

JUN - SEP 2021

YOUNG

CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE FOR :

Writing Mentor's Corner
with guests -
Janice Gillgren and
Robin Cox

Writing Competition -
Prizes to be Won!

Fiction - Letter *from*
Philippians by Robin Knight

Letter from a YWAM
Missionary

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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For magazine contributions, address changes, membership queries.

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Mail a copy of your book to our Book Reviewer, Julia Martin

286 Karapiro Road, RD4, Cambridge 3496 or email: reviews@nzchristianwriters.org

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

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

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Website:

Check out our website for how to join us and to view copies of past magazines. Members with published items have a free profile page on our site to promote their work. Please encourage other young Christian writers you know to join us via our website:

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Note



Welcome to the latest edition of *Young Christian Writer*. We are excited to share several ideas planned in the upcoming months for growing our community of young Christian writers throughout New Zealand.

To start, we have just launched a Facebook Group for NZ Christian Writers. We have created this group so that many more young people can connect with our writers. We love to share ideas, insights, and inspirations, so feel free to join our Facebook Group here: www.facebook.com/groups/newzealandchristianwriters/

Perhaps you are new to our magazine and would like to find out more about NZ Christian Writers. We welcome Christian writers of all ages to join us. We invite you to learn more on our website here: www.nzchristianwriters.org/about/

Did you know this magazine includes competitions, features, and interviews? It's a great opportunity to learn from other writers who share the same faith and values. We trust you enjoy reading *Young Christian Writer*, and hope you find it encouraging and engaging to help support you in your own writing.

Justin St. Vincent, President, NZ Christian Writers

“Hi!” From the Editor



During April-May NZ Christian Writers held a writers' retreat in Whitianga. Almost 50 people came and we had an awesome time with great workshops and fab food. There was something missing though – young Christian writers! In the future I hope we'll be able to offer a Retreat designed especially for our young writers. If you'd like to come, let me know! What kind of activities would you like your Young Christian Writers Retreat to have? Who would you like as a guest speaker?

It's usually a challenge starting a new magazine, especially a specialist one like *Young Christian Writer*. We value your support and prayers in helping it thrive and become something young writers look forward to reading and are excited about. If you are a young writer looking at this magazine and thinking it could be improved – you're not wrong! Let me know your feedback and send in contributions so we can make this magazine work well for those who receive it.

Please do spread the word about our magazine – it's surprising how many writers there are hiding about the place who would like to know about it. Here at NZCW we are all volunteers and produce this magazine as a not-for-profit service. We don't do it to get something, we do it to give something. We want to give young Christian writers a voice, publishing space, encouragement and mentorship. God is for you and so are we!

Blessings and love in Jesus,

Kathryn

Writing Mentor's Corner

Janice Gillgren didn't start writing till some years after she left school but has been making up for the late start. She likes writing articles for blogs and magazines best and will give most forms of writing a try. She led one of NZ's Christian writing groups for a long time and is a writing competition judge for *The Christian Writer* magazine. Janice really likes helping people who want to learn the craft of writing and has been a mentor to many new writers.



Editor: Hi Janice, can you give three top writing tips to our young writers?

Janice: Sure!

1. Read as much as you can – and not just your favourite stories from your favourite authors.
2. Write as much as you can; and not just your school or Uni assignments. If you have to write a lot of non-fiction in your work or studies, give your creativity a chance to stretch whenever you can. Poems and short stories are wonderful for this.
3. Learn from other writers. If you have visiting writers come to your school, take the opportunity to listen to them. If your school, Uni or workplace has a writer's group, join it if you can. A writer's support group has wonderful potential for developing friendships with like-minded people as well as challenging you to learn the craft. If an online group works better for you, try that.



Robin Cox, B.A., Higher Diploma in Education, is the founder of YES! Robin was diagnosed with cancer at nine years old. During the following years he underwent radiation treatment and a number of major operations. In addition, in the midst of these operations and treatment, his mother died suddenly. Robin's journey through his teenage years as a cancer survivor has had a profound impact on his life. It led to him developing a passion both for teaching and mentoring young people who are trying to find their way through challenging circumstances.

A Writing Mentor has a chance to pass on the baton for God's team.



Each generation of Christian has an opportunity to fulfil God's plan.

Courtesy of freechristianillustrations.com

Robin achieved State or Provincial selection in a number of sports during his adolescent years. Experience as a School Captain contributed to another of his passions; developing the leadership skills of young people so they can become positive people of influence in their local and wider community. Robin has written many books on mentoring including *Encouraging the Spirit of Mentoring*. He's also written a book for youth called *Letter 2 a Teen Becoming the best I can be*.

Editor: Hi Robin, what should a young writer look for in a mentor when choosing one?

Robin: Here are some things to look for in a writing mentor:

- An older, wiser guide with writing experience.
- Someone who is non-judgmental and humble.
- Has a sense of humour and willing to share their experiences.
- Encouraging you to reach your writing potential and genuinely want to spend time reading your work.
- Offering you helpful and constructive opinions and ideas, maybe even introducing you to other writers.

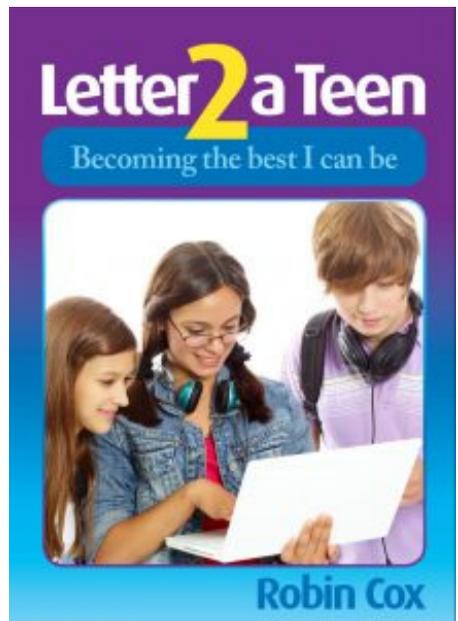


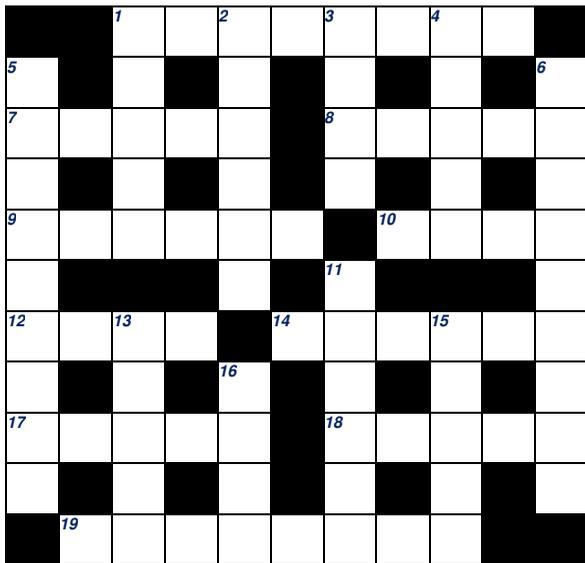
It may or may not be helpful to have similar writing interests. The key is to make an authentic connection with someone you respect and trust (and who respects and trusts you), who is selfless, patient, kind and willing to pray for the development of your writing gifts.

Ideally you want them to journey alongside you as a budding writer, allowing you to travel at *your* pace and inspiring you to achieve your personal best writing goals. Allow time to develop a meaningful mentoring relationship.

Blessings, Robin
Mentoring Matters

www.yess.co.nz





Clues Across:

1. Childhood town of Jesus
7. Ascend
8. Total confusion
9. Of finances and tax
10. Too 12. Not shut
14. Underlying cause
17. The Tasman Sea (informal)
18. Waltz, for example
19. Current Global Crisis

Have you ever tried journaling with the Holy Spirit? It's writing your prayer conversation with Him. Write your thoughts to Him until you've offloaded then listen and write what He says to you. Remember He loves you. His words will be comforting and helpful.

Clues Down: (Solution page 15)

1. Used cruelly at Calvary 2. Striped animals 3. Foundation under wise man's house
4. Hard road 5. Temporary structures while building 6. Amazed 11. Rarely
13. Something added 15. Relating to sound 16. Jesus' birthplace may have been this

HEY BUDDY



HOW'S IT GOING?

How to Write a Letter

by Kathryn Paul

Writing a letter is almost as simple as posting on social media. The main difference is how you begin and end.

You would usually begin with 'Dear (add the person's name)'. Or less formal might be 'Hi' or 'Hello' or Kia Ora. Then you write what you need to say in the letter and end with whatever phrase is appropriate depending on whether the letter is formal or informal. 'Yours faithfully', or 'Yours sincerely', 'Yours truly', or 'From', or 'Love', or whatever fits the relationship you have with who you are writing to.

Letter writing is a great way to encourage someone, teach, or keep in touch. You can hand-write or type and print your letter, pop it in an envelope with the address and postage stamp on the front and send your letter by post. Or you can send it digitally by email. In my teens I enjoyed hand-writing letters to my friends and decorating my letters and envelopes with stickers. These days I use emails and emojis!



Letter Writing Competition!

**Prize: A \$30.00 Manna Christian
Bookstore Voucher!**

Competition Details How to Enter:

You need to be a member of NZ Christian Writers to enter our competitions. That way you will receive your own copy of the *Young Christian Writer* magazine and see your work in print. **If you are not a member, we would love you to join!**

Visit www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/ or see page two of this magazine for more details. The cost for a student **digital** subscription, which includes all our magazines by email, is \$20 for the year. To receive **printed** magazines (6 issues of *The Christian Writer* and 3 issues of *Young Christian Writer*) for students the cost is \$35 for the year.

TO ENTER: Write a letter to a character in the Bible. The letter can be from you or from someone fictional, or from another character in the Bible. Ensure the letter is your own original writing. Minimum length 100 words and Maximum length 500 words.

Email your entry as a typed, word-document and attach it to your email message. Be sure to include your name, age and school. **OR** Scan or photograph a handwritten copy of your entry and email the picture file as an attachment with your email message. Handwritten work must be printed tidily so it's easy to read. The editor will copy-type it for you for the magazine.

Email your entry to Kathryn at editor@nzchristianwriters.org

There are two age categories for this competition. They are: **14 years and under**, and **15 years to 25 years**.

PRIZES: Each first-place winner will receive a Manna Evoucher valued at \$30.00.

Please send your entries in by August 10th 2021.

(There is no restriction on the number of letter entries per member.)

Winners will be notified by email. First-place-winners from both age categories will be published in the next issue of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. Depending on magazine space, highly commended entries will also be published.

Philippians

by Robin Knight



Apostle Paul

*(Image by
freechristianillustrations.com)*

Dear Paul,

Greetings to you and Timothy from all of us here at Philippi.

We greatly appreciated your opening thoughts concerning us in your letter; how you have prayed for us all; how you emphasize that we share in God's grace with you—a real partnership. This is a wonderful testimony considering that when we first met you some of us treated you so badly and insulted you—as you had mentioned to our Thessalonian brothers. You have looked past all that, forgiven us and we in turn have grieved over our past actions. Your present letter oozes such love for us that we, who are truly 'in Christ', love you deeply as well.

Through all of this we have greater insights into our faith as we love more and more and look forward eagerly, as you do, to the Day of Christ when we all will be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

We have been very concerned over your imprisonment and not being able to spread the gospel, so it was wonderful to hear how it is still being spread and God is using your situation for His glory. Of course if you cannot talk to certain people then others have had to step up to do the job in your stead. This will build up their confidence and help the word to be spread further.

Sometimes we wonder if a particular method of spreading the gospel is correct and your explanation that, regardless of the methods, if Christ is being presented as paramount, then God can use it for His glory is very helpful. We may or may not agree but we can praise God for the way he calls people of all persuasions to himself and we can really rejoice in that.

We have agonized in our prayers for your release but have recently been given a real peace and confidence through the Holy Spirit that our Lord has **everything in hand** and we can totally trust Him for that. We know therefore that your release will be according to His plans, time and place.

We can appreciate your desire swaying between desiring to be permanently with the Lord and staying on earth here with us. Many of us think exactly the same way – why bother carrying on in this fallen world with all its problems. Yet, if everybody who became a Christian immediately went to heaven then who would be left to share the gospel?

Your outline of how our attitude should be that of Christ Jesus was deeply challenging and we have all had many deep discussions on these matters, especially on being humble and obedient. We understand that by doing these things God will work through us to act according to His will and purposes.

We have in fact complained and argued negatively in the past to maintain our earthly prideful positions but as you pointed out that is just being like the world around us and so now we are trying to actively be lights in the darkness through Jesus the word of life. Your encouragement in this matter is indeed like a drink offering poured over our sacrifices and faith.

We eagerly look forward to having Timothy with us again as he fitted in so well with us and displayed great care for all of us, putting aside his own needs that we might grow in faith.

We were indeed very anxious to hear about Epaphroditus' illness and the fact that he could have died. If he had died it would have been a great loss for us, as well as you, as he is such a stalwart in our community and extremely well respected. When he gets back you can be assured we will definitely look after him and give him the honour due to him.

Thank you for the confirmation on how to deal with the troublemakers that are jumping on the bandwagon in order to gain power over us. Yes, they are 'dogs' and endeavour to lead us astray by taking away our faith and life in the Holy Spirit and replacing it with rituals, saying that if we don't obey all the rituals then we aren't proper Christians. Your past history certainly bears this out - everything you used to stand for as Pharisee is worth nothing compared to the knowledge of the Greatness of Jesus Christ. Our freedom in Christ is awesome!

All of us need to continue to grow in our faith as you have well pointed out. After all when we plant our vegetable gardens we aren't satisfied with just the plant, we grow them in order to pick a harvest of fruit and therefore if there is no growth in our Christian lives then we are a shadow of our potentialities. This of course means that we mustn't dwell on the past but use the past as stepping-stones for the future. We must keep our eyes on our heavenly hope and make sure that our worldly passions such as gluttony don't preclude us from that goal. We too look forward to the transforming of our



The waters of Grace will always revitalise the wilting soul.

(Image by freechristianillustrations.com)

earthly bodies into heavenly ones without all our aches and pains. We really feel that your instructions in your letter will help us to stand firm and forge ahead.

After sharing your letter with Euodias and Syntyche, which shows your care and concern for them, they both shed many tears and talked through their differences and this matter has now been resolved. This will bring joy to you we are sure.

You advise us to be not anxious about anything but many of us are finding this hard as we haven't had the years of living as a Christian to fall back on. We suppose that we have to go through these hard times individually in order to build up the resilience and know how to be content in every situation as you have explained. It is only as we travel through life that we realise how God's providence is shown- by looking back on how He has looked after us.

Some people here have taken your comment "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" to mean that they can do what they like as a Christian and they will be strengthened and blessed. Some of them have fallen very flat when things haven't worked out the way they wanted and have questioned this teaching. We have had to help them to realise that we will be strengthened when we are living accordingly to God's will and purpose and not just following their own desires or whims.

We remembered that you told us the impact that Stephen had on your life while you held the coats and watched him being stoned, and hearing his prayer that the stoners would be forgiven because they didn't really understand what they were doing. You marvelled at his strength of faith and then found it yourself whilst you were suffering trials, imprisonment, lashings and shipwrecks for the name of Christ. By considering all these things we too should learn to be content in any and every situation as we live our Christian lives. Praise the Lord!

We are thankful for those matters of truthfulness, honesty, justness, purity, beauty and of good report that you encourage us to keep our minds on. It is because of such wonderful feeding that we here collectively wish to provide for your needs whilst you build others up as well as us. It is a great joy to be able to help provide for your daily needs and we have found that we, ourselves, have had enough or indeed more than enough for our own needs as well.



We pray that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ will be with you and all of Caesar's household that are believers. We look forward to hearing from you again. On behalf of everyone here at Philippi,

Donatus

[What sort of letter would **you** have written?]

Letter from a Young Christian Writer, YWAM Missionary and NZ Christian Writers Member

by Tikvah Drinkwater age 19



Hello!!!

In late September of 2020 I went to YWAM Furnace in Tauranga to finish my DTS, (I had already started one in January of 2020 but it got cancelled due to Covid-19.) YWAM is short for *Youth With a Mission* and DTS is short for *Discipleship Training School*. A DTS is a full-time, live-in course for five-six months that is awarded credits by University of the Nations.

The first 12 weeks of the school was lecture phase. We were in a classroom each day from around 10am in the morning till lunch time. We had a different topic and speaker each week, and they were all impactful and amazing. Our topics were Hearing God's Voice, Bible Overview, Character and Nature of God, Father heart, Holy Spirit, Following Jesus, Lordship, Relationships, Worldview, and Missions.

We went up to Waitangi for a week and learnt about the history of New Zealand and the Maori people. We also went out into the Tauranga community and served people. Whether that was gardening at someone's house or giving out free pies and coffee to drunk people in the middle of the night, we just got out and blessed the community and showed them God's love. On weekends we went surfing if we wanted to and did other fun activities together. During these 12 weeks lives were changed and friendships were made that will last a lifetime.



Outreach: My outreach team was amazing. We had four guys, Ethan, Ron, Julian and Peter (leader), and we had four girls, Tyra, Aimee, myself and Shaniah (leader). Our team vision was *Serving in Unity, Through Humility, To the Community*, and that was exactly what we did.

We went to Kaiteriteri, Kaikoura, Nelson, Wellington, and Ruatoria. We had such an amazing two months, going to all these places and putting into practise what we had learnt in the classroom.

One amazing thing that happened was in Wellington. Ever since the start of outreach, we had all been feeling like someone was always missing from our team when there wasn't. In Wellington, Tyra met a girl called Kitana. She

came to one of our testimony nights and was really touched by what Tyra shared. Tyra prayed for her after and found out that Kitana's family was from Ruatoria, where we were going next and that she had a lot of family there that she had never met. So our contact in Wellington suggested that Kitana come with us to Ruatoria!

So the next day she jumped in our van with us and spent the next two and a half weeks with us in Ruatoria. She became a part of our team so quickly, it seemed like she had always been with us. We realised that it finally felt like our team was complete. It was so amazing to see her connect with her family and grow in her relationship with God.

After we finished outreach at the end of February, my DTS friends and I graduated from our DTS! It was a week of celebrations and testimonies from our three outreach teams who had travelled around different parts of New Zealand.



What's Next? Now that I have finally completed my DTS, I have committed to staffing at YWAM Zion in Northland for the next two years of my life. I am DTS staff which means I will be doing jobs around the base, doing other things with our local community and interacting with students when the next DTS starts.

Our next DTS is going to start in July 2021. It is probably a NZ/Australian school because of border restrictions. There is still room for students in our next DTS so if you know someone who wants to do a DTS, or you want to do one, feel free to get in contact with me or for more information go to the YWAM Zion website: www.ywamzion.org.nz

Since arriving in March at YWAM Zion to be a staff volunteer, so many amazing things have happened. At the very start of April, the whole Ywam Zion staff crew were able to go to Northern Easter Camp as part of the crew!

We were there for eight days helping with set up and pack down as well as running some stalls over the weekend. Some staff from YWAM Furnace in Tauranga came and joined us as well. We helped run the merchandise store, the general store, a slushie/potato curl store and the donut stand. It was a lot of fun and it was amazing to see so many young people get so on fire for God.

Then about a week later we got to help out at Day Camp! It is a three-day camp run by the local churches in Kaipara, Northland during the first week of the school holidays. During the mornings we were in teams making bush huts. In the afternoon we had electives, which were different things like horse riding, archery, go karts, and lots more fun stuff. Luca, one of our staff, was leading the teen tent this year so we were able to share testimonies with the teen leaders and pray with them. It was an amazing time.



YWAMers helped at Easter Camp at Mystery Creek,



Making cardboard fortresses at Day Camp. Bush hut making took place in the trees beyond. Around 170 people were at Day Camp!

The week after Day Camp, we had our very first DTW!!! This is a Discipleship Training Week because it's only one week long from Sunday to Friday, and it is for secondary school students and up. It is basically a taster week, so you can see what a DTS looks like. We had seven students sign up for DTW and they came and stayed with us for a week. It was amazing to see the difference that just one week could have in someone's life.

We had a different topic each day, and they were topics that we would have a week on in a DTS. Our speakers were Barry and Letitia (our YWAM Zion base ministry directors), Paul Chambers (local pastor), Mark Parker (he used to run YWAM Zion), and Beryl Henwood (retired Ministry Director from YWAM Zion, also Letitia's grandmother).

The students also got a chance to get out into the local community and do some work down at the local wharf. They even got their picture in the local paper! We also had a potluck dinner with the community and some of the students shared what had happened in their lives.

During May we had an Oak Ridge Camp Reunion for people who used to attend the YWAM Zion base years ago when it was called Oak Ridge Camp. We also had an outreach team from YWAM Oxford in Christchurch visit for a week and a half. I was able to join their team for a week as they visited parts of the Far North doing outreach.



In the lecture hall at DTW, YWAM Zion, Northland

YWAM Zion has many overseas applicants for our July DTS who are waiting and praying for the borders to open so they can come and do their DTS here in New Zealand. Please pray for God to open the way for them to come.

None of our YWAM Zion staff-team are paid to staff here. We volunteer and have to pay basic living-costs to be here, so please pray for our finances to come in. I will also need money to be able to stay on as staff for two years. If this sounds like something you would love to get behind and support financially, please contact me. If you want to receive my regular newsletter or just want to talk or catch up, feel free to message me at tikvahdrinkwater@gmail.com KA KITE ANO!!

[Crossword Solution for Page Seven](#)

Across: 1. Nazareth, 7. Climb, 8. Chaos, 9. Fiscal, 10. Also, 12. Open, 14. Reason, 17. Ditch, 18. Dance, 19. Pandemic.

Down: 1. Nails, 2. Zebras, 3. Rock, 4. Trail, 5. Scaffolds, 6. Astounded, 11. Seldom, 13. Extra, 15. Sonic, 16. Shed.

We trust you've enjoyed this issue of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. The previous issue's competition was to write a book review for a favourite Christian book. Sadly, no one entered so we were unable to award the prizes. Did you consider entering? If you had entered, that prize might have been yours! Ensure you don't miss out on entering this issue's letter-writing competition. ☺ With love in Jesus, from Kathryn.



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.