

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

THE CHRISTIAN writer

SEE INSIDE FOR

Articles:

Upcoming Increase to Subscription Fees
by Andrew Stirling

How to Calculate Tax on Your Book Sales
by Andrew Stirling

Whakatane Christian Writers Group
by Julie Collins

Book Reviews:

Waiting to be Well by Angela C Millen

Pieces of the Puzzle by Lijlanie Stander

Professional Writing Services,
Local Writers Groups, Competitions
and much more!

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers



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.*

President: Justin St Vincent: president@nzchristianwriters.org

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

For magazine contributions, address changes and membership queries.

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

Join Us! Annual Subscriptions—2 options:

1) Digital magazine: Full membership \$40/Student membership (up to 25 yr) \$20

2) Printed magazine: Full membership \$55/Student membership (up to 25 yr) \$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, RD 4, 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 2024

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

Feb – Mar 2024

ISSN 2537-8708 (Online)

VOL 41. No 1

ISSN 1171-0098 (Print)

Contents

Page 2	Contact Details – Editor Membership Secretary Book Review Requests
Page 4	President’s Report – Justin St Vincent
Page 5	Editorial: We are Unique – Kathryn Paul
Page 6	A word from the Co-editor – Christel Jeffs
Page 7	Notices
Page 8	Upcoming Increase to Subscription Fees – Andrew Stirling
Page 9	New Christian Writers Group in Whakatane – Julie Collins
Page 11	Book Review: <i>Waiting to be Well</i> by Angela C Millen – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 11	Book Review: <i>Pieces of the Puzzle</i> by Lijlanie Stander – reviewer Julia Martin
Page 12	How to Calculate Tax on Your Book Sales – Andrew Stirling
Page 14	One Day – Rachel Jessop
Page 15	God and I (Thoughts in a Pool) – Tishani Vann
Page 18	Professional Writing Services – Free Advertising for Members
Page 20	Join a Writers Group Near You
Page 21	Welcome to New and Returning Members
Page 21	Writing Competitions Points Board

CW Competitions

Page 22	Level One Results	Page 31	Level Three Results
Page 26	Level Two Results	Page 35	Competitions for April 2024

Website: Our user-friendly website is full of helpful information, such as details of seminars and copies of past magazines. It gives each member an online presence. Feel free to share our website link with other Christian writers so they can join us. Our members are the best advocates for growing our collective of NZ Christian Writers.

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Report



Welcome to our Feb-Mar 2024 edition of *The Christian Writer* magazine. I trust you've had a fantastic start to the new year and are looking forward to what 2024 will bring in your life and writing. I'm very enthusiastic about what God will do through NZ Christian Writers throughout 2024. Our board members continue to be brilliant guiding lights for our collective. Together we've focused on five key areas that help serve NZ

Christian Writers: our competitions, local groups, magazines, seminars and retreats. These are the areas that our members tell us make the most difference to them. In addition to these, you'll notice two exciting updates this year: our Members' Books Catalogue 2024, and our new look for *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

First, our brand-new catalogue: A massive thank you to Fiona Murray and her husband Alan, who have prepared the NZ Christian Writers Members' Books Catalogue 2024. This is now available to download as PDFs in these categories: Autobiography, Biography, Testimony | Children's Chapter Books | Children's Illustrated Books | Devotional, Music-Artists, Tracts | Educational Books | Fiction | Help Books | Missionary Adventures | Poetry | Teens & Young Adults. Note the catalogue is a separate document from the writer profiles and book features on our website. There are over 200 books in the catalogue. Our Catalogue 2024 is a free marketing resource to help you and other members sell your published books. Catalogue 2024 can be downloaded here: www.nzchristianwriters.org/catalogue/.

Secondly, our 'new look' *Young Christian Writer* magazine. Graphic designer, Shing Stirling, has created a fresh magazine layout for the contents of our *Young Christian Writer* magazine. *Young Christian Writer* is a supplement magazine which is published three times a year for student writers. *Young Christian Writer* magazine is released in February, June and October each year. The purpose of the magazine is to encourage and inspire a community of young Christian writers throughout New Zealand. Over the next editions of *Young Christian Writer* readers can expect to see a collection of competitions, free giveaways, poetry, articles, short stories, puzzles, art, photography, book reviews and more. Student Membership rates for our digital or printed magazine are available online: www.nzchristianwriters.org/join/.

A special thanks again to member and photographer, Max Carr, for his photo featured on the front cover of this magazine.

Be blessed,

Justin St Vincent

Editorial: We are Unique

by Kathryn Paul



When I took on the role of magazine editor for NZ Christian Writers, I saw it as an opportunity to gain experience in editing which would help me along in an editing career. This summer I have completed a course through Christian Writers Institute on 'How to Make a Great Living as an Editor'. This has given me the courage to begin my own editing and proofreading business.

I've called it Stepping Stone Editing and Proofreading. I like this name because editing and proofreading is a stepping stone for authors on their publishing journey. I hope this business will also be a stepping stone to enable me to have more time to do what I most want to do – write books! A stepping stone also inspires hope, a sense of moving forward and a promise of adventure in exploring where it will lead. Check out my new advertisement on the Professional Writing Services Page.



Christel Jeffs is an experienced editor and has also included her advertisement on the Professional Writing Services Page. Christel has been helping NZ Christian Writers by producing this issue of *The Christian Writer*. Thank you very much, Christel.

I want to encourage all our magazine readers to keep taking steps towards your goals. As time goes on you will discover how continuing to gain experience does benefit you and others. Over the years I've seen how God is faithful to the efforts we make for Him. I believe within every career there are opportunities to further God's Kingdom by sharing the message of His love and hope. Remember, we are all unique. We are not competing against each other because each writer, each editor, each worker has their own uniqueness to offer others. We are united in one goal and that is to love the Lord and love one another. Let's continue to encourage and pray for one another. Let's continue to write for Him!

With love in Jesus,

from Kathryn

I love to hear from our readers! Email: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

Editorial: a word from the new assistant editor

by Christel Jeffs



Hello everyone! It's good to be here.

For those of you who don't know me, I've been a member of NZCW for several years now. Justin kindly invited me to become a Board Member in July 2023, then Kathryn reached out asking for some help with the magazine. I am now a co-editor alongside her. Thank you to both Justin and Kathryn for these opportunities.

To share a bit about me: I live in Northland and have lived here all my life. I work as a trainee counsellor in Whangarei and will soon be fully qualified. Saturdays, I work at the Packard Motor Museum. I love Jesus, reading, travel, art, theatre and coffee!

