

JUNE - JULY 2021

THE CHRISTIAN Writer

SEE INSIDE FOR

Retreat 2021 Report

AGM 2021 President's Report

Book Reviews:

7 Key Qualities of Effective Teachers
and

Where Fear Rules

Article:

Narrative Therapy with DT

Writing Competitions Prize Winners
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 and Membership Secretary: Kathryn Paul: editor@nzchristianwriters.org
For magazine contributions, address changes, membership queries.

Treasurer: For subscriptions, donations: treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org

Join Us! 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

Join us through our website: www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/

Credit/Debit card payment is available online or pay by bank deposit, phone or Internet banking to: NZ Christian Writers, a/c 12 3040 0547346 00, Reference: [Your name]

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.

© Copyright 2021

This issue printed locally by

BookPrint.
Making Bookshop Quality Easy

Contact David at
hello@bookprint.co.nz
09 443 1775
www.bookprint.co.nz

The Christian Writer

June – July 2021

ISSN 2537-8708 (Online)

VOL 38. 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	Editorial: Do <i>Something</i> – Kathryn Paul
Page 5	Retreat 2021 at Flaxmill Retreat Centre, Whitianga – Kathryn Paul
Page 14	Important Notices
Page 15	AGM 2021 President's Report – Justin St Vincent
Page 17	Professional Writing Services – Free Advertising for Members
Page 19	Hot Tip USA Radio – Brian Taylor
Page 19	Writing Briefs: Inkiana Press Workshop – Frederick Swallow
Page 20	AGM Agenda Minutes 2021
Page 21	Book Review: <i>7 Key Qualities of Effective Teachers</i> by Robin Cox – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 21	Book Review: <i>Where Fear Rules</i> by Janene Forlong – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 22	Find Your Local Christian Writers Group
Page 22	Welcome to New and Returning Members
Page 23	Narrative Therapy with IDT – Maureen Tearle
Page 24	Writing Competitions Points Board Winners

CW Competitions

Page 25	Level One Results	Page 35	Level Three Results
Page 28	Level Two Results	Page 39	Competitions for August 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



We are excited to share this edition of our flagship magazine, *The Christian Writer*. It includes a full review from our Retreat 2021, plus the President's Annual Report and details from our AGM 2021. Please have a read as this will keep you up to date on how we are moving forward as a collective in 2021 and beyond.

I've received fantastic feedback from our Retreat 2021, where we hosted 49 attendees from throughout New Zealand. We were inspired and positively impacted by our speakers, enjoyed a delicious menu created especially for our retreat, celebrated birthdays, and enjoyed fun times during our Movie Nights, Games Nights, and the unforgettable Talent Night. Our Overall Experience Score = 9.18 / 10, making this the best retreat yet. This greatly encouraged our board to start planning ahead for two years from now, when it will be our 40th Anniversary, a significant milestone for NZ Christian Writers. In fact, we've already started to accept advance bookings, and these are available online to secure your space: www.nzchristianwriters.org/retreat-2023/

Congratulations to our Photography Competition winner, Julia Martin, for her photo featured on the front cover of this magazine edition. I asked Julia to share with us a little more about this photo. She says, "This delightful statuette in my garden reminds me that reading should be a pleasurable experience for all ages, and as writers we should be inspired to write for both education and enjoyment."

One of our goals this year is for NZ Christian Writers to have: '*A proactive approach to expand visibility in the Christian marketplace.*' Our membership is thriving offline, and it makes sense that we now intentionally pursue a membership strategy online. To start, we have just launched a Facebook Group for NZ Christian Writers. It is a private group for our members, yet visible to anyone on Facebook. We have created this group so that we can intentionally build community among our members. You are welcome to share ideas, insights and inspirations from your publishing and writing journey. Feel free to post about your books and share content that is encouraging and edifying. Join our Facebook Group here: www.facebook.com/groups/newzealandchristianwriters/

Enjoy reading *The Christian Writer*. We trust you find it informative, supportive, and an inspiration for your writing.

Blessings
Justin St Vincent

Editorial: Do *Something*...

by Kathryn Paul



Fabulous is the best word to describe my experience of the NZCW Retreat held recently in Whitianga. It was great to see so many people there, soaking up the experience. Speaking of soaking I finally made it to Hot Water Beach. The beach didn't disappoint with water seeping through the sand hot enough to make me say, 'Ouch'.

If you missed out on attending the Retreat, we have a report on it for you inside this issue. I'm sure you will benefit from reading some of the notes I took while I was there. I can't do anything about the great food you missed though, so you'll have to come to the next Whitianga Retreat to discover that for yourself.

I believe a lot of great written work is going to come from our members in the future, thanks to the motivation received from the workshops. I encourage everyone to 'keep that fire stoked' by staying connected with the Lord and with other Christian writers.

Let's write with purpose and confidence knowing everything we do for the Lord counts, no matter how big or how small. Let's not be like the man who buried the one talent the Lord gave him and did nothing with it. He didn't have as much 'talent' as the other two but that wasn't the point. The important thing was doing something positive and helpful with what he'd been given. The Lord didn't require a huge effort from that man, just *something*.

Even if you write only one poem and put it on a wall somewhere for others to see it, maybe your bathroom door, it's better than doing nothing at all. If you are posting encouraging notes on social media, you're doing *something* to make a difference. Well done!

Love in Jesus, Kathryn Paul *I love to hear from members. Email: editor@nzchristianwriters.org*

Retreat 2021, Flaxmill Retreat Centre, Whitianga

Report by Kathryn Paul

This top-notch Writers Retreat delivered great workshops and an awesome fellowship experience. The accommodation, speakers, catering, facilities and location all made investing time into the event thoroughly worthwhile.

Day #1: Thursday

The Retreat Programme began at 5:30pm with a warm welcome from our president and efficient MC, Justin St Vincent. Meals were served buffet style and we ate together in the dining hall. Each meal time was an opportunity to sit with someone different and get to know each other. After dinner, board game competitions began. Later, popcorn was served while we watched the movie *Little Women*.



Flaxmill Accommodation

Day #2: Friday

Each morning the buffet breakfast was available from 8am and the programme started at 9am with a brief devotional. Friday morning's devotional was on the topic that we are loved by our Heavenly Father. As we receive His love, His love changes us from the inside out and we begin reflecting His love back to Him and to others.

Our first workshop session began with author and public speaker, Staci McLean. Staci did a great job of inspiring and motivating us to use Social Media.

Social Media for Authors with Staci McLean

Staci helped us understand why and how we can make a positive difference through writing on social media.

- Social media is one of many vehicles used for transferring a message. It's a mission field where there are desperate people looking for answers.
- Each of us can do our part to counteract the unhealthy content by bringing in positive posts. We have power to make a difference! Staci shared a personal example of how one of her posts helped save a life.
- Social media is international and gives us greater access to the world. It will never become a saturated market on a global scale. There's a place for each one of us on there to bring influence into places normally difficult to access.
- Experts suggest making posts three times a day. Staci spends around two to three hours a day on social media and says the important thing is to be consistent. Your readers will start expecting you to turn up.



Staci recommended we identify our 'big message' so that readers will understand what we are about. This gives direction and focus to our posts. It's helpful to identify our three core values. Staci's are *hope*, *freedom* and *happiness*. Writers can create content from their core values.

Social media is not about selling books but about connecting with people. Sales naturally grow out of that connection. Staci shared that only about one in five posts she makes are about buying her books. The rest are about *connection* and '*This is me.*'

Choosing a social media platform depends on who the audience is and where they are. It depends on the time you are prepared to put in and what type of content you would like to create. It's important to identify your purpose and choose a platform that fits.

You need to reference any shared content with the original creator of it and check Bible quotes are correct. When using hashtags an optimal number is around nine per post. These can reflect your values and who you are.

Having a Facebook presence helps people identify you and check out your authenticity. Instagram can connect to your Facebook page and will save you time if your posts appear on both sites. Instagram is best for short written content. If you also write a blog, you can post on Instagram about your blog. A great book idea and content can come from your blog.

Staci provided us with a list of content ideas. Here are just a few:

- Ask fans for their opinions and post book cover reveals.
- Behind the scenes of your writing process.

