



OCT 23 - JAN 24

# YOUNG

## CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE For:

Article Competition  
Winner!

Tips for Writing a  
Short Story

New Short Story Writing  
Competition

Articles and more!

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers

# Young Christian Writer

Oct 2023 – Jan 2024

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**Send us your writing to be published in *Young Christian Writer* magazine! We will publish as many as space allows. Email your writing to Kathryn at [ycwmaq@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:ycwmaq@nzchristianwriters.org)**

### Website:

View our website for how to join and to view copies of past magazines. Paying subscribers 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](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org)**

## President's Note

Welcome to our Oct 2023-Jan 2024 edition of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. We publish a new edition three times a year.

As a Young Christian Writer, you may already know that we absolutely love to encourage and inspire Christian writers here in New Zealand. Our writing competitions are a fun way to improve your writing skills and win cash prizes in the form of a Manna Christian Store voucher. Many of our younger writers have shared that entering our competitions has helped boost their confidence. Particularly by writing on a variety of topics and receiving helpful guidance and mentorship from our competition judges.

Another way NZ Christian Writers encourages and inspires our members is through our Local Groups. Recently I saw a fun meme on Facebook that said: 'A group of writers is called a procrastination'. I found that hilarious! I'm happy to report we have several writer groups who have been thriving throughout 2023. If you're keen to learn from other writers and publishers who will help encourage you and your writing, let me recommend you check out our various writing groups available here: [www.nzchristianwriters.org/groups/](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org/groups/).

Write on.

Justin St. Vincent, President, NZ Christian Writers



## "Hi!" From the Editor

Hey there! Welcome to *Young Christian Writer* magazine! This magazine is here to encourage you to write. It's also a place for you to send

your writing and have it published. People of all different ages read this magazine and they live in many different parts of New Zealand.

What's it like in your hometown? Perhaps you could write a poem about where you live and send it in. I live in Northland in the Kaipara district. I have many animals; two alpacas, a dog, a cat and ten horses.

Have you ever been to a writers' retreat? We are having one at Coopers Beach Christian Camp in the Far North this coming Labour Weekend, 20-23 October 2023. The camp has an excellent water slide and is across the road from the beach. There will be time for learning about writing, time for doing some writing and simply relaxing and having fun together. I'll be there and if you can come, I'd love to meet you! Click here for more information:

### **Northland Christian Writers Retreat**

With love in Jesus Christ,  
from Kathryn



# Article Competition Results

## June-September 2023

**Congratulations to Abigail Murray!**

**Your article has won a prize worth \$30!**

**The competition instructions were:**

- Pick a non-fiction (true) topic you would like to write about.
- Identify a suitable magazine who might like to publish it. For example, an article about fishing would be good for a fishing magazine. An article about horse riding would make sense for a horse magazine. An article about writing for God would work well for this magazine.
- Include a gentle (non-pushy) Christian reference or theme in the article.
- Write the article up to 500 words maximum.
- The article needs to aim to educate and entertain the magazine readers.
- Give your article a title.
- Ensure it's written in your own words and contains true facts. It's wise to research and fact check your article to make sure the content is correct.
- If you're not sure what magazines are available for your topic you can try looking on the magazine shelf in your local supermarket or bookshop or you can look in the magazine section of a library. You can also try searching online. It doesn't have to be a New Zealand magazine.

Send us your article with its title and the name of the magazine it's suitable for.

You don't have to send it for real to the magazine you've written it for, but after our competition is finished, you can do that if you would like to.

### **Note from the judge:**

Writing an article can seem a challenge but it's not as difficult as you might expect. It's a lot like writing a letter to a friend explaining something to them that they don't know.

Abigail has met all the criteria above and her article, *The Tiny Titanic* is informative as well as attention-grabbing. The article offers an important message to all of us regarding a sad tragedy. I'm sure you will appreciate reading Abigail's article as much as I did.

Abigail also recently set her own competition to challenge her mum, Fiona Murray. They have shared their writing with our magazine readers on page 12.

# The Tiny Titanic

Written by: Abigail Murray

Age: 11 years



How did the Titan submersive sink? Were there mistakes made? Who knows?

Read on to find out the tragic story...

Dr Stockham Rush was the person who made and drove the submersive called Titan. His parents were both from very wealthy families. Dr Rush had a thirst for adventure. He wanted to travel to space so he could visit Mars. But, he had bad eyesight so he could not drive planes or rockets. He found new adventures under the sea. He bought the first submersive called Cyclops which went 500m below the surface of the sea.

Dr Rush started a business called Oceangate to take tourists to shipwrecks. Dr Rush increased his business by doing more interesting dives. (like going to the Titanic). Dr Rush wasn't thinking about the risk. He was thinking about the money. Dr Rush got wealthy tourists to do the **DANGEROUS** dive. The Titanic was 4000m below the surface and the water pressure equalled three tons per square inch. That's like having three hundred elephants standing on your nose!

