

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

THE CHRISTIAN writer

SEE INSIDE FOR

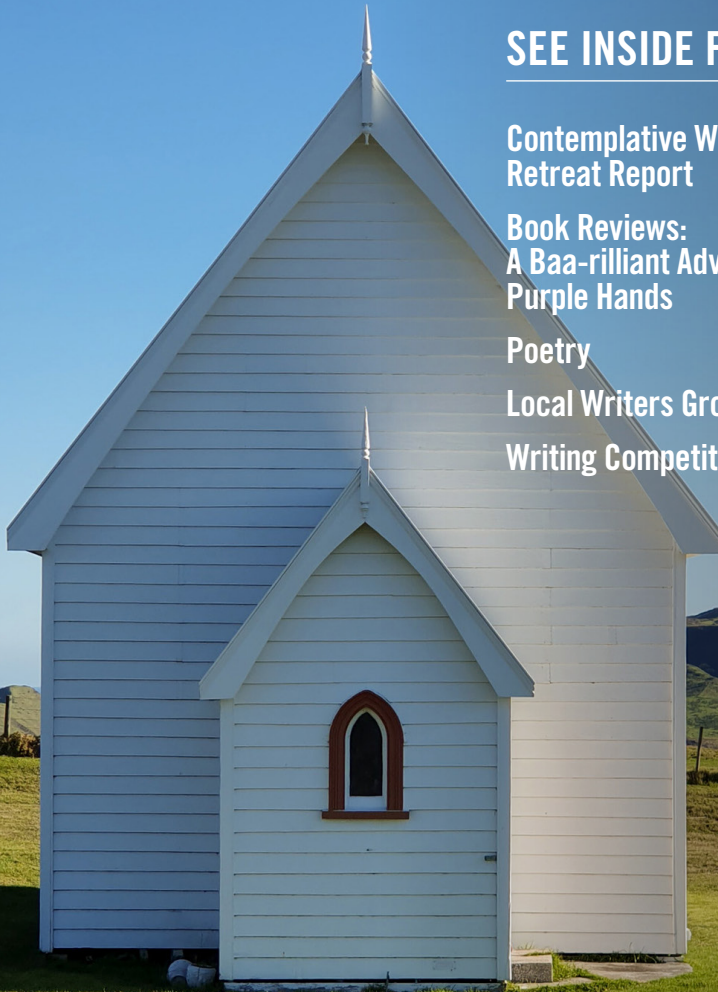
Contemplative Writing
Retreat Report

Book Reviews:
A Baa-riliant Adventure
Purple Hands

Poetry

Local Writers Groups

Writing Competitions 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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Editor: Kathryn Paul: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Debbie Smith

For subscriptions, donations, address changes: treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org

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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 from members 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 as a word document attachment and be no more than 500 words long, except at the discretion of the editor.

The editor reserves the right to condense and/or edit any contributions for reason of space. Ideas and opinions will not be edited but editing of a technical nature may occur to maintain a high standard of writing. Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

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The Christian Writer

Feb – Mar 2021

ISSN 2537-8708 (Online)

VOL 38. No 1

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 NZ Christian Writers Retreat Poster
Page 6	Editorial: Unique is Good – Kathryn Paul
Page 7	Important Notices
Page 7	Photography Competition Winners
Page 8	Professional Writing Services – Free Advertising for Members
Page 10	Contemplative Writing Retreat – Val Robb
Page 11	Writing Briefs: The Value of Writing Greetings in a Fly Leaf – Frederick Swallow
Page 11	Unnatural Selections
Page 12	Book Review: <i>A Baa-riliant Adventure</i> by Jennifer Somervell – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 12	Book Review: <i>Purple Hands</i> by Barbara Walker QSO – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 13	Addiction the Thief – poem by Kathryn Paul
Page 14	Find Your Local Christian Writers Group
Page 14	Welcome to New and Returning Members
Page 15	Crossword – Eion Field
Page 16	Voice – from literarydevices.net
Page 18	Volunteer Writers Needed for Ethnos NZ Books for Confidence
Page 19	Crossword Solution
Page 19	Writing Competitions New Points Board

CW Competitions

Page 20	Level One Results	Page 31	Level Three Results
Page 26	Level Two Results	Page 35	Competitions for April 2021

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. We encourage all members to reach out to other Christian writers. Feel free to share our website link with them so they can join us. As a member you are the best advocate for growing our collective of NZ Christian Writers.

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Report



Welcome to *The Christian Writer* magazine! We trust you are experiencing a great start to your 2021. I'd like to thank every one of you for being a member of NZ Christian Writers. Your participation in our

competitions and connection with our community endorses the reason we exist to develop people's writing skills. Our community of Christian writers continues to grow as more people are discovering we are here to help. Thank you for sharing our community and magazine with your family and friends. Invite them to join us via our website: www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/

You'll notice the front cover of the magazine has a new look. We will be sharing the winners of our photographic competition on the covers of the six 2021 magazines. Congratulations to Imelda Cruz Wood for being the first featured and thank you so much for sharing your talent with us.

We have almost booked out our Retreat 2021 at Flaxmill Retreat Centre, Whitianga for April 29th to May 2nd 2021. There are only 15 spaces available for writers (and their friends and family members) to join us. Our retreat experiences are designed to provide connections throughout our community and the inspiration to pursue your own publishing or writing journey. Our board and guest speakers are looking forward to welcoming you. Book today using our online form: www.nzchristianwriters.org/retreat-2021/

Recently I've been reading about the main message of Paul's letter to the Philippians, written by St Paul the Apostle to the Christian congregation he had established in Philippi. I believe the main message running throughout the letter is relevant and timeless for us today. Repeatedly Paul uses phrases like, 'Rejoice, and again I say rejoice, rejoice in your sufferings, rejoice in your difficulties.' Philippians can be seen as the happiest book in the Bible. Yet, let's also remember it was written from prison. It's great to realise that our circumstances do not determine our experience of joy. Let's be encouraged as we remember the joy of the Lord is our strength. During 2021 our motto should be 'pressing toward the goal' as written in Philippians 3:13-14, NKJV: '... reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'



In the Devil's world, are we a happy prisoner?

Blessings
Justin St Vincent

Happy Prisoner
Illustration by Ian Coate

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

Editorial: Unique is Good

by Kathryn Paul



My 2021 year has begun in a new, unique creative writing studio. It's a large, retired woolshed, complete with swallow nests, possum poop and wool scraps. What I love about it most is the welcome breeze through the large open doorway, the abundant in-built shelf space provided by the non-gib-boarded walls, the peaceful quiet and the rural views.