- Discuss books you love, favourite quotes or Bible verses.
- Share readers' reviews and show your personal side

Staci finished the session with tips on safety. These are important so do take note:

1. Be aware of scammers. Not everyone is who they seem to be. NEVER send money. Note they might build a relationship for months then ask for money.
2. Do NOT give out private information like your address, phone number or when you are going on holiday and leaving your house.
3. Don't worry too much about likes and comments. Don't buy into it! That's not your main purpose in being there. You can block certain people and advertisements if you need to.

Here are some additional helpful online resources:

www.self-publishingschool.com www.angiegensler.com

www.socialmediacoaching.co.nz www.canva.com www.udemy.com

Due to high demand, Staci kindly provided an extra session for beginners on using social media later in the day during free time. *Thank you, Staci. We were grateful to you for going the extra mile!*

After morning tea, Staci provided a second helpful session on public speaking.

Public Speaking for Writers with Staci McLean

Here are some helpful points from Staci's session on Public Speaking for Writers:

- Your story is important, even vital. People will benefit from hearing it.
- If you're willing to speak, God can help you. It's not about being perfect. It's about sharing your heart. Public speaking is not about you; it's about your audience.
- Public speaking is simply another type of vehicle for transferring your message across to your audience. It creates access to people you wouldn't normally connect with.
- Speaking sells books and creates opportunities. If you approach event organisers and ask – 'Can I sell my book at your event?' – often you will get the opportunity to speak.
- Public speaking builds your skills, confidence and faith. It keeps your message fresh and alive. It teaches you humility and to trust in God.

Staci said the four 'P's of public speaking are purpose, preparation, practise and performance. Know the value you are bringing to the audience for them to take away. Find out the event expectations and information. Prepare your message well. You can practise by recording yourself.

A good way to handle nerves is by reframing. Remember that nerves are the same sensation as being excited, so you can change your language about nerves to a positive one – *'I feel excited!'*

These are some of the ways a writer can receive or make public speaking opportunities:

- Author events – bookstores/libraries/launches/writing events.
- Online events – podcasts/Zoom events/guest on social media/videos.
- Invited speaker – workshops/conferences/church events/book clubs.

Be brave, bold and ask. Say yes to any public speaking opportunity for practise. You can offer to help at an event as a speaker. Usually, an author will sell more books after speaking publicly.

Staci provided us with a general plan for running our own event. Here are the main points:

- Book a venue and commit to the event.
- Plan – budget, speakers, food, drinks, tickets (it's better to charge). You can use a service such as *Eventbrite* to set up ticket sales. It can make a big difference for your book or product sales to have eftpos available. Consider including a Q & A session and supper.
- Advertise and promote through friends, family, social media, flyers, local newspapers, the venue's advertising.

Some additional resources recommended are:

'*She says so*', a speaking group for women found at: www.speechmarks.co.nz. *Creatives on Purpose* can be located on Facebook. www.speakersinstitute.com and www.toastmasters.org.nz.

After some free time and lunch together our second speaker of the day was author and publicist, Karen McMillan. Here is some of what Karen shared with us.

Publishing and Publicity with Karen McMillan

Publishing is like putting the pieces of a jigsaw together. Once you have your work written, it's important to have a professional editor. When you find someone you're happy with it's good to keep using them for future writing.

Next you need a professional book cover design. The designer takes care of the appearance of the book, inside and out. White paper is used for non-fiction and cream paper is used for fiction such as a novel. For book cover design it's helpful to go with the designer's industry knowledge.

For printing it's recommended you get three quotes. You can get one proof from each printer before deciding who you will use. Checking the proof allows you to check colour quality and the final product you will be paying for. *IngramSpark* provides a print-on-demand option.

Karen recommended using a costing sheet as you go through each jigsaw piece of the publishing process. The next piece of the puzzle is distribution. Ideally you want a distributor who will have warehouse storage for your books and who will supply the main bookstores. One example for Christian books is '*Inspire*'.

Karen informed us that eBooks have lessened in popularity and the demand for audiobooks is currently increasing. Focus your book activities and promoting your book in the locality you are in rather than overseas. Usually, overseas markets want to see you have had local success first.

When hiring a publicist you are hiring their relationships and connections with others in the publishing and promoting arenas. Giving an author interview must be reasonably timed with the book's release, whereas book reviews do not necessarily need to be as timely.

Having a publicity plan is cheaper than advertising. It's important to be strategic to reach your mainstream reader. Giving people many months notice is helpful. Marketing and building your brand can be done through having an author website and events. Try to keep the events simple.

To get your book's ISBN (International Standard Book Number) visit: <https://natlib.govt.nz/forms/isn>

To list your book on Nielsen and enable it to be counted for the bestsellers lists visit:

<http://www.nielsentitleeditor.com/titleeditor>



Did you know you are entitled to a yearly payment for having your books borrowed in the libraries? You must have a minimum number of copies in libraries to qualify and must register every year. For more information visit:

<https://natlib.govt.nz/publishers-and-authors/public-lending-right-for-new-zealand-authors>

After an afternoon tea break, we returned ready for Karen's second session.

The Writer's Life with Karen McMillan

Karen is the author of 17 books and her 18th book will be published in July 2021. For her first book Karen planned to write a novel, but instead her first book turned out to be *Unbreakable Spirit* containing 25 stories of people facing cancer.

This led to her writing other helpful non-fiction books but eventually she did get to the stage of writing her first novel, *Watching Over Me*. Later, Karen began writing the *Elastic Island Adventures* which are a series of chapter books for children. Karen shared with us some of her personal journey of writing, publishing and working through her own health issues.

Karen advises writers when working on a non-fiction project to go slow and steady. If interviewing older people, it's best not to do too much at once. It can be helpful to use a timeline if the content is muddled. It's a good idea to record interviews, take notes and eventually dig down into the deeper details.

Writing is a bit like building a house. The first draft is the foundation, then look at rewriting as like doing the rooms. It's especially important to polish the beginning. When questioned about writing time, Karen said for her it tends to depend on how the flow of the year goes.

Karen recommended visiting www.nzbooklovers.co.nz for reviews and information about the NZ Booklover awards. Rewards include categories for novels, lifestyle books and picture books.

The rest of Friday afternoon's Retreat programme was free time. This provided an opportunity for writing and for people to explore the local walks or catch the local ferry across to Whitianga. After another great evening meal there was more entertainment with board games and the movie *Heavens to Betsy* screened, accompanied with a supply of tasty popcorn.

Day #3: Saturday

Saturday morning's devotional followed on from Friday morning's topic on receiving our Heavenly Father's love and reflecting that love back to Him and others. It was about taking the next step to *do* love. Writing what God puts on your heart for others to read is one way of *doing* love.

Our first workshop speaker of the day was Eugene Moreau.

Writing from the Secret Room with Eugene Moreau

We have this hope as an anchor of the soul, both firm and steady – a hope that enters the inner place behind the curtain.
Hebrews 6:19 Tree of Life Version



Eugene aims to help people unlock vision. The inner self is about feelings, intuition, values, beliefs, personality, thoughts, emotions, fantasies, spirituality, desire and purpose.

The secret room involves:

- **Table:** Creativity transference. Educate, entertain, emote.
- **Chair:** Stillness, grounding, be still, listen.
- **Mirror:** Identity, reflection. I am a great writer. I am a great communicator. Therefore, people's lives will change.
- **Lamp:** Illumination, revelation.
- **Door:** Intimacy, vulnerability. Be truly seen and heard to be a superior writer not an inferior writer.
- **Window:** Authenticity, courage. It takes truth and honesty.

We were prompted by Eugene to each write down a descriptive journey into the secret room. The elements of our stories were unique to us as individuals. Eugene let us know this was the first layer and was not deep enough yet.

A writer writes from their mind of experience, emotion and logic. The writer's audience receives into their mind according to their experience, emotions and logic. Is the transference relevant? Does the content apply? Aim at a specific demographic. You are writing to a condition not an age group.

In the secret room, we invite those who look through our window to experience what we really have to say, what matters to us, what our story is about... and in doing so, make it relevant and meaningful to them, for them. Sometimes we need to take the time to go deeper. Often what we have to say deserves more. Here are some ways Eugene shared to help the 'deeper' writing experience:

- Put a comma at the end of a sentence, rather than a full stop, and push further till you see the gold. Risk writing long to go deeper, then edit.
- Ask your characters the questions that matter. Risky, provocative, uncomfortable questions. Tell secrets. Be willing to be vulnerable on the page.
- Slow down and avoid skipping over parts that cry out for deeper attention. Don't just write actions, go inside the character. Close your eyes to visualise and then write the details.