In terms of my writing, I have self-published one novel (*The Gumdigger's Wife*, 2016) and a poetry chapbook (*Counter-Cultural Christian Chick*, 2018). My poetry has also featured in several Fast Fibres Poetry anthologies and the online literary journal *The Way Back to Ourselves*.



I wear a lot of hats, as I'm sure you do too. Perhaps you are a husband/wife and father/mother. Maybe you are a teacher, medical professional, or pastor. As well as all my professional 'hats', I'm an aunty, daughter, sister and friend. There are so many roles that we fill throughout our lives.

The most meaningful role, however, is one that we did not earn ourselves: the role of beloved child. This is true no matter our upbringing because God is our Father and He calls us so.

I am the one He loves, just like John in his gospel account. The disciple called himself the one loved by Jesus because he assuredly and intimately knew how precious he was to the One they called Messiah. The One who was fully God and man, who died to save the world.

He knows you and has saved you.

You are the one Jesus loves.

I pray that no matter what 2024 brings, we will hold fast to the truth of who we truly are in Christ.

Blessings,

Christel Jeffs

Notices

Local Writers Group Leaders Wanted

If you are willing to host a writers group in your area please get in touch. To find out more details email Justin at president@nzchristianwriters.org or Kathryn at editor@nzchristianwriters.org

Book Reviews Criteria

Members are welcome to request a book review of any of their published books, whether recently released or not. The main criterion is the book has to have some Christian relevancy. For more information on how to have your book reviewed in *The Christian Writer* please refer to page two.

Join the NZ Christian Writers Group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newzealandchristianwriters>

Submissions Wanted

More content is always needed for our magazines, *The Christian Writer* and *Young Christian Writer*. Send in your contributions by email to editor@nzchristianwriters.org by the 10th of the month prior to the publication date.

South Island Christian Book Authors Network

Meetings are quarterly from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Tenants Lounge, Maurice Carter Courts, 16 Dundee Place, Spreydon, Christchurch 8024. These are specifically offered to those interested in writing a book or who have published a book. For meeting details contact facilitator: Verna McFelin verna.mcfelin@gmail.com.

Volunteers Wanted for NZCW Projects

Are you available to help serve NZ Christian Writers? We need to enlarge our pool of volunteers. Find out more about available roles and tasks: contact Kathryn at editor@nzchristianwriters.org.

Warning! Scammer Alert!

Please remember no one from NZ Christian Writers is authorised to email members asking for money or other forms of help. Check for fake email addresses as the scammers like to pretend to be one of us. Do not reply to the scammer emails; simply ignore them.

Raising Godly Mothers Magazine

If you are an older mother who would like to write an article for future issues of *Raising Godly Mothers* or if you are a young mother who is struggling, please contact Shing at rgm@rgm.co.nz. For more info' or to subscribe to the magazine visit: www.rgm.co.nz

Increase to Subscription Fees

As per the article on the following page, please note that from 1 April 2024 our NZCW membership/subscription fees will increase.

Upcoming Increase to Subscription Fees

by Andrew Stirling

To our valued members,

Here at NZ Christian Writers, we pride ourselves on being able to connect, inspire and encourage Christian writers across NZ. We do that through a variety of means such as:

- Regular magazines and competitions
- Local small group meetings
- Seminars and retreats
- NZCW website platform

We have always endeavoured to provide this service at a subscription rate that is both affordable to our subscribers and which also provides us with enough funds to do what we do.

Over the past few years, this has become more challenging for us as costs across the nation have gone up. One of our biggest costs is postage, which has increased dramatically along with many of our other costs. We have been absorbing these cost increases for as long as possible but cannot continue to do so.

Unfortunately, due to these increased costs, NZ Christian Writers has decided to increase our subscription fees from 1 April 2024.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly, and we are aware of the impact this may have on some of our subscribers. You will be pleased to know that fee increases are not something we do on a regular basis. The last change to our subscription rates was over seven years ago.

Our hope is that, with the extra funds available, we can continue to offer a great service. We are also looking at ways we can add more value to our current members as well as coping with the influx of new members.

The new subscription rates are below:

Digital Magazine: Full membership – \$50/Student membership (up to 25 years) – \$30

Printed Magazine: Full membership – \$75/Student membership (up to 25 years) – \$55

This new rate will apply from 1 April 2024. We have chosen this date to give people time to adjust to the new rate.

If your renewal invoice is due before 1 April 2024, you will pay the old rate. All invoices from this date onwards will show the new rate.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please feel free to contact me at treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org.

Andrew Stirling



Photo taken at Titoki Christian Healing Centre during our Christian Writers Retreat

Newly Established Christian Writers Group in Whakatane

by Julie Collins

Whakatane Christian Writers Coordinator

We have established a local Christian Writers group in Whakatane to connect, encourage and inspire likeminded writers in our district. We observe the NZ Christian Writers guidelines for our meetings, using a similar structure, but we do not record minutes following each meeting.

Four of us met in May 2023 at our local Robert Harris café to discuss potential interest in setting up a Whakatane Writers Group.

The local group now meets monthly at the Whakatane Baptist Church on Keepa Road. In October 2023, our group had the pleasure of hosting guests from the Tauranga Christian Writers. It was lovely to discuss our passion for writing, share our faith, encourage one another, and compare notes on writing projects and writing achievements.

Two of our members, Cindy Williams and Lisa Preston, took a step further with organising a Writers Retreat which was held at Titoki Christian Healing Centre. The retreat, held over 27/28th October, attracted eleven attendees including Christian Writers from as far north as Great Barrier Island, West to Morrinsville and south to Palmerston North.

The event got underway as we studied God's word on writing. We continued with looking at the writing process which included several writing activities. We also had several laughs with our writing games in the evening, after dinner.

Titoki did us proud with the delicious food and comfortable accommodation. The retreat was outstanding, relaxing and totally inspirational. We thank God for His blessing in allowing us to participate and share at this wonderful event.



Photo taken at Whakatane Baptist Church during our Tauranga Christian Writers Visit

Our core group has increased to ten members. We look forward to 2024 with some great sharing of Christian themed stories, testimonials, poetry and devotionals.



Waiting to be Well

By Angela C Millen

Review by Julia Martin

Published by Holy Wonder Publishing NZ, 2023

At age 18, a vivacious, energetic young woman was suddenly struck down by a mysterious illness that left her exhausted with no obvious explanation. Eventually Angela was diagnosed with viral chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and for the next three years her life was turned upside down.