Dr Rush built his own submersive and called it Titan - short for Titanic. The materials were untested. Many people raised alarms that he should not send the submersive down, but Dr Rush did not listen (like Simon the Sorcerer from the Bible). Simon wanted to look good. Dr Rush also wanted to look good, but did not want to listen to the wisdom of others and God.

One of his engineers suggested it was not safe, and Dr Rush fired him. The main shell was made out of carbon fibre and the ends were made out of titanium. Carbon fibre was untested with deep dives so many doubted it would survive. The controller to drive the sub' was an Xbox controller. Other questionable things were the lack of seating, the communication system, and the lack of safety systems / backups. The Titan lasted three trips before imploding.



The tourists onboard did not know the risk. There were five including Dr Rush. Dr Rush used carbon fibre and the Xbox controller because it was cheap. The people onboard were:

- Dr Rush
- A French explorer
- An American billionaire
- A Pakistani businessman and his 19 yr old son. The 19 yr old did not want to go. His ticket was supposed to be for his mum but she gave it to him. He went because he wanted to impress his dad. He took his rubix cube to calm him down.

Dr Rush chose to ignore getting a certificate. He said getting a certificate would make him wait longer, and he didn't want to wait. He broke several rules and used untested material to make the Titan.

And now, looked how it ended up. The Titan went missing, and then it imploded, killing all onboard because of many mistakes.

### **Bibliography:**

I interviewed my Dad who knew a lot of interesting facts about the Titan.

### **Magazine:**

I would like this to go in the *National Geographic Magazine*.

# Short Story Competition

Be sure to enter our next writing competition. Here are the instructions:

- Write a short story that has a Bible scripture reference in it somewhere.
- Maximum words 1000. (There is no minimum word count).
- Give your story a title.

Send in your short story as a Word document.

Send your entries by email to [ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org) with *YCW Short Story Competition* in the subject line. Include your name, age and area where you live.

## Winner receives a prize valued at \$30.00!

**The last day to send your entry is:**

**15 December 2023**

Anyone up to age 25 is welcome to enter. There is no minimum age.

If we receive many 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.

Competition results will be published in the next issue of *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

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

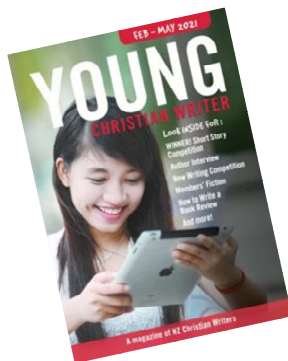
**Note:** There is a subscription fee for a printed copy of *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

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.

Read more on our website:

[www.nzchristianwriters.org/join](http://www.nzchristianwriters.org/join)





# Mystery's Heavenly Haven

Short Story by K Drinkwater

Once upon a time, there lived a girl by the name of Mystery. She lived alone in a dark, mysterious forest by a strange, sparkly-purple lake.

Her house was made of ferns and flowers, all woven in together so tight that the warm rains couldn't get in. Her bed was made of hay and cotton and soft, shimmery pink feathers which she'd found in the forest.

Each day Mystery would walk quietly through the forest, filling her woven basket with berries and nuts and whatever other fruit and veges she could find. She would take a swim in the lake and her large sapphire blue eyes would sparkle as much as the water, with delight and pleasure as she basked in the warm purple lake. Her long, golden hair would glow purple for a while after she swam.

Mystery loved to watch the forest animals feed and play. There were no large animals and no dangerous ones. Every creature who lived in the forest was unafraid.

Then one day a new creature came near to the purple lake. Mystery saw it on the far shore – and then it was gone. She blinked and wondered what it could be. She'd never seen one before. Quickly she swam across the lake to see if she could get a closer look. The new creature now moved among the trees watching her with curiosity.

Mystery didn't know it but the creature was a horse. It was white with a flowing mane and tail that shimmered all the colours of the rainbow. She sighed in awe at its beauty. The horse grazed the grass on the bank of the lake. As Mystery drew close, slowly treading the purple water – the horse threw up his head and stared at her with big, solemn sapphire-blue eyes. Eyes just like her own.

She reached the bank and the horse stepped forward and reached out his nose, breathing sweet, warm breath into her face. Like the other forest creatures, the horse was unafraid. She climbed out of the water and reached her arms around his soft white neck, then spontaneously swung herself up onto his back.

The horse ate a few more mouthfuls of grass then began to walk, then trot, then canter and then gallop, until Mystery could hardly see the trees they were passing as they moved together so fast. She leaned forward, her golden-purple hair blending in with the streaming rainbow-mane.

