

OCT 2024 - JAN 2025

# YOUNG

## CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE for:

True Story  
Competition  
Results!

Author Spotlight:  
Rosie Boom

Short Story  
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Short Stories

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers

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# Young Christian Writer Magazine

Young Christian Writer is our  
student magazine published three  
times a year by NZ Christian Writers.

## WRITING SUBMISSIONS:

**Send us your writing to be  
published in YCW magazine**

Email Kathryn:

[ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org)

Note: Submissions should be emailed as  
a Word document with a maximum of  
500 words by the 10th of the month  
before the next issue.

## BOOK / MOVIE REVIEWS:

If you have enjoyed a Christian book  
or movie recently, you can send us  
your review (200 word limit).

Email your review to:

[ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org](mailto:ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org)

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Visit our website:

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

Welcome to our Oct 2024-Jan 2025 edition of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. As you may know, *Young Christian Writer* publishes a new edition three times a year.

As a young Christian writer, you may be wondering what's this magazine all about? Well, it's designed with you in mind. Our goal is to help encourage, equip, and inspire you on your writing journey. Whether you've been writing for several years, or just started writing as a hobby, we want you to know there's a supportive group of Christian writers here in New Zealand. Many of our members have gone on to publish their own writing via self-publishing, or publishing houses, with a global reach. Our *Young Christian Writer* magazine is an inspiring resource to help plant young Christian writers in good soil to bear fruit for the future.

Thanks again to our magazine sub-editor, Shing Stirling, who has helped with the articles, design, and layout, for this edition. Shing, we appreciate you.

Young writers, be blessed as you get encouraged and inspired by our magazine, produced especially for you.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE:



Write on,

*Justin St. Vincent*

## EDITOR'S NOTE:



With love in Jesus Christ,

*Kathryn*

Encouraging young Christian writers is an important task. You are the future communicators. You will be using future technology to tell the world about Jesus. I hope to see you all grow in confidence in your ability to write creatively whether it's formal writing or informal. Writing and reading for pleasure is good and essential. So is doing it for work purposes.

Did you know there are still children in New Zealand who are missing out on learning to read and write? I met a young teenager recently who's life hadn't met these needs. He's not in school and is already into a life of crime. I gave him a copy of my children's novel, *Dog Tucker* and challenged him to learn to read. I told him, 'Just because you've had a rough start in life doesn't mean you can't have a great life.' My words were similar to a quote I'd heard from the Christian teacher, Joyce Meyer. The teenager appeared touched and grateful to receive the gift.

I encourage all our magazine readers to make the most of your abilities to read and write. Every individual's effort is of value and Jesus loves you all.



# Fred and His Friends

by **Charity Pilgrim**

Age 10



Fred was a young, cheerful tadpole who lived under a lily pad with his friends. He had lived a happy life, with no worries to trouble him and nothing at all to make him sad, but recently he had been so lonely and miserable that all he could do was swim in little circles and sigh. The reason for this was that all Fred's friends had turned into frogs and now lived on land without him.

One day as Fred was feeling extra depressed, he saw something that made him leap with joy! It was one of his friends, Luke.

"Luke!" he cried. "Luke, over here!" Luke's head went up and he looked around.

"Oh, hi Fred," called Luke, spotting his old friend.

"I have so many questions for you," Fred exclaimed as Luke hopped over to him.

"First of all, are you having a nice time living on land?" asked Fred.

Luke settled on some rocks beside Fred's small pool.

"Yes, actually," Luke replied, "but it would be better if you were there."

"That's the thing, how do I turn into a frog?" asked the desperate amphibian.

"You'll see," Luke answered with a knowing smile as he leapt away into the trees.

Fred swam home more confused and sad than ever. That night Fred went to bed with a heavy heart, muttering to himself, "I'll NEVER be a frog," and with that he sighed and drifted off to sleep.

The next morning Fred awoke with a start. What was that funny feeling on either side of his tail?

Fred looked down and gasped in amazement. He had legs! They were small and barely formed but they were there alright.

Suddenly everything made sense and Fred realised that all along he'd just needed to wait and let nature take its course.

Over the next few days Fred's back legs grew bigger and stronger, his front legs grew and finally his tail disappeared altogether.

After all Fred's waiting the transformation was complete and he was a fully-grown frog. Fred felt a great happiness flow through him as he realised he was going to be, once again, with his friends.

From then on Fred could explore the land and also visit the water, but the best thing of all was that Fred was never lonely again.

*Thank you to Charity for sending in her story to share with our readers. 'Fred and His Friends' was a winning entry for a writing competition held in South Canterbury.*

# River Spray

by **Geraldine Crow**

A wild nor-wester  
snatches at my hair;  
wind-whipped,  
storm-tossed.  
Stirring up memories  
of river spray kicked up  
around horses' hooves.

