

JUN - SEP 2020

YOUNG

CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE for:

Interviews with NZ authors
Rosie Boom and Janet Pointon

Poetry Competition –
Two Shopping Vouchers
to Be Won!

Writers Block – Ideas to Help
Break Through

Members' Poems
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.*

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Book Review Requests: If you are a member who has published a book and would like it reviewed in one of our magazines please contact our Book Reviewer, Julia Martin by email: reviews@nzchristianwriters.org

Young Christian Writer is our student magazine published three times a year by NZ Christian Writers. We also publish a bimonthly magazine, **The Christian Writer**. All members receive both magazines digitally. A printed copy of *Young Christian Writer* will be sent to all student print subscribers automatically and to adult print subscribers by request. Contributions are always welcome. Submissions should be emailed as a Word document no more than 500 words long. If you have an item or an event of interest do send it to the editor for consideration by the 10th of the month before the next publication date.

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 a high standard of writing. Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

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Website:

Check out our website for interesting information, such as who our board members are, how to join us and to view copies of past magazines.

Members with published items have a free profile page on our site to promote their work. Please encourage other Christian writers you know to join us via our website:

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Welcome



Welcome to our second edition of *Young Christian Writer* to equip you on your writing journey. Here at NZ Christian Writers we have been so encouraged by the enthusiastic response to this brand new magazine series that helps to build your faith and inspire you to write at the next level.

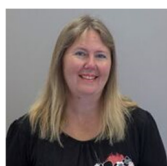
During this new season of life, we want our magazine to further equip you with faith-filled resources that inspire you. *Young Christian Writer* brings you exclusive interviews, creative competitions, insightful articles, powerful poetry, fun puzzles, book reviews and so much more.

As you may know NZ Christian Writers is a collective of authors, bloggers, editors, lyricists, poets, publishers, songwriters, artists and storytellers. Our vision is to cultivate, encourage and inspire a vibrant community of Christian writers. We are delighted to share *Young Christian Writer* and welcome you sharing your feedback with our awesome magazine editor, Kathryn.

If you are a young Christian writer do join us with our special Student Membership rate for the digital or printed magazine. It's super easy to join us online here: www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/. We trust you enjoy engaging with our magazine.

Justin St. Vincent, President, NZ Christian Writers

"Hi!" From the Editor



Hi there! Challenging is one of the words I would use to describe the past four months. How about you? Our planet and nation have been working through difficult and sad circumstances due to the Covid-19 virus. We've all had to adjust.

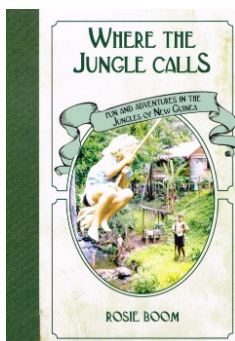
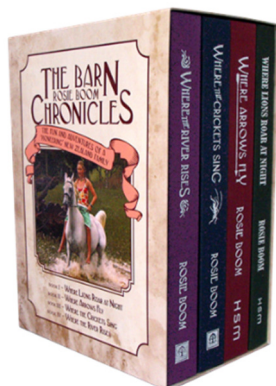
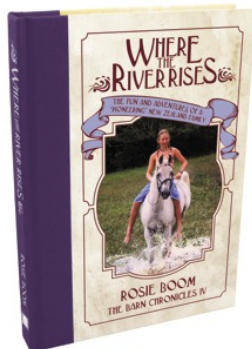
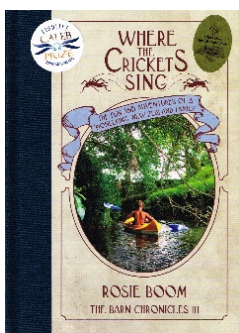
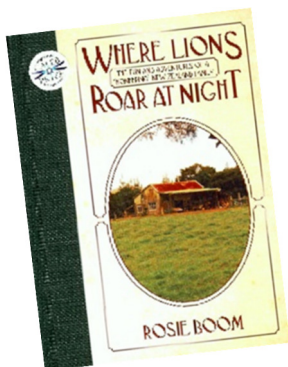
I spent the Level Four lockdown living in my caravan on my bare block of land with solar power and no running water. A summer drought in the Far North had caused much of the local farmland to dry out. I was praying for rain for my grazing animals and – praise God – I received enough rain to ensure my water dam didn't run empty. My daughter had left home in January to attend a six months YWAM DTS course but due to the virus all students were sent home. I felt for her having to leave her new friends, but I was grateful to have her home safe as part of my 'bubble'.

