

2013 Australian Christian Book of the Year

Forged with flames:

A true story of courage and survival

Ann Fogarty & Anne Crawford

Wild Dingo Press ISBN 9780987178510

Where is God when it hurts? This question has rarely been answered more eloquently than by Ann Fogarty and Anne Crawford as they tell the story of Ann's ordeal by fire. This is a distinctively Australian saga. Ann's epic trial began in Upper Beaconsfield, Victoria, when the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires left her with life-threatening burns to eighty-five percent of her body. Fire fighters, surgeons and nurses became her companions in adversity. Ann brings to her writing the same humour, honesty and courage with which she suffered the pain, doubt and despair. The hope forged by this extreme experience is shared with simplicity and an open heart. It is profoundly comforting to follow her growing assurance of God's presence and loving care. Ann's story is compelling, unforgettable and inspiring.

*A true story
of courage and
survival*

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

Mark Conner is the Senior Minister at CityLife Church, a diverse community meeting in locations across Melbourne. He has a doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary

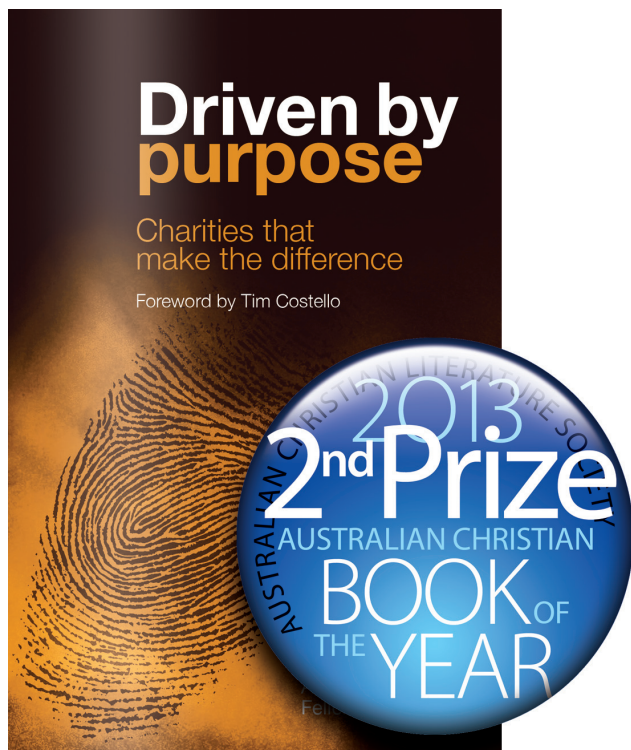
and is passionate about seeing people change and grow. Mark is married to Nicole and they have three adult children. He loves basketball, music, reading and cooking. He is an avid Geelong Cats supporter.

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.

Alice Priest is a religious educator with experience in the classroom, youth ministry and teacher education. Alice is currently a teacher and chaplain in a large Sydney city Catholic college. She has published work in the areas of Vatican II, Catholic school identity, World Youth Day, and interfaith relations. Alice is a member of the Hunters Hill Catholic Parish. She is a long distance runner and keen traveller.