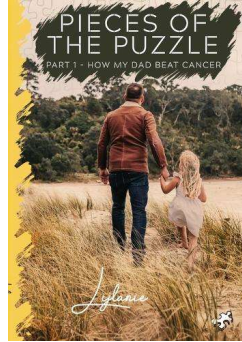
During that period, she struggled for answers as to what was happening and why? Would she ever recover, and what was God teaching her throughout this ordeal?

After her surprising recovery, Angela decided to share her experiences with those suffering with chronic fatigue and other debilitating illnesses and disabilities. To achieve this, she chose to share her experiences in the form of a series of letters, written to a fictitious, unwell friend called Serene.

With honesty and transparency, Angela recounts wrestling with emotions of fear, frustration, anxiety and despair, but also reveals her strong faith in God. Throughout her letters she quotes passages of Scripture that sustained her during the three-year ordeal and beyond. She also includes relevant excerpts from the journal she wrote to share her honest feelings and responses at the time of her illness.

Angela writes: 'This story is written to keep you company in your limitations and loss, to give you glimpses of beauty and purpose in the struggle, and to strengthen your hope in a God who works things out better than we expect.'

I thoroughly recommend this book to those who are struggling with long-term illness from which they may or may not recover and also to their caregivers, family and friends.



Pieces of the Puzzle, P1 – How my Dad beat cancer

By Lijlanie Stander

Review by Julia Martin

Printed in NZ by Customer Focused Solutions Ltd, 2023

Born in South Africa, Lijlanie and her family emigrated to New Zealand in 2008. Coming from a close-knit community, she found separation difficult, especially when family crises arose – first with her father's life-threatening accident and his subsequent cancer diagnosis.

Fortunately, with modern technology, communication from afar is now immediate and affordable. By recording many of her conversations during these difficult and challenging times, Lijlanie draws the reader into the reality of the trauma the family members were experiencing. In this book she shares precious childhood memories that showcase the strong bond she shares with her parents and sisters and especially her father. Diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, her father was not expected to live. But the family persisted in fervent prayer and never gave up trusting God for his healing which miraculously took place. Lijlanie places great importance on quality prayer partners for enduring spiritual warfare as illustrated in the Old Testament account of Moses being upheld by Aaron and Hur in prayer while Joshua fought the physical battle.

The author's small book was first written in Afrikaans, then translated into English and is part one of a planned trilogy. Lijlanie doesn't claim to have all the answers and is aware everyone's journey is different, but she has proved God is faithful and is always with those who trust Him as they face the storms and trials of life.



How to Calculate Tax on Your Book Sales

(Article Three of Three)

by Andrew Stirling

Andrew Stirling is the Treasurer of NZ Christian Writers and Managing Director of St Andrews Accounting Limited.

In my previous two articles, I explained the requirement for authors needing to file annual tax returns. I also showed you a simple way to set up your bank account to ensure all transactions are included. Then I taught you how to manipulate this data into a spreadsheet ready to be filed with IRD. In this article I will teach you how to file the return.

The first thing you will need to do is set up an IRD login.

Go to ird.govt.nz and click on 'myIR login' in the top right-hand corner. Click on 'Not yet registered for myIR?' You'll need to know your IRD number and have an email address for this step. You'll also have to go through some security checks which may involve a phone call with IRD.

Once this is activated, you can start filing the return. After logging in to myIR click on income tax. Then click on 'returns and transactions' and 'File return' for the relevant year you want to file. Once you do so, there will be various boxes to check depending on your situation. I will only comment on how to file self-employed income assuming you have no other business income without tax deducted at source.

Under 'Build your return,' ensure the 'Self-employed income' box is ticked. If you are asked for a BIC code, it will be R900210. This is the code ACC uses to figure out what your business is. Normally ACC is deducted from wages. Since you aren't being paid wages, you will need to pay them direct so you will receive an invoice from them during the year.

The only secondary form required will be an IR10.

When you get to the 'income' tab, enter the net profit/loss figure from your spreadsheet. **This is the most important figure to get right** as your tax payment/refund will be based on this. If you have a negative net profit figure, it means you've made a loss and you may receive a refund (as mentioned in my first article).

Then you can carry on to the IR10. If you fill out an IR10 correctly it helps speed up the processing of your tax return. The most important thing to remember with your IR10 is that your net profit figure should equal your current year taxable profit/loss. The rest of the figures required should come straight from your spreadsheet. If you are unsure where to include each item, you can find an IR10 guide on IRD's website.

Once you're happy with it all, click Submit. Job done. Great work! Put your feet up and have a cuppa. If you get stuck, let me know and I'll give you a hand. Just a reminder that I offer a 10% discount off my fee to NZCW members.

Andrew Stirling.

andrew@saa.co.nz

Note that the information provided in this article is of a general nature. I do not accept liability of any kind whatsoever to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this information.



RGM
Raising Godly Mothers

ISSUE 1 WINTER 2023

NEW ZEALAND CHRISTIAN MOTHERS MAGAZINE

RGM
Raising Godly Mothers

Inspired by Titus 2:3-5, RGM is dedicated to providing inspiring and insightful content that nourishes the hearts and minds of Christian homeschooling mothers in N.Z.

Join the Movement
If you are passionate about seeing the next generation of mothers strengthened in embracing their divine calling of motherhood, we would love for you to contribute.
Email: rgm@rgm.co.nz

For more info and subscription details:
www.rgm.co.nz

One Day

by Rachel Jessop

Job slipped away
From the conversations of his children,
The chatter and laughter of his
grandchildren.
The sounds faded
As his feet trod
The familiar path
Back into the past
That he could not forget.

He walked the track to its very end,
Fell to his knees
Before the ten graves –
Seven sons, three daughters;
His precious children.

One day
had changed everything for him
Back then.
In one day
He had lost it all.

Such beautiful children
bursting with potential,
Never growing old.
His heart ached still.

They were innocent victims
in a cosmic event
So much bigger than any human
Could comprehend.

While Job was so grateful
That he'd got his life back,
These beloved ones
Did not.



But Job still believed.
'The Lord has given
and the Lord has taken away,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.'
He would follow God regardless
Of the loss.

*Everyone has their crucible;
We each have our cross to bear.
As did Jesus.*

*We all live with scars;
The Son of God does too.
They make us who we are,
They tell our life story,
Written from before we were born.*

*Sometimes suffering has to be
part of the plan.*

*God sees, understands;
He journeys with us...*

Job stood, turned,
Heading back towards life;
Aware of the pieces of his heart
That were always left behind.

