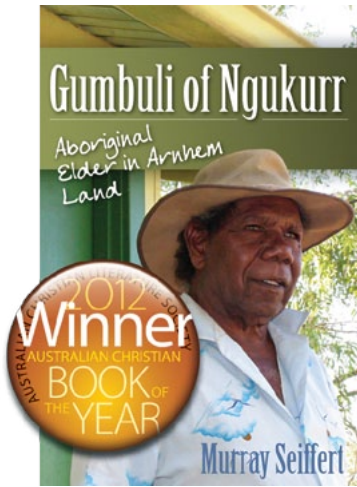




AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AWARDS

2012 Australian Christian Book of the Year



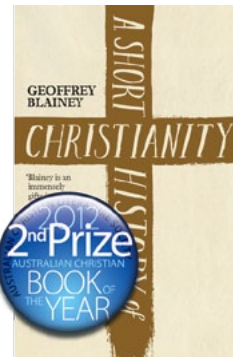
Gumbuli of Ngukurr:
Aboriginal elder in
Arnhem Land
Murray Seiffert
Acorn Press
ISBN 9780987132925

Few indigenous Australians have been the subject of so rigorous a biography. This is a unique and timely contribution to the story of Aboriginal engagement with western culture and

Christianity and no significant consequence of this encounter has been overlooked. While not typical of the colonial experience, the story of the man Michael Gumbuli Wurramara and the place Ngukurr does, nevertheless, challenge and correct numerous popular assumptions about the relationship between government, missions and Aborigines. At times this makes for profoundly uncomfortable and provocative reading. It is always informative. Seiffert fearlessly incorporates a wide range of views and honestly evaluates the reliability of his sources which are many and varied.

Gumbuli is an example of an indigenous leader emerging from the church. His appraisal of traditional beliefs, customs and ceremonies and his dialogue with Tanzanian and Ugandan Christians are fascinating. These missiological case studies are of universal interest. Gumbuli was ordained priest in 1973 and in 2010 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, 'for service to the Anglican Church of Australia through a range of pastoral care and advisory roles, as a supporter of the production of the Kriol Bible, and to the community of Ngukurr'. This singular story of indigenous protagonism, self-determination and leadership in the face of overwhelming obstacles—hostile opposition, blind ignorance and numbing indifference—maps a way forward for the peoples of this continent.

2nd Prize

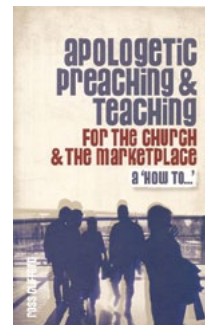


A short history of Christianity
Geoffrey Blainey
Viking ISBN 9780670075249

A consummate storyteller takes on the greatest story ever told. Blainey deftly weaves together epic events, developments and movements. He pauses, when

instructive, to examine sometimes obscure episodes and people. The result is a simple yet breathtaking narrative. Blainey's impartiality is especially evident in his treatment of major conflicts, such as the Reformation. It is significant that in an increasingly Christophobic society, a prominent historian at the peak of his prestige has written an accessible history that places Jesus at the centre of human history.

Short-listed



Apologetic preaching & teaching: For the church & the marketplace
Ross Clifford
Morling Press ISBN 9780980642155

A systematic and practical guide for evangelists and preachers addressing a pluralist society and unsympathetic culture.

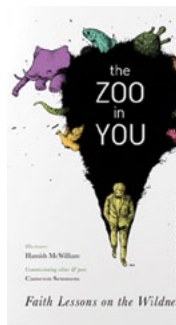
Particularly refreshing and useful is the exhortation to respect our audience by acknowledging personality types (intellectually or emotionally oriented), understanding the listeners' context and not misrepresenting their beliefs ... or our own. Instead of bowing to political correctness we are challenged to confidently present 'the gospel in all its scandalous reality'.

3rd Prize

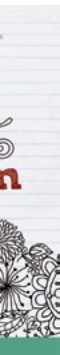


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lenged her own ...
and enabled th ...
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people with dis ...
Cameron is a p ...
This book is at t ...
inspiring and p ...
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Short-listed



insightful. This ...
twenty-four Au ...
writers and lea ...
yearning, grace ...
reflective mood ...
and encourage ...
individually and ...
volume of med ...