Coordinator

Michael Collie
National Director
SparkLit



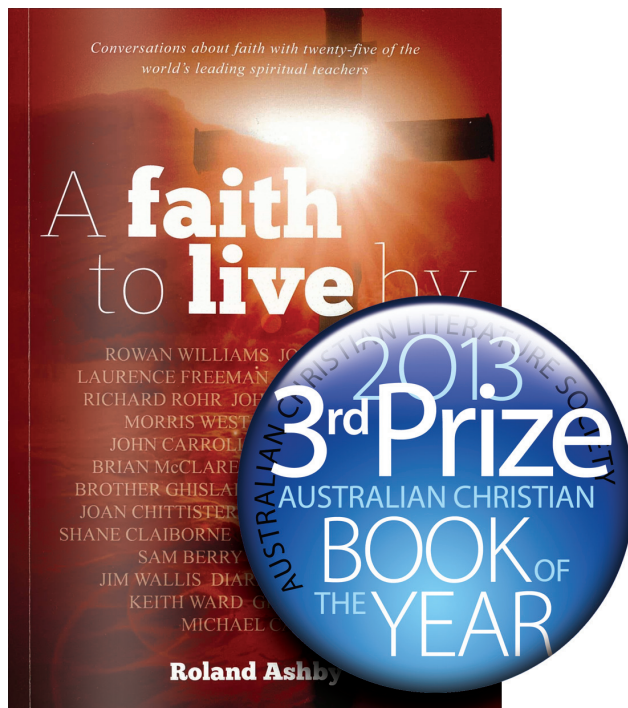
Second Prize

Driven by purpose: Charities that make the difference

Stephen Judd, Anne Robinson & Felicity Errington
Hammond Press ISBN 9780987189233

The unprecedented public scrutiny of Australian charities has revealed both the importance of the contribution they make but also a sector in crisis. This is not a crisis of professionalism, funding or trust but a crisis of identity and purpose. It is the experience of God's grace that motivates Christians to love the unlovely and embrace the stranger.

This book is a call for Christian charities, ministries and missions to re-discover their reason-for-being and a practical guide to the process of ensuring that their strategy, organisation and operation reflect this purpose. The authors discuss governance and management best practice and the implications of trends in research and legislation. Case studies of leaders and the causes they work for are instructive and encouraging. A book as indispensable as it is timely.



Third Prize

A faith to live by: What an intelligent, compassionate and authentic Christian faith looks like

Roland Ashby
Mosaic Press ISBN 9781743241431

Twenty-five Christian thinkers and leaders including Rowan Williams, John Lennox, Richard Rohr, Morris West, Jim Wallis, Helen Prejean, and Greg Clarke talk about faith. In conversations collected by Roland Ashby over fifteen years they reconcile the tensions between belief and non-belief, faith and science, and the church and the world. Ashby's editing serves

his subjects well: they are allowed to speak for themselves, big ideas are rendered accessible and we are always left wanting more and motivated to investigate further. This is a reasoned, honest and expansive response to the roar of the new atheism and an antidote to the silence of the Christian cringe. Faith in Jesus Christ emerges as real, adult and vital: a faith to live by.



Short listed

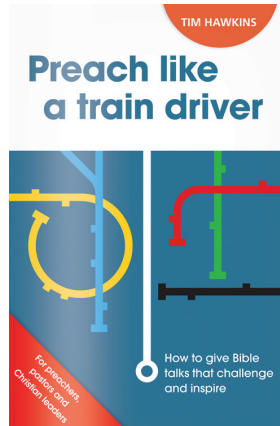
Fearfully and wonderfully made: Ethics and the beginning of human life

Dr Megan Best

Matthias Media

ISBN 9781921896613

A medical doctor, bioethicist and parent surveys the science and ethics of the beginning of human life. Combining her expertise in biology, theology, philosophy and pastoral care, Best has produced an exhaustive and authoritative text. She helps readers to navigate the ethical issues raised by infertility, abortion and reproductive technologies. *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* is neither smug nor judgemental but compassionate and remarkably readable.



Short listed

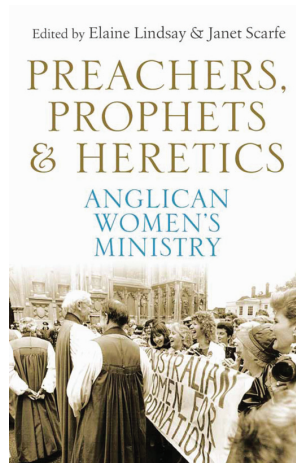
Preach like a train driver: How to give Bible talks that challenge and inspire

Tim Hawkins

Disciples Unlimited

ISBN 9781908762801

A preacher and a train driver have a common task. They are both responsible for taking people to a destination. For over thirty-five years Tim Hawkins has successfully engaged his listeners so that they might be transformed by God's Word. In this practical guide to the art and craft of preparing Bible talks, he equips his readers to deliver messages that move. Know where you are going. Make sure that your audience is onboard. Avoid getting lost on the way.