These cherished lives
Were together in the heavens
With their Father God.
And he would see them again, one
day;
One day.

God and I (Thoughts in a Pool)

by Tishani Vann

After a swim, I perched on a step of the poolside. Lifting my gaze to the stars, I admired our creator's canvas. Leaning back, I felt the calm water glide against my sides – a warm welcome. Water. Peaceful yet powerful. Known to soothe and heal, yet held the might of a tsunami.

Like God.

I smiled at the thought.

There was no one like him.

There never would be.

My attention was brought back to the canvas above.

I could see the blends of indigo and violet – a foreshadowing of the velvet night ahead.

A guide, leading the sun to sleep.

As if in defiance, the setting sun came.

A sky of fire, a battle cry against the gathering night.

My Father is an artist.

I knew what was coming and I embraced it. In anticipation, my body broke out into goosebumps. That's when I felt it. I welcomed the sensation as the water had done for me moments ago.

All-consuming but in control.

A surge of love and acceptance.

A wave of serenity.

The most wholesome hug of a parent.

One only my heavenly Father could give.

The Holy Spirit.

We sat together in silence, taking comfort in each other's company.

This was my purpose.

Together we admired His latest artwork, quickly diminishing.

That's when my mind was brought to something else. Something more earthly. I was sitting with my friends and we were talking about our lives... naturally, the subject of boys came up. I heard the same old adjectives... cute, hot, sexy. I knew what these words meant to my friends and society, but I could never relate.

I still can't.

I don't think of people this way.

But I do *love*.

I thrive in my community.

Family.

I could never offer more than sororal affection. I've never felt more or differently.

But why do people need more?

Am I missing out?

Sometimes my friends and I would have a more meaningful version of this conversation.

Who would get married first?

They would talk about how they desired to meet and be with their special someone.

One day.

Start a family.

A desire already instilled in them.

Marriage. A beautiful concept.

Another one of my brilliant Father's creations.

A coming together of a man and woman in God himself.

A forever companion.

A gift to humanity.

A gift I could appreciate.

A gift I didn't desire.

If only they felt our Father's love.

They wouldn't need 'more' as they say.

If only they knew.

I felt a relentless tug at my heart.

I let the incredible oneness consume me.

My God was dwelling within me.

I would never feel more complete.

No man could give this to me.

My spirit was filled.

Bliss.

What could be better than this?

I was hit by a sudden realisation. Not everyone was built this way. The difference between my friends and me. They felt a loneliness I didn't feel. They were made with an in-built desire for a soulmate.

Marriage is beautiful.

But only God can give you the desire for it.

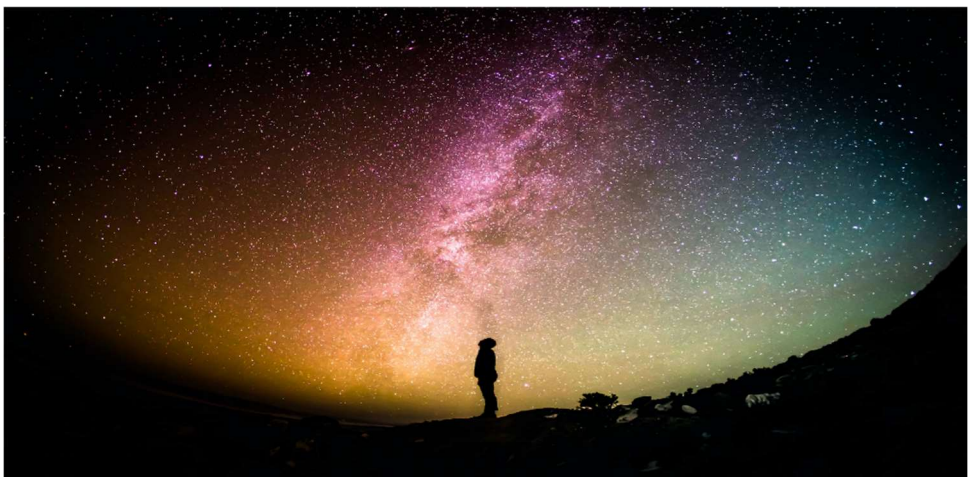
I came to another realisation.

God is my Father.

He is my strength, my peace, my friend, my *soulmate*.

I may not know what my future holds, whether God opens my heart to receive this gift or not, but I do know this.

Even when I am alone, I will never be lonely.



Professional Writing Services

Are you a member who can offer a professional service related to writing or publishing? If so, you are welcome to advertise here for free! Send your advertisement of 100 words maximum to: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

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: gpedersen@hotmail.co.nz

CASTLE PUBLISHING

Christian and Family publishing services in New Zealand.

<http://www.castlepublishing.co.nz/>

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

JEFFS EDITING SERVICES

My name is Christel Jeffs and I'm a freelance editor/proofreader based in Northland. I have been editing since 2018 and hold a Diploma in Editing from NZIBS.

Services I offer:

- Manuscript Assessment
- Copy-editing
- Proofreading

I have edited 14 books to date, including numerous assignments, documents, and creative pieces.

If you need help with a piece of work – be it spelling, sentences or structure, I'm able to help. I will always honour your writing voice and the heart you've poured into your work.

Christel Jeffs (MCW, Dip Ed):

021 238 9234

E: christel.jeffs@yahoo.com

KIN & KINGDOMS BOOKS/ SELF PUBLISHING INSTITUTE OF NZ

Got a question about writing a book or self-publishing? Angela has multiple best-selling books and has become a formidable presence in the realms of literature and publishing.

Get the solutions you need to share your voice with the world. Try the proxy-publishing services which can all be done remotely. Or acquire the expertise through online courses with the Self-Publishing Institute of NZ (SPINZ). Write, publish, or learn anywhere at your own pace, on your terms.

Angela Curtis

Visit: www.kinandkingdomsbooks.com

and www.selfpublishinginstitutenz.com

STEPPING STONE EDITING AND PROOFREADING

Dear Writer,

My name is Kathryn Paul and I'm keen to connect with you on this vital stepping stone of your writing journey. Having your work checked is an essential part of the publishing process. It's important to see it as an investment toward your book returning the results that you and the Lord desire. I'd love for you to get to know me better and discover the qualifications, experience and encouragement I will bring to your stepping stone. You can learn more by visiting my website:

<https://steppingstoneediting.mailchimpsites.com>

I'm looking forward to connecting with you!

Kathryn Paul

E: steppingstoneediting@gmail.com

WILD SIDE 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](http://www.wildsidepublishing.com/get-published/#print) and download the free guide to self-publishing.