Love, tears and autism: An Australian mother's journey from heartbreak to hope

Cecily Paterson
Ark House ISBN 9781921589638

A transparent and gripping testimony of radical personal transformation under stress. Paterson shares how she copes with her son Cameron's challenges with faith, pride and need for control. She offers them both to grow. In a culture that is suffering and devalues the lives of people with disabilities the story of Cecily and Cameron is a powerful and necessary witness. The book is both practical and necessary. At the same time profoundly practical. An antidote for those of us who are comfort and afraid to love.

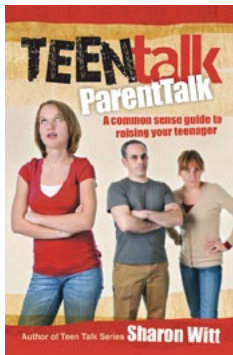


The zoo in you: Faith lessons on the wildness within

Cameron Semmens (Ed.)
Crooked Nose Wisdom
ISBN 9780975710036

Tiger. Turtle. Tadpole. Trout. The stimuli are zoological, the results are original, engaging and fun. This is a unique opportunity to see the work of Australian Christian musicians, as they grapple with doubt, grief, and more, in an intimate and honest way. There is something to enrich the lives of Christians of every stripe, both individually and in groups. This surprising collection of illustrations is as valuable as it is rare.

Short-listed

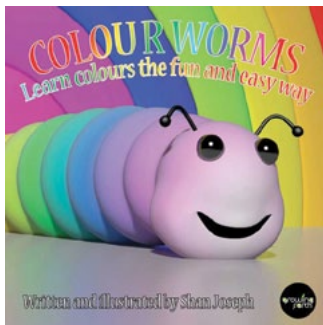


Teen talk. Parent talk: A common sense guide to raising your teenager

Sharon Witt
Collective Wisdom
ISBN 9780980389593

Witt is a secondary school teacher, mother and author of a best-selling series of books for teenagers. With this book she befriends parents just as the challenge of parenting reaches its climax. Her humour, enthusiasm and confidence are infectious. Biblical values, boundaries and unconditional acceptance combine to provide a 'soft place to land' for parents and teenagers alike. Witt is familiar with trends in mental health and social media, and a resource list and links to her web pages offer the possibility of further interaction.

Short-listed



Colour worms: Learn colours the fun and easy way

Shan Joseph
Growing Faith
ISBN 9781921460791

Shan Joseph uses vivid colours and simple rhyme to awaken the imagination of preschool readers. The colour worms help children to learn by observation and together with parents acknowledge God as the loving creator of all that we see.

Judging criteria

The Australian Christian Book of the Year Award is given annually to an original book written by an Australian citizen normally resident in Australia and published by an Australian publisher. The Award recognises and celebrates excellence in Australian Christian writing. A short list is announced in July and the awards are presented during August. The Award carries a prize of \$2,500. Supplementary awards may be made. Entries are judged with an eye to the:

- Original nature** of the work.
- Literary style**, including suitability for the target audience.
- Competence** and expertise displayed by the author in writing the book and examining the underlying thesis.
- Design**, layout, cover, text and illustrations.
- Contribution** that the book makes in meeting a need for Christian writing for the Australian situation and in the Australian market.

Judges

Alex Crawford holds degrees in arts, law and theology. He is a practising barrister in Brisbane. Outside the law, he is interested in books, music and seeing the Brisbane Lions win. Alex is married to Penny. They have three adult children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the secretary of the Mathew Hale Public Library.

Chantelle Ogilvie-Ellis is Justice and Peace Promoter for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Chantelle has a degree in media and communications, a graduate certificate in interfaith dialogue and is completing a masters degree in theology. Chantelle has worked in youth and social justice ministry and has taught and tutored theology at a number of Catholic institutions. She enjoys art, reading, travel, and time with her husband, Evan.

Mark Conner is the Senior Minister at CityLife Church, a diverse community of Christ-followers meeting in locations across Melbourne. He has a doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and is passionate about seeing people change and grow. Mark is married to Nicole and they have three adult children. He loves basketball, music, reading and cooking. He is an avid Geelong Cats supporter.