Short listed

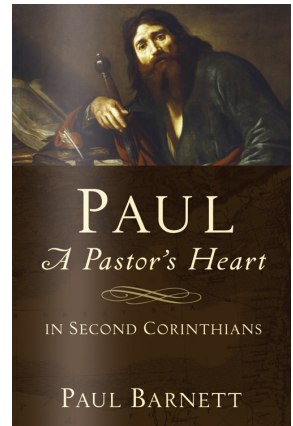
Preachers, prophets & heretics: Anglican women's ministry

Edited by Elaine Lindsay & Janet Scarfe

Newsouth Publishing

ISBN 9781742233376

This definitive collection of nineteen essays documents the battle for the ordination of women in the Anglican Church in Australia from the late 1980s. Since 1992 over five hundred women have been ordained as priests and some have become bishops. The controversies are carefully examined and the drama vividly recalled. While primarily a tribute to the key protagonists, this history informs both the enduring tensions in the church today and the future ministry of women across denominations.



Short listed

Paul: A pastor's heart in Second Corinthians

Paul Barnett

Aquila Press

ISBN 9781921460883

Paul Barnett has already written two commentaries on the Second Letter to the Corinthians. In this slim volume he turns his attention to Paul the pastor. Barnett takes us beyond the familiar texts to a fresh reading of Paul himself and the heart that was captured by Christ and broken by the people God sought to reconcile to himself. This study sheds new light both on Paul's letters and the nature of the joys and challenges of every pastor's service in a 'difficult' church.



2013 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

Winner



Matthew Pullar *Imperceptible Arms:* *A Memoir in Poems*

With honesty and an open-heart a poet examines the dimensions of grace and hardship, including mental illness. Effortless rhythm and rhyme display a mastery of a range of poetic forms and structures. There are punchy sonnets and compelling couplets. These reflections on faith are beautiful, thoughtful and accessible.

Origami Prayer

*Open me outwards;
Too long I've wandered
Inside inward caverns
In search of the words
For textures and fissures
And tensions inside.*

*Open me upwards;
Let Your sun fill me.
Too long I've enclosed
Myself in my Self,*

*Wounding and licking
The wounds of the dark.*

*Open me up to the
Surge of recharging
Grace like a spark-shower,
And then outwards open
Me, Origami-like,
To live and to love,*

*In arms, ever-holding,
Your arms, ever-outstretched,
Head raised to heaven,
Heart turned outside,
Love drawing, holding me:
Open me up.*

The Prodigal Father

*I offend when I call You 'Father'.
Yes, it offends: pig dung clinging to
my rags, Your princely robes clothing me,
the shocking, undignified sight of
Your father's legs running to me,
the defiant one—the one who did not
know his place.*

*Now my place is fully known;
there's order, I guess, within Your grace—
reordering in the way You place me
back where I should be, and yet—*

*You broke every rule when You ran
outside to bring me in.*

Purpose

*Before the fact,
Before the light,
Before the waters and their domes,*

*Before the dust,
Before the breath,
Before the rib, before the sleep,*

*Before the names,
Before the planting,
Before the harvest and the fruits,*

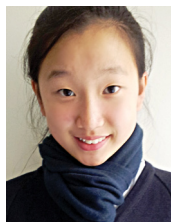
*Before the notion,
Before the garden,
Before the apple and the tree,*

*Before the leaves,
Before the crushing,
Before the biting of the heel,
Before the sword,
Before the cherub,
Before the roaring of the seas,
Before the dove,
Before the olive,
Before the bow turned up at me,
Before the child,
Before the temple,
Before the palm-leaves and the tree,
Before the skull,
Before the nails,
Before the breaking of the tomb,
Before the rise,
Before the many,
Before the Body and the feet,
Before the fall and rise of many,
Before the rift, before the mercy,
Before the Law, before the language,
Before it all the plan.*



2013 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

Winner



Alex Chi

Hello God ... It's Me

As her family breaks up, Emily's relationships with her parents and with God evolve.