Readers need the unique you. Be authentic. We each have something to say that must be said. Go into that inner sanctuary and leave 'almost'. You are leaving living in a fantasy. Deep within us is an inner room – is it unlocked?

To be in control of your self leads to self-esteem, then to courage, then to significance. Not in control leads to 'doubting myself', leads to 'afraid to step out', leads to 'insignificant'. To get control is to get identity in Jesus. To achieve significance can be to fail faster. With identity it's possible to set meaningful goals. To be authentic means for a person to stop lying to themselves.

Following the morning tea break, Eugene led us into his next session.

Bringing Your Words to Life with Eugene Moreau

The Art of Three-dimensional Storytelling

Three dimensional is about connecting stories and causing them to interlock. Facts on their own are not as powerful as facts with a story. We need to humanise it.

To 'Buy-in' is intellectual acceptance, a good idea. 'Ownership' is to do something.

Dimension One

Embed a principle using the five senses to build tension. Think about the most recent book you've read that you seriously couldn't put down until you finished it. Were the feelings you experienced strong? Were the senses strong?

A principle – 'winning is an inside job' – starts in the mind. The absence of a winning attitude causes a toxic environment. Embed using senses and have a provocative question to cause tension. What is tattooed in your mind? Readers don't want information, they want faith in your story. Embedding a principle brings relevance. Ensure your story is shaped to your audience.

Dimension Two

Have structure to your story. Embed structure. Some talk to think. Some think to talk.

Have a clear beginning – get into it. Set up character and context. Have a clear middle – transition. Set up the ending. Have a clear ending – shut it down. Pre-plan the type of ending. If it's a series of books, know the spectacular ending of the series.

What do you want your reader to do as a result of reading your story?

Dimension Three

Use strategy and context to plan, shape and deliver.

It doesn't happen by accident, it happens by planning. PREPARE. Hope is not a strategy. Hope doesn't give you control. Shaping brings texture. It's a mistake to think creativity cannot occur inside structure. Flexibility is the domain of a writer.

You can influence and share with the world. Work on sharing stories. Plan in short spurts. Everything has a story.

Eugene also mentioned it's a good idea to get a writing coach. This is someone who gets alongside you with your writing. They hold you accountable to your goal. God created us to be creative!

Next on the Retreat programme was more free writing time and a chance to reflect on Eugene's workshop. We enjoyed a great lunch and returned to the seminar room refreshed and ready to learn from the next workshop speaker, Phil Strong.

How to Build a Powerful Publishing Team with Phil Strong

Theme: We are called, commissioned to disciple nations.

We shape culture with what God gives us. Money mobilises mission.



Three issues that can get in the way of a writer building a powerful team are:

- Trying to be a 'jack of all trades'.
- Being too spendthrift.
- Being a control freak.

You are to be the CEO of your publishing business. Ask yourself, 'How do I do the best I can without getting in the way?'

Building the team:

- Content creation (this is the journey for your reader). It's possible to record podcasts to get content for a book.
- Editor and Proofreader. A good way to collaborate via the internet is to use *Dropbox Paper* live. *Dropbox Paper* is an online document workspace.
- Graphic Design – for Book and Cover design.
- Production – currently Phil is using a NZ printer.
- OPM means Other People's Money. You can presell your books. You can find an investor. They are investing in *you*. It's easier to sell many books to one person than one book to many people.

Pride is insecurity wrapped in a blanket. It can block us from getting help from an editor and proofreader.

Team from a Christian Viewpoint:

The Holy Spirit is your partner. Spend time in prayer with someone else. Partnership in the Body of Christ is for building up. To network is to go into all the world; we are called to disciple nations. God has given each of us a message.

Phil's second session after our tea break was called:

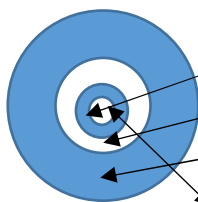
Being Motivated for More with Phil Strong

God will ask, '*What did you do with what I gave you?*'

Think about 1 Sam 3:7-11. Something we can do is get pen and paper, or keyboard and say, '*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*'

Struggles people may have:

- Fear of being the tall poppy. Remember it's for His glory. Don't be surprised if He makes you famous.
- Self-sabotage. Take a look at the deeper issue.
- Wrong perspective brings wrong behaviour.
- A small context, or small-town mentality. You can achieve world domination from your table in your slippers! Don't limit your thinking by your current perspective.
- Failure to ask, 'Why not?'



Remember this tip for creating or marketing:

Begin in the centre first – **Why** will you create it or why will they buy it?

How will you create it or how will they buy it?

What will it be or what will they have?

Inside your 'why' create an avatar of your reader. **Who** are you writing to?

Learn to Repurpose Your Content.

It's the same content but there are different ways to vehicle it. Down-selling yields the greater profit. Begin by offering the most expensive option first.

- Mastermind Group (Writing groups, like-minded people groups)
- Digital Classroom or Workshop
- Book
- White paper (articles, authoritative report or guide)
- Blog and Vlog (video blog or video log). Get used to being on camera.

Have a commitment to your message. Have a commitment to help engage people to heighten their transformation. Do you want to become an expert? You need to put in your ten thousand hours on that topic. '*Teach what you do.com*' is now teaching others how to create their own classrooms.

Remember small goals yield small results. Large goals yield large results. Stir yourself to break the glass ceiling you've put above your head. Ask God – what would be possible if I partner with You?

Phil uploaded the digital version of his seminar to Youtube here: https://youtu.be/sgU_qp28Gd4

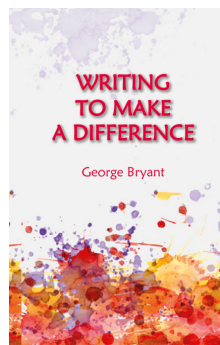


Following Phil's inspiring workshop, the rest of the afternoon was free to spend as people wished. In the evening we held the Saturday night Talent Show. There were many entries including poetry readings, live musical performances and acting, both dramatic and humorous. A big thank you to all those who participated. We also had fun attempting Justin St Vincent's movie quiz. Once again, the evening finished with an optional movie. This time it was *Tolkien*.

Day #4—Sunday

After breakfast on the last day of our retreat we began with our third devotion about being knit together in God's love. After that our AGM took place. Then we joined together for a church service with worship led by Rosie Boom, and with George Bryant sharing on *Writing to Make a Difference*, which was noted as a recurring theme woven throughout the Retreat.

George released his new booklet entitled *Writing to Make a Difference* and kindly distributed free copies to everyone present. He encouraged us to be salt and light to glorify God. We don't need to blend into the world – we are to make a difference. We are not to lose what makes us distinct. As writers we are to be lights in the world. We can ask ourselves is our writing easily seen? Who is our audience? Would the secular world read what we write?



George stated it's time to recapture the evangelistic vision and explained the 2018 census showed 37% of people in New Zealand are Christians and only 9% of those attend church regularly. In 2018, 50% had no religion. How do we use our writing to spread the Gospel beyond the church walls?

George's points to consider were:

- The power of one writer (examples, Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, CS Lewis). Each of us has unique ability. We are not alone, there are a lot of us. Imagine the difference we can make!

- What can we write about? We don't have to be famous.
- Our influence?
- There is power in the written word. What we write matters!
- Writing as a ministry.

How do non-Christians come across Christian products? We must reach out beyond the church walls. How do we reach people without unintentionally steering them away? We're not to scare off – we're to bring them in. Our mission? To spread forgiveness and hope.

Most of society doesn't know theological words. Use understandable language. If our writing doesn't say anything or cause thinking, how is it useful? Christian writers inspire and give hope!

To receive your free copy of George's booklet, *Writing to Make a Difference*, please email George at: bryantgw@xtra.co.nz

After the church service and morning tea, we enjoyed an open forum question and answer session. This was an opportunity for people to ask questions and encourage one another. We fellowshiped over our last lunch meal of the Retreat and said our farewells as we departed for home.

A big thanks to everyone who made this Retreat the special experience it was. Our next Flaxmill Retreat will be in 2023 and the celebration of NZ Christian Writers 40th anniversary!

Notices

Writers Group Leaders Wanted

We need leaders in the Waikato and North Auckland regions due to high membership growth. Please email president@nzchristianwriters.org for more information if you're keen to have a go!

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.

Christian Writers Workshop Weekend for Unpublished Writers

When: Saturday 18th September – Sunday 19th September 2021

Where: Highland Home Christian Camp, 1352 Pohangina Valley East Road, RD14, Ashurst

Cost: \$345 includes meals, accommodation and workshop

Register: Email kerri@averministries.com

Website: www.averministries.com/writers-retreat/

Winter Writing in the South Island at Sister Eveleen Retreat

These Writing Retreats are not run by NZ Christian Writers but some of our members have attended and recommend them.

Visit www.sistereretreat.com for details of July, August and September Retreats 2021.



AGM 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kia ora, hello, and welcome to the 38th Annual General Meeting of NZ Christian Writers. It is an important part of our Retreat 2021 here at the stunning Flaxmill Retreat Centre in Whitianga. At our retreats we recognise that, although writing is an individual activity, we grow stronger together. We experience the pleasure of how a thriving community of writers can positively influence culture. We are encouraged to see what God can and will do through our commitment to the creative craft of writing.

I believe that this year's retreat has again been valuable for our collective. We've made new friends, learnt new things, and been inspired in new ways. I'm extremely grateful to our seminar speakers: Staci McLean, Karen McMillan, Eugene Moreau and Phil Strong for sharing their expertise and equipping each of us on our writing journey. Now it is up to us to put into practice what we have learned over the last few days. Writers are word-people and I'm reminded of the adage *actions speak louder than words*. Let me encourage you to put into action the insights gained from our speakers and from one another.

NZ Christian Writers are part of the greatest story ever told. Stories can change the world. When we write, a new world of creativity and imagination is formed. I'm excited by our potential to produce stories that bring people closer to Jesus. Congratulations to all our members who took a faith step by deciding to publish a book over the last year. It takes incredible discipline and determination to bring writing ideas into a published form. Sharing ideas and stories with others is at the heart of what writers do. As Christian writers, our writing can be a social outreach helping and serving others. Our greatest hope is to see God working through us bringing His words to a world that needs to know Him.

Our growing collective continues to represent a wide range of writing disciplines. We have authors, bloggers, editors, lyricists, poets, publishers, songwriters and storytellers throughout New Zealand. NZ Christian Writers is also an ecumenical group of writers representing a diverse group of Christian Churches all seeking to influence the world for good.

Our popular magazines, compiled by our talented editor, Kathryn Paul, and containing writing competitions coordinated by Debbie McDermott, continue to receive creative contributions from many of our members. We strongly encourage our members to participate in the competitions included in every edition. As many will know, we now produce two magazines, our bimonthly *The Christian Writer*, and our four-monthly *Young Christian Writer*. We are passionate about our publications that aim to resource both beginner and experienced writers. Thank you to Kathryn and Debbie for their enthusiastic work in producing these magazines.

Life is a series of seasons. In this current season we farewell our Treasurer. As a board we want to recognise the work of Debbie Smith who has served as our Treasurer for the last two years. Thank you, Debbie for your wonderful work in ensuring our charitable trust has remained solvent and is positioned for growth into the future. Thank you for your financial proficiency and friendship over this last season. As we move into the next season there is the opportunity for a new Treasurer to be appointed. The Board is praying for God to provide someone with the right accountability skills, financial acumen, time availability (up to five hours a week), and a heart for the mission.

As a board, we have decided to create a separate role of Membership Secretary to lighten the load on the future Treasurer. Our Magazine Editor, Kathryn Paul, has kindly accepted the Membership Secretary role in the interim.

In addition, our board is still seeking a Local Group Coordinator. This voluntary role will provide general oversight for our Local Groups, helping them grow and offering support where needed. If you feel God is calling you to serve in this capacity, please let me know.

Below is a summary of what the board has accomplished over the past three years:

In 2019, our board actioned three major strategies:

- 1). We provided inspirational seminars at world-class retreats.**
- 2). We continuously improved our magazine and writing competitions.**
- 3). We developed organic, sustainable membership growth.**

In 2020, NZ Christian Writers achieved these three objectives:

- 1). We successfully launched our new magazine, *Young Christian Writer*.**
- 2). We supported another Local Group Retreat, Wellington Written.**
- 3). We shared more Writer Profiles and Book Features than ever before.**

In 2021, our board will be focusing on these three growth areas:

- 1). A singular vision that will help grow our collective nationwide.**

NZ Christian Writers is a vibrant community of faith-filled writers who are passionate about writing and passionate about Jesus. We want to be intentional in sharing what we do. This includes bimonthly magazines and competitions and inspiring seminars and writer retreats. We welcome both beginner and experienced writers.

- 2). A simple strategy encouraging every member to: Each One, Reach One.**

During the year we encourage every member to invite just one person to join NZ Christian Writers. We could then double our membership over the year. Perhaps there's someone in your Church or community who would benefit from being part of our growing collective?

- 3). A proactive approach to expand visibility in the Christian marketplace.**

I'm always amazed at how many Christians do not know we exist. We need to find ways to make NZ Christian Writers visible in the Christian marketplace. This includes churches, communities and organisations that would gain value from being aligned with our vision and values.

NZ Christian Writers is truly blessed to have a dedicated proactive board. I want to sincerely thank our Vice-President, Janet Fleming; our previous Treasurer, Debbie Smith; our Magazine Editor and new Membership Secretary, Kathryn Paul; our Book Reviewer and Level 3 Competition Judge, Julia Martin; and South Island Representative, Janette Busch. Each of them is a shining light helping to advise, guide and steward the future of NZ Christian Writers. Finally, I want to thank our amazing members. You are why we exist. Thank you for making us a thriving community of Christian writers.

I continue to pray NZ Christian Writers will equip and inspire every writer to advance the Kingdom of God in all areas of their world. Through writing we can share our Christian faith in a compelling way, bringing about personal and community transformation.

With blessings and gratitude,

Justin St Vincent

President, NZ Christian Writers

May 2nd 2021

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

AUDIOBOOK RECORDING

Make Your Words Come Alive

Former Rhema announcer Rob Holding is offering a special introductory price of \$150 per 10,000 words to turn your written book into audiobook format.

And, so that you can hear for yourself what the end product will sound like, he will provide you a sample of the first chapter for free. Audiobooks produced to ACX specifications. Contact:

Rob Holding: 027 450 9421

E: robholdingnz@gmail.com

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

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

E: lydiaweight@gmail.com

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

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:

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

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

WRITING & EDITING SERVICES

As a career journalist and book editor, I've spent a lifetime working with words.

I spent 13 years in secular media working for the Northern Advocate, NZ Women's Weekly, NZ Herald, and then in London as a feature writer for *Woman* at IPC magazines.

After that I specialised in writing for Christian publications, namely *Daystar* magazine, *Challenge Weekly* and I was editor of *Christian Life* news-magazine.

I've edited books on a variety of topics, including missions, biographies, fiction, travel, poetry, music and theology.

My goal is to help writers on the road to publishing and make their words sparkle and shine.

Marie Anticich

E: marieanticich@gmail.com

Landline: (09) 425 4237

Mobile: (027) 660-9933

Skype: live.marieanticich

HOT TIP USA Radio

Doing a search for radio stations in the USA may be useful for writers who wish to approach the USA market.

There are many privately owned radio stations in the USA often looking for guests. Many of them have hosts, with their own weekly or daily spots, on a wide range of topics. These hosts like to hear from appropriate guests to contribute to their listeners.

Check out these websites if interested in learning more:

<https://radiopublicity.com>

<https://radiopublic.com>

Thank you to Brian Taylor for this helpful tip.

WRITING BRIEFS

Inspiring Christian Writing of today and yesteryear –

Series by Frederick Swallow



Inkiana Press Workshop and Mobile Print Trailer

Workshop:

Graham Judd served both letterpress and lithographic apprenticeships. Visitors are welcome to view his Inkiana Press Workshop where printing is set in metal type pamphlets to print on his 1833 Albion press. Phone 022 072 6771 to arrange a visit to 7 Telephone Road, Birkenhead.

Mobile Print Shop Trailer:

On a trailer built by Graham and colleagues the Albion press with type, ink and paper can be transported by Graham. Small groups enjoy learning the printing principles. Charges apply for this easy, enjoyable experience.

Email: graham@inkianapress.co.nz to book.



AGM AGENDA 2021

NZ CHRISTIAN WRITERS | 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Flaxmill Retreat Centre, 1031 Purangi Road, RD 1, Whitianga 3591

On Sunday 2nd May 2021, 9:05am – 9:30am

Chairperson: Julia Martin chaired, Janice Gillgren took the minutes

Apologies: Janet Fleming

Minutes: from AGM 2020 read by Kathryn Paul

Motioned by: Justin St Vincent, seconded by: Julia Martin

Financial Report: read by Debbie Smith

ASB Balance at 02/05/2021 \$6,669.10. 286 members at present.

Move that the Financial Report be received

Motioned by: Sarah Chamberlin, seconded by: Stephen Whitwell

President's Report: read by Justin St Vincent

Move that the President's Report be received

Motioned by: Kathryn Paul, seconded by: Rosie Boom

Board Update: All Board Members were re-elected, except Debbie Smith, with a vacancy noted as available for the role of Treasurer.

Election of Board Members:

President: Justin St Vincent

Nominated by: Janice Gillgren, seconded by: Kathryn Paul

Vice President: Janet Fleming

Nominated by: Justin St Vincent, seconded by: Debbie Smith

Treasurer: (TBC)

Magazine Editor & Membership Secretary: Kathryn Paul

Nominated by: Mary-Pat Ross, seconded by: Janette Busch

Book Reviewer & Level 3 Competition Judge: Julia Martin

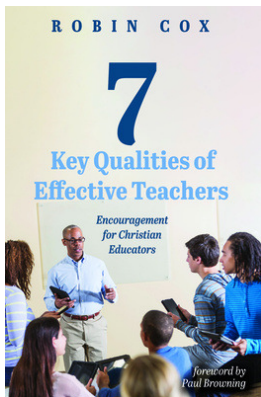
Nominated by: Justin St Vincent, seconded by: Sara-Jane McGuire

South Island Representative: Janette Busch

Nominated by: Kathryn Paul, seconded by: Debbie Smith

Board members to stand as above.

Close: AGM with prayer by 9:30am



7 Key Qualities of Effective Teachers

Encouragement
for Christian
Educators

By Robin Cox

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Resource
Publications, USA 2020

Although Robin had written seven books on the spirit of mentoring, when he searched for a book on mentoring teachers, he found nothing suitable; so decided to write his own, drawing on his wide experience in education over many years.

Early on he realized that effective teaching is more than just imparting knowledge.

In this small book the author presents seven key qualities of effective teachers: relationships, Christlikeness, empowerment, empathy, humility, affirmation and teamwork.

Each of these chapters contains basic strategies, practical ideas and experiences, anecdotes, and examples of inspirational people from the present and the past, all to motivate and inspire teachers and enable them to have a transformative impact upon their students so they can become the best people God created them to be.

I believe this user-friendly book should be required reading for any Christian educator – whether in the classroom, the home, workplace, church or elsewhere.

It's a treasure chest of inspiration, motivation and biblical counsel, and I recommend it as an essential guide for Christian teachers who want to make an impact and a difference in the lives of their students.



Where Fear Rules

By Janene
Forlong

Review by Julia
Martin

Printed by
www.yourbooks.co.nz
2016

Available from
www.ecclesia.nz

The author knows how crippling fear can be after suffering from its effects for many years. Her journey to freedom is one she wants to share with others and that is the purpose of her book.

Fear is widespread. It comes in many forms, has many causes, and affects people in different ways. With openness and honesty, Janene shares the fears that handicapped and enslaved her from childhood. When she discovered that fear does not come from God and that He created us to be free, she realized that fear is the opposite of faith.

She writes: 'Fear says you can't, it doesn't trust, it hinders, weakens and debilitates.

'Faith says you can even when you cannot see what you want or need to see.

'Faith trusts God and it allows, authorises and empowers.'

This discovery set her on the pathway to deliverance and freedom from her fears.

Janene's small book is packed full of scriptures she found helpful to change her thought life, defeat the enemy, and assure her of God's love, peace and presence at all times.

I recommend this self-help book to anyone who is struggling with fear, and also to those who are seeking to help them. It is user-friendly, immensely practical, and holds the keys to deliverance and healing.

Join a Writers Group

AUCKLAND, ELLERSLIE

Sara McGuire
sara.mcguire81@gmail.com

CHRISTCHURCH

Dave Palmer
Mob: (027) 216 5743
davepalmer@xtra.co.nz

HAWKES BAY

Jennie Chappell
Tel: (06) 877 5874
heughandjenniec@outlook.com

NORTHLAND

Kathryn Paul
editor@nzchristianwriters.org

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
pauldevereux@xtra.co.nz

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 and Returning Members:

Alex Johnston
Nelson

Anne Kurtz
Whangaparaoa

Jo Dawson
Waipu

Robin Knight
Nelson

Robyn Cotton
Whangaparaoa

Sandi Wilson
Snells Beach

Sarah Chamberlin
Hamilton

**Sharmaine
Dobson**
Christchurch

Sina Steele
Taupiri

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

Narrative Therapy with IDT

(Interactive Drawing Therapy)

By Maureen Tearle

Imagine a drawing of a person, maybe of yourself, who is curled up and crouched in a box, your knees to your chest. There seems to be no door or lid to the box. You're sitting there aware that you are stuck, and yet you feel safe in that box, but a part of you would like to feel brave enough to venture out. You start wondering what it would be like on the outside of the box, and what would the future look like if you did get out? But at the moment there seems to be no alternative, there is not even a door on the box! An impossible situation!

Quickly grabbing a crayon you draw a door. You notice that on the outside of the door there is a person who is waiting there to help you to get out. But you have a choice to make. Can you be brave enough to open that door? What do you really want? To accept the help that is offered, to step through that door and face the world, or to remain stuck? You feel that you yourself are the problem, your anxiety and fear and lack of courage. However, the person on the outside tells you that 'the problem is the problem', not you yourself. Maybe it is the box, or the stuckness of the situation, or the fear? You eventually raise the courage within yourself to ask for help, and to accept the help. You take the first step and open that door and step outside, and as you do so you realise that you are no longer alone. You feel braver and stronger to face whatever is outside that door, to take the next step.

Narrative Therapy and IDT are about externalising or putting the problems outside of yourself, so they are not all consuming. It is like looking at a 3D picture which is about you and yet you can look at it from the outside, in an objective way. Putting a symbol of yourself that represents you and your story on the page and describing it, the feelings, the hopes and dreams, the strengths. Then looking for exceptions to the dominant story of hopelessness, to finding hope. Looking at your own strengths and resources, the 'expert' within you, which has helped you to get through in the past, helps to find the resilient you. This is a process or a journey and the Counsellor acts as a Facilitator, as they collaborate with you to help you to find this alternative story. Or to re-author the story.

Narrative metaphors are used to create a story, the story before the event, during, life in the present and life in the future. Mapping these narratives using IDT we can draw the event or problem as a metaphor. Maps of the journey in Narrative Therapy is about externalising conversations about the meaning gained during the journey and who are the witnesses to the progress made. We are re-authoring the stories and creating a new story of resistance and resilience, one of hope and light.

Trauma in one's life may be a factor that has put you in the box, to cocoon you from the outside world. Narrative Therapy enables you to *'step back from the effects of the trauma and to be purposeful in taking action according to what is valued'*. John R. Stillman (2010). It is to take steps to reclaim one's life from the control of traumatic memories and to move towards living intentionally.

If you are looking for counselling yourself, look for the profile on the website of an agency, or Private Practitioner, to see what modalities or methods the counsellor is trained in. e.g. Narrative Therapy or IDT. You will be pleasantly surprised at the enjoyment of collaboratively working with your Counsellor and journeying together in discovery of a resilient you, and life outside of the box.

Maureen Tearle (RGN, MNZAC) Professional Counsellor at Anglican Care Centre Whangarei, is trained in Narrative Therapy, IDT, and Grief Counselling and enjoys working with young to elderly persons in all walks of life.

References: John R. Stillman, LI0SW (2010), Narrative Therapy Trauma Manual.

Dr Donald McMenamin, MNZAC visit <https://www.twoislandsandaboa.com>

Writing Competitions Points Board

The competitions for 2021 have been going well. The judges do enjoy receiving members' entries so thank you all for entering. Keep up the great work! Congratulations to our overall Levels One and Two points winners for the first six months of this year. Competitors in Levels One and Two now start again at zero points and compete again for the next six months. Two competitors have been promoted to their next levels. They are Liz Fitzmaurice and Pauline Marshall.

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.

Our next Prize-Winners will be published in the Dec 2021-Jan 2022 magazine edition. Check out your new competition topics for June on the final page of this magazine. To see all the competition topics for 2021 visit our website.

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Liz Fitzmaurice	33	Pauline Marshall	24	Caroline Cook	36
Corrine Sinclair	24	Eion Field	24	Jean Shewan	36
Regan Kim	24	Ella Hamlin	21	Pat Kerr	21
Rob Lake	15	Felicity Logan	15	Shirley Jamieson	15
Sheryl Paul	15	Jill Clarke	15		

All entrants receive helpful feedback via email from the judge.

Competition Results

Level One

Judge: Debbie McDermott

Requirement: Bible names held great significance for the Jewish people in ancient times and were often prophetic as well. Research the name of an Old or New Testament character and show how the meaning of their name was significant (or, perhaps, not significant) in their life. (300 words maximum)

General Comments

I was pleased to receive four well-written, well-researched and informative entries to this competition. Each contestant had selected a different Bible character to write about and it was particularly interesting to see how all the entrants linked the definition of their subject's name to their subject's life and ministry. While each of the entries was excellent, I felt Regan Kim had done slightly better than the others by including a mini comparative study and a strong takeaway message in his article, plus an online link to an excellent website from which he obtained the meaning of the name Enoch. I therefore awarded him First Place for making such a great effort. Corrine Sinclair was a close runner up, while Liz Fitzmaurice was placed Third. It should be noted there is only a minor difference between the marks of the three place getters, and I heartily congratulate them for doing so well.

Sadly, one entrant narrowly missed out on being among the top three place getters because she did not include any scripture or biographical references related to her research (an essential requirement when completing an assignment such as this). Neither did she elaborate on the meaning of her chosen Bible character's name in the body of her article, thereby causing the significance of it to be a little bit lost on the reader. Do remember that failing to meet a key requirement always results in a significant loss of points. If you are not entirely sure what the key requirements are, you are welcome to email me and ask for clarification.

Whilst on the subject of competition requirements, I should also point out that one of the place getters of this competition lost marks because they exceeded the maximum word count. When 'maximum' is included in the competition word count requirement, your submission may have less words than the required word count (within reason, of course), but it may NOT have more words than the required word count. On the other hand, if 'exactly' is included in the word count requirement, then your submission must have the exact amount of words required, no more and no less, NB: Word counts usually apply only to the main content of a piece of writing, unless specified otherwise.

When undertaking a research assignment such as this one, do also remember to double check any scripture and bibliographical references you have included in your article. While misquoting a reference, Bible verse etc may appear to be a small mistake, it could be off-putting to readers who take the time to check references and perhaps even cause them to question the credibility of your writing and the sources of your information.

First Place



Regan
Kim
of West
Auckland

Two Different Lives Named Enoch

There are two Enochs in the Bible. One is the eldest son of Cain, and the other ascended to heaven without dying. Let me look into the second Enoch first. You can see his story in Genesis 5:21-24.

At the age of 65, Enoch became the father of Methuselah. For some reason, his life was drastically transformed since then. Enoch walked faithfully with God for another three hundred years and was finally taken up to heaven.

Enoch's time was before Noah's Flood, and people were getting more and more wicked. Enoch might have been one of those. But he was changed and later known as a person who pleased God. (Hebrews 11:5b)

The name of Enoch is of Hebrew origin. Its meaning is "trained, vowed, dedicated; profound." (www.thebump.com baby names)

The fact Enoch walked with God implies that he had been living up to his name. He must have "vowed" his faith and "trained" to grow spiritually and "dedicated" as a man of God. Furthermore, he became a "profound" prophet who had already prophesied the Second Coming of Jesus. You can hear Enoch's voice in Jude 1:14(NLT). "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones."

But what about another Enoch? Genesis 4:17b(NLT) says, "Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son."

The other Enoch represented the city civilization which would later build the Babel tower rebelling against God. (Genesis 11:1-9)

The lives of the two men with the same name Enoch were utterly different. This contrast teaches us what matters is not the name itself but the identity. I wish we all will live with the new identity which the Lord Jesus gives.

Second Place



Corrine
Sinclair
of Silverdale,
Auckland

Kia kaha Phinehas zealous Priest of God

Phinehas – a Hebrew descendant of Levi.

Aaron – his grandfather was a brother of Moses.

Eleazar – his father was a spiritual leader of Israel.

These were the same Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said. “Bring my people out of Egypt.” They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh, king of Egypt on behalf of the suffering Israeli slaves. Exodus 6:25 suggests that Phinehas was born in Egypt before the great exodus.

Phinehas in Hebrew is comprised of two words, ‘mouth’ and ‘brass’ (bronze). When the Lord spoke to Moses, he said, “Your brother Aaron is to be your prophet. He will be your mouth-piece.”

Bronze, a precious metal used as a protective covering for the altar and its utensils. Exodus 38:29-31 When Eleazar named his son Phinehas, was he prophesying that his only son would become a priest, given responsibility for the care of the sanctuary and its holy contents?

For forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert. When Aaron died Eleazar was anointed high priest. Joshua was chosen to lead God’s people into the promised land.

Then the plague came. Twenty-four thousand people perished. There was sin in the camp. It had to stop! A prostitute stalked brazenly past the grieving priests and into the tent of a young leader. Without hesitation Phinehas picked up his spear.

He had heard the Lord. “This sin must stop!” Numbers 25:1-13

It was his responsibility to protect God’s people.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “My servant Phinehas has been zealous for my honour. Therefore, tell him, I am making my covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood because he was zealous for my honour.”

What a heritage. Well done Phinehas, valiant servant of God.

Third Place



Liz
Fitzmaurice
of Lower Hutt

Barnabas, the son of Encouragement.

We first meet Joseph, the Levite from Cyprus, selling a field and placing the profit at the apostle’s feet (Acts 4:38). This incredible act of “no strings attached” generosity was less profound to the apostles than his consistent commitment to encourage others. We are told they nicknamed him Barnabas, which means “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:38).

We next hear of Barnabas in Acts 9 after the dramatic conversion of Saul. The apostles were understandably suspicious of Saul's Damascus Road conversion, knowing him as the Jewish zealot who had previously intensely persecuted the church and tried to destroy it (Galatians 1:13). Yet Barnabas, came alongside him, listening and verifying his story of transformation and his fearless preaching of Jesus. He then introduced his new friend to the apostles, vouching for him. Barnabas believed in Paul and journeyed with him, in those foundational missionary journeys. History tells of Paul's profound missionary impact throughout Asia Minor as well as crediting him as author of most of our New Testament letters.

Mark, was given a second chance by Barnabas. Mark, Barnabas' cousin, had abandoned his earlier work with Paul and Barnabas, returning to Jerusalem. Therefore, Paul refused to allow him to re-join them (Acts 15:38). However, Barnabas was undeterred, taking Mark under his wing on a missionary journey to Cyprus. This ended Barnabas' journey with Paul and is the last time Barnabas is mentioned in the Scriptures.

However, Mark is believed to be the author of the gospel of Mark. Furthermore, Paul mentions Mark three times in his letters, proving Mark was later reunited with Paul and continued as his helper (Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:10 and 2 Timothy 4:11). Although we hear nothing further of Barnabas, his legacy of encouragement and risking belief in others, had a profound impact on the early church and on the unfolding history of Christianity.

Level Two

Judge: Lesley Edgeler

Requirement: While sitting in an airport departure lounge – you strike up a conversation with a person you do not know, which results in you being able to share your Christian faith. Using the above scene, produce a short four-minute play suitable for using as a tool for an evangelism seminar or an open-air outreach. (400 words plus stage directions)

General Comments

A play needs to be well-written and leave the audience with that "Wow!" effect afterwards. During the play there also needs to be a defining moment where everything changes and the audience gasps. To write a play the writer needs to establish the setting – in this case an airport departure lounge; the characters and their personality traits.

Before writing your play, write the scene as a story after working out your plot, how the characters will respond in their conversation and how they might move around the airport lounge. For example, the person you strike up a conversation about faith with may feel uncomfortable and move further away or stand up and fiddle with their luggage or be interrupted by a text or phone call and excuse themselves. In this case you would need to redirect the conversation after they have finished.

Read your story through and eliminate all unnecessary words or actions. Dialogue must keep the audience's attention without wasted words. There needs to be a gradual build up to the climax and an easing of tension as the play draws to an end.

A good idea is to get someone to read through the script with you, or to get two people to read the parts so you can picture their body language and movements and make adjustments to your script and stage directions.

I awarded Felicity Logan first place because Traveller represents a typical modern-day skeptic. Eion Field was placed second for his historical knowledge and clever use of a second language. Ella Hamlin came third for her sense of humour throughout her play.

When writing a play for publication, requirements include:

- *A description of each character*
- *An outline of the plot and settings*
- *A description of props needed*
- *The takeaway*
- *The number of scenes and acts*
- *The type of audience to which your play would most appeal*
- *Clear stage directions and costumes required*

The first two were covered well by Ella Hamlin.

For a short drama to be performed at an evangelism seminar or open-air outreach, the play needs to be short, attention-grabbing, have an element of humour and varying emotions and have one main point. A subtle, unexpected twist at the end of a play is also essential. The specification for you to share your faith could be easily missed as happened in one case.

Please make sure your entries arrive well before midnight on the 1st of the specified month, otherwise a penalty will be incurred. If more than a day late they are not acceptable except under serious circumstances. All four entries met the majority of the requirements.

Most plays have the names of the characters printed on the left-hand side of the page, sometimes in bold print. Stage directions written in italics differentiate between the spoken word and actions performed by the characters.

Reading the entries aloud with a good friend who is a good actor helped me decide the potential of each drama. Well done everyone!

First Place



Felicity
Logan
of Feilding

When Faith Takes Flight (Matthew 5:45b)

Two women are seated on airport seats, the immediate seat between them holding their hand-bags.

Beth: It's busy today!

Traveller: Sure is!

Beth: Where are you headed?

Traveller: Tasmania via Melbourne, to see the grandkids – finally!

Beth: I'm Beth. I'm joining a team reaching Melbourne's homeless. Exciting prospect!

Traveller: Where will you stay? *She fiddles with the mask that is hanging ready around her neck.*

Beth: In an overnighter hostel and soup kitchen. We share their experiences, like asking food outlets for leftovers to keep for breakfast.

Traveller: Huh, that too? Not my thing!

Beth: It can be, when you have something important to share. Most of us have everything we need, in material terms – but there are needs beyond that.

Traveller: Emotional and mental stability yes, but if you're talking religion....

Beth: I'm joining a Christian group that demonstrates God's type of love.

Traveller turns toward Beth: God and love in the same sentence? Can't believe that, sorry. *Turns away.*

Beth: I'm sorry too, because it vitally affects your response to things happening currently. Tell me about this God who doesn't demonstrate love.

Traveller shrugs: He lets bad things happen! Terrorism, trafficking....y'know!

Beth: Why judge God by people's actions? We all exercise free will – and that can hurt others.

Traveller: It's not fair when others suffer.

Beth: Yes, individuals and communities –

Traveller breaking in: -- national and global too!

Beth: True. Yet God doesn't promise us freedom from the results of others' actions.

Traveller: Then there's no love or justice!

Beth: You'd like God to prevent evil happening?

Traveller: I wish!

Beth: Imagine it! Wouldn't we all be puppets? Automatons?

Traveller: No, we'd be choosing good!

Beth: Hey, you just summed up God's intention for us: choosing good! But for that we'd need a moral framework.

Traveller: Surely we all sort of sense that!

Beth: Agreed – until we step aside, knowingly or unknowingly.

Traveller: So, how can we know? I don't trust new social trends or government decisions.

Beth digs in her bag: Nor do I. Here's a booklet you're welcome to keep because I have others. It shows how God has throughout history enacted love and justice. Have a squizz at the blurb: it's quite intriguing... *Hands over a small publication and points to the back.*

Traveller silently reads the back cover blurb, and chuckles. So, what if God did say all who went to church would be exempt from evil?

Beth: Just picture churches crammed with people: legitimate worshippers plus pretenders wanting free life insurance!

Traveller sniggers: So, twice as many hypocrites!

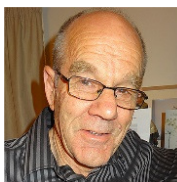
Beth laughs: Who wants that! Jesus spoke against hypocrisy often. It's written, God rains on the just and the unjust. Earthquakes, floods and other tragedies make no distinction. That book has advice about getting through, based on God's Word, the Bible.

Speakers announce the flight number and both rise.

Beth: That's our call. If you read that on board and have questions, grab me afterwards. Enjoy those grandkids!

Traveller laughs: Enjoy Melbourne's homeless!

Second Place



Eion
Field
of Waikato

From Strangers to Friends

Me (entering departure lounge): Hi! Mind if I sit here while we wait?

Stranger (waving at empty seat): Fine.

Me (checking my watch): We should be boarding soon. I'm on the way to Europe.

Stranger: That's nice. I'm from Dresden.

Me: Dresden! *Du bist ein Deutschlander?*

Stranger (smiling): *Jah*. Do you speak German?

Me: *Nein*, I mean “no”, not very much. (pause) Dresden. Isn’t that the German city with the famous church they rebuilt after the bombing in World War II?

Stranger: Yes. *Der Frauenkircher*. You could see the wreck of the old cathedral nearby until 50 years after the war.

Me (thoughtful pause): It was such a tragedy . . .

Stranger: *Jahwol, mein freund*. That old cathedral was perhaps the most beautiful in Europe, or in the world even.

Me (politely by-passing above remark): Indeed. . . I mean a tragedy that two countries – Britain and Germany – should ever be at war with each other.

Stranger: Well, you know. . . Europe was a very (how you say?) confused part of the world in the 1930s. I suppose it still is, in a different way.

Me: But Germany and Britain both had such strong Christian traditions and heritages. I can never understand – why did millions have to die? (pause for head-shaking, shrugs or other expressions of being lost for answers, from both) We can’t just blame Germany; I think the Allies could have done more to avert the war.

Stranger: Mmmm. . . And what about the Christian traditions you mention? They seem to mean nothing when the bombers come over. They had no influence on the RAF or *der Luftwaffe*.

Me: You are right, I’m sorry to say. But you see the Christian Gospel is a message of peace; it starts within a person. Everyone needs a personal connection with God – to put it plainly.

Stranger: I’m not sure what you mean, *freund*. Personal connection?

Me: Let me say it this way; that figure we see in our churches – Jesus hanging on the cross — he is called Prince of Peace, and he’s with all of us today. Not only in grand cathedrals but in each of us!

Stranger: How do you know that?

Me: It’s my own experience after I prayed. I asked God to givehhh me peace and change my life – my life was disgusting, I must say – and he did!

Stranger: Well. . . *Danke, dankezu*. I never heard it put so simply until now. (pause) I wish some-one had convinced Herr Hitler about that before – before it all happened. Both of my grandfathers and an uncle were lost in the battles. Their wives had to work in munition factories – I believe it was very terrible.

Me: So sorry to hear that. And I wish some-one had told Winston Churchill. . .
Oh, there's our flight call; it's time to go. Maybe we can talk more on board.

Stranger: Why not?

Third Place



Ella
Hamlin
of Napier

Three Teenage Boys

Cast of Characters.

<u>Debbie</u>	A woman in her mid-forties
<u>Sandy</u>	A woman in her mid-fifties
<u>Father & Son</u>	Mid-forties and 17

Scene _____ Airport domestic terminal departure lounge.

Time _____ The present. 8 pm

SETTING: The two women are sitting side-by-side in the departure lounge, watching a father deal with his aggressive teenager, after an announcement informs the flight will be further delayed. Dad is embarrassed. The son is threatening to walk home.

DEBBIE

I have one that age too, my youngest and the only one left at home. He would do that, and worse.

(DEBBIE releases a long, defeatist sigh.)

SANDY

(Looking at DEBBIE, like she wants to administer a huge hug.)

Yes, I had one too.

(Pause, while Debbie thinks about whether the boy is history.

Fear grips her face.

SANDY responds quickly, reaching to DEBBIE's shoulder.)

Thank God, he's made it through ok.

(DEBBIE smiles with relief)

He's just been made Brigadier.

(SANDY checks her watch, then smiles her attention back to DEBBIE)

Not sure I made it ok. Well, I wouldn't have, not without a lot of help.

DEBBIE

(Turning in her seat, DEBBIE takes a good look at SANDY)

Well, you look *very* ok to me. You must have done something right.

SANDY

(SANDY absorbs the compliment with genuine appreciation)

Thank you. That's kind of you to say. My hope was to overcome that worse fear and not turn completely grey.