Coordinator

Michael Collie SPCKA National Director



2012 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

Winner



Claire van Ryn

Faith like a mushroom

This collection of thoughts serves as a companion on the path to Christian maturity. The writing is inquiring and philosophical, but above all practical. The writer's voice is strong and her impressive breadth of historical and cultural engagement is put to good use. This is a book for young adults who want to make their faith more than just a set of inert beliefs locked safely away in their hearts. It calls us to understand the Christian faith as a worldview seeking action and transformation.

Among Arthur Boyd's tapestries interpreting the life of St Francis, there is a fascinating depiction of the Wolf of Gubbio fable. To understand his artistic statement, you must first be familiar with the story.

It goes something like this: There once lived a fierce wolf in the little town of Gubbio that was so rabid with hunger that it terrorised the villagers.

It ate animals and humans alike and the people were terrified.

Francis decided to approach the wolf, seeking a resolution to the problem. He could find only one companion to accompany him outside the town gate. They ventured forward and it was not long before the wolf lunged at them from the woods, canines bared, growling.

Bravely, Francis called out, 'Come to me, Brother Wolf. I wish you no harm.'

And the wolf lay down at his feet.

Francis gave the wolf a bit of an earbashing, telling him of the punishment he deserved, before offering a peaceful resolution. The townspeople would feed the wolf each day and cease to hunt him in return for their safety, acknowledging that the wolf's actions were out of hunger. Francis and the wolf shook paw and hand, and the town adopted the wolf, feeding him daily until his death.

So goes the tale.

It has been told and retold as an example of the need to resolve differences, to seek reconciliation. As it is written in Ephesians 4:32, 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'

Boyd's tapestry, however, serves a different lesson.

The 1974 artwork shows the figures of St Francis and the wolf melded into one being—a distinct divergence

from traditional artwork on the topic, which typically show the saint and beast shaking hands. It asks the viewer to consider that the wild wolf is within St Francis, within all of us, representing the internal struggle between good and evil.

And that is an uncomfortable moment of introspection.

Rather than seeing ourselves as the saint—halo adorning the cranium, cross in hand, battling the forces of darkness—Boyd's interpretation turns the story on its head. He acknowledges that we are all capable of malevolence when pushed to certain limits. That in turn reminds us that we need to daily climb above selfishness if we are to overcome the human condition.

Something Jesus had down to a fine art.

He urged people to spend less time worrying about the wolves around us and more time taming the wolf within. In Luke 6:41, Jesus says: 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?'

Or as Boyd inferred, it is not the wolf at the city gates that should alarm so much as the wolf within.

2nd Prize

Miriam Dale

Sugar and salt: Honesty in faith

3rd Prize

Darren Wright

St Patrick's Church. Part Two



2012 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

Winner



Daniel Li

A short walk

A series of dramatic vignettes charts the life of an unnamed protagonist in search of purpose

and meaning. The tenacious witness and courageous action of a lifelong friend rescues the narrator from certain death and an eternity without God. The narrative is punctuated by a dream-like sequence set in a garden which serves as a metaphor for the spiritual journey. Written with elegance and aplomb, this story is at times raw and shocking but ultimately hopeful.

I couldn't fight them. One man was hard enough, five was suicide. I couldn't run. They would hound me, and even if I managed to escape, they would return. I couldn't negotiate. Clearly these were people who were

beyond sympathy and with that realisation, a new revelation: I now had to survive rather than escape. On my back, the first man, the one that had tailed me hauled me up and as he did, the crucifix necklace gifted to me by Che fell out. The thug cocked his head to the side, 'Christian?' he said slowly as if confused. One of the five stepped out, 'That's the one' he accused.

The first man's stare bored into my fearful eyes and it was only then I noticed. This man ... this man he was ...

'No room for you here mate,' he declared, and with that, dragged my struggling body to the Pool of Julian.

'God save me!' I yelled just as I was plunged into the waters of the fountain. Here erected was an immortalization of Julian. The personification of the notion of resolution against insurmountable odds, how ironic that an innocent man was now drowned under his baleful gaze.

'God save me' I thought as the hands that subdued me shook violently as if to shake the last vestiges of life out of my body.

'God save me' I thought as the waters obscured my vision and my world grew dark. As the last shreds of air left my body and my mouth opened to inhale the water in mighty gulps, another revelation dawned. Che had lied, and I was naive enough to believe him. That was the first time I died.

