

## 2014 Australian Christian Book of the Year

### The Great Bible Swindle ... and What Can Be Done About It

Greg Clarke

Bible Society Australia ISBN 9780647518656

In a single generation our society has lost touch with the greatest story ever told and the most significant life ever lived. This is the Great Bible Swindle. And the consequences are as numerous as they are profound. The inability to appreciate biblical allusions in our language compromises the meaning and gravity of our words. Respect for individual worth, justice with mercy, scientific inquiry, equality, charity and grace are gospel fruits in our culture which we take for granted. When we no longer recognise their source and foundation we risk losing them altogether. Most critically, we learn in the Bible what we cannot otherwise know. That when all else has passed away, three things will remain: faith, hope and love. And, it's not 'what' you know but 'who' you know. Greg Clarke has a doctorate in literature and is the CEO of Bible Society Australia. This is his manifesto. *The Great Bible Swindle* is a concise, persuasive and friendly appeal to read the Bible. Your neighbour needs to read this book. So do you.

### Judging criteria

The **Australian Christian Book of the Year Award** is given annually to a 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 shortlist 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.

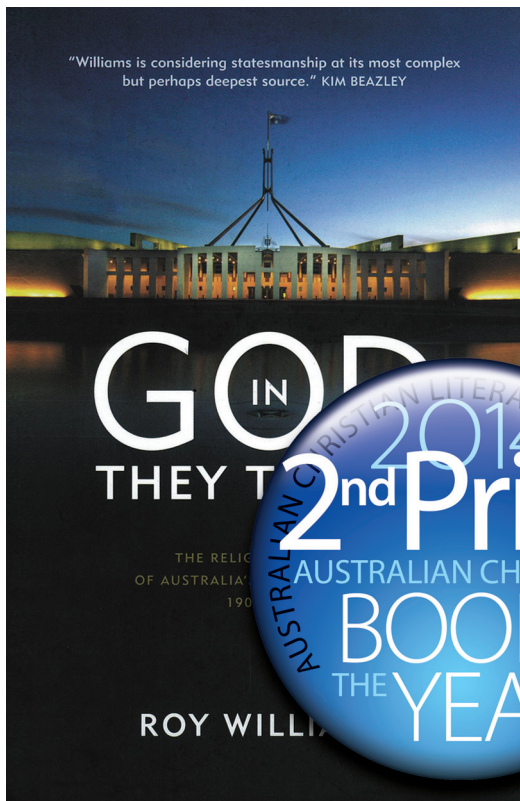
**Alex Crawford** holds degrees in arts, law and theology. He is a practising barrister in Brisbane. Outside the law, he is interested in books, music and seeing the Brisbane Lions win. Alex is married to Penny. They have three adult children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the 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 at a large Catholic college in Sydney. 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



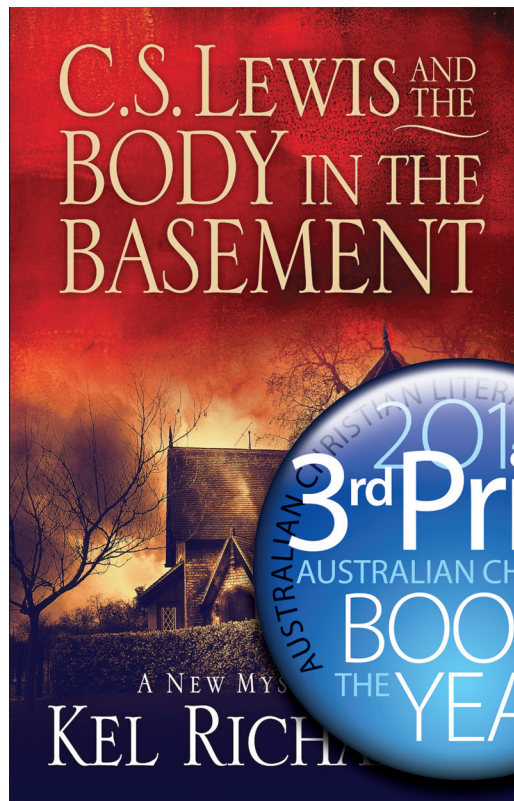
## Second Prize

### **In God They Trust?** **The Religious Beliefs of** **Australia's Prime Ministers** **1901–2013**

Roy Williams  
Bible Society Australia  
ISBN 9780647518557

Typically, faith has been important to our politicians but not to their biographers. In this timely and thoughtful work, