All entrants receive valuable feedback from our judges via email.

Enter and watch your points on the board grow! You could become a prize winner!

Competition Results

Level One

Judge: Debbie McDermott

Requirement: Beginning with the phrase, 'I was walking along, minding my own business, when suddenly...', write a story that has all the appearance of being a thriller but ends with a comical twist in the tale. 500 words.

General Comments

Congratulations to the 12 members who entered this competition. Each of you made an excellent effort and I thoroughly enjoyed reading your stories. While it was pleasing to receive so many good entries, this made my job of choosing the First, Second and Third Place winners difficult. I finally made my decision based on three key criteria:

1. How well was the thriller aspect of the story told?

The second key requirement of this competition was that the story had to have all the appearance of being a thriller. This meant there needed to be a certain amount of nail-biting tension, fear or panic woven into the story and the emotions/reactions of the main character clearly shown. Portraying just how your main character is feeling is an important ingredient in writing a good thriller and phrases such as 'My heart started beating so hard' or 'Fear froze me to the spot' will fully engage your reader in the story. First Place winner Caroline Cook, and Second Place Equal winner Allison Wilson, did this particularly well. Other entrants who also did well in this area include Jessica Mounter, Jill Clarke, Pauline Coffey and Rebecca Shepherd.

2. How good and humorous was the twist in the tale?

The objective of the twist in the tale was to comically diffuse a story that had the appearance of being a thriller but was not really about a dangerous or nail-biting situation at all. A good twist in the tale should be totally unexpected, preferably short and punchy, and, in this case, humorous as well. It also shouldn't be ambiguous to the point where it bears no relation to the story and provides an unsatisfactory conclusion as a result. Second Place Equal winner Jackie Davey's was the funniest, followed closely by Rod Hickman's, Danny Mwinga's, Brent Lindsay's and Mel Cruz Wood's.

3. How well was the story written and were all three key requirements met?

Each entry I received was good in terms of storytelling and most were well-written. However, those who were not placed had either not met all three main criteria of this competition; had made too many punctuation, grammar and tense errors; or had simply not produced quite as good a story as the winning entrants. Commentary on how to improve in these areas has been provided to each entrant.

While it may be disappointing to not be awarded First, Second or Third Place, I do want to encourage you to keep on entering as it is a great tool for improving your wordsmithing skills.

First Place



Caroline
Cook
of Auckland

Could it be Covid-19?

I was walking along, minding my own business, when suddenly I heard a cry for help. I recognised a mixture of pain, fear and urgency in his voice. My heart started pounding so loud that I could feel it throbbing in my ears. Fear froze me on the spot.

Should I help him? What if he hurt me? What if there was someone else in the house who might hurt me? What if he had Covid-19? I did not want to die from the pandemic. What was I to do?

And then, there it was again, as clear as it was the first time I heard it. The plea startled me out of my paralysis. I wanted to go towards the voice; I wanted to attend to the plea. But if I went into his house then I would burst his bubble and my bubble. It was level 4 lockdown so such behaviour was illegal. My dilemma just grew.

I had been well. I pondered whether it was acceptable to break the law if I was helping someone in distress. What about him? Maybe he was sick with Covid-19. Should I get help? Or should I get some PPE (personal protective equipment) at the very least? My mind was racing.

I walked cautiously down the pathway. The door was ajar so I was able to push it open very gently. It squeaked declaring my presence. 'Who's there?' The voice was desperate this time. His startled voice startled me. I assured him that I was there to help him, not hurt him at which point he said to come inside as he had fallen over and required my assistance to get up. I screwed up my nose as it did not make sense to me. His voice sounded too young to have such a need. I remained reluctant. Suspicion was aroused within me accompanied by another dose of fear.

I took a deep breath so I could think.

I asked for more details about the fall. He told me about what happened leading up to the fall. As he did, they started to get ridiculous and then quite unbelievable. The tone of his voice shifted to one that sounded like it was suppressing laughter.

I stood there, disbelieving; uncertain whether to walk away or investigate further.

Then my teenaged son jumped out of a bush and shouted 'April Fools!

'You were awesome Mum!' he declared as he fell on the ground and rolled around laughing.

Relief flooded me releasing the breath I had been unaware of holding. And my initial astonishment gave way to laughter.

As I looked back at the front door, there stood a middle-aged man, dancing about laughing, thoroughly delighted with his acting performance. He thanked me for being such a naturally talented heroine in the story.