The horse had run so far that Mystery couldn't recognize the part of the forest they were in. The horse slowed down as it entered the most beautiful meadow Mystery had ever seen. Flowers of all sizes and colours covered the ground so thickly that the grass could hardly peek through.



Around the border of the meadow were many fruit trees, of different kinds. Some had colourful fruits Mystery had never come across before. The horse stopped to graze and Mystery slid from his back, gazing around her in awe.

One of the trees especially caught her attention. It had fruit-like apples but they looked as if they were made of gold and set in shiny silver leaves. She touched one to see if it would be hard or soft and was surprised to find it felt soft and edible. She picked it and took a tiny bite, holding it in her mouth in case the taste was bad. It tasted wonderful. She began to eat the rest of the apple.

She felt a soft tickle on her arm and found the horse was looking gently at the apple too. She offered him the rest and he lipped it out of her hand. With a crunch and swallow it was gone.

Suddenly a tingly sensation began in her toes and spread throughout her body. As it reached her face she threw back her head and laughed, then spun around the meadow, dancing in the flowers. The horse felt the joy and rush as well and bucked and played, running around her in circles. Finally the tingling rush subsided and Mystery collapsed on her back, smiling up at the horse. He quietened down and stood beside her, his nose touching her hair, slowly his eyes drooped and he dozed. Mystery felt her own eyes closing as she grew drowsy.

Through her flickering eyelids Mystery thought she caught sight of some tiny angel-fairies alighting on her clothes and then she was asleep. In her dreams she saw a man shining bright and beckoning to her. She had a deep 'knowing' who He was. He was her Creator. He had created her home and He loved her.

When she awoke the sun had set and a huge yellow moon had risen over the meadow. The horse had gone. Mystery stood and wondered how she might find her way back to her cosy home and bed. There were no dangers in the forest but she guessed it was going to be a long walk back. Then she had an idea.

She walked over to the golden apple tree. If half an apple gave her the energy to dance – perhaps an entire apple would give her the energy to run all the way home. “Mmmmm... delicious...” she murmured as she ate one. Then she filled her pockets with a few more. The tingling started and she began to run in the direction which the horse had brought her from. To her amazement her strides became bigger and springier and she covered the ground like it was hardly there. Just as she felt the apple wearing off she recognized her familiar berry picking bushes and then she saw the lake sparkling in the moonlight and reflecting the yellow globe in its depths.

With a smile and a giggle she walked into her little home and put the apples in her food store. She crawled into bed. It wasn't long and she was peacefully asleep, dreaming of mysterious horses, meadows and angel-fairies, with flowers and fruits; beautiful and strange.

# A Natural Production

Article courtesy of

[www.freechristianillustrations.com](http://www.freechristianillustrations.com)



**We should take time to watch the show in nature  
and applaud the Creator.**

*Creation is a miracle – even those who don't believe in God usually agree. Sometimes we need to pinch ourselves and remember that we are part of this miracle. We live on a beautiful, life-sustaining planet; spinning precisely around our energy giving sun; floating in an incomprehensible universe. When you think of the big picture, our daily issues become quite trivial.*

Nature is the greatest production ever seen by any audience. We should take time from our busy schedules to look around and appreciate it. Each sunrise reveals beautiful landscapes which artists try to duplicate; plant life which produce precious oxygen to sustain us; and a vast variety of animals with brain functions that super-computers cannot match.

In this natural production, God is the Manager, Writer, Director, Producer, plus Costume and Set Designer. God loves seeing a full house enjoying His production.

If we are fortunate to see, hear, smell, taste and touch, we should use those senses to be astounded at the wonders around us. We should remember to be grateful if we possess a functioning body where we can take a walk or hold a loved one. Sadly, it's only when we lose those functions do we realise what gifts they were.

Whether we acknowledge it or not, nature is an unfathomable miracle and is a glory to God's creative genius. It is performed on a universal stage and is being enacted around us 24-7. We should do ourselves a favour and spend more time enjoying 'God's Natural Production' and less time stressing about the trivial. Furthermore, we should add to the world's beauty by creating, writing, building or doing that which will bring pleasure to others. Not only is it therapeutic but we may get an insight into the pleasure our Heavenly Creator receives when His creation-gift is acknowledged and appreciated.

***Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; nor are there any works like Your works.*** Psalm 86:8.



# Competition for my Mum from Abi:

by Abigail Murray

**You have to write an explanation about 'Why and How People are Different'.**

**Maximum words = 500**

**Minimum words = 200**

**You've got from the 3rd of May until the 20th of June.**

**Hope you do it!!**

## Why are People Different?

by Fiona Murray aged 50 years 🇬🇧

I was sitting in front of our first fire for the winter, mesmerised by the flames and quietly asking myself, why are people different? My thoughts turned towards the refining fire of God. God is constantly refining us with his holy fire. Our character, personality, dreams, strengths and weaknesses - He is moulding us to be more and more like Him.