Ray Curle: 09 439 5717

E: ray@thewildside.net

WORDWYZE PUBLISHING

Assisting Authors to Self-Publish

Services Offered:

- Professional Proofreading & Copy Editing
- Interior Layout and Design
- Cover Design
- E-book Conversion
- Upload to POD services for Global Distribution
- Local Print Preparation
- Photography and Old Photo Retouching

Colleen Kaluza

E: colleen@wordwyze.nz

Visit <http://wordwyze.nz>

WRITING ANSWERS

I have over 20 years of experience as a copy editor and proofreader. I work on non-fiction books/articles/memoirs as well as 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 proofreading, 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



Join a Writers Group

AUCKLAND NORTH SHORE

Ted Woudberg
Mob: (021) 0270 3011
tedw.hbc@gmail.com

AUCKLAND SOUTH

Margaret Paton.
(INTERIM CONTACT PERSON)
margaretpaton@xtra.co.nz

CHRISTCHURCH

Dave Palmer
Mob: (027) 209 4864
davepalmer@xtra.co.nz

HAWKES BAY

Debbie McDermott
Mob: (027) 769 2321
deborahmcdee@gmail.com

NELSON

Kay Peterson
Mob: (027)-547-6777
kaypeterson4@xtra.co.nz

NORTHLAND

Kathryn Paul
editor@nzchristianwriters.org

PALMERSTON NORTH

Rodney Hickman
Mob: (022) 676 3640
rodneyhickmanpoet@gmail.com

Join a Writers Group

TARANAKI

Judy Kibby
Mob: (027) 712 4390
judydfeetnshoes@gmail.com

TAURANGA

Cathy Harris
Mob: (027) 235 3919
cathy@blueskydata.co.nz

WAIKATO

Colleen Kaluza
colleen@wordwyze.nz

WELLINGTON

KAPITI

Paul Devereux
Mob: (022) 053 3618
pauldevereux@xtra.co.nz

WELLINGTON

LOWER HUTT – HUTT VALLEY & BEYOND

Stephen Douglas
Mob: (027) 276 2028
cwhuttvalleybeyond@gmail.com

WHAKATANE

Julie Collins
Mob: (027) 261 5572
jacollins1156@gmail.com

Join the NZ Christian Writers Group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newzealandchristianwriters>



Young Christian Writer magazine is out now! Sign up for a **FREE** digital subscription today! (Note this special offer doesn't include *The Christian Writer*.) Click here to sign up to *Young Christian Writer*: <http://eepurl.com/hSQOhX>

W E L C O M E New and Returning Members:

Aria Hart

Otaki

Christine Amies

Pukekohe

Denise Gunn

Foxton

Jo Carson-Barr

Auckland West

Peter Martyn

Hamilton

Stuart Lennox

Te Awamutu

Valerie Harris

Kerikeri

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

president@nzchristianwriters.org

Writing Competitions Points Board

Level One		Level Two		Level Three	
Lisa Marie Preston	15	Stephen Douglas	15	Felicity Logan	15
Sandy Miller	12	Elaine Dixon	12	Kathryn Paul	12
Rachel Batten	9			Fiona Murray	9

It's a new year of competitions and the points board has started again for the next six months. 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, those with the highest points in Levels One, Two and Three will be awarded monetary prizes for first, second and third. Prizes up for grabs are: **\$60 for First Place**, **\$50 for Second Place**, **\$40 for Third place**. These are usually awarded as Manna Christian Store vouchers. Our next prize winners will be published in the Jun–Jul 2024 magazine edition.

All new members begin by entering in Level One. 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. All entrants receive helpful constructive feedback via email from the judges. It's like a mentoring system and competition all in one!

Please note published competition entries have not been edited.

Competition Results

Level One

Judge: Debbie McDermott

Requirement: In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as a lamb and as a lion (e.g. Revelation 5:5 and 22:3). Research this topic, then write an essay on both aspects—what they signify and what they mean to you. Bible references and quotations should comprise no more than 25% of total content. Include a brief bibliography. (500 words, excluding bibliography)

General Comments

I received five good entries to this competition and commend contestants for making such a great effort to meet the requirements of this research assignment during the busy Christmas and New Year holidays, when so many other demands must have required their attention.

While all writing assignments involve thought, planning and some hard work, research projects tend to be more time consuming and require greater discipline (and usually some sacrifice too) in order to fully meet all competition requirements. First, second and third place winners—Lisa Preston, Sandy Miller and Rachel Batten—not only excelled in meeting these requirements, but their writing was also of a high standard and contained few errors. Mistakes with grammar, punctuation and spelling result in marks being deducted from your score. It is therefore essential to carefully edit and proofread your writing assignment several times before entering it into the competition.

*It is also vital to ensure you fully understand what the requirements of the competition are (seek clarification from the judge if necessary). For this assignment, entrants were told to **research** the topic and provide a **bibliography**. The objective of a bibliography is to show the reader the sources from which information has been obtained, and to give them opportunity to check these sources for themselves. Sadly, one entrant lost several marks for not including a bibliography nor any Scripture references in their piece. This was a pity as their entry was otherwise very good and thought-provoking.*

It is equally important to ensure you do not exceed the leeway of 5% above or below the stipulated wordcount. With the wordcount requirement for this competition being only 500 words, entries should have been no more than 525 words in length and no fewer than 475 words. Sadly, both of the two unplaced entries exceeded this 5% leeway (one comprised 548 words and the other 438 words) and lost marks as a result.

Do remember that all the standard and specific requirements of the competitions are detailed on the last page of each Christian Writer magazine and on the NZCW website.

First Place



Lisa Marie
Preston
of Whakatane

Who Is This, Both Lamb and Lion?

There are more than fifty names or symbols of Jesus in the Bible which reveal both his character and activity. Two of these names appear in Revelation 5:5-6: Jesus is called the *Lamb* and the *Lion of the Tribe of Judah*. These two symbols seem contradictory on the surface. How can Jesus be both a meek lamb and a fierce lion? In one of Saint Augustine's sermons, he asks, "Who is this, both lamb and lion? He endured death as a lamb, he devoured it as a lion. Who is this, both lamb and lion? Gentle and strong, lovable and terrifying, innocent and mighty."

At the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, the Israelites were acutely aware of the symbolism of the lamb. Still living under the sacrificial system, animals including perfect, spotless lambs were regularly slaughtered to atone for sin. But according to Hebrews 10:4 these sacrifices only *covered* sin and did not *remove* them. The Jewish people were also aware that the coming Messiah was referred to as a lamb. "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7, NLT). So when John the Baptist "saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29, NLT), Jesus is presented as the Messiah who would later become the final sacrifice to *remove* our sin. "Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us" (1 Cor. 5:7, NLT). Many of Jesus' actions are as gentle as a lamb: his humble human birth, his earthly ministry filled with acts of loving compassion and his tender friendship with all of us who call on his name.

Jesus is called the Lion of Judah because he was a descendant of King David, in the tribe of Judah. On earth Jesus often behaved with what author and speaker John Eldredge calls the "fierce intentionality" of a lion – an animal that would have inhabited the rugged, desert wilderness assigned to the tribe of Judah. Jesus confronts and casts out demons, stands up boldly to the powerful religious establishment and drives money changers, sheep and cattle from the temple with a self-made bullwhip. These are not the actions of a lamb, but of a lion. Jesus' behaviour also resembles that of a lion in the way he stealthily stalks us and pursues our hearts, he ferociously protects us and he defeats our enemies, especially sin and death. The American evangelist and former Catholic priest Brennan Manning writes, "The Lion who will kill all that separates us from Him; the Lamb who was killed to mend that separation – both are symbols and synonyms for Jesus. Relentlessness and tenderness; indivisible aspects of the Divine Reality."

To me, Jesus is both the perfect, spotless sacrifice and the ferocious conqueror of death. As a lamb he playfully nudges me to gain and hold my attention and as a lion he relentlessly pursues and defends my heart. He is my gentle, loving, compassionate friend and my fierce, courageous protector. Jesus: both lamb and lion.

Bibliography

Dudek, Ron. "Did Animal Sacrifices Remove Sin?" Featured in *Demolishing Supposed Bible Contradictions: Volume 2*. Retrieved from www.answersingenesis.org/sin/did-animal-sacrifices-remove-sin on 16 December 2023.

Eldredge, John. *Beautiful Outlaw – Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus*. FaithWords (2011).

Gonzalez, Eliezer. "The Many Names of Jesus". Good News Unlimited (26 February 2023). Retrieved from www.goodnewsunlimited.com/the-many-names-of-jesus on 4 December 2023.

Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (1996, 2004, 2015).

Manning, Brennan. *Lion and Lamb – The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus*. Chosen Books (1996).

St. Augustine. *Sermon 375A On the Sacraments – Christ Both Lamb and Lion*. Retrieved from www.wesleyscholar.com on 14 December 2023.

Second Place



Sandy
Miller
of Auckland

Jesus: A Portrayal of Strength and Sacrificial Love

In C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, an important character is Aslan. He is known as the Great Lion. A leader of courage and power who is willing to sacrifice his life for another to protect the people of Narnia from destruction. According to Lewis, Aslan's character is an allegory of Jesus, the conquering lion and the sacrificial lamb.

Two distinctive names of Jesus are the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God. In Genesis, as Jacob lay on his death bed, he blesses Judah saying "You are a lion's cub, O Judah, you return from the prey my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness, who dares to rouse him?" (Genesis 49:9 NIV). The lion of Judah is commonly equated with the House of Judah. The descendants of this tribe included leaders and kings like David, Solomon, and Jesus.

In Revelation, the apostle John in a vision is given a scroll sealed with seven seals. When no one is found worthy to open the scroll he begins to weep. But then, one of the elders says to him "Stop weeping, behold the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has overcome to open the book and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:1-5 NAS). As a Christian, I can look to Jesus my victorious Lion of Judah for courage and strength to help me to rise above difficult circumstances that I am faced with.

I can also be thankful that because the Lamb of God loved me so much, he freed me from my sin by his blood (Rev 1:5 ESV). We read about the love of the Lamb towards God's people in the Old Testament. Before the Israelites left Egypt, they were instructed to take the blood of an unblemished lamb and were required to smear the blood on the doorposts and lintel of their houses. During the night, an angel of the lord passed through Egypt to take the lives of the firstborn of each household. Those with the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts would be passed over and spared from death (Exodus 12:1-13 NIV).

In the New Testament, before John the Baptist baptised Jesus when he saw him coming towards him, he said "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29 NASV). Jesus was a servant to mankind. At the end of Jesus' ministry, he was "led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers" (Isaiah 53:7 NIV). In the movie, **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** there is a scene where Aslan, like Jesus, offers himself to the White Witch as a sacrifice to take the place of Edmund, who is a traitor. A key message that we can learn from this movie and Jesus, is that if we truly love someone then we should be prepared to sacrifice our lives for them. When we offer our lives as a living sacrifice to God, it shows Him how much we love Him.

Bibliography

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/how-is-jesus-lamb-of-god-lion-of-judah.html>, cited on 11/10/23.

<https://study.com/learn/lesson/lion-tribe-judah-bible-overview-symbol-history.html>, cited on 11/10/23.

Third Place



Rachel
Batten
of New Plymouth

The Lion and the Lamb

Jesus has many titles, each one revealing a different facet of the God who loves us. To have the opportunity to research Jesus as the Lion and the Lamb has been a blessing. I am still processing what I have learnt and I trust that God will develop this understanding further into the new year that is upon us all. What an exciting thought!

"But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.'" (Revelations 5:5, NIV)

In this passage 'The Lion' refers to Jesus. He was a perfect sacrifice fully embodying our sin on the cross and paying completely the penalty of death for that sin thus having prevailed as the scripture tells us.

The symbol of the Lion is first seen in Genesis when Israel formerly known as Jacob on his deathbed declares to his son Judah, 'You are a lion's cub or whelp.' (Genesis 49:9, NIV)

The lion would symbolise Judah's power, bravery, success in battle, and leadership for him and his descendants. (Sheri Mistretta, 2003-2023, Lion of the Tribe of Judah | History, Symbol & Meaning, 29/12/2023, study.com) Interesting to note that Jesus himself is descended from the clan of Judah and also of David as the scripture specifies when it says 'Root of David.'

So a facet of who Jesus is, is a lion fierce and powerful, successful in the battle of sin. But another facet of Jesus' personhood is that of a lamb. What a contrast?

There are several scriptures that I could reference on this point. But I prefer Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep is silent before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth". In this scripture it explains that Jesus was silent before those who crucified him. He did not rebel against the task given him. He surrendered and submitted to his heavenly father thus prevailing as a worthy sacrifice.

2023 has been a profound year for me, a year in which Jesus has drawn me closer and shown me that He is my resting place and His blood makes me clean and whole. He's invited me to sit at His feet and let His blood be enough to cover my sin. Because, up until now, I had tried to add to his sacrifice with my own supposed 'righteousness'. I am so very grateful that He is the lion of Judah, that he came after my sin with fierceness to set me free once and for all and I am so very grateful that He is the lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice, doing for me what I could not do for myself, laying down his life so my life is redeemed. We have a wonderful God who loves us, Jesus the lion and the lamb.

Bibliography

Sheri Mistretta, 2003-2023. Lion of the Tribe of Judah | History, Symbol & Meaning, 29/12/2023, study.com

The Colour Sisterhood, New International Version. Zondervan, 2011.

Level Two

Judge: Shirley Jamieson

Requirement: Describe an interesting place you have visited on holiday in New Zealand. Show the reader the fun or adventure so that others will plan to visit the site as well. Include a photo. (400 words)

General Comments

A well-written travel article is like an entertaining advertisement. The writer highlights an experience or place that shouldn't be missed. It encourages readers to explore, to try new things.

Begin with a punchy first paragraph to catch the attention of your readers. Continue the storyline, telling it from your personal experience in a conversational tone. Including some dialogue helps to bring it alive. Describing sights and experiences creates the scene for readers, and a funny anecdote will keep them hooked.

An interesting photo complements your article and draws readers in. When researching information always cite your sources. Facts need to be accurate. Include useful travel tips where needed.

As the article develops, continue to show readers new information or surprising facts to keep them reading. Anticipation draws them on to discover what might unfold in the next sentence or paragraph. The strong 'takeaway' encourages readers to hope or plan to experience it for themselves, and enjoy telling others about your experiences.

Points to remember:

- *As with a story, a travel article should show, not tell. Avoid adverbs; use strong, descriptive verbs and nouns.*
- *Vary the length of sentences. This makes an article easier to read and captures interest more.*
- *If sentences are long, or hold too much information, readers can lose concentration.*
- *Does one sentence flow on to the next?*
- *Does it all make sense?*
- *Read it aloud. Does it read the way you expected?*
- *Ask someone else to read it. What is his/her reaction?*
- *Edit, proofread and check again. Are there any spelling mistakes? Any redundant words? Can I phrase it in a more concise way and still express what I want to show?*
- *Choose a title to catch attention.*

I received two entries for the competition. I awarded first place to Stephen Douglas for his article about exploring the Hokitika area. He wrote a well-rounded article, encouraging tourists to visit. Highlighting the natural beauty, his description of the area, using strong expressive verbs held my interest. Gold mining history was a feature but he showed there are a wide range of activities available. He convinced me it is a fascinating area to explore.

Second place went to Elaine Dixon for her article about the Clay Cliffs of Omarama. It was refreshing to read about a site I had never heard about in my own country of New Zealand. Elaine included practical travel information and things to be aware of, such as the trek up the scree slope to the cliffs. In her final paragraph, she affirmed these massive formations as God's creation and worthwhile to go out of your way to see them.

Well done both of you.



First Place



Stephen
Douglas
of Wellington

Hokitika: A Quaint Haven of History and Natural Beauty

New Zealand, adorned with picturesque mountains and landscapes, boasts numerous tourist routes, each weaving its own tale of colonisation history. Nestled within the Westland of the South Island is the quaint town of Hokitika, a witness to the gold rushes and coal mining that defined the 1860s.

Upon arrival in Hokitika, the town reveals its special charm—its heritage of gold panning unfolds as you explore the area. The wharf is testimony to the port's significant historic role. Accessibility was hindered by a challenging river bar, resulting in numerous strandings and cargo losses. Wander through the town centre, where charming shops, art galleries, craft studios, food and coffee await. Stroll Weld Lane to the driftwood-strewn beach to see the iconic Hokitika driftwood sign.

For nature enthusiasts, Hokitika has much to offer. Just ten minutes south lies Lake Mahinapua, embraced by native bush, featuring family-friendly walks and cycleways. Venture twenty minutes inland, and you'll discover Lake Kaniere, a haven for picnicking, water skiing, fishing, and mountain biking. Alternatively, embark on the scenic Hokitika Gorge drive, a journey through the old gold trail, a visit to Londonderry Rock near Kumara, and the public opportunity to try gold panning (1).

A highlight of my visit was a picturesque breakfast in my motorhome on the banks of the Hokitika River. The merging of the river with the Tasman Ocean created a stunning backdrop—a memory that lingered with me as I headed north in search of Stafford Loop Road. This inner rural route, winding through the Waimea scenic reserve, allowed me to stop at Goldsbrough before connecting to Highway #73 at Dillmanstown for the scenic Arthur's Pass and eventually Christchurch.

Goldsbrough, once the second established goldrush town after Hokitika, is now a DOC(2) camp reserve. Here I walked the 30-minute German Gully Pack Track. It's a short, steep, stony path once trodden by miners carrying tools and supplies to their workings. History bears witness to the town's bustling past. In February 1865, the gold rush saw the population swell to 1,700, reaching 3,000 by August 1866 and an astounding 7,000 by October. However, by 1871, harsh conditions and low returns had dwindled the population to 1,400 and by 1956, the last building, the Helvetia Hotel, closed(3).

As I concluded my journey through the West Coast, I carried memories of Hokitika's seamless blend of history and natural beauty. I invite you to experience the magic of this charming town and leave with your own tales of adventure in New Zealand.

Notes:

1. Hokitika: official visitors guide; www.cool littletown.com
2. Department of Conservation
3. Camp site information notice, 'What a Rush', detailing the history of Goldsbrough

Second Place



Elaine
Dixon
of
Tauranga

The Clay Cliffs of Omarama

"One of the most underrated attractions in New Zealand," (1) the Clay Cliffs are not nearly as well-known as one would expect for such a spectacular sight. I first heard of them only a couple of years ago when we saw the signposts at a lunch stop in Omarama. After looking up the attraction later I was annoyed to find we had missed a unique sight.

In November, on a road trip to Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki, we decided to drive the extra distance to see them.

After a 10 km drive on a mostly metal road with bright-coloured lupins crowding the verges, we came to an open farm gate with a handmade sign. Ignorantly, we drove through, not realising it was private land and that there was an honesty box with a request for \$5 per car. To my embarrassment, it was only after we arrived home that I read about it on a website.

A couple of kilometres inside the gate there is a car park. Not many cars were there in the late afternoon, but apparently it gets very busy at certain times.



It was an easy walk from the carpark to the beginning of the cliffs, but became steeper as the flat worn path changed to a scree slope. Being older and not particularly fit, we were concerned we would not be able to make it up into the gap between the cliffs to get the full impact of their height. However, by wearing sturdy shoes and stepping slowly and carefully we walked sufficiently far to be surrounded by stunning light coloured pinnacles and sheer clay walls. A younger, more sprightly person would have a better view by venturing further up near the top of the cliffs.

Looking through the gap we could see the Waitaki River below, winding its way through shingled beds covered with blooming lupins, and beyond that the main road between Twizel and Omarama. This is the view visible in the photo.

In the other direction there are some sharp pinnacles which are quite spectacular against the blue summer sky. It was hard to believe we were not in a desert somewhere overseas.

So when doing a road trip around the MacKenzie country or Central Otago, don't forget to make the effort to visit this example of God's handiwork. It will be worth it.

(1) As quoted in the travel section of i.stuff.co.nz, Jan 15 2021

Level Three

Judge: Julia Martin

Requirement: Write a new National Anthem for New Zealand in modern language while still retaining a Christian influence. (4 verses maximum)

General Comments

A National Anthem is a country's official song that is played on public occasions and has the potential to promote a sense of passion, pride and patriotism.

While New Zealand has two anthems of equal status—God save the King and God Defend New Zealand—the latter of the two is more commonly used.

God Defend New Zealand was written by Irish-born Thomas Bracken of Dunedin as a poem in the 1870s. The five verses of his poem were set to music by John Joseph Woods in 1876; and, in 1878, were translated into te reo Māori by Thomas Henry Smith. It was officially elevated to anthem status in 1977 by Queen Elizabeth II.

The underlying theme of this anthem is a prayer of invocation to God for protection and blessing on our nation.

While New Zealand has become more secular and the language of the anthem is old-fashioned in places, it is pleasing to know that there have not been any serious calls for its replacement.

This assignment challenged our writers to compose a new song suitable as an anthem for our nation using contemporary language while still retaining a strong Christian influence.

As the words must be set to music and sung, the lines require rhythm and rhyme and a strong beat.

While it was disappointing to receive only three entries this time, I realise it is a very busy time of the year and January 1st comes round quickly. I was however delighted that two of the entries were from members who have just been promoted to level three, and Felicity's anthem has been placed first, so she is off to a flying start at this level.

While I did not stipulate that the new anthem should follow the pattern of the existing one, or require music to accompany the lyrics, Felicity has done that successfully. She explains that the dashes included after a word/syllable mean two melody notes. She advised me that her third stanza is a fun one and need not be included in a formal rendition of her song.

Second place is awarded to Kathryn Paul for an excellent attempt in which she gives honour and praise to God within a New Zealand setting.

My congratulations to Fiona for her entry which earned third place. Her anthem has a consistent rhyming pattern and is full of natural imagery and acknowledgement of our nation's God.

First Place



Felicity
Logan
of Fielding

A Kiwi's Salute

Lush and fertile is our-land
Towns and cities sett-lers- planned
Forest, rivers, mountains, sand
Birdlife chorus ever free.
Agriculture decks our-space
Trade and industry empower this-place
Tongues and cultures form our base
Sparkling ingenuity.

Hail our land surrounded by sea
Full of beauty, natural and free
We in partnership agree
Pride in this our tourist pearl.
Called 'Down Under', called 'God's-Own'
Is this foot-stool-of-God's-throne
Surf and snow and sport have grown
Our Pacific sparkling jewel.

Ferns, pohutukawa are dear,
surfboards, jandals, beanies to-wear
hot pools, geysers, flax to spare
Mobile homes and flocks of sheep.
Kiwi fruit, pavlova and beer,
Penguins, dol-phin, pukeko, tui, deer
Preservation is our prayer
Lord these icons may we keep.

Full aroha, this we -claim
Calling our crea-tor's- name
May New Zealand be a flame
In the world a scenic flower.
May our stewardship be-bold
May our enterprise prosperity enfold
Working to our Kiwi mould,
Aotearo-a

Second Place



Kathryn
Paul
of
Northland

Our Identity

Aotearoa let us sing
To God Creator of everything
The beauty of our land
The work of His great hand
Aroha to Him we choose to bring.

We align ourselves with His great plan
He's Hope for woman, child and man
Ends of the Earth we are
Bringing praises from afar
Doing good things through Him we can.

We turn our backs on evil ways
Trusting God's Word all our days
Walking out His love
Empowered from above
Aroha given to others the way He says.

Within God's care we journey abroad
Work, play, supporting in one accord
As we explore and roam
We remember our home
Identity in Him, we know we are adored.

Third Place



Fiona Murray
of Lincoln,
Canterbury

God in New Zealand

Here is our home
Here is God's own
From afar to the end
We sing Your great song
Strength of the people
Together as equal
From city to sea
Bless us Your throng.

Beautiful greens
Cascades of streams
From north to south
We bow at Your feet
Magnificent tapestry
Clothed in majesty
From mountain to forest
Shield us from defeat.

Freedom in living
Abundance in giving
From young to old
Guard us we say
Respect intertwined
Devotion will bind
From whanau to nation
Love through us we pray.

Present in this nation
Our country Your maiden
From cloud to ocean
Land of Abiding Day
Sustain through Your Son
Aotearoa as one
From the ends of the earth
God in New Zealand we pray.

Competitions for April 2024

Due by 1 March 2024

EMAIL ENTRY AS AN ATTACHMENT, COMPLETE WITH WORD COUNT AND YOUR NAME.

Font: Arial, 10 pt **Heading:** Bold Title Case, 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 which 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%. Stipulated wordcounts have a 5% leeway under or above the required wordcount. A maximum wordcount has a 5% leeway under the wordcount.

Level One—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Beginning with a relevant Bible verse, write an inspiring devotional piece on the topic of Easter. Ensure you include a short testimony (yours, or someone else's with their permission) and conclude the devotion with a short prayer. (350 words)



Debbie

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Two—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Choose a famous quotation to include at the end of a short story narrated by the antagonist to a group of imaginary secondary school students. You must mention the person who originated the quotation. (350 words)

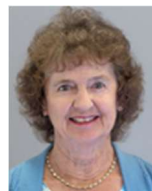


Lesley

Email entry to Lesley Edgeler at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

Level Three—for members 16 years old and over

Requirement: Choose a Bible character mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 (sometimes referred to as God's Hall of Faith or Hall of Heroes) and, in a monologue, reveal how your character came to faith in God and how it impacted his or her life. (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 create a vibrant community of Christian writers by connecting them to other like-minded writers in New Zealand. We welcome both beginner and experienced writers.