Second Place Equal



Allison
Wilson
of Gisborne

Midnight Snack

I was walking along, minding my own business, when suddenly a rustling sound came from behind me. My body froze. Ever since I can remember, I've loved the night. I feel safe when its starry black cloak conceals me from the world in its embrace. Alas, tonight that illusion has been shattered.

I'd been out the whole day, and my rumbling tummy was a testament to that fact. I yearned coming home to a warm house and relaxing with midnight snacks. The once serene night air now reeked with the malevolence of the entity that I perceived lurking in its midst. The front porch was mere metres away; yet it felt like it'd take an eternity to get there.

Mustering all of my courage, I looked around to confirm my suspicion of a nearby foe. Icy shivers surged down my spine as the killer stepped out from the shadow of a maple tree. His back was partially turned to me. Brittle leaves crunched underfoot as he walked — reminiscent of the many lives that he'd stomped out. A slither of moonlight briefly illuminated his ghostly pale face. His eyes were cold and calculating. They mercilessly scanned the landscape in search for his next victim.

Relieved he hadn't spotted me yet, I desperately looked around for somewhere to hide. However the front yard was barren. Not a bush in sight. Off in the near distance was an old wooden shed. Glints of moonlight reflected off its shards of broken glass and curled, peeling paint. Its macabre state bode well with the mood of this night. *Nope — the front porch is where I'll be heading.*

Spinning my head back towards the tree, sudden terror ignited. He was gone!

My heart began to beat so hard that I was sure it'd explode. Where was he? Frantically I spun around before coming to an abrupt halt. He was standing a few feet away ... his eyes were fixated on me!

Shrieking, I narrowly evaded his grasp as he lunged towards me. A burst of adrenaline kicked in as I bolted towards the house. Bouncing up the steps I weaved around some gardening tools and headed towards my entryway.

THWACK! My pursuer wasn't as nimble as he plowed straight into the leaf rake sending it crashing to the floor. Almost immediately, a chorus of neighbourhood dogs began to bark into the night. They were loud enough to wake the dead!

The light above flickered to life as the front door creaked open. A robed woman stepped out onto the porch. To my great disgust, she walked over and kissed the killer!

Caressing his face, she cooed, "Oh Snowball my angel, I was wondering where you were." He purred with contentment. Then spotting me she exclaimed, "Ew, were you going to eat that dirty mouse?"

My whiskers twitched furiously with the absurdity of the situation. What a sick world! My appetite was now ruined. With that, I turned around and scampered off into the night.

Second Place Equal



Jackie
Davey
of Greymouth

The Bomb?

I was walking along, minding my own business when suddenly a guy came staggering out of the bush, bumping into me. Instinctively I pulled on Bear's lead dragging her closer. A mumbled "sorry" followed him as he took off. Bear strained on the lead, barking her disapproval. As I brought her under control, I noticed a cell phone. Picking it up, I briefly saw the last text he had sent, before the screen went black. People were always wandering around with their heads down texting as they walked. Two words crashed into my consciousness: The words 'worried' and 'bomb'. Oh, goodness, what on earth could that be about? I swiped left, right, up and down eventually getting the enter pin screen. No going any further with that, I thought. What the heck am I supposed to do? After the Mosque shooting in Christchurch everyone was a bit jumpy but I was hesitant to make it too big a deal when I hadn't seen the whole message.

I put the phone in my jacket pocket. The best thing to do would be to hand the phone over to the police, tell them what I saw and let them deal with it. Huh! Easier said than done. It was 8.00 pm on a Sunday night. The station wasn't manned on weekends, any incidents had to be dealt with by the Greymouth police – an hour and a half away. There was no way I was going to walk home, get in the car and drive that far on a Sunday night. It can wait 'til tomorrow! Still, that guy had looked dodgy – black jeans, black hoodie pulled over his head and – sunglasses on a cloudy evening? Hmm... maybe I was getting paranoid.

I hadn't been home long when the phone rang. Grabbing my jacket, I fumbled in the pocket trying to retrieve it. "Hello?" No reply and after repeated "hellos" it went dead. Closing the lounge curtains, I noticed an SUV with tinted back windows parked across the street. The driver was staring at my flat. Phones have GPS... don't they? This would be the weekend my flatmate was away. Checking quickly before I went to bed, the SUV was there but no driver. Bear began to growl – that low rumbling in her throat that told me she sensed something and was uneasy. "Don't worry Bear, the place is locked up but you better sleep inside tonight."

After a restless night, I heard the phone ringing again. My "hello" was answered. "Hi, this is David here. My son lost his phone. Ahh, I guess you must have found it. Can we come and get it?" No way!! We arranged to meet in the McDonalds car park. Look for an old black Nissan Primera he had said. Was this a ruse?

Bear and I were waiting in the car, my stomach doing somersaults, when an old Nissan pulled in, backfiring as it arrived, the engine sounding really rough. The license plate read – 'DBOMB'.

Third Place



Brent
Lindsay
of Auckland

Kidnapped!

I was walking along minding my own business when suddenly two men stepped out in front of me. They were well built and just stepped out of nowhere. They wore sneakers, dark blue track pants, dark tee shirts. In other words, they looked just like everyone else at the Metropolitan Bus Station in Krasnoyarsk.

Krasnoyarsk is the capital city of Siberia, east Russia. With over a million people it is the busiest place in over a thousand miles in any direction. This meant I was at the busiest bus station anywhere in east Russia. I had been with a YWAM group to meet our bus and had stopped to tie my laces. When I stood, they were about 30 metres ahead and I was striding to catch up. Well, as best one can with over 40kg of luggage. The group had turned and were waiting for me.

It was then the two men appeared.

"Please. You come with us," one of the men said in a thick Russian accent. "I take your bag."

In an instant he had my bag and they were shuffling me away. I saw the group leader almost thumping the translator, frantic and gesturing in my direction. Seconds later they were lost in a swirling sea of people.

As I was jostled through the throng I glanced over my back. There were a thousand faces and not one I knew. I continued to follow my new 'comrades.' I no longer had a choice.

We left the Bus Station and I found myself in a crowd of people spilling out into the street. My new companions maneuvered me onto a footpath and hustled me along.

"We must hurry now. Do not stop," the man said.

The day was clear and very hot. Siberia is known for having the harshest winters on the planet but it also has very hot summers. And no humidity.

I looked at the cloudless sky and for an instant it revived my soul. I almost forgot the danger. Until a car sped along the street and swerved to a stop alongside us. Before I knew it, I was bundled into the car. My bags were tossed into the boot. The two men leaped into the car. Then we were off. The driver kept looking at me.

Sometime later we pulled outside a vast apartment building. It was immense, towering above us, a rundown monolith of old concrete and faded, peeling paint.

I was hustled up a narrow stairwell. There was graffiti everywhere. The corridors were dark.

The men stopped and banged on a solid steel door. It flung open. A boy's face peered out. It was Danya from the camp I had been at the week before. He spoke reasonable English.

He just stared, wide eyed. Then he rushed over to me, grabbing my hand.

"I was hoping you could come! It's my birthday. Dad said he would find you and pick you up."

Level Two

Judge: Janice Gillgren

Requirement: Interview a grandparent in your locality (not one of your own family members) and ask about five values he or she would most like to teach parents of today. With his or her permission, write an article in a Question and Answer (Q&A) style. 250 – 300 words.

General Comments

I was looking for realistic conversation together with some pearls of wisdom, and was pleased to see this done fairly well in most of these Q & A articles. I wasn't judging those pearls of course, but the way they were conveyed. I would have liked to see some written from a male perspective too.

Q & A articles are fairly common, though they may be presented differently in various publications, so I wasn't rigid about layout. Word counts and spelling were good, although there were some minor punctuation errors.

Realistic conversation is a trade-off between correct writing rules and natural ways that we talk, and it takes some work to achieve a style that accomplishes both. Writing rules may seem unnecessary, cumbersome or even overly restraining sometimes, but it is surprising how they allow our speech to be conveyed more accurately and clearly. The better the writing skills, the less they are noticed—something like achieving a tidy house, I think!

In a Q & A article, spelling should be correct as usual, and punctuation should provide clarity in the arrangement of speech, but grammar can have more freedom. However, grammar can't be too free either. One useful compromise is to allow some more grammatical freedom to the interviewee but keep the questioner's speeches correctly written. This will serve to highlight the natural speech of the person being interviewed.

Pauline Marshall was awarded first place. Her article has a logical progression through the points she made, an attention to good writing skills and a sense of natural conversation. Her introduction helps us see why she chose to ask her friend's advice. Felicity Logan and Jean Crane won second and third places respectively.

These are some areas to note:

When introducing your interviewee, tell us why this person's values are likely to be valuable to us too. Incomplete sentences (also called speech fragments), such as those that miss verbs (the action), should be used sparingly, even though they are fairly common in natural speech. Beware of clichés such as 'life has its ups and downs.'

Rearrange sentences, if necessary, so they make good sense. When we speak, we often insert unnecessary clauses or words and, if written exactly as spoken, they make the sentence clumsy and unclear. When using quotes, (in Q & A articles, as in journalism) it can be difficult to write what is said in a way that makes good sense without losing the intended meaning, but it is very necessary.

Write in natural paragraphs of varying but reasonably short length. Think about how much people will talk before drawing a breath or having a reasonable pause. Long paragraphs can give the impression that your interviewee must surely be running out of breath, while only using single short one-sentence paragraphs can seem staccato and very unpleasant. You should still try to keep paragraphs to a single subject if you can.



Pauline
Marshall
of Christchurch

Parenting Values

My friend and I love to walk together. We talk, maybe pray, and occasionally upgrade the walk to a bike ride. I admire her approach to grand-parenting very much and recently I posed this question to her.

Q. Jan, what do you think are the five most important values that you would like to teach today's parents?

A. Mmm – I'm not sure that I would like to teach them – they might not listen, but ... what would I like to see them encourage in their children? The first would have to be love for God, family and the community where they live, because loving God means loving those around us. Could that be all part of value number one?

Q. I guess so. Maybe the other four could fit in under that umbrella. So, number two?

A. Thankfulness. Children need to be taught to be grateful for the little things in life. Thankful children are happy children.

Q. I agree. And is thankfulness connected with how much they have?

A. Definitely not. Often the happiest children live in poorer countries. Next would be dependability – role-modelled by the parents and encouraged in the children. Doing what you said you would do. This develops trust.

Q. Great values. So we've got love for God, family and community; thankfulness and dependability. What would be next?

A. Maybe cheerfulness? They say that this is a choice, don't they?

Q. I think so. Actually my dear mum, who was almost blind, used to say 'I'm going to make it my business to enjoy myself.' And she did. And for the fifth value?

A. That would be patience, role-modelled by parents as well as required from the children.

Q. A very good value. Thank you so much Jan for your thoughts and your encouragement for parents.

Second Place



Felicity
Logan
of Feilding

Family Values: A Friend's Wisdom

Q: Elsa, you brought up four children unaided after losing your husband, and now you are involved with your grandchildren. What advice can you give today's parents? Five items maybe?

A: Well, do stuff together to build memories of both the good and the tough times. Do it with creativity and joy -- just like those Energizer batteries.

Q: Which is why, once home from each 'holiday' with them, you immediately charge into creating a photo book of those shared times. It shows how you value those kids.

A: Same in a marriage. Love and value your partner: it's the best foundation you can give your kids for their lives. For example, it gives them a model for how to treat the opposite sex.

Q: How to care, and show that care for each other?

A: Yes. Learning how to show compassion even during the really tough times. And to show grace to all humanity, since that is how God responds to us. And honesty and integrity, which grow trust in any relationship.

Q: As a strong basis for family and personal relationships?

A: Yes, with a readiness to forgive. And generosity -- sharing what we've been given, or obtained by the skill and energy we've been given.

Q: Anything else?

A: Hope. Positivity. And not putting too much emphasis on the five Ps: performance, property, possessions, prettiness and pleasure. Oh, you didn't want this much...

Q: No sweat. But you missed mentioning your trademark!

A: What's that?

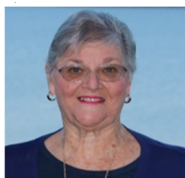
Q: Going the second mile, doing everything 200%.

A: So, today I score maybe nine out of ten? Whoops!

Q: Now who's emphasizing Performance? Well, our thanks for all that wisdom.

A: My Pleasure.

Third Place



Jean
Crane
of Tauranga

Grandmother's Special Values

Heather Tuck is a Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. She spent many years as a Missionary in PNG and at 86 is still actively serving the Lord.

Jean: If you could teach today's parents five values, what would they be?

Heather: Firstly, I would teach them to value themselves and their children. Every person is a child of God. Helping them to understand that God loves them and that they are valuable to Him, will result in a loving relationship with God, others and themselves. Jesus Christ should be the most prominent person in their daily life, and Bible reading an essential part of their spiritual growth.

Jean: What other values would you like to teach parents to help them develop a sense of right and wrong,?

Heather: Honesty is a value every parent should have, particularly with regards to money. Children need to know where it comes from and also the cost of living. It is important for children to be given pocket money to spend and for parents and children to keep a record of all their spending. Parents also need to discuss truthfully with their children, happenings around the world as seen on TV, iPhones and the internet.

Jean: What other values do you consider important?

Heather: I feel that eating together as a family is very important for the development of strong family bonding. This is a time when families share and care together. Another important value for parents to learn is how to lose gracefully. Life is not all about winning. When parents demonstrate this, they are being good role models for their children.

When parents value themselves, are honest and truthful, eat together as a family and lose gracefully, they are setting a profound example for their children to follow.

Level Three

Judge: Julia Martin

Requirement: Debate the topic: 'There is no place for Christians in politics'. Be sure to give both sides of the debate. 300 words maximum.

General Comments

With a General Election due this year, more attention than usual will be given to the policies and values of candidates and parties who wish to represent us in our democratically elected government. Several Christian groups in the past have attempted to establish political parties with varying success and failure. So should Christians be involved in politics at any level?

The assignment this month required a debate on the topic: 'There is no place for Christians in politics'. This entails a formal argument in which views from two opposing sides are put forward. Unlike a spoken debate, the writer has control of the opposing arguments and can present them in an orderly and logical manner.

Points to note:

Start with a strong opening statement that defines the topic and sets the scene for the debate.

There is an affirmative side which supports the motion, and a negative side which disagrees with the same motion.

The writer must take a neutral and balanced stand on the subject and keep personal attitudes and viewpoints out of the debate as much as possible.

Facts and quotes used in the debate need to be backed up by solid evidence to give arguments credibility. These can be added as footnotes.

The limited word count (300) means arguments must be concise and focused.

The conclusion is crucial so that readers can weigh up the pros and cons and make up their own minds on the subject.

I received five well-written and well-argued debates, so judging was difficult. Some entrants debated each issue one at a time, while others spent half the assignment giving arguments affirming the motion and the other half presenting the negative side. I looked for a balanced debate with a sound conclusion.

First Place



Lois
Farrow

of Christchurch

Who Will Represent Us?

Some people say that there is no place for Christians in politics. They believe that politics should be unbiased, unclouded by religion, and that Christians should not impose their views in parliament or influence legislation.

Some believe that the parliamentary environment is too devious and brutal for the Christian where it is hard to keep your integrity intact; a difficult environment and a place of ambition that can corrupt.

But others say that politics is exactly where Christians should be, influencing important national decisions, speaking up for what is right. Christians working in the pressured environment of Parliament can bring a calming influence, and can pray with their colleagues in times of stress, even those who have no faith. *

Parliament is also called the House of Representatives. Politicians represent the people, Christian and non-Christian alike, and are charged with debating and enacting legislation for the good of the individual and for the good of society. Besides dealing with the immediate, they are charged with doing what is right for the long term good of the country.

We all have a world view that shapes our thinking and our actions. It is not necessary for a politician to know God to be an amazing person who cares about us and our society. But whether a person believes in God or not will influence how they think about matters of life and death, and the value of the individual.

While some say Christians are not wanted in politics, others would say how else would the Christian view be represented.

Should our policies be shaped only by people who have no regard for God and his values, or should our policy-makers include those who believe that God rules and our legislation should reflect God's truth?

Who do we want to represent us?

*Told to me by friends in Parliament.

Second Place



John
Lindsay
of
Christchurch

Proposition: There is no place for Christians in Politics

For:

Christians have opportunities to get involved in their communities through employment, voluntary work and service to neighbours, but the Bible does not encourage them to get involved in politics.

Paul told the Philippian believers he was pressing on for a heavenly prize. When he also said their citizenship was in heaven he was directing their attention to their eternal hope and away from the matters of this life. (1)

Political activity draws the Christian into the systems and structures of the world. The apostle John warns us not to love this world or the things it offers and points out the world's tendency towards pride and desire for status. He also notes that the world (and hence its political systems) is fading away. (2)

When Christians engage in politics they come under pressure to support laws that violate their conscience. They are rarely allowed a conscience vote.

Christians tend to have a strong sense of commitment to their community and compassion for their neighbours. They can change their society for the better without getting into politics.

Against:

Christians can play a key role as politicians working to build a cohesive, stable society. As they live out the teachings of the Bible they are more likely to display the integrity, honesty, love and commitment to truth that promote policies and laws for the good of all.

The Bible makes it clear that all authority sits under God's ultimate authority. (3) As Christians act humbly under God's sovereignty, they provide an attractive alternative to the pride and arrogance often seen in politicians.

The biblical worldview needs to be voiced in the public arena, especially among those who govern our country. Christian politicians convinced of the certainty of their eternal hope (4) are in a strong position to influence decisions for good.

References: (1) Philippians 3:12-21; (2) 1 John 2:15-17; (3) Romans 13:1-3; (4) 1 Peter 3:15-17

Third Place Equal



Sue Thatcher
of Whangaparaoa

Political Career Anyone?

There is no place for Christians in politics. True or false? The term "Christian," refers to anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord and who strives to follow him in every area of life. Politics is defined as the activities associated with the governance of a country or area. Also, activities aimed at improving someone's status or increasing power. The Bible contains copious references relating to the governance of people and the personal standards of holiness the Christian should aspire to. It is the Christian's guidebook.

Throughout the entire Bible we see circumstances where God appoints leaders. He outlines strict expectations regarding the execution of all governance. Several examples of excellent, God fearing leaders leaving a legacy of greatness and leaders displaying the exact opposite traits and consequences are outlined. We must conclude that God is for politics, and places people he chooses into that field.

The Bible is also clear that the Christian should never participate in activity anti to God's standard of holiness. The heart attitude of the politician is on trial here. Are they seeking power over others for their own ego and status? Or, is their aim to honour and serve their God wherever they might be? God demonstrates that he places specific people in leadership roles. He chooses heart for himself over experience. We argue here that a Christian positioned by God into politics is in exactly the right place.

In conclusion, there is undeniable proof in the Bible that there is indeed a place for Christians in politics. Equally, strong proof outlining the character traits said politician must display are clear. If those characteristics are not present, we find undeniable proof that there is no place for that Christian in politics. It comes down to God's call and heart motive.

Third Place Equal



Jean
Shewan

of Christchurch

Christians in Politics

The calling of Christians is to have the attitude of Christ Jesus. This means giving up all we have and becoming as servants, humble and obedient to the will of God. (Phil 2: 5-8). There are many ways in which we can serve our neighbours, our communities and our world. We need to be obedient and prepared to use all the talents and skills that God has given us for the good of all. Our laws and the parliamentary system were originally based on Christian values, so we have a role to play to maintaining such a system. Looking after the rights of the poor and the underprivileged is of inestimable value in maintaining a healthy and equitable society. Serving God in such a way is another way of telling the good news.

The role of a politician is to create an environment which is just, protects human rights, and supports a community that provides equal opportunities for all. Our parliament is run by parties. This means that the views of individuals tend to be subsumed by the party line, and it is harder to maintain a Christian stance. The person and the message can be tainted by the association. Many Christians think that, as it is God who rules our world, we have little ability to make changes at a higher level. Our service should be in working with those who are left behind in the struggle to improve the living standards of many.

Everyone has a right to take part in politics, whatever our beliefs or ethnicity. That is the definition of democracy. Whether Christians do so, depends on their response to God's plan for them. By willing obedience, we will fulfil Jesus' promise that the world will know we are Christians by our love.

Competitions for August 2020

Due by July 1st

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

Entries are judged on: Entering, format and layout 15%, Topic requirements 25%, Creativity, flow and impact 25%, Grammar and punctuation 25%, Spelling 10%.

Level One—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Research and (if possible) interview a Christian organisation or individual making a positive contribution to your community. Then, with their permission, write an engaging article suitable for a secular newspaper or magazine on the work they do. Give your article a catchy title and make sure you only focus on three to four points in order to make the most of the limited word count. Include a photo if you wish. 300 words.



Debbie

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Two—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Review a Christian fiction book written within this decade. Give a brief review of the book (150 words, excluding book details), then rewrite your review into a blurb for that book (100 words) – 250 words in total.



Janice

Email entry to Janice Gillgren at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Three—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: A Christian is having a conversation with an angry atheist. Write down their interaction in the form of dialogue only. Up to 300 words.



Julia

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org



NZ CHRISTIAN WRITERS is a nationwide collective of authors, bloggers, editors, lyricists, poets, publishers, songwriters, storytellers and writers throughout New Zealand. Along with our bi-monthly magazines and competitions we offer inspiring seminars and writers retreats to encourage, inspire and upskill people in their writing.

NZ Christian Writers' vision is to cultivate a vibrant community of Christian writers by connecting them to other like-minded writers in New Zealand. We welcome both beginner and experienced writers.