Legalism gives way to grace as she struggles with the reality of her parents' separation and her feelings of abandonment. Strong dialogue, clarity of expression and sensual description evoke mood and emotion and propel the narrative. True to the experience of any young person whose world is being torn apart, this story is open-ended. When resolution eludes us, maturity beckons.

Extract from *Hello God ... It's Me*

I glare up at the bare ceiling. My body is played upon my bed. A sweet melody drifts in the air. I should feel light. This music playing from my CD player should humour me. Instead, a gloomy black blanket looms over my soul. It should lift the entire heavy burden off my back. It should lift the craving of Dad's presence, Lindsay's shattering words ... but it

doesn't. Alternatively, I let it sing a lullaby. And I fall asleep.

I'm drowning. My brain screams at my arms to move, to wildly flail for the surface. But my arms lie still, they float in the water, not wavering an inch to respond to my frantic mind. My lungs are bursting, stinging, begging for a deep gasp of fresh air. My skin craves for a release from the icy water; for just one ray of sunshine. I can feel my legs pumping at a floor that's not there. Hopelessly searching for the surface. But I don't find it.

Instead, I'm tossed back deeper into the murky water and I open my mouth for air. It fills with bitter water. My lungs feel like they're ripping. And they must have, because everything goes black. When my throbbing eyes adjust, I'm falling. Falling into a deep, dark and gloomy pit. I scream as a grimy hand reaches out for me ...

I wake with a start. 'Emmy?' Mum reaches over and sweeps a damp strand of hair away from my face. 'Em, Lindsay called and it's almost dinner.'

I grasp at my chest. I'm breathing, I'm fine. I'm in my room. 'Why didn't you wake me up?'

'You looked so calm and peaceful there, I just sat here watching you and ...'

'I was having a nightmare Mum!' I shout, 'I was lost and desperate and cold and suffering and ... and you just sat there?'
I realise that I had been dreaming but it all seems so right, so true.

Mum looks miserable. 'I just can't do anything right now; can I?'

I kneel down and dig with some bark. I set the delicate violet into the fresh dirt and pat it down, securing the soil. My violet sways gently in the breeze. 'I'll come to water you every day,' I whisper. Tilting my

head up, laying on the sweet grass, I stare at the golden sky. But instead of imagining a God of anger and boasting pride I see something else. I see Jesus, a man clothed like an everyday man of the Bible. A Jesus with eyes of compassion and love. I imagine His voice, 'Come to me, my child, come to me.'

I gaze up, leaning against the stump. 'Hello God ... it's me.'

And from there, the words gush out.

2nd Prize

Caroline Dehn
Stage Left

Certificates of Credit

Rowena Fleming
The Messenger

Meg Mathys
A Journey of Mercy

Rachel Muyco
What it means to be a Christian

Judging criteria

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 for the 2013 Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

Acorn

View from the faraway pagoda: A pioneer Australian missionary in China from the Boxer Rebellion to the Communist Insurgency, Robert & Linda Banks

Allen & Unwin

The convent, Maureen McCarthy

The moon shines out of the dark, Stephanie Dowrick & Anne Spudvilas

Anglican Press Australia

Sexegesis: An Evangelical response to 'Five uneasy pieces' on homosexuality, Michael Bird & Gordon Preece (eds.)