If you'd like to share your Level Four lockdown experience with our readers, please write, (maximum of 300 words) and email it to me as a Word document attachment. I'd love to hear your true-life bubble stories of how you spent your time.

Blessings and Love in Jesus, Kathryn Drinkwater

Interview with Rosie Boom, Author of the Barn Chronicles series

by Kathryn Drinkwater



Recently I interviewed Rosie Boom, New Zealand author of the *Barn Chronicles*. The following is what Rosie shared with *Young Christian Writer* magazine readers:



QUESTION:

1. How old were you when you discovered you liked writing?

ANSWER:

When I was nine and living in Papua, New Guinea, I had an accident that left me in bed for a few weeks. During this time, my mother showed me a writing competition for Australia and New Guinea and suggested I enter it. I did and was lucky enough to win first prize – a first edition copy of Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

QUESTION:

2. What inspired the content of your books?

ANSWER:

Real life in the Boom household has been the inspiration for most of my books.

QUESTION:

3. How did you remember your life details? Did you refer back to diaries?

ANSWER:

Writing *The Barn Chronicles* I relied heavily on my diary, which I had been diligent in keeping. Anything funny one of the children said, any dramas were duly written down, so it was all there when I came to write the books. I can't encourage people enough to write things down when they happen!! It's so easy to forget things, even memorable things that we presume we will never forget. I find it's important to write down even the smallest details – they will in fact be the things that make your writing believable.

QUESTION:

4. How long did it take you to write your first book and the series?

ANSWER:

Where Lions Roar at Night took five months to write. The following three books all took longer than that – ranging from eight months to a year and a half. Illustrating them was also a long process!

QUESTION:

5. What kinds of places have you visited or been a speaker at, due to your role as an author?

ANSWER:

It's amazing what doors open to you as an author. I've spoken to hundreds of children at schools, including the delightful children at a closed brethren school where I had to be careful not to mention television or movies etc. I've spoken to people on trains, in ships and on planes. I think most people hide a deep wistful longing inside to maybe try their hand at writing someday, so they're fascinated to talk to you and ask you questions.

QUESTION:

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with young Christian writers?

ANSWER:

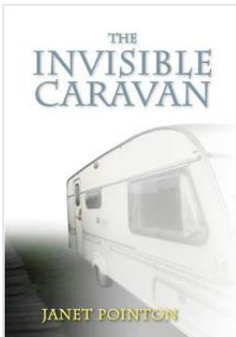
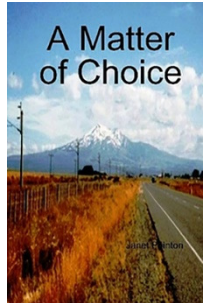
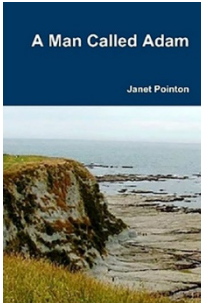
If you're keen to be a writer, keep your eyes and ears open! Each day, you'll come across all manner of things that can help you write a fantastic book if you're listening and watching for them. For example, I met the man at our local dump and realised he sniffs exactly six times before he speaks. ☺ That small mannerism will find its way into one of my books sometime. Study people on the bus, at the airport, in the shopping mall. Record what you see.

And read, read, read. When you find a book that you love, think about why you love it. I've just done that myself with a children's book I stumbled across called *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate de Camillo. Beautiful. Why did it move me? What was it that swept me into the story? Why did I care about Edward and each of the characters?

And lastly, just keep writing. You'll get better with every story, every poem, every attempt at sharing something with your readers. Never give up!

Interview with Janet Pointon, Author of *The Invisible Caravan*

by Kathryn Drinkwater



Recently I interviewed Janet Pointon, New Zealand author, about her new book, *The Invisible Caravan*. Read what Janet shared with *Young Christian Writer* magazine:



QUESTION:

1. How old were you when you discovered you liked writing?

ANSWER:

I have always made up stories. I still have one I wrote when I was seven or eight.

QUESTION:

2. What inspired the content of your book, *The Invisible Caravan*?

ANSWER:

I decided it was possible to write a children's book which would be exciting but not give sleepless nights. I tried to expand the reader's thinking into a spiritual dimension without their realising it. I'm amazed at the number of adults who enjoy reading the book.

QUESTION:

3. How did you plan out and create your story?

ANSWER:

I write as I read. I need to keep writing to see what happens! Eventually I stop and ask myself questions about the characters and fill in the finer details.

QUESTION:

4. How long did it take you to write your book?

ANSWER:

It didn't take long but I needed to go over it several times to flesh it out a bit more. I also tightened up the sentences to cut out unnecessary words.

QUESTION:

5. What kinds of places have you visited or been a speaker at, due to your role as an author?

ANSWER:

I had a book launch but this is the only time I have publicly promoted the book.

QUESTION:

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with Young Christian writers?

ANSWER:

Keep reading. Keep writing and enter as many competitions as you can.

Poetry Competition!

Win a \$30 book voucher!

How to Enter:

Write a rhyming poem about anything you like with a Christian theme. Length should be no longer than 40 lines.

You need to be a member of NZ Christian Writers to enter, so if you're not a member yet please join us and enter the competition!

Visit www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/ or see page two for postal details.

Please email your entry as a typed, word-document attachment, with your name and age. Email your entry to Janet Fleming at mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz.

There are two age categories for this competition. They are: **Twelve years and under**, and **Thirteen years to Eighteen years**.

Entries must be sent in before August 1st 2020.

Winners will be notified by email and winning entries will be published in the October-January issue of *Young Christian Writer*. Have fun!

PRIZES: Each first-place winner will receive a book voucher valued at \$30.00. Plus, first, second and third place-getters from both age categories will be published in the next issue of *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

About our Judge:

Janet Fleming is the Vice President of NZ Christian Writers. Janet writes poetry, music, devotions, Bible Study material and children's stories and puzzles. Janet developed a love for writing poetry from a young age when her mother read her *Christopher Robin*. To begin with, Janet often used her poetry for 'mischief', then later for special occasions. She loves to include illustrations from nature in her work. Janet's devotions are published by Choice Gleanings, Canada.



Writers Block

by Kathryn Drinkwater

WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

Write a descriptive piece about your favourite hobby.

Have you ever had trouble thinking of something to write about?

HAVE A LAUGH

Write a funny rhyme.

MOVIE MADNESS

Pick a movie character and write new scenes.

Your mind just goes blank?

STIR EMOTION

Write a poem expressing a strong feeling.

Goliath Guineapig looked out and...



When no ideas seem to come it's often nick-named 'writers block'.

RANDOM!

Put single words on small pieces of paper in a bowl. Pull out 4 & write.

BRAINSTORM

On a page write HOPE, surround it with words inspired by it.

Here are some block-busting ideas to help you break through!

VIVID MEMORY

Think of a strong memory and write it as a fiction story.

Lockdown!

by Janet Fleming

Today we are in Lockdown,
With Covid 19 here,
And many people living
With hearts so filled with fear.
What will this time be bringing
For people in our land?
Where will it all be ending
We do not understand?

My Lord was put in lockdown,
They placed Him in a grave,
Whatever could have happened
When He had come to save?
They sealed the tomb from entry
To keep Him in His prison,
But no, they could not hold Him
For Jesus, He had risen!

Myself, I was in lockdown,
Once bound with all my sin,
And then I met the Saviour
And Jesus entered in.
Today I've been forgiven,
Set free from Satan's chain,
No longer I'm in Lockdown
For I've been born again!

Pressing Buttons

by Kathryn Drinkwater

If I could press a button
To change a human way
What fun that I would have
Pressing buttons the whole day

I'd stop everybody smoking
And all forms of self-harm
I'd turn everyone who's grumpy
Into people of sweet charm

I'd stop every crime
Have people keep the rules
The prisons would get empty
No weapons only tools

Everywhere forgiveness
Everyone being kind
No drunks, no violence
Good thoughts on every mind

Wow, a change that would be!
To trust everywhere we go
No fear or rejection
Just a lovely, peaceful flow.

Writing a Great Rhyming Poem

by Kathryn Drinkwater

Here are some tips to remember when creating a rhyming poem:

- Ensure the words do actually rhyme and don't just look the same. Keep in mind different cultures pronounce certain words differently. For example, dance in the U.S.A. would rhyme with ants whereas in NZ dance would rhyme with aunts.
- Check the rhythm by reading your lines out loud. Try to be consistent with the length of the number of beats in your lines.
- Think of ways to re-word your phrase to express the thought you are trying to convey while at the same time keeping the correct rhythm. Often removing one small word won't alter your communication but will improve the rhythm.
- Read your poem to another writer and ask them to give you feedback. Then ask them to read your poem to you. Take note if they struggle with any words or the rhythm.
- Try counting the syllables in the line but keep in mind some syllables in words are spoken faster than others and some syllables in a word naturally carry an accent which can change your rhythm. For some people, clapping their hands or beating a drum is helpful. Take care to listen as you read it and note how each word affects your poem's rhythm.
- Read other people's poetry out loud, including children's books which rhyme. Pay attention to what works well and what doesn't. There are three poems included in this magazine – read them and ask yourself what you enjoyed about each one and what each writer could have done better.
- Use interesting words and be passionate. Poetry is a great way to have something to say and be heard.
- Try using a rhyming dictionary to assist you in finding words that rhyme or try an internet search.

Best take some time,
To write your rhyme,
What will you say,
To us today?
No need to fear,
God's love is here,
Please do your part,
And share your heart!

INVENTION OF PRINTING

BY JULIA MARTIN

Can you imagine a world without books, magazines, newspapers – or any other form of printed material? Well, that's how it was for most people until about 600 years ago. Books had to be written by hand, so they were scarce and valuable. Only the rich could afford to own them and book collections were usually found in churches and monasteries where they were often chained to tables.

In the 1400s, a young German named Johann Gutenberg made an amazing discovery. A friend gave him a piece of carved wood wrapped in parchment. When he unwrapped the carving, he discovered the sap from the carving had made an imprint on the parchment.

Gutenberg was excited at the possibilities. For many years he had developed a great love of learning but was frustrated by the shortage of books available for ordinary people to read. Moreover, as a Christian, he longed for a way to spread the Word of God to all people.

Previously some books had been produced by block printing which involved carving raised letters into a block of wood. The block was inked and pressed onto paper but could print only one page. The method was useless for book making, as the carving of each block took so much time and effort.

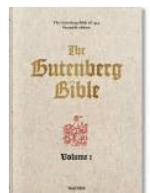
With his new idea, Gutenberg set to work in secret. He wanted to perfect a form of movable type whereby individual letters made out of metal could be arranged into text and fitted into a press. Once inked and pressed onto paper, hundreds of copies could be printed at once. The type could then be taken apart and rearranged quickly for the next page. It took many long hours of trial and error before he developed a system that worked.

News of Gutenberg's movable type and printing press invention spread quickly throughout Europe, and in less than 50 years, 15 million books had come into existence. Knowledge and ideas could now be shared quickly and there's no doubt that Gutenberg's invention paved the way for the Protestant Reformation and the Renaissance in Europe.

The Bible was the first book Gutenberg printed. In 1455, he printed about 200 copies in the Latin language. The few copies remaining today are considered priceless as the Gutenberg Bible is still regarded as a masterpiece of the printer's art.

Gutenberg's invention opened the way for the mass production of Bibles which helped the spread of Christianity. To this day more copies of the Bible have been printed in the world than any other book.

Johann Gutenberg used his God-given talent to make a difference – and so can you!



The Battle of Covid 19

By Jane Potter

You might have heard it said 'Fight
the good fight with all your might'.
We're in a huge battle...it's a war.
Like nothing we've ever known before.
Covid 19 has locked us down and out.
We're asking what is this all about?
So much time now on our hands.
Many things we can't do, cancelled plans.
Minds racing we ponder what to do,
the future is uncertain, that's true.
But we have this time to venture in.
To discover - dig deep beneath your skin.
Now in your heart, what will you do?
He's giving us weeks to work this through.
The challenge to me is I can waste my days...
Netflix, serials, games, so many ways.
But here's my chance to change.
To examine my priorities - to rearrange.
If Jesus is our shepherd... and we're his sheep,
He promises to provide and keep.
We need to follow, hear his voice.
We need to listen... that's our choice.
He leads beside a gentle stream...He says
"Come with me...lie down... and dream."
He promises to refresh and lift us up,
He will replenish ... He will overflow our cup.
I am excited to know what God is saying to you,
He's reliable, He'll take us through.
I believe we will look back on this season,
And see God's amazing hand of reason.
Let's stand together in the fight,
Arming ourselves in the power of His might.
Nothing will ever separate us from His love.
From east to west or skies above.
Where would we be without our God?
He is amazing...How faithful is our God.

We trust you've enjoyed this issue of Young Christian Writer magazine. The next issue is due out October 2020. I encourage you to keep allowing Jesus to inspire your writing and He'll use it to touch others! With Love in Jesus, from Kathryn Drinkwater - Editor



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.