My year ahead promises to be full and interesting. I've joined YWAM Zion (Youth With a Mission) in Paparoa, Northland to offer some free help on the Base and by the time this Feb-Mar 2021 issue is released, I will be well settled into a new routine. My new challenge will be balancing serving YWAM Zion and NZCW while continuing with my book writing. I'm looking forward to the March launch of the reprint of my children's novel *Dog Tucker*. The publisher, Scholastic NZ is also releasing *Dog Tucker* as an eBook for the first time and I'm curious to see how the eBook selling goes.

It's been two years since our last NZCW Writers Retreat in Whitianga and I anticipate meeting with many of you during the next one in April. I've found it's a real pleasure to spend time with you all in the lovely accommodation, share the great food and learn from the writing and publishing experiences of other Christian writers.

I want to encourage everyone to persevere in their writing and publishing journey this year. Keep moving forward on the path God has you on. It's not always easy but any small amount of progress is still progress.

Do continue to send in contributions for our magazines. It's you, our members, who keep the magazine content interesting with your variety of writing flavours. Remember each of us is unique, we each have a unique writers voice and unique is okay. Unique is good! Be uniquely you.

A reminder that members who are having a book launch or any other kind of writing-related event are welcome to advertise it on our magazine's Notices page. All the best for your writing year ahead.

Love in Jesus,
Kathryn Paul

*I love to hear from our members. If you'd like to write to me or submit a contribution please email:
editor@nzchristianwriters.org*

Notices

NZCW Retreat 2021

Our Writers Retreat will be at Flaxmill Retreat Centre in Whitianga *Thursday 29th April to Sunday 2nd May 2021*. Please visit www.nzchristianwriters.org/retreat-2021/ to register. Attendees are encouraged to carpool. We anticipate having a great learning and social time together. See the poster on page five for our list of exciting guest speakers.

Kaimai Ranges Two Day Workshop

For writers who are unpublished or have limited self-publishing experience.

When: Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th February 2021

Where: Hoatu Kaimua Lodge, 282 Old Kaimai Road, Kaimai ranges (25 minutes from Tauranga or Matamata)

Cost: \$245 per person. Includes all meals and accommodation in bunk style dorms.

To Register: Email kerri@averministries.com or phone 021 439499 for more information.

Sister Eveleen Retreat House

Contemplative Writing Retreats in the South Island

A weekend dedicated to contemplative prayer and writing. Facilitated by Eddie O'Connor, Director, SERH. For more information, dates and registrations go to: www.sistereretreat.com (Please note it may be possible to ask for an extra day to get more writing done.)

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 the book has some Christian relevancy. For more information on how to have your book reviewed in *The Christian Writer* please refer to page two.

Photography Competition for *The Christian Writer* 2021 Covers

Congratulations to the winning entries for the six photographs that will feature on our magazine covers for 2021.

Drum roll please... And the winners are?

Each winner will be revealed in the President's Report as each issue is published!

(The suspense is eating at me already!)

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. My passion is working with authors to help produce a professional finish, making their writing shine.

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: 027 440 5851

E: gpetersen@hotmail.co.nz

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CHRISTIAN EDITING

My name is Iola 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

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- 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

Contemplative Writing Retreat

by Val Robb

Imagine a comfortable room and cosy writing space. Add ocean views, nature trails, delicious food, uninterrupted time to write, and fellow writers to provide feedback. Include an experienced guide to direct both contemplative prayer times and helpful writing exercises, and you have the Contemplative Writing Retreat at Sister Eveleen Retreat House in Christchurch.

When I saw the email from NZCW introducing this retreat, I eagerly signed up, booked my flight from Auckland, and invited my daughter to join me for a weekend of writing.

Upon arrival, Eddie O' Connor who recently earned his Master's in Writing from Canterbury University, greeted us warmly and showed us our lovely room. Angela and I immediately felt welcome.

Friday evening around the dining table, we sipped tea as we met our four fellow writers, introducing ourselves and our writing projects. We then moved to the chapel for contemplative prayer. A Scripture, a brief devotional reading, and sitting silently before the Lord for about twenty minutes provided a peaceful end to the evening.

Saturday began at 7:00 am with a contemplative chapel time. After breakfast, Eddie led us in a writing exercise. With our creative juices flowing, we headed to our writing spaces for a solid block of writing time. When needing a break, the beach beckoned, or we could peruse the selection of inspiring books.

At noon we stopped for another encouraging time of contemplative prayer. A nourishing lunch of soup, salad and homemade bread fuelled us for further writing. Before sending us back to work, Eddie led us in an exercise to help us clarify our audience.

Evening prayer in the chapel preceded a delicious dinner accompanied by great conversation. We grew closer as we shared our lives and our writing successes and challenges.

While we felt nervous about the evening feedback session, Eddie allayed our fears by setting out the rules. Everyone had to comment on each participant's writing. Each had to share one thing we liked and one suggestion – no judgement on content, but comments on the 'how' not the 'what'. Putting us at ease, Eddie shared first. Emboldened by his example, we each read out a selection of our writing. Topics ranged from a humorous piece on decluttering to a description of life in Indonesia. Having written quite personally about my childhood, I felt vulnerable, but the group's feedback was encouraging and helpful. A short evening prayer time fixed our eyes on the Lord.

Sunday's schedule followed a similar pattern. By now we had bonded well and our conversations and feedback for one another proved even more meaningful. Sharing our writing on Sunday evening, we celebrated each other's growth and progress.

If you want to rest in the Lord's presence, make progress in your writing, and connect well with other growing writers in a beautiful setting, I highly recommend you attend the next Contemplative Writing Retreat at Sister Eveleen Retreat House. For more information visit <https://www.sistereretreat.com/>

WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian Writing of
today and yesteryear –

Series by Frederick Swallow

The Value of Writing Greetings in a Fly Leaf

At an American Booksellers' Convention, a New Zealand writing colleague purchased a book by Joni Eareckson Tada for his mother. Joni, on asking his mother's name, added a short personal greeting in the flyleaf. This was greatly appreciated by the colleague's mother.

On leaving for New Zealand in 1922 (then a five-week voyage), my parents were presented with a Bible by the Wath Gospel Hall, Sheffield.

The flyleaf included these words:

'I pray these pages will show the finger-marks of constant use with your love for the author' and the message from

Joshua 1:9:

**... be not afraid neither be
dismayed for the Lord thy God is
with thee withersoever thou goest.**

Unnatural Selections

Sent in by an Anonymous
Member

"Go to the back of the boat!" The captain shouted sternly.