Anglican Youthworks

Teen sex by the book, Dr Patricia Weerakoon

Aquila Press

Galatians: Defending the truth, Paul Barnett

Paul: A pastor's heart in Second Corinthians, Paul Barnett

Ark House Press

Awakening, Jo Raymond

I am a new creation: An autobiography, Uong Nguyen

Create Space

Bible stories for big kids: A contemporary look at the Old Testament written for adults, Karina Shim

Deror Books

Turn back the battle: Isaiah speaks to Christians today, Elizabeth Kendal

Disciples Unlimited

Preach like a train driver: How to give Bible talks that challenge and inspire, Tim Hawkins

Elva Schroeder

Convict girl, Elva Schroeder

Even Before Publishing

A simple mistake: A novel, Andrea Grigg

Boondaburra, Natalie Lonsdale & Shannon Melville

My China mystery: The story of war hero Frank White a missionary during the Second World War, Marion Andrews

Soul friend: The story of a shared spiritual journey, Jo-Anne Berthelsen

The Greenfield legacy: A novel, Meredith Resce, Paula Vince, Amanda Deed & Rose Dee

The value of intimacy, Wicky Moffat

Web of lies: Only through the truth can there be hope for tomorrow, Laura O'Connell

What would Jesus drive? Paul Clark & Graham Preston

Friendly Lion Publishing

A place for a friendly lion: Living and learning in Africa, Lynne Clarke

Good News Down Under

I am Turkish, Salih Tarsuslu

Grace and Justice Publishing

Certified: The autobiography of David Harris, David Harris

Growing Faith

Colour worms 123: Learn numbers the fun and easy way, Shan Joseph

Colour worms ABC: Learn letters the fun and easy way, Shan Joseph

Friends, Nathan Lee & Mark Hadley

Home, Nathan Lee & Mark Hadley

Jesus the Saviour lives! The Easter story, Shan Joseph

Hammond Press

Driven by purpose: Charities that make the difference, Stephen Judd, Anne Robinson & Felicity Errington

Hannah Boland

47 hours with a prince: God's grace through heartbreaking circumstances, Hannah Boland

Johnson and Lomer

Journeys of gold: The uplifting story of two families raising children with Aspergers Syndrome, Kate Johnson & Jodie Lomer

Kelvin Crombie

El Alamein: Halting an impending holocaust in the Middle East, Kelvin Crombie

In covenant with Jesus, Kelvin Crombie

Living in Light

Walking by faith: The essential inspiration and verse collection, Kate Matthews

Lumino Press

Down Humdrum Street: A good boy becomes God's man on a mission, Peter Clyburn

Matthias Media

Fearfully and wonderfully made: Ethics and the beginning of human life, Dr Megan Best

MediaCom Education

Pray and sing: Prayers & songs in the New Testament, Doug Rowston

Morling Press

In Jesus' name: A biblical perspective on healing & deliverance ministries, Brian Powell

Mosaic Press

A faith to live by: What an intelligent, compassionate and authentic Christian faith looks like, Roland Ashby

New Creation

A quiet revival: Geoffrey Bingham in life & ministry, Martin Bleby

Newsouth Publishing

Davis McCaughey: A life, Sarah Martin

Faith in action: HammondCare, Meredith Lake

Preachers, prophets & heretics: Anglican women's ministry, Elaine Lindsay & Janet Scarfe (eds.)

Patrick Redlich

My brother Vivian and the Christian martyrs of Papua New Guinea, Patrick Redlich

Salvo Publishing

The sacred journey: Nature's parables on redemption, Lucille L Turfrey

Sid Harta Publishers

As the sparks fly upwards, Richard Stamp

Signs Publishing

Heaven sent, Amanda Bews

When God calls, expect adventure, Lester Hawkes with Brad Watson

Strand Publishing

Open house: A new era with Leigh Hatcher, Leigh Hatcher

The spirit of Oz, Paul O'Rourke

Wild Dingo Press

Forged with flames: A true story of courage and survival, Ann Fogarty & Anne Crawford

Xlibris

William Cooper, gentle warrior: Standing up for Australian Aborigines & persecuted Jews, Barbara Miller

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by the Australian Christian Literature Society. An activity of **SparkLit**. PO Box 198, Forest Hill, Victoria 3131, Australia. Telephone 1300 13 7725 admin@sparklit.org www.sparklit.org



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