God is high above our comprehension. He is perfect. His character is perfect. His nature holds many facets. Facets that will never be understood by the limitations of the mind. As human beings, we reflect His infinite features. There are those who walk with justice held high. There are others who are merciful and compassionate in a needy world. There are people who speak great words of wisdom and knowledge to those who need to hear God's voice. There are individuals who encourage and bring people together to complete a task. Some are called to take care of and shepherd His people. Some exhibit a deep sense of creativity through art, music and drama.

These examples are but a minuscule demonstration of God's character. When you observe a group of people, you see how God has wired each of them so differently, to show the world who God truly is. God is inexhaustible. God is immeasurable. That is why people are so different. As a whole, we can testify to the image of the one who created us.

And so it is with the refining fire of God - He is honing us every day, so that one day, we will be in perfection with Him.

# How are People Different?

by Abigail Murray aged 11 years 😊

In the human body, everyone has a DNA. Everybody's DNA is different. If it were the same, everyone would look the same! Everyone's DNA has a different pattern, which makes us unique. Let's take for example, your eye colour. Your DNA has a unique code/pattern that programs your body to make it whatever your eye colour is. Also, your hair colour is all different from other people. It might be short, long, straight, curly, etc. The shape of your body, size, personality, likes, dislikes, and so on are all different. But if you think you look ugly, fat, or anything bad, you are not. You are unique. Which makes you special. So don't go looking in the mirror, complaining about how you look. You are special, unique, and loved. Everyone else is too, so don't bully them or question them on how they look. If you don't want to be bullied, then don't bully. It's as simple as that. If other people bully you, and you don't feel loved, God loves you no matter what.

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## The Neighbour's Child

From the poetry book, *Follow Me* by Althea Barr

Mum, Mum, you've gotta come and see – there's kings next door!  
Well, maybe not kings exactly, but rich guys on camels – please, Mum, come and see!  
You wouldn't believe me when I told you about the shepherds and the singing –  
'Shepherds don't sing,' you said, 'they're quiet men who don't say much and certainly don't sing!'  
You missed the point, Mum, it was the angels singing!  
I didn't make it up, I saw it all, honest!  
'All that fuss,' you said, 'about a baby!  
You could show them babies,' you said, and wouldn't listen.  
But this time you have to come...  
Please, Mum! Look, now they're leaving, and the family next door is going too...  
Shouldn't we be going, Mum?  
We've never been to Egypt.  
They say it won't be safe here any longer when Herod gets to hear.  
Please, Mum, I think this time you ought to listen.

# Tips For Writing a Short Story

by Kathryn Paul

It can be helpful to brainstorm your outline for a short story by writing keywords on a page. Write down what you want to achieve with the story. Think of your story in three parts, the beginning, middle and the end. Will you have a low point or crisis for the character?

Decide who your main character is and give attention to creating who they are. You don't have to include all their details in the story, but it will help you make them sound real.

Plan whether you're going to write in first person, *I fell off my bike on my way to the park*, or third person, *Stella fell off her bike on her way to the park*. Once you've decided, you must stay consistent with this throughout the story.

Show what's happening by using speech and activity, rather than just *telling* or *explaining*. Try creating curiosity with unanswered questions. This grabs and holds a reader's attention. It helps make the reader want to know what happens next.

Your beginning needs to grab the reader's attention, so it's helpful to create intrigue right from your first sentence. The beginning usually answers questions such as: who, where, what, why?

The middle of the short story needs to achieve what you brain-stormed. It needs to keep moving and flowing toward the ending.

Your ending can be a surprise, an unexpected twist or simply a satisfactory conclusion. Ask yourself if you achieved what you wrote in your outline.

Now that you've completed your first draft, give yourself a pat on the back! It's time to ask someone who is good at English, including spelling and punctuation, to proofread your story. Make the necessary recommended changes. It's a good idea to print your story, have a rest from it, then come back to it a few days later and re-read it. If there's anything else you want to change, it will usually stand out to you.

When writing for a competition, if you have written more than the maximum word count, you must figure out which bits to take out without spoiling your story. Keep only the most important details that are relevant. Ensure your entry complies with all the competition's instructions. It's always sad for a judge to receive a great story that can't be given the recognition it deserves due to the writer neglecting to follow all the requirements.

When giving your story a title, you don't have to do this before you write it. Often it's beneficial to wait until you've written your first draft. Then you can look at the content of your story and think about which title will be meaningful or spark curiosity, enticing someone to read it.

*(This article was first published in YCW Oct 2020-Jan 2021 and has been updated.)*



**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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286 Karapiro Road, RD4, Cambridge 3496 or email: [reviews@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:reviews@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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