(DEBBIE's mind had been read. Realizing she's being offered an empathetic ear, becomes forthright, though her inner pain is seen on her face)

DEBBIE

So, where did you get help from?

(DEBBIE gives SANDY her full attention. SANDY takes hold of this Divine opportunity, looking like she's about to confess the best news ever to a dear friend.)

SANDY

I have good friends. But I also have one special friend who sticks closer than a brother.

DEBBIE

God knows, I could do with a man like that about the house right now. One that stays.

(SANDY can't suppress a beaming laugh. DEBBIE looks confused.)

SANDY

Well, I've good news then, because you can have this hero around the house, full-time, forever.

DEBBIE

(DEBBIE looks puzzled)

How? Have you got some secret stash of heroes?

SANDY

(laughs heartily)

I needed saving from the same issue, ten years ago. Desperate for help with my boy. When a friend introduced me to Jesus and the heroic power of the Holy Spirit. Can I pray for you?

DEBBIE

Thank you, please!

(DEBBIE grabs SANDY's hands, holds on tight, and turns her face to the ceiling. Tears roll down her cheeks, as SANDY prays.)

Level Three

Judge: Julia Martin

Requirement: You've inherited a large sum of money from a distant relative. Explain how this came about and what you would do with the money. This can be serious or funny. (300 words)

General Comments

For this topic, contestants were free to express their creativity in any way they wished. There were only two requirements: explain how the inheritance came about and how it would be used. I was looking for a story that was original and engaging. It needed an attention-grabbing start and a satisfying ending, possibly with a twist.

As we know, a short story is a brief piece of fiction which can have a plot, conflict, characters, setting, dialogue and theme. The plot usually has a beginning, a middle and an ending. The beginning lays down the base of the story – in this case it's a will with the chance of an inheritance. This leads to rising tension – is the legacy for real or a scam? How will it be used? The story builds to a climax, followed by a resolution or outcome which can be good or bad.

For this assignment the story is told from the first person point of view which can be biased. Characters are limited as is the setting of the story. Occasional dialogue can break up the narrative, help the plot, and reveal character and emotions. A theme can be implicit or obvious. With a word limit of 300, every word must count, so writing must be concise.

At our recent retreat, one speaker recommended having a storytelling template which maps out the story through the stages. It was also suggested that it can be helpful to write the ending and takeaway message before proceeding with the opening pages.

The parable Jesus told concerning the Prodigal Son is a good example of the scenario depicted in this topic. The story tells how the younger son gained his inheritance by contemptible means and then squandered it with reckless living. The tension rises when his money runs out and he hits rock bottom. Destitute and facing a hopeless future, the climax is reached when he decides to return home, remorseful and expecting to face grave consequences. Then comes the resolution when he's welcomed home by his father with unexpected love and forgiveness. But there's a twist at the end. The older brother despises his sibling and refuses to celebrate his return because he's consumed by bitterness and unforgiveness. The theme of Christ's story is multifaceted.

I awarded first place to Jean Shewan. Her series of questions at the start help to build tension as they reveal the reactions of her associates to the news of her possible inheritance. The news sounds promising and builds to a climax but then falls back with the realisation that the legacy is useless. With a twist at the end, she's left with a lawyer's bill instead of an inheritance.

Second place went to Pat Kerr. It's a good story with a favourable outcome, but somewhat predictable and lacking in tension. I awarded Caroline Cook third place. Her story is well-written and heart-warming, but needed more zing and tension. It has a satisfying ending which leaves a warm glow. My thanks to these regular entrants who attempt the various genre and put their work out there for other members to read and consider. Well done to you all!

First Place



Jean
Shewan
of
Christchurch

Hopes and Dreams

“How much will you get?” “Who is he?” “How did he get it?” “Was it ethically sourced?”

“How do you know it isn't a scam?” “What are you going to do with it?”
“My mortgage is....!” Your grandchildren need....!”

The cacophony of questions bombards my ears, but I can't answer any of them. This letter from 'Next of Kin Agency' says I am thought to be a distant relative of William Ebenezer Sherwin, deceased. Can I give details of my ancestors? Suspicious, that! Don't get too excited!

I send the details to lawyer friends and relatives.

“Yes, they are reputable and do handle such things, but don't send any details until you have got some more information from them. There are several such companies who compete for business, so they may not have all the facts.” replies George, an old work mate.

"I do vaguely remember hearing about some link between your grandmother's family and an aristocratic family in France," my Aunt's husband says. "However, knowing the state of the French nobility, you'll be lucky to get much more than a doorknob to a derelict chateau. Good luck anyway."

It has taken my lawyer six months to sort through all the details, but we've finally hit the jackpot! I am informed that I am the heir to a sugar plantation in Haiti, that has long been in the hands of the government. No money comes with the property and the possibility of selling it is small.

Oh well, the dream was great. At least I'm spared the job of deciding who gets what, nor will I have to pay gift tax or expenses. I should be able to find enough to pay my lawyer, because I can't imagine anybody else will be prepared to help with that!

Second Place



Pat Kerr
of Roxburgh

Anonymous

The letter came in an ordinary envelope with no advertising or embellishments. It was addressed to me. I put it in my pocket to read later.

Later, at home, I opened it. It was from an unknown lawyer in the city. I was sitting on my bed, which was just as well. My eyes seemed to be deceiving me. Two million dollars would be put in my account if I would be so kind as to furnish the lawyer with my bank account number as soon as possible at the above address. Two million dollars? To my account? Why? From whom?

I scanned the letter...a great aunt on my father's side decided to leave her wealth to me. To me! Wow!

I am a paramedic. I love my job, most of the time. But sometimes there's a financial constraint that causes much grief: older vehicles with inadequate equipment, underpaid staff and so on. It causes unnecessary stress.

I have no family of my own. My siblings are well-heeled, as are their offspring. Our parents are gone. I have a mortgage-free home, a modern vehicle, and a healthy bank balance (even if it is nowhere near the million dollar mark). I feel grateful for this gift, which I feel I don't deserve, from a relation I have never met.

I get pen and paper to contact this lawyer and give him the bank account number of my emergency department. All the money is to be earmarked for new vehicles and the best equipment available. My name is not to be mentioned. This money is “easy come, easy go” but it will make such a difference. It answers my prayers and those of my colleagues. God does move in mysterious ways. Fancy using me! To Him be all the glory.

Third Place



Caroline
Cook

of Auckland

Project Lizville

Standing at the top of the driveway, I surveyed the 12 tiny houses in front of me that comprised Lizville. Each tiny house was complete and ready for its new owners to walk life into it. I jumped, punched the air, and yelled out a victory cry.

Shaking all over, I emerged from my daydream.

Great Auntie Liz would be thrilled to know how I planned to spend my inheritance. After a career of nursing in 3rd world countries, she supported many charities over the years to provide opportunities for underprivileged people. I would continue her legacy.

It was 20 years or more since I had seen my great aunt, so I was surprised that she left me anything in her will, let alone this vast amount. Her close family members were indignant. But they did not know the history I had with my great aunt.

Nobody in the family knew that Great Auntie Liz encountered cancer over 20 years ago. Never one to have a fuss made over her, she wanted it that way. I would not have known either except that I saw her at the hospital one day, exhausted and with little hair left.

Despite insisting that she could manage on her own, I moved into her spare bedroom and nursed her. She protested of course. My stubbornness had an edge over hers, so I stayed. Over time, she thawed out and accepted me. We became friends. We talked about more topics than I have ever discussed with anyone. During that time, we discovered our mutual passion for providing for others who had less in life than we did.

“Here’s to us Great Auntie Liz... another team project to accomplish with great success,” I said as I raised a glass into the air, looking heavenward.

Competitions for August 2021

Due by July 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: 'Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning,' declares David in Psalm 30:5b (New Living Translation). Retell an incident in your life, or your family's life, that illustrates this statement. (400 words)



Debbie

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at **level1@nzchristianwriters.org**

Level Two—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Writing from a spectator point of view, tell us about something hilarious that happened at an outdoor church event. Your story can be based on fact or fiction, or it can be a mixture of fact and fiction (i.e. faction). The objective is to make your reader laugh with you. (300 words)



Jeanette

Email entry to Jeanette Knudsen at **level2@nzchristianwriters.org**

Level Three—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Many young boys are reluctant readers. Write a story aimed at boys aged 8 – 12 years. Leave the ending inconclusive so they will be encouraged to read further. (400 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.