"I think the mirror needs a polish," she reflected.

"Thar she blows!" the lookout wailed.

"I think I'm losing my hair," he bawled.

"You can't take photographs here!" the lady snapped.

"That's twice I've taken up the offering," he recollected.

"I believe you are well connected," the gentleman rejoined.

"Giddyup," muttered the race jockey hoarsely.

"File those invoices," he rasped.

"I intend to replace that telephone pole," the woman riposted.

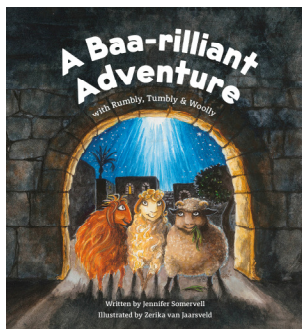


If we get our eyes on people instead of on God,
we can expect a reprimand.

Keep Your Eyes Front.

It's important not to become distracted
from your God-given writing task.

*Illustration by Ian Coate at
freechristianillustrations.com*



A Baa – rilliant Adventure

By Jennifer
Somervell

Review by Julia
Martin

Published by
Landing Lights
Press 2020

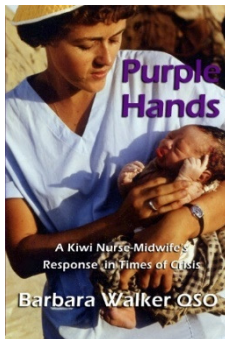
The Nativity story of Jesus' birth has been told countless times and in many formats. But after a trip to Israel, Jennifer was inspired to write this remarkable children's version from the viewpoint of three appealing sheep named Rumbly, Tumbly and Woolly. They were part of the flock belonging to the shepherds who were the first to witness the Saviour's arrival in Bethlehem.

When the three sheep find themselves in mortal danger, the shepherds come to their rescue; thus reflecting the qualities and role of the Saviour who would become the Greatest Shepherd who ever lived.

The second part of the book deals with interesting background information behind the classic story. The author covers topics such as the location of Bethlehem and the life and responsibility of shepherds in Bible times.

The book is superbly illustrated by the talented artist, Zerika van Jaarsveld, using powerful contrasts between light and darkness.

This book is a winner and I believe it will have a lasting impression on children and adults alike.



Purple Hands

By Barbara Walker
QSO

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Philip
Garside Publishing Ltd
2020

As a child, Barbara was taught to do her best and try to make a difference in people's lives. On becoming a Christian, she felt called by God to be a missionary nurse. After completing her training as a nurse and midwife, Barbara was initially rejected by a Missionary Society, but soon after, God opened the door to serve with World Vision.

Barbara left New Zealand in 1976 and spent the next 20 years serving as a nurse, midwife and aid worker in Australia, Vanuatu, Thailand, Somalia, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Zambia, Tanzania. Finally in Mozambique she received a serious death threat and felt to return to NZ.

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to live in dangerous places among the poorest of the poor, or work in crowded refugee camps with limited helpers and resources or try to meet the desperate needs of countless numbers suffering and dying from disease, injuries and trauma, then Barbara's first-hand harrowing accounts, with an occasional touch of humour, will leave you in no doubt. I was captivated by her involvement in so many of the worst trouble spots of those years. Yet in dire situations, Barbara learnt the incredible power of the human spirit.

She writes: 'I'm convinced now that it was only my Christian faith and my awareness of God that kept me going...God had called me and he had promised to equip me.'

This remarkable autobiography is a tribute to all selfless individuals who are prepared to give up their comfortable lives to serve their fellow humanity. I thoroughly recommend this book.

Addiction the Thief

By Kathryn Paul

Addiction is a thief
Out to steal your mind
To rob you of life
Its purpose unkind

It creeps in unnoticed
You think you're in control
Till too late you've realised
Your downhill roll

Your priorities awry
Your decisions askew
Damage and hurts but
You only think of you

If you're lucky some drama
Hits you between the eyes
Shocks you to attention
So you see your demise

From there you have a choice
To fight the uphill battle
Or give in and don't care
Till your death breath's a rattle

There is one way up and out
One big hope to seize
Call out to Jesus Christ
Get down on your knees

The Holy Spirit wants to
Save you from the mess
His power can set you free
Just let your heart confess

Ask God to forgive you
To fill you with His love
He will reach and touch you
With power from above

Addiction cannot win
In the face of God's power
Your life can change for better
From this very hour.



Unconditional Surrender

*Illustration courtesy of Ian Coate at
freechristianillustrations.com*

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Our local group leaders are available to help connect you to a community of writers in your area. Contact these leaders to find out more about meeting dates, times and locations.

www.nzchristianwriters.org/groups/

WELCOME New Members and Renewals:

**Liz
Fitzmaurice**
Lower Hutt

**Janene
Forlong**
Kaikohe

Maree Hyde
Papamoa
Beach

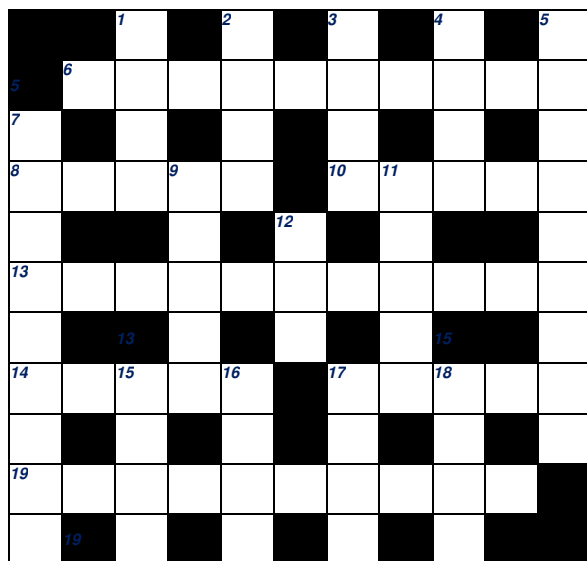
Andrew Killick
Dargaville

**Elizabeth
Smith**
Tauranga

**Jared
Thomsen**
Whakatane

**All NZCW members are
invited to share a Writer
Profile and Book Feature(s)
on our website. For details
email NZCW president, Justin
St Vincent:**

president@nzchristianwriters.org



Crossword by Eion Field

Clues Across:

6. Instrument used for worship (see Psalm 150)
8. To praise
10. Breakfast food
13. Festivity
14. Compass direction
17. Of the 'Far East'
19. Exam grade showing top marks

Clues Down:

1. Stop
2. One of the sons of Adam & Eve
3. 'We are (only) ...?' Psalm 103
4. Travel document
5. Relevant, to the point
7. From family ancestry
9. Not hidden
11. Sworn promises
12. To make a mistake (it's 'human')
15. Staple food
16. Give aid
17. Endorsement of prayer
18. Irritation

(Solution page 19)

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Voice

Definition of Voice

A voice in literature is the form or a format through which narrators tell their stories. It is prominent when a writer places himself or herself into words and provides a sense that the character is a real person, conveying a specific message the writer intends to convey. In simple words, it is an author's individual writing style or point of view.

When a writer engages personally with a topic, he imparts his personality to that piece of literature. This individual personality is different from other individual personalities, which other writers put into their own works. Thus, voice is a unique personality of a literary work. Depending upon the type of work, authors may use a single voice, or multiple voices.

Types of Voice

Though there are many types of voice, two are most commonly used:

- **Author's Voice** – Author's voice is the writer's particular style, which he employs in a particular story, or piece of writing.
- **Character's Voice** – A character's voice is the voice of the main character, how he views the world. It is a common narrative voice used with first and third person points of view. Here, the author uses a conscious person as a narrator in the story.

Examples of Voice in Literature

Example #1: *Various work* (By Multiple Authors)

Stream of Consciousness Voice

Stream of consciousness is a narrative voice that comprises the thought processes of the characters. James Joyce's novel, *Ulysses*, and William Faulkner's novels, *As I Lay Dying*, and *The Sound and Fury*, are modes of stream of consciousness narrative.

Example #2: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (By Harper Lee)

Character Voice

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a very good example of a character's voice, in which the character Scout narrates the whole story. Though she is an adult, she tells her story from her childhood's point of view. When she grows older, her language becomes more sophisticated. Scout uses first-person narrative to create a realistic sense, enabling the audience to notice the child is growing up. Her dialogue allows readers to hear the language of younger Scout. Also, it enables the readers to feel the voice of an adult in her actions and thinking.

Example #3: *The Tell-Tale Heart* (By Edgar Allan Poe)

Unreliable Voice

Edgar Allan Poe's short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* is an example of first-person unreliable narrative voice, which is significantly unknowledgeable, biased, childish, and ignorant, and purposefully tries to deceive the readers. As the story proceeds, readers notice the voice is unusual, characterized by starts and stops. The character directly talks to the readers, showing a highly exaggerated and wrought style. It is obvious that the effectiveness of this story relies on its style, voice, and structure, which reveal the diseased state of mind of the narrator.

Example #4: *Frankenstein* (By Mary Shelley)

Epistolary Voice

Epistolary narrative voice makes use of letters and documents to convey the message and reveal the story. It may use multiple persons' voices, or there could be no narrator at all, as the author may have gathered different documents into a single place to shape the story. For instance, Mary Shelley, in her novel *Frankenstein*, employs epistolary form, in which she uses a sequence of letters to express the voice of her narrator – a scientific explorer, Captain Robert Walton. He attempts to reach the North Pole, where he meets Victor Frankenstein, and then records his experiences and confessions.

Example #5: *Old Man and the Sea* (By George R. R. Martin)

Third-person, Subjective Voice

Third person narrative voice employs a third-person point of view. In a third-person subjective voice, a narrator describes feelings, thoughts, and opinions of one or more characters. Hemingway's novel *Old Man and the Sea*, and George R. R. Martin's fantasy novel *A Song of Ice and Fire*, present examples of third person subjective voice.

Example #6: *Hills Like White Elephants* (By Ernest Hemingway)

Third-person Objective Voice

In a third person objective voice, a narrator narrates the story without showing the character's feelings and thoughts and gives unbiased and objective points of view. A typical example of this voice is Ernest Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*.

Function of Voice

While identifying the function of voice in literature, it is necessary to consider the narrator's degree of objectivity, reliability, and omniscience. Voice shows whose eyes readers see the narrative through, which gives a personality to a literary piece. Moreover, a strong voice helps make every word count, sets up consistency, and most importantly grabs the attention of the readers.

With acknowledgements to <https://literarydevices.net>






HOW MANY BOOKS DID YOU READ BEFORE YOU READ THE BIBLE?

Reading God's word is vital for the health and effectiveness of a remote tribal Church.

The Bible is a big book, made up of various genres from a time and culture different from our own.

This requires confident readers.

Confident readers have honed their skills by:

-  Reading **numerous books**
-  Reading books of **varying difficulty**
-  Reading books on **many different subjects**

Ethnos NZ and partners are building a library of practice reading material for tribal Churches under the creative commons copyright and are looking for **volunteer authors and illustrators**.

See the video: www.ethnos.nz/videos#literacy

Interested in contributing towards tribal literacy?



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Crossword Solution for page 15

ACROSS: 6. Tambourine 8. Extol 10. Toast 13. Celebration 14. North 17. Asian
19. Excellence

DOWN: 1. Halt 2. Abel 3. Dust 4. Visa 5. Pertinent 7. Descended 9. Overt 11. Oaths
12. Err 15. Rice 16. Help 17. Amen 18. Itch

Writing Competitions New Points Board

The competitions for 2021 have begun! In each magazine, place getters receive points: 15 points for first, 12 points for second and 9 points for third. At the end of May and November, highest points in Levels One and Two are awarded monetary prizes for first, second and third. Level Three points are tallied at the end of November. Prizes up for grabs are: **\$60 for First Place**, **\$50 for Second Place**, **\$40 for Third place**.

To be promoted to Level Two or Three, contestants need to receive points at least three times on their current level. Our judges also require regular entries and improved writing.

Prize-Winners during 2021 will be published in the Jun-Jul 2021 and Dec 2021-Jan 2022 magazine editions. Check out the latest competitions on the final page of the magazine to enter, or visit our website to see all the competition topics for 2021.

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Sheryl Paul	15	Pauline Marshall	15	Caroline Cook	15
Corrine Sinclair	12	Eion Field	12	Jean Shewan	12
Liz Fitzmaurice	12	Ruth Jamieson	9	Pat Kerr	9
Regan Kim	9				

As you can see above, we're off to a great start. Don't be shy, give it a go and get your name on the board. All entrants receive helpful feedback via email from the judge. Have courage and be determined. You can do it!

Competition Results

Level One

Judge: Debbie McDermott

Requirement: Using the 10 words **bag, mirror, table, bushy, mug, bell, screech, switch, bark** and **relief** at least once in your entry, write a humorous story with an unexpected outcome and an unpreachy takeaway message. 500 words.

General Comments

I was pleased to receive four good submissions to this competition and commend each of the entrants for giving it a go as it was not the easiest of assignments. Apart from having to use the 10 stipulated words at least once, entrants were also required to ensure their stories included humour, an unexpected outcome or conclusion, and an unpreachy takeaway message. Only two of the entrants met all four competition requirements, while the other two overlooked including a specific takeaway message.

As Christian writers, we need to remember that the objective of a takeaway message is to influence our reader to respond or act in a way that will positively impact their life. For instance, Regan Kim's story of a pastor's forgiveness may well inspire his reader to be more forgiving, while Liz Fitzmaurice's story could persuade her reader to not judge others based on their looks alone. It is also best to use the 'show, don't tell' technique to ensure your takeaway message is not speaking down to your audience.

Placing entries was straightforward this time, with Sheryl Paul being awarded First Place for her very well-written and humorous story of a little boy's escapade. Corrine Sinclair's nicely written and charming story of a family picnic, a squirrel and a dog tied for Second Place with Liz Fitzmaurice's unusual and amusing tale about a talking mirror and a bushy-faced boy. Regan Kim was awarded a well-earned Third Place for his highly amusing story which met all four of the competition requirements and delivered the strongest takeaway message of all the entries received. Considering that English is not Regan's first language, he made an excellent effort and I hope he will continue to develop his literary/storytelling skills through the NZCW competitions and resources.

While each story was generally well-written, areas for improvement include learning how to correctly use commas and full stops at the end of a piece of dialogue. ALL punctuation marks should be placed inside the closing speech marks, not after them.

*Other issues include unnecessary repetition and not using adverbs effectively. For example, '...he **muttered** [verb] to the face in the mirror **grimly** [adverb]' would be more effective if written as 'he **grimly muttered**... OR 'he **muttered grimly**.*

In conclusion, I once again congratulate all four entrants for doing so well in this competition and look forward to receiving further entries from you.

First Place



Sheryl
Paul
of Dunedin

Bell Robber

Dan peered into the mirror, regarding his reflection critically. Flicking on the switch of the electric razor, he aimed the buzzing blades carefully at one end of his black moustache. The moustache was just a little too bushy, he thought. The razor caught on a long curl, causing a painful tug, and Dan quickly switched the razor off again. Grasping each end of the moustache with his fingers, he smoothed down the curls as best he could.

“That orta improve yer ugly mug,” he muttered to the face in the mirror grimly.

Dan went into the adjoining master bedroom and stood beside the window, making sure he was hidden by the net curtains. Looking outside towards the right, he could see straight into the old woman’s dining room. His eyes searched for what he had seen the night before. Ah, there it was. A golden bell, sitting right in the middle of the dining table. What a prize! It shone in the afternoon sun tantalizingly.

Dan went down the stairs and headed outside, using the back door. He paused to check that no one was around. The way was clear. Hurriedly he strode through the open front door of the old woman’s house. Sneaking through the narrow hallway, he found his way to the lounge. The room was silent; the house appeared to be deserted. Dan felt exultant. He rummaged around in his pocket and pulled out a scrunched-up reusable bag, stored there for just such a purpose.

Dan tiptoed across the lounge and turned left into the old woman’s dining room. There was the bell, within his reach! He grabbed it. Just at that moment, a fluffy brown dog ran into the room. It began to bark! Quickly Dan dropped to the floor. “Hush, dog!” he ordered.

It was too late. A voice called out to the dog and Dan heard footsteps approaching. He dived underneath the table, stuffing the golden bell into the bag as he did so. The dog stood next to the table watching him, its tail wagging vigorously.

“What’s all the noise about, Fido?” came an assertive female voice. Dan glanced upwards involuntarily. The woman leaned down and stared at Dan full in the face. She let out a loud screech. Then she laughed in relief.

“Daniel Benjamin Smith, what do you think you’re doing? And where has the chocolate bell gone?”

Dan crawled out from under the table. “I was just pretending, Mummy,” he said. “I was a robber taking a golden bell from an old woman.”

“Humph,” said his mother. “I’m not old yet. And robbers usually get caught—sometimes by police dogs!”

“It was just for fun, Mummy. Can I have a piece of the chocolate bell, please?” Dan opened the bag and gazed at the bell longingly.

Dan’s mother looked at her eight-year-old’s face and her lips twitched in spite of herself. “Only if you promise not to get chocolate on your father’s fake moustache,” she said.

Second Place Equal



Corrine
Sinclair
of Silverdale,
Auckland

Grandma becomes a hero

“What a beautiful day” Cherry commented. “Perfect day for a picnic, what say we take the kids to the park?”

“Great idea” said Grandma, “I will make some sandwiches while you get the kids ready.”

“Can I take my new bike” asked Jesse. Cherry was a little apprehensive. Jesse was physically handicapped. Unable to walk since birth he mostly used a wheelchair. Recently his physiotherapist suggested he trialled a special bike which he could pedal using his hands.

As they set out the five of them made quite a procession. Seven year old Jesse on his special bike, four year old Tommy pedalling his trike as fast as his little legs would go, grandma pushing eight month old Lily in her pushchair and Cherry leading their little dog Daisy, trying to keep her out of mischief. There was a painting of a bike on the path with a sign beside it ‘share the path’. “What does that mean?” Tommy asks his mother. “It means the path is for everyone. If you see people walking in front of you, you must ring your bell.”

“Why?”

“So you don’t run into them stupid!” retorted Jesse

“That’s enough,” said mother.

The path opened out into a beautiful park sheltered by large oak trees. There was a picnic table beside a small lake, where a family of ducks were enjoying the cool water. Grandma placed her bag on the table, pulled out three plastic mugs for the children, cups, sandwiches, fruit enough for everyone and a bag of walnuts.

“Yuk!” exclaimed Jesse “I hate walnuts!”

“Shake some and see what happens” replied grandma with a grin. Suddenly a little red squirrel appeared. Cherry threw it a walnut. Sitting on his haunches the squirrel picked up the prize. He shook it, then bit it and with a switch of his bushy tail turned and ran towards the tree.

Daisy barked, taking chase. With a screech the frightened squirrel leapt into the tree, disappearing into a hole. Out of her bag came grandma’s mirror. Everyone laughed with relief as a flash of light distracted Daisy’s attention. Looking a little dazed she crashed into the tree with the squirrel scolding her from the safety of his den.

“Can we feed the ducks now?” asks Tommy

“When you have finished your lunch.” His mother replied as she firmly tied Daisy’s leash to the table leg. Little Lily squealed with delight as the mother duck with her ten yellow ducklings waddled up to join them seemingly unperturbed by the commotion.

Later that day as the sun was starting to cool, three tired children and one little dog headed for home. Jesse had mastered riding his special bike. Tommy learned why it is important to use the bell on his trike and grandma had become a hero. Cherry was just content in the knowledge that Lily was finally asleep and Daisy the dog no longer barked at squirrels.

Second Place Equal



Liz
Fitzmaurice
of Lower Hutt

The Mirror Sees and Hears All

“Mum you sound like a dinosaur, you’re so old fashioned” Clarissa laughed. “A beard is not proof someone has no respect”.

“I’m with you sweetheart” the mirror agreed.

“So mum, while you stay home and drink your mug of hot chocolate by the fire, your daughter is going to the movies with Blair, whether you like him or not. Conversation over, dinosaur!” Her tone was playful as she walked away. But, as she picked up her bag from the hall table, the mirror did not miss the tear in her eye. The bang of the front door drowned out her mother calling from the lounge, “Clarissa, please don’t go. Can we talk about this?” The screech of car tyres proved her words were wasted.

The mother walked slowly to the hallway. She stared at her image in the mirror. “Well that went well! Not!” she said to her reflection.

"Well what did you expect, you ninny", the mirror responded.

"What? Who's there?" the mother asked, colour draining from her face. "Come out. Show yourself."

The mirror was curious. It had been in the family home for 3 generations and nothing surprised it. But tonight, it hadn't seen or heard anything.

"I am not a ninny!" the mother declared defensively.

Now it was the mirror's turn to be shocked. "You serious? You heard me?"

The mother turned on the light switch bathing the empty hallway in light. "Of course, I heard you!"

"Wooh. This is crazy stuff. Sounds like your heart is hearing, little Maddi."

The mother stood still. She hadn't been called "little Maddi" since she was a child.

She looked around to check no one was watching her conversing with her mirror. Despite herself, she smiled, "Ninny? Who says that these days? So, you've got advice then?"

"Well first little Maddi, chill. I liked you way better before Clarissa started seeing Blair".

"But that bushy faced boy is so beneath what she deserves! He doesn't even shave".

"I watch him tidy his hair and beard in his reflection before he enters your lounge. He wants your approval"

"Really? But..."

Rather liking this newfound opportunity to chat, the mirror continued "So how about you stop talking and start listening? Give him a chance".

The bizarre conversation was interrupted by the bark of the family dog, as the doorbell rang. She opened to him; bushy faced but with beautiful intense eyes she hadn't noticed until now.

"Blair, come in. Clarissa has just gone out. How about I make you a cup of tea as we wait for her? Grab a seat and I will boil the kettle." She winked at the mirror on her way to the kitchen.

"Um yes, um, why not?" Blair stammered to her retreating form. She missed his look of relief as he spoke to his reflection. "Mate the miracle's happening. Wait 'til Clarissa hears her mother talked to me!"

Third Place



Regan
Kim
of West Auckland

Forgive Up To Seventy Times Seven!

Leo looked in the broken hand **mirror** that was dumped on the ground. His looks became terrible in just half a day. It broke his heart.

Not far away was a cafe. A couple sat at a **table**, chatting. Each held a **mug** in hand. The lovers looked happy, but Leo felt so miserable. This morning, he was absurdly mistaken for a thief.

The incident began with his mere curiosity. It was when he was idling around town. He came across an unidentified **bag** next to a rubbish bin. Leo's curiosity aroused. He immediately got into searching the bag through.

The bag owner, who was talking to someone a few steps away, soon realized what was going on. He jumped and kicked Leo mercilessly. Leo tumbled with a sharp **screech** and ran away frantically.

After wandering, Leo found himself on the beach. The roaring wave seemed to blame him. His curiosity had long been a source of trouble. He was losing his will to live more. Leo took a step closer to the sea. The water he felt on his feet was cold. The time to make a final decision was just around the corner.

That moment, Leo heard a church **bell** ringing. The sound awakened his fading spirit. His steps unwittingly moved towards the church on the hill. The main door of the church was closed. Leo opened a side door with a slight push.

It was dark inside. The small light was leaking from upstairs. When Leo went up, he saw someone sitting in the office. The office man was about to **switch** off. The two's glances met as Leo approached the office. Then, the office person shouted, "Oh, Leo!"

Leo couldn't stand it anymore. He did **bark** like crazy, wagging his tail vigorously. Yes! Leo is a puppy, which is a one-year-old Schnauzer breed with a **bushy** beard. The person in the office is Leo's owner as a minister of the church.

The pastor hugged Leo's neck. "It's all right," he repeated. He already knew what had happened to Leo. When he went down to town looking for Leo, he heard the whole story from the bag owner together with his apology.

He fed Leo first, then put Leo on his lap and began to pray. Leo heard the pastor's prayer. "Lord Jesus! Leo made another trouble. But, let me forgive him up to seventy times seven, not seven times." Leo thought to himself, 'Hmm, it's weird. My pastor forgives me in the name of Jesus.' The name of Jesus was giving Leo a profound **relief**.

Leo fell asleep. In his dream, he faced the same bag again. Unable to resist his curiosity, he began to sniff the bag. At that moment, the bag owner popped up.

Leo quickly escaped and exclaimed, "Jesus! Please forgive me once more! I still have seventy times seven minus one left!"

Level Two

Judge: Lesley Edgeler

Requirement: Using a traditional rhythm and rhyming style, write a poem summarising the key points in the seven parables Jesus told in Matthew 13. Summarise only one parable per verse. (7 verses maximum, each 4 lines long).

General Comments

Welcome to Level 2 for 2021. The competition requirements are very exciting and difficult in many aspects. A good challenge for our competitors! One or two entrants had missed out on the updated information with the change from six to seven parables, so I did not penalise them.

I awarded Pauline Marshall first place. Her imagery was excellent. To think of a mustard seed as 'a miniscule dot' and the man who 'hatches a plan' to seek the treasure caught my attention.

Eion Field used a clever rhyming format—creating a rhyme within a rhyme which helped his poem flow smoothly. He received second placing.

Ruth Jamieson I placed third as she used her words to capture one's attention: 'the state of man's heart shall choose his finality'.

