



OCT 22 - JAN 23

YOUNG

CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE For :

Poetry Competition Winners!

Abigail Murray

Tishani Vanniasingham

Article

*A Day in the Life
of a Magazine Editor
with Jeremy Smith
of Authentic Magazine*

New Writing Competition
For writers up to 25 years
of age.

Puppet Play

Real Friends by Kathryn Paul

And more!

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers

Young Christian Writer

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Send in your writing to be published in *Young Christian Writer* magazine! We will publish as many as space allows. Email your writing to Kathryn at ywmag@nzchristianwriters.org

Website:

Check out our website for how to join us and to view copies of past magazines. Paying members with published items can 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! We love having you as a reader of *Young Christian Writer* magazine which is published especially for your generation.

When I was a young writer I enjoyed writing adventure stories and had a group of friends in class who wrote their own stories too. It was fun during break-times to share the adventures, characters and stories with friends who were also pursuing their passion for writing. I found it helpful to have their input and invite their thoughts on the characters' journeys.

As writers, we can often find working on a craft as a solitary endeavour. Having other young Christian writers around you can provide a community of voices that help you improve your writing. We often say in writing and publishing it takes a T.E.A.M. where Together Everyone Achieves More.

I encourage you to find your team. They could be friends or family, students from school or homeschool or other people in your world who can encourage and inspire you. In doing so, you'll find a community who wants you to succeed. It says in the Bible for those who find their strength in God, '*...they go from strength to strength*, Psalm 84:7, (NKJV).

If you'd like to share your articles, poems, or other writing with our magazine readers, let me encourage you to connect with our magazine editor, Kathryn. You'll find her email address here: ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org

I trust you will enjoy reading this new edition of *Young Christian Writer*.

Justin St. Vincent, President, NZ Christian Writers

"Hi!" From the Editor

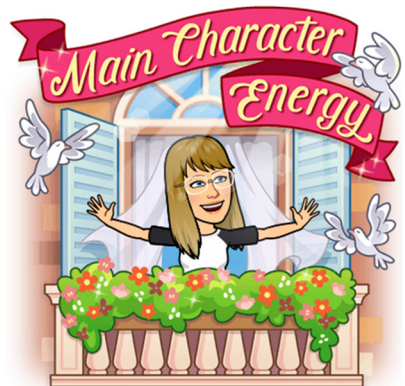
If this is your first time receiving our magazine it's great to have you join our growing readership of young writers and artists. This magazine is here to encourage you along your writing journey.

If you love to read then the chances are you feel inspired to write. If reading isn't your favourite thing, thank you for giving this magazine a go. We hope it motivates you into new possibilities.

Ask yourself, if you were to be the main character in a short story, movie or novel what kind of character would you like to be? Would you be happy or grumpy? How old would you be and what kind of activities would you do as that character? These are some questions to get your imagination flowing.

Think of a Bible character and have fun figuring out what he or she might have looked like, what clothes they were wearing and what kind of personality they had. It only takes a spark to get a fire of writing activity burning!

With love in Jesus Christ, from Kathryn



Poetry Competition Results

June-September 2022 *Young Christian Writer*

We have two poems that tied for first place in our poetry competition and because the writers are from two different age groups we decided to award them both first prize! Congratulations to Abigail Murray age 10 and Tishani Vanniasingham age 19. Each of you will receive a \$30 Manna Store evoucher!

The competition instructions were:

Write a rhyming poem about your favourite thing or things to do. Include in the words of the poem why you feel thankful to God for those things.

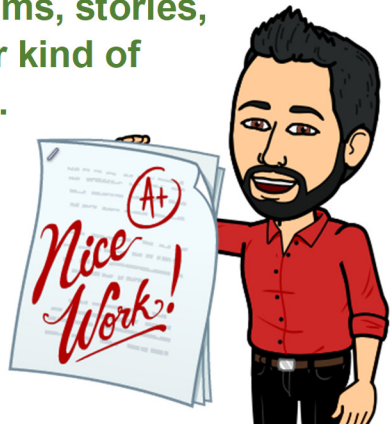
Well done and thank you to everyone who entered. We received a good number of entries. The judge's points totals were close for many of the poems received. Entrants followed the competition instructions well. Areas for poets to keep working on include becoming more consistent with rhythm and rhyme and putting more thought into the title. We have published the winning poems and several other entries. Thank you, young writers. Our magazine readers appreciate being able to enjoy your creative poems!

We are excited,
In fact delighted,
To have your poems here to read!
Keep up the writing,
It's so inviting,
You are very clever indeed!

Please continue to send in poems, stories, articles, devotions or any other kind of writing you would like to share.

Email your items to
ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org

TIP: Did you know you can read past issues **FREE** on our website? In the *YCW June-September 2020* issue there is an article called *Writing a Great Rhyming Poem* which will be helpful.



Thank You God For My Top Four Favourite Things

by Abigail Murray of Canterbury age 10

Thank you God for my new **GLASSES** so I can see,
they help me see the blue sky and a busy bee.
They are blue, purple and black with tiny crystals at the sides,
and at the shops there are glasses of so many kinds.
I like them because they help me see clearly,
and I'm writing about them as I love them dearly.

I'm also thankful to God for my **FRIENDS**,
for their great love that never ends.
They play with me when I'm lonely,
and I even have a leader-friend called Toni.
They hang around when I am sad,
and calm me down when I am mad.

I'm also thankful to God for my cat **BELLA**,
sometimes I call her Bella Wella.
She is black and white and 13 years old,
but she is slow and not very **BOLD**.
She sleeps all night and day,
and if she could she would sleep all through May!

I'm also thankful to God for my **HOME**,
where I can spend some of my time alone.
Its so warm, safe and cozy,
that the sound of rain makes me dozy.
I have a comfortable and soft bed,
where I can snuggle down and hold my ted.

And that is what I'm thankful to God for,
he has given me everything I adore.



Favourite thing: Talking with the Holy Spirit

by Tishani Vanniasingham of Auckland age 19

Hello, Holy Spirit,
How are you?
Speak to me now,
Sound and true.

The sun still sleeps,
I watch and listen.
Block out the world
and all its derision.

It's just you and me,
In the sound of silence.
Your voice is still,
A helping hand; guidance.

Touch me, Lord,
I desire nothing more.
I want to hear your promises,
Your thoughts; and all that is in store.

But more than anything,
I enjoy our chats.
Hearing you smile, your laugh.
There is nothing better than that.

It gives me comfort.
It gives me strength.
Thanks for listening,
No matter the length.

Holy Spirit, you give me peace.
My soul is still, yet I feel release.
Grateful I am, more than I know.
What I reap is what you sow.

Thank you, Father
For your Spirit.
My Favourite.
Our comforter.
Our advocate.



Poem

by Zac Grant of Canterbury age 10

Starwars is exceptional, and basketball is entertaining,

I love my lightsaber, and doing my training.

Starwars has many options, xbox I love the most,
Starwars The Force Unleashed II, I am frequently engrossed,

There are 9 Starwars movies, I have viewed the lot,

The Empire Strikes Back, really hit the spot,

I am thankful to God for creating George Lucas, hopefully one day he can introduce us.

I like the sound of the net, when the ball goes through it,

And if I miss the shot, I will just redo it.

Passing, dribbling, shooting, blocking, is how the game is won,

When the buzzer goes off, the game will be done.



My Rhyming Poem

by Dannica Knobel age 13

I love observing the hidden beauty of nature, just exploring God's creativity.

Any physical activity that gets my heartrate up makes me feel **good!**

Knowing that Jesus **would** die for me, gets me **excited!**

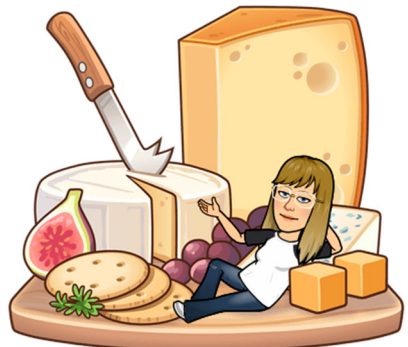
Having family that is **united** makes me feel blessed!

Animals are never pests- just the **best!**

God gives me **glee!**

I love eating grilled **brie!!**

That's **me**.



Life: Moments Shared Together

by Taylor Foster of Tauranga age 18

Life is but a string of moments
Put together in a tapestry;
Filled with things we do together,
Where You take the captaincy.

One thing I like
Is sitting down to write.
But when the ideas don't flow,
I look to You and my pen glows.

Another task that lights my fire
Is walking among the shire;
Each step is a reminder
Of how far You've helped me come.

Life is but a string of memories
Put together in a tapestry;
Filled with time we spent together,
Where You were the core of our family.

A favourite thing of mine
Is letting my words fly;
Out they come in notes aplenty.
Thank You for the songs You give me.

A final thing I love to do
Is sitting down to laugh with You.
The smile on Your face as You look at me
Allows me to be free.

Life is but a journey
Where we hold onto Your hand.
Though at times it's tough,
I thank You that in You, I always have a place to land.



Scriptwriting Competition

Join the fun by entering our next writing competition! Here are the instructions:

Write a script to be acted out. This could be for anything such as a skit, stage play, YouTube (or similar platform) video treatment, movie scene, television show, news item, documentary, or puppet show. Give it a suitable title and say what the purpose of the script is. Name your characters/participants and include stage directions. Describe the setting. Include props if necessary. Remember as for any story it needs a beginning, middle and end. Include at least one Bible scripture in the script. See page 13 for one example of how to lay out a script. It doesn't have to be exactly the same but this gives you an idea of how to do it. Keep it easy to read and follow for the actors.

Maximum word limit is **800** words. Minimum word limit is **300** words.

Send your entries by email to ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org with *YCW Scriptwriting Comp.* in the subject line. Include your name, age and area you live in. Maximum age limit for entrants is 25 years old.

**First Prize is a Manna Store eVoucher
valued at \$30.00!**

Deadline is 10pm 20th December 2022

Anyone up to the age of 25 is welcome to enter. There is no minimum age. If we receive a large number of entries we will split the age groups. More than one entry per person is permitted. There is no entry fee. Non-subscribers are welcome to enter. *Please note you can now subscribe to the digital YCW mag for free! See the link below.* The best entries will be published in the next issue of *Young Christian Writer magazine*.



Young Christian Writer magazine is now available in digital format for FREE! Sign up here <http://eepurl.com/hSQOhX>

Note: There is a subscription fee for a printed copy of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. There is also a fee for digital subscriptions that include our other magazine, *The Christian Writer*. Please see page 15 for those subscription costs and details.

A Day in the Life of a Magazine Editor

with editor, Jeremy Smith of *Authentic Magazine*



How long have you been editor of *Authentic Magazine*?

For context, *Authentic Magazine* is approaching its five-year anniversary. Our first issue was printed in December 2017 and we've just released our 19th! The short answer regarding my *Authentic* journey is, I've been the editor for 15 months. It's a journey I can most definitely see the Lord's hand on – and guidance in – throughout. The very first interview I conducted and feature I wrote for *Authentic* was back in January 2020. However, it wasn't until August of that year that I actually joined the team as staff – initially as assistant editor. It was all in God's timing. Subsequently – following discussions with then editor and *Authentic* CEO Dave Firth, as well as trusted people in my life, I was asked to step into the role of editor. My first issue in that job was our 14th issue, published in June last year. Wow! That means I've already been part of producing nine issues!

How much writing do you need to do for each magazine issue?

There's quite a bit of work which I and the rest of our team do to help see each issue become a reality. From my perspective, strictly speaking content wise, we aim to have at least three key feature articles in each issue. I conduct those interviews and take the photos as required, then write the features. I also write each issue's editorial. Additionally, there are also times when I write an extra piece for the purpose of encouraging readers, as well as pieces for our review pages. Part of my role also involves sourcing content, working with our various contributors – who are amazing by the way! – and sourcing adverts and writing the copy for them, when required. Essentially, it's about working to ensure we have Christ-centered content of various types filling each of the 84 pages which make up every issue. I also proofread each article before it's processed and laid up by our awesome designers, so all in all I carefully read quite a bit of the content even before the final printed copy reaches the shelves. I'd like to think we're, for the most part, pretty thorough. Maybe I should offer a prize to anyone who finds a spelling mistake? Ha!

Do you work in an office or from home?

A combination really. We do have one staff meeting day as a whole team each week and then the rest is usually done either from home, or on my laptop, from wherever I'm based. I love that flexibility.

How many hours per week does your role generally require?

I'm full time with *Authentic*. When I'm not busily working away on magazine-related tasks, I pivot a bit to help with jobs which we complete for clients at our agency, Authentic Media. We work with a wide range of businesses, including camps, schools and many more.

Do you have to do any travel as part of your role?

Sure! I often meet people in person to have our chats and interviews, and have travelled to various places to do so. All I'll say is, at times, I'm so grateful we live in the day and age of Google Maps!

Who are the main readers your magazine is aiming to reach?

Our prayer as a team is that *Authentic Magazine* is a source of encouragement to Christian men. We want to help those men grow in their faith, knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ. We also hope it can be a light to those living without Jesus. In fact, we have to say lots of women often tell us they read the magazine too!

We strive to fill each new issue of the magazine with great 'man stuff' – including challenging, encouraging and insightful articles which help men dig deep to rediscover the life God intended us to lead, great features which help us relate to other people and their individual faith journeys and useful tips and information to help us on our own walk with the Lord.

How much input do you have regarding the visual appearance of the magazine?

It's collaborative. We have a great team here, which includes designers, who – ultimately speaking – have a desire to use the awesome skills God has blessed them with to glorify Him. So, we all work together on this aspect – our goal being a high quality issue every time.

What is it like working to a deadline for the magazine?

It can get pretty busy at times! Particularly as the deadlines get closer. I don't think I can really say I ever get used to deadlines, although I have previously worked at newspapers and other publications for many years, so I suppose you work out processes and ways of working which help you to (mostly!) stay on top of things. *Authentic* is a quarterly publication and it's always amazing how fast each issue seems to roll around. I find it's better to continually keep working away regularly over time – that definitely makes the workload more manageable.

How many copies of each issue get printed for NZ subscribers – how many are sent digitally?

Each print run, we produce 3000 hard copies of the magazine and these are distributed throughout New Zealand in both the North and South islands in a variety of ways. These obviously include subscribers, as well as Christian bookstores, some prisons, medical clinics, churches and more. It's often quite surprising when we hear of where – and in which parts of New Zealand – people have come across *Authentic*. Digital numbers are slightly smaller and this was an option we provided as we began to get requests from people overseas – from all over the world in fact – who told us they wanted a way to read the magazine from where they lived.

Please describe a typical day in your life as a magazine editor.

The simplest way to do that is probably to say 'full of variety'. Maybe there isn't actually a 'typical' day, as such. What I'm doing solely depends on the day itself, and whatever the task is at hand. That variety is also part of what makes the job fun because you never really know how each day will be different. It could be anything from an office day sending out a whole bunch of emails or making phone calls, to travelling for interviews or events and simply networking with people. As I said, I often take photos too, or I'll spend time writing pieces and features, or proofreading copy. I love the doors this job opens and the people you get to meet throughout the course of the journey. Oh, and on second thought, maybe there is one constant – coffee!

What do you feel it is that makes *Authentic Magazine* a success?

Honestly, God. He deserves all the praise. This journey is one which has been outworked through Christ in us, in His strength and equipping not ours. We absolutely couldn't do this in our own strength! We need Him in each and every area of what we do. Oftentimes, I'm not sure what shape each issue is going to take, or how it will come together. But I will say I'm constantly praying that He will lead and guide the process and that – ultimately – each issue would simply bring Him glory. I want to be led by God in terms of the content He would have in the magazine. It's His publication, not ours and, ultimately, its pages should point anyone who reads the magazine to Jesus. I've heard it said, "God's not after our ability, He's seeking our availability..." and so that's my heart. I just want to be available to God and what He asks of me.

It's not my ability, or that of our team. It's Christ's life – and His equipping – in and through us. A friend of mine also once told me, "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called..." pointing me to 1 Thessalonians 5:24, "...*The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.*" (NIV). I absolutely believe that as we continue to walk this *Authentic* journey for as long as this is where He'd have us be, then God will always provide for all our needs.

What advice would you give to a young writer/editor who aspires to work in magazine publishing?

Spell check is amazing! Ha! No, in all honesty, I'd probably say keep sharpening those pencils and honing those writing skills! And, as you look for opportunities and knock on doors, do so prayerfully, keeping Christ at the centre of all you do. Networking and reaching out to people you'd like to learn from, who are already doing the type of work you want to do, can be helpful too. That often builds useful connections. Ask them questions about aspects of the craft you want to grow in that you want to learn and that they already know. I sure did, and, in fact, I still do! And, as you hold everything before Christ, you can absolutely be assured that you can trust Him to open the right doors He has for you and keep doors you shouldn't walk through closed. In my case, I also ended up studying a joint journalism degree and diploma because I liked English when I was at school. As I look back on my own journey, it's amazing to see how God has moulded and shaped me through each previous experience and place I've worked. I may not have known how at the time, but looking back, all the glory is His and I thank Him for His leading and for the things He has taught me along the way.

Right, I've got features to write!

Puppet Play – Real Friends (first published in YCW Feb-May 2020)

by Kathryn Drinkwater

Characters: **Racoon**, **Nurse Helen**, **Doctor Dave**, **Jack the bird**, **Bruce the bird**

Three puppeteers are needed because all five characters are on stage at the same time.

(enter Jack, middle stage)

Jack: *(sighs)* I'm so bored! I wish I had a friend here to play with! *(sighs)*
Bored, bored, bored, bored, bored... *(repeating until Bruce speaks)*

(Enter Bruce, stage right)

Bruce: Hello, what's your name?

Jack: I'm Bored – oops, I mean my name's Jack! What's yours?

Bruce: My name's Bruce. Wanna be friends, Jack?

Jack: Cool, yeah, that would be awesome!

Bruce: What games do you like playing?

Jack: I like computer games and ball games. What about you?

Bruce: Hmm, let's see. *(He turns away to think while Helen and Dave enter stage left. Jack goes to them and ignores Bruce who is still thinking and answering)* I like computer games and ball games too and I like playing with my truck and climbing on the playground... *(Bruce suddenly realises Jack has moved away and isn't listening)* Hey, Jack – where are you going? *(Bruce goes quiet and stays in his corner looking sad to be left out).*

Jack: *(speaks to Helen and Dave)* Hi I'm Jack, watcha doing?

Doctor Dave: Hi, Jack, we're playing pretend doctors and nurses. I'm Doctor Dave and this is my friend, Nurse Helen.

Nurse Helen: Hi, Jack! Wanna play with us? You can be our patient!

Jack: Yeah, that sounds like fun! Let's say I've got Birditis-virus, *(moans and groans in pain)*, ohhhh, help me, Doctor Dave, my beak hurts!

(Doctor Dave and Nurse Helen pretend to fuss over him)

Doctor Dave: Where do you think you caught the Birditus-virus, Jack?

(enter Racoon, stage left, Jack sees him)

Jack: Ohhhh, from my friend, Racoon! There he is!

Racoon: *(husky laugh)* Heh heh, sure, Jack, is that why my beak hurts too?

Nurse Helen: Here, let me check it for you, Racoon. *(she looks hard at his face and gasps)* Oh, no! He's got it real bad – his beak's all gone!

Doctor Dave: A bad case for sure. *(shakes his head, clicks his tongue in concern)*

Racoon: Heh heh, you fellas seem like you're having lots of fun. But who's that bird over there? *(He looks toward lonely Bruce)*

Jack: Oh, him? That's Bruce.

Doctor Dave: I didn't realise you had another friend here, Jack.

Jack: I only just met him. Come on, let's play!

Racoon: I think you're forgetting something, Jack. Like how to be a good friend?

Nurse Helen: Yeah, Jack. Real friends don't ignore each other. They try to include everyone.

Doctor Dave: Real friends are loyal, even when you've just met.

Nurse Helen: You like it when your friends are kind and show they care about you, don't you, Jack?

Jack: Yeah, I do. But you guys are my friends now.

Doctor Dave: Just because we are your friends, doesn't mean you can't keep all your other friends too.

Racoon: *(nodding)* We can all be friends together. That's more fun!

Jack: You're right. I wasn't being a real friend at all, was I? *(he turns to Bruce)* Bruce! Hey, Bruce! Come over here!

Bruce: *(moving closer)* Yes, Jack?

Jack: I need to say sorry to you, Bruce. I left you out of our game and I wasn't being a real friend.

Bruce: I was feeling a bit sad – we had just met and then you left me so suddenly!

Jack: Yeah – real friends are kinder than that. Sorry, Bruce.

Bruce: That's okay. Thanks for saying sorry. I can be a real friend too and forgive you.

Nurse Helen: Real friends are loyal and forgiving.

Doctor Dave: They are kind and sharing.

Jack: Real friends are considerate and helpful.

Bruce: And always gentle and honest.

Racoon: I read in the Bible that if you give up your own life for your friend then that's the greatest love of all. That's the kind of love Jesus has for us. Hang on! I feel a song coming on...

(music starts and all the puppets sing the song 'Friends' by Petra)



Mission: *Connecting Christian writers in New Zealand.*

Vision: *To encourage and inspire Christian writers throughout New Zealand.*

Values: *Christian faith, God's Word, professionalism, quality and social outreach.*

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Editor and Membership Secretary: Kathryn Paul: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

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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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