*Horses are part of the way of life on Tarai Station. Horses are still used for cattle and sheep mustering.*



# True Story Competition RESULTS



**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Write a true story about something that happened to you or a family member (if you choose a family member make sure you get their permission first).

Include in your story a mention of something the story causes you to be thankful to God for.

- Give your story a title.
- Maximum word count is 500 words. There is no minimum word count.
- Send in your true story as a Word document.

# Missing

by Abigail Murray

Age 12 from Leeston, Canterbury



One morning, I woke up to my mum calling my cat's name, Bella. I dragged myself out of bed, and groggily stumbled towards the kitchen.

"What's the matter?" I asked my mum, rubbing my sleepy eyes.

"Last night, Bella meowed at 1 am, so I let her out, thinking she might need to go to the toilet, and I haven't seen her since!"

Once my mum said that I was wide awake. I went around the house calling for my cat, but there was no response.

Oh God, please make her be okay, I thought to myself, please, please, please make her be okay.

I wished she would just jump out of a hiding spot, like she was playing hide and seek. But nooo. She was missing all day. I was worried sick.

As soon as I got into bed and it was lights out, I couldn't sleep. Most of the night I tossed and turned, thinking about some of the places

Bella could be. I was too afraid to go to sleep, because if I dozed off, I would probably have a bad dream that Bella was lying under a bush, eyes half closed, fur plastered to her body because of rain, shivering, and starving to death. I squeezed my eyes shut and tried to think happy thoughts. Then I fell asleep, praying she'd show up in the morning.

As soon as I woke up, I jumped out of bed, and raced towards the kitchen, hoping Bella would be there and this was all just a bad dream.

Sadly, she was still missing.

My brother and I made a missing cat poster for Bella, and then copied it multiple times. Later in the day, we grabbed our scooters, and then went around the neighbourhood slipping a poster into everyone's letterboxes. Once we had run out, we scooted gloomily back towards the house, our minds only focused on one thing: Bella.

Mum and Dad called us from the

lounge, telling us to go to them. We sat in the lounge, silence looming in the air. They told us sometimes cats went away to die peacefully. Their words haunted me, like a wolf stalking its prey. That night, I cried myself to sleep. I doubted I would ever see Bella again.

I didn't even get to say goodbye.

The next morning was my brother's birthday. I woke up, stretched, and wandered towards the lounge. There, on the couch, sat my family, who were patting Bella. Bella! I was so happy. I gave Bella as much attention as I could.

Thank you, thank you, thank you God!!! I praised in my head, Thank you so much!

Bella was now safe at home.

### **Judge's Comment:**

*Abigail Murray's story, Missing, is a worthy winner. Abigail has completed all the requirements laid down for this competition and has written a gripping and emotional story about her lost cat, while acknowledging God's answer to her prayers with grateful thanks.*

*Well done, Abigail!*



**YCW would like to thank Julia Martin, who was the judge for the True Story Competition.**

## **Past Young Christian Writer Magazines**

**To locate and read past magazine issues visit:**

**[www.NZChristianWriters.org/magazines](http://www.NZChristianWriters.org/magazines)**

**and click on the relevant magazine cover.**

# Rosie Boom



**Rosie Boom is the author of *The Barn Chronicles* and *Where the Jungle Calls*. Her stories are read and loved by many children all around the world.**

**A special thanks to Rosie for taking the time to answer a few questions from some of her young readers.**

## **When did you start writing?**

R: I was nine when I entered a short story writing competition for children living in Australia and Papua New Guinea (we were living in Papua at the time). I won the

competition and the prize of a first edition copy of *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R.Tolkien.

In 2002, Chris, my husband, enrolled me in a four-year correspondence course with *The Writing School* as a birthday gift (at my suggestion!). That was when I really began to write in earnest. I loved doing the course and writing soon became a passion.

For a long time, the only thing that ever came back in the post was rejection slips, but finally the day came when the American Guide Magazine accepted a short story

for publication. After that, I had a number of other stories and articles accepted in quick succession and published in American and New Zealand magazines, and in the *New Zealand School Journal*.

My first four books were published by a traditional Australian publisher. The rest are published under the *Boom Tree Publishing* label.

My passion is to write wholesome books for children, full of adventure and humour, which the whole family can enjoy.

### **How did you remember all the details for your stories in the *Barn Chronicles*?**

R: I have always kept a detailed diary, so when the idea came to write *The Barn Chronicles*, I was very glad of that. All the funny

things the children said and did were already written down for me. It was so easy.

### **Who took your family photo that's on the back cover of your books?**

R: That was a friend of ours, Mason Torrey.

### **When did you write *The Barn Chronicles*?**

R: I started *Where Lions Roar at Night* in 2008 and finished *Where the River Rises* in 2013.