The first topic for the year is an extremely difficult one. I congratulate the five writers who made the effort to enter their poems. Each contestant's writing was of high calibre. However, traditional rhyme and rhythm was stressed and had to be the basis on which I marked the entries.

Some capital letters were missed at the beginning of each line which is a feature of traditional poetry. Most computers default to this but modern trends allow for lower case to be used. I was not harsh about this rule.

Each contestant used fresh and interesting imagery to highlight their focus in each verse. I also based my judging on freshness, impact and originality of presenting the central message of each parable.

Poetry is an interesting and varied genre. It requires imagery, truth, creativity and powerful analogies.

Perfect rhymes consist of similar sounding words which begin with different consonants: leaven, heaven. Imperfect rhymes such as whereby and thereby have the same consonant before the rhyming sound: b precedes y.

Slant rhymes have like sounds when technically different: ready, steady

Jesus' parables helped people to understand the truths he was aiming to convey. Most entrants accomplished this in creative ways.

Competitors need to read the requirements more than once to make sure everything is covered in their writing. Also take note of the font, spacing and other stipulations found on the competitions page to avoid points being deducted. I encourage level 2 writers to keep entering the competitions.

First Place



Pauline
Marshall
of Christchurch

The Kingdom of Heaven (based on Matthew 13)

The Kingdom of Heaven brings seeds of the Word
That fall upon hearts when the gospel is heard.
On poor types of earth they can hardly take root,
But hearts that are good will grow beautiful fruit.

The Kingdom of Heaven's a paddock of grain,
But weeds have been planted as well, what a bane!
The farmer says 'Leave them for now – don't disturb –
At harvest time weeds will get kicked to the curb.'

The Kingdom of Heaven reminds us a lot
Of Seed of the Mustard, a miniscule dot.
Yet lo and behold it becomes a great tree
That shelters the birds; they are safe, they are free.

The Kingdom of Heaven is hidden like yeast
In dough that's prepared, to make bread for a feast.
It works away silently, powerful and sure,
Affecting, transforming the dough more and more.

The Kingdom of Heaven is shown when a man
Unearths a great treasure and hatches a plan.
He hides it, then sells all his goods (is this wise?)
And buys the whole field for the sake of the prize.

A merchant is seeking a pearl of great price,
He notices one; it's especially nice.
He sells all his assets, the price is so high.
'My precious possession, for this I would die.'

The Kingdom of Heaven's a lake full of fish
All swimming together wherever they wish.
Along comes the fisherman trawling one day,
The good fish are kept and the bad thrown away.

Second Place



Eion
Field
of Waikato

Magnificent Seven

1. The seeds we sow, where will they grow? Not scattered on the path, I know
And not among the thorns and rocks, choked by thistles, stones and docks.
By only sweat and honest toil, when sowing deep in fertile soil,
With warmth of sun and fresh of rain, brings hundred-fold the golden grain.

2. There was a man who had a plan to grow a crop for grain and bran,
But one night by an evil deed, "someone" mixed the seed with weed
On learning things had gone askew, the Master knew just what to do,
"In harvest days those weeds up raise, and burn them in a fearsome blaze!"

3. So while it's seeds we're on about, I do believe without a doubt
What Jesus taught (you may recall), "mustard seeds are all so small".
And yet we'll see a tree someday, full grown by way of DNA.
But this is how God's kingdom grows; like wheatfields – those in sweeping
rows.

4. Now seeds get grain and grain gives flour. One morning in an “hour of power”,

‘Twixt six and seven, with flour and leaven, a lady demonstrated heaven.

She mixes perfect dough “just so”, three measures in the oven go . . .

It’s what we’ve read that Jesus said, our leaven makes for ideal bread.

5. Well here’s another metaphor, if learnt I’ll bet you’re better for:

A chap digs up a secret stash, a cache worth a stack of cash,

With glee he leaves it un-revealed, concealed and sealed beneath that field,

Then sells off all his stock on hand, and buys that land – for fifty grand!

6. Again, a guy was out to buy a perfect pearl that caught his eye,

Prepared to go to twice the price, he’d heard the words of sound advice.

“you’ll never find a finer gem. Invest your all!” He heeded them.

So for the kingdom Jesus “sez”, let yes be yes – and nothing less.

7. Another kingdom thing He taught: how fish of every sort were caught

In one great net, and hauled ashore; millions, billions, even more.

The good were saved, not so the bad; the contrast stark and dark – and sad.

But Jesus’ net is wider yet, for all who would salvation get.

Third Place



Ruth
Jamieson
of Kawerau

The Kingdom Parables

God’s word is good seed that is scattered around
Its growth does depend on the state of the ground
Whether stony, crowded, shallow or ready
The state of man’s heart shall choose his finality.

The good seed was planted in the field prepared
But wild seed sown as the farmer slept in bed
The good and the counterfeit grew 'till harvest
The good was kept but the reapers burnt the rest.

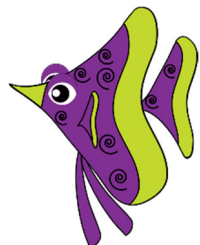
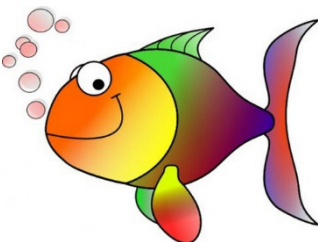
Another parable Jesus told to all
Of the small mustard seed that grew very tall
Its branches gave shelter to birds of the air
For rest and security will be found there.

Making of bread with water, flour, and leaven
Jesus compared to the kingdom of heaven
Leaven, his hearers of Jews would have known
Spoke of sin, which grew rapidly when sown.

Buried treasure in a field, a joy to find
The man in this parable made up his mind
Such a precious jewel was worth all that he had
So, he bought the land, though others thought him mad.

Still further kingdom parables Christ did tell
Of another man who was willing to sell
The total of his goods for a single pearl
He knew it's great worth, as a dealer in jewels.

From the sea, the net, a range of fish did reap
The bad thrown away, the good ones to keep,
Jesus spoke of a time when angels will sort
The wicked, the righteous, just as He had taught.



Level Three

Judge: Julia Martin

Requirement: Write an article for our *Young Christian Writer* magazine outlining the reasons you believe writing is a worthwhile pursuit. (300 words)

General Comments

Is writing a worthwhile pursuit?

This is a question most writers will ask themselves at some stage. Serious writers know only too well how much commitment, perseverance and hard slog go into the writing craft; followed by the accompanying disappointments, frustrations and heartache that rejections can cause.