2nd Prize

Amber Holmes

The mask

Certificates of commendation

Alex Chi

I am a coast guard

Grace Dephoff

The metal cross

Cameron Fleming

The great deception

Amy Glover

The third city

The **Young Australian Christian Writer Award** carries a prize of \$2,500 and is given annually for the best unpublished manuscript written by an Australian citizen under 30 years of age.

The **Australian Christian Teen Writer Award** carries a prize of \$1,000 and is given annually for the best unpublished manuscript written by an Australian citizen under 18 years of age.

Supplementary awards may be made.

The winning works will explore a Christian perspective or theme and incorporate, explain or encourage Christian life and values. Entries are judged with an eye to the:

Original nature and content of the work.

Literary style, including suitability for the target audience.

Contribution that the work makes in meeting a need for Christian writing in Australia.

Books submitted

Acorn

*Gumbuli of Ngukurr:
Aboriginal elder in Arnhem land,*
Murray Seiffert

Aquila

Luke: An unexpected God,
John G Mason

Ark House

Heléna's legacy,
Jo-Anne Berthelsen

Into the light,
Clint Beattie

Journey of hope,
Dr J Michael Davey

Justice at Baragula,
Mary Hawkins

*Love, tears and autism: An Australian
mother's journey from heartbreak to hope,*
Cecily Paterson

Signed sealed delivered,
Rita Stella Galieh

The body battle,
Sheralyn Bucknell

Collective Wisdom

*Teen talk. Parent talk:
A common sense guide to raising your teenager,*
Sharon Witt

Createspace

Jesus resurrected? Sifting the historical evidence,
John W Pryor

*The enigmatic Jew:
In quest of the historical Jesus,*
John W Pryor

Crooked Nose Wisdom

*The zoo in you:
Faith lessons on the wildness within,*
Cameron Semmens (Editor)

David Lovell

*Catholics and Catholicism in contemporary
Australia: Challenges & achievements,*
Dr Abe W Ata (Editor)

Even Before

Back to resolution: A novel,
Rose Dee

Best forgotten,
Paula Vince

*Children. God's special interest:
31 biblical devotions to meditate
on God's heart for children,*
Ray Hawkins

Ellenvale gold,
Amanda Deed

*Fine lines: Unlocking the promise of truth
to set us free,*
Aliki Flodine

*Sam's heart: A journey of faith, obedience
and the miracles that follow,*
Nicole Watson

The sinner's prayer: Its origins and dangers,
David Malcolm Bennett

Growing Faith

*Colour worms: Learn colours the fun
and easy way,*
Shan Joseph

Fiz the flying fox,
Skye Parry-Jones

Jesus: A king is born! The Christmas story,
Shan Joseph

Jesus: The Saviour lives! The Easter story,
Shan Joseph

Ink Books

Mundis Veridis and the end of the world,
Mim Lennon

Lifeflow Education

Together at the edge: Trust me,
Noel Davis

Morling

*Apologetic preaching & teaching:
For the church & the marketplace,*
Ross Clifford

*It only takes a spark:
The story of Christian community schools,*
Bob Frisken
The big ideas: The great themes of evangelism,
Michael Frost

Redeemer

Revelation: Visions for today,
William Dumbrell

Salt and Light

Boomer's birthday,
Heather Clark

Signs

David's revenge,
Brad Watson
Shadow men,
Clifford Goldstein

Spectrum

Discover a new faith: Energy for a better life,
Francis Macnab

The fruit of the spirit for everyday life!
John Coleman

*The world according to Jesus:
His blueprint for the best possible world,*
Lorraine Parkinson

The Invisible Tree

Peace,
Kirrily Lowe

UNSW

*Chaplains in the Royal Australian Navy:
1912 to the Vietnam War,*
Rowan Strong

Viking

A short history of Christianity,
Geoffrey Blainey

Wakefield

Now in remission: A surgical life,
Ken Clezy

Xlibris

Jesus. God and man: A re-appraisal,
Barry G Shield

SPCKA

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by the Australian Christian Literature Society. An activity of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia Inc. PO Box 198, Forest Hill, Victoria 3131, Australia Telephone 1300 13 SPCK (that's 1300 13 7725) awards@spcka.org.au | www.spcka.org.au
Igniting Christian writing