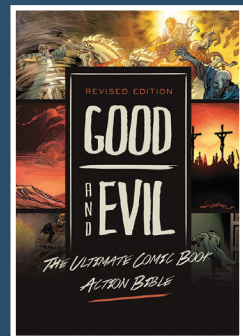
### **Can you write a book about what happened after you moved into the new house?**

R: I've had lots of people ask me that! I could, but they would end up being romance stories, perhaps. But you never know, maybe one day I will.

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## POETRY GROUP:





The OutSpoken Poetry NZ is a spoken word poetry collective based in Auckland, New Zealand.

Its origins in 2013 with an initiative to facilitate workshops for high school students on Wednesday afternoons. What began as a space for young people to express themselves through performance poetry has transformed into a community for those of all ages and backgrounds.

The collective celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2023 and continues to create opportunities for people speaking their poems out loud a go and to share their work in a safe space.

 Facebook: [TheOutSpokenPoetry](https://www.facebook.com/TheOutSpokenPoetry)

 Instagram: [theoutspokenpoetry](https://www.instagram.com/theoutspokenpoetry)

 YouTube: [@theoutspokenpoetry](https://www.youtube.com/@theoutspokenpoetry)

[www.collectiveuni.com/theoutspoken](http://www.collectiveuni.com/theoutspoken)

Contact: Ravi Prasad  
[raviprasad12@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:raviprasad12@hotmail.co.nz)

## WRITERS' HUMOUR:

**Q: Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?**

**A: There's no point.**

**I asked the librarian to recommend an author who writes dinosaur books. "Try Sarah Topps," she replied.**

**I have been trying to write a new pizza joke but I can't work out the delivery.**

**Q: What do you call an author who's well slept and well fed?**

**A: A content writer.**

**Q: Why don't escaped convicts make good writers?**

**A: Because they never finish their sentences.**

# The Forge

Review by Kathryn Paul

Last night I visited my local cinema and watched *The Forge*.

This movie is family-friendly but probably more on the wavelength of young teenagers and older. As a parent I could certainly relate to the story. It made me laugh and it made me cry.

It dealt with the struggles of not having a positive father-figure and the importance of forgiveness. Most of all I felt it brought an exciting challenge for men and all business people, by encouraging them to mentor and impact the lives of the young people who they connect with regularly.

The word 'forge' is about creating or shaping something and it's used to describe a blacksmith's workshop. In the movie, the



forge was the name of the mentoring group where older men each mentored someone, helping them shape their lives for the future.

The story follows the progress of the main character, a young adult, as he transforms from being a frustration to his mother, into a responsible and reliable worker. When he sees the opportunity to exhibit loyalty to his mentor, he puts in an outstanding performance.

This is another excellent movie produced by the Kendrick brothers, makers of *War Room*, *Overcomer* and *Courageous*.



# SHORT STORY COMPETITION:

**ENTER THE NEXT WRITING COMPETITION.  
CASH PRIZE OF \$30 FOR THE WINNING ENTRY**

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Here are the instructions for our next writing competition:

**Write a short story that has a message or theme relating to at least one of the nine character fruits of the Holy Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.**

**The fruits to choose from are: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**

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- Give your story a title.
- Maximum word count is 1000 words. There is no minimum word count.
- 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.

**Competition closes: 15 December 2024**

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Anyone up to age 25 can enter. There is no minimum age. If we receive enough entries from a wide age range 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.

## Ancient Roman Baths

by **Tobiah Bird**

Age 9

Ancient Roman baths were much like swimming pools today. People would socialise, exercise, clean and relax there. Some baths had libraries, gardens and cafes. People did not wear clothes at the baths.

There were hot baths and cold baths. The hot baths were heated by a fire under the floor. The baths were decorated by mosaics and statues. Public baths were used by most people, even the poor because the baths were cheap or free. By 300 AD there were 900 baths in the city of Rome.

Before people bathed they would pour olive oil on themselves. Then they scraped the olive oil off with a strigil, a 20 cm long metal scraper. The biggest Roman bath could fit over 3000 people. The Greeks were the first to have public baths but the Romans improved them. Most towns and cities in the Roman Empire had public baths.

## Ancient Roman Lamps

by **Eli Bird**

Age 9

Roman lamps were used to light up houses and public buildings. They usually had drawings on them such as gladiators, horses, daily life or mythological creatures.

Lamps were made out of clay, stone or metal. Lamps used olive oil as the main fuel, a wick was put in it and the wick was then lit. It then only needed oil to keep going. Lamps are one of the oldest inventions.

The Ancient Greeks used oil lamps similar to the Ancient Romans. The largest oil lamp known was in Athens. It burned every day and only needed to be refilled with oil once a year.

*Thank you to Tobiah and Eli for sending these in to share with our readers.*

**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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### PRESIDENT

Justin St Vincent  
president@nzchristianwriters.org

**EDITOR & MEMBERSHIP**  
(Magazine contributions,  
change of address, queries)

Kathryn Paul  
editor@nzchristianwriters.org

### TREASURER

(Subscriptions, donations)  
treasurer@nzchristianwriters.org



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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.