Someone has written: 'Writing is not hard because we are bad at it or not built for it. Writing is hard because it is trying to teach us that in life, you don't just get what you want by wanting it. You get what you want by working for it. Well, most people do, anyway.' So while writing can be a lonely, exhausting and often thankless pursuit, there can be many positives and that's what I was looking for in this assignment.

Aspects to consider

- This article was intended for publication in our Young Christian Writers magazine. It therefore needed to be tailored towards young school age children who have an interest in writing. This means the ideas and language used should be appropriate for children of this age group. Years ago at one of our Christian Writers workshops. Elizabeth Sherrill (renowned American author of more than 30 books and hundreds of articles) suggested placing an appropriate picture of someone representing our target audience beside our writing device to ensure our writing stayed focussed on that particular age group, gender or interest group.*
- If possible, when writing for a particular publication, familiarise yourself with the style, layout and format so your article is suitable and more likely to be accepted. Choose an interesting title and keep your language fresh and appealing.*
- The article should reflect your personal viewpoint and experience for maximum impact.*
- Your comments needed to be positive, enthusiastic and motivational so young people are encouraged to write. Avoid negativity. In this context, don't mention the trials and obstacles writers often face on the way to publication.*

I was pleased to welcome Caroline Cook to level three, and she's off to a flying start by winning first place in this competition. The language of her article is enthusiastic and full of vigour. She makes good use of questions to stimulate thinking and gives sound reasons why she considers writing is a worthwhile pursuit, even for young people. I like the way she emphasises the fact that writing is a gift from God and can be used to bless others.

I awarded second place to Jean Shewan who gave a personal account of her writing experience as a means of encouraging young writers. Third place went to Pat Kerr for an interesting and encouraging article, but I felt the use of the expression 'Write right' was overdone and confusing in places.

All three entries were well-written with just a few minor mistakes which I will point out in their private critiques.

First Place



Caroline
Cook
of Auckland

The Infinite Value of Writing

If your heart yearns to write, give it the freedom it craves. Write. Your writing is God's gift to you so enjoy it and allow others to be blessed by reading what you have written.

The joy you experience as you write will make your heart soar. The freedom and fun you experience as you play with words and implement a plethora of writing techniques is fun that cannot be found on the playground outside. The laughter that reverberates through you as you edit your work and realise some things are better off unsaid, helps you to learn about yourself in a delightful way. The satisfaction you feel upon reading the final, polished version of your writing is like nothing else in this world.

Did you know that you also learn some useful life skills as you write? Focus, concentration, problem solving, creativity, perseverance, communication, and the impact of tone are just a few skills that you use while writing. These skills are important in your everyday learning and in your relationships.

Writers and readers need each other. Do you have friends who love to read? Do they also love to write? Most of them probably do not. People read to learn from the wisdom of others, to alleviate their loneliness, to be inspired, to feel soothed and thrilled all at once, to escape from reality, and a multitude of other reasons. As the population continues to grow in the world, the demand for reading material continues to grow. The demand for your genre and a variety of perspectives continues to grow.

Whether your writing joins a conversation or starts a conversation, use your God-given gift to be blessed and to bless others. There is a place for your voice and your message. So, write, I say, write.

WRITE

Second Place



Jean
Shewan
of
Christchurch

Writing Matters

'Use it or lose it!' We all need to express ourselves in some way. You may be an artist – painting, needlework or modelling, a performer of one of the forms of dance, or a musician and singer. I believe that all these abilities are God given talents, and the more I use them the better I will get.

For me writing is the best way I can share my thoughts and my faith. It allows me to put my thoughts in order and make sense of what is happening around me. I also enjoy writing short stories (fiction) and articles such as this. It isn't always easy to get started but it gives a feeling of achievement and satisfaction when completed.

What do I write about? My poems are usually based on scripture or come from something that has been said during our church service. These, if shared, can give encouragement to, and share faith with others. The short stories are in response to a topic set by the tutor of our small writing group which meets weekly. We read our attempts aloud to each other and learn how we can improve.

What do I do with my writing? I try to enter competitions regularly. These can be found in magazines, online or through organizations such as South Island Writers Association and NZ Society of Authors and, of course, our own Christian Writers. You usually get good feedback from the judges, which helps you to improve. It's a real thrill when you get a place! I happen to be the editor of our church magazine, so can put my work in there, and I'm sure any editor would welcome contributions.

So why don't you give it a try? Practice makes perfect. God will welcome your praise and your witness.

Third Place



Pat Kerr
of Roxburgh

Write Right

You want to write, right? Welcome to a very old club. Writers using quills and parchment have been superseded by fancy electronic devices including wireless

printers. Writing styles and language have changed (think Chaucer and TV scripts)
The world needs writers, like you and me.

Write right, correctly, because you must. Boring, badly constructed, misspelled verbiage will not last. Conversely, interesting well constructed matter outlasts its author. Just think of the Bible, Shakespeare and Tolkien.

Write right because you can. Today expensive publishing and printing costs are superseded by fast WiFi and electronic devices in the hands of the masses, including children.

Write right because you are able. Writing well is a gift that practice perfects.

Write right now to share unique experiences, past, present and future. What seems commonplace today will be news to your descendants (and maybe enlightening to your elders!). Whatever your genre there will be a readership.

Write right now. James Michener, having sudden hip and heart surgery plus vertigo, realized his time to write was limited. Focused, he wrote eleven books in five years, including some best sellers.

Other manuscripts are published posthumously, like Janet Frame.

Write right for others. Written material feeds the mind and imagination, heals the soul, fills hollow spaces in lives, solves problems, answers questions, and stimulates the readers.

Write right with your God-given talent. You are salt and light in this generation, so keep salty and burn brightly. To quote from an old song:

“Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.”

Write!

Competitions for April 2021

Due by March 1st 2021

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: Write a modern chorus or hymn relating to Jesus' death and resurrection. You may use an existing tune or write your own music if you prefer. The music score should be included with your entry, together with an MP3 recording if you have written your own music. (4 verses maximum, with a repeated refrain or bridge counted as 1 verse)

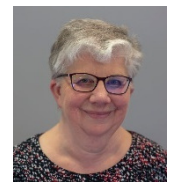


Debbie

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Two—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Write a new, modern parable or allegory that young teenagers can relate to. Ensure you use appropriate language and imagery that will clearly convey the Christian message you want to clearly get across to this age group. (450 words)



Lesley

Email entry to Lesley Edgeler at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Three—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Imagine you are one of the soldiers ordered to guard the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. Write a first-hand account of your experience including the aftermath. (400 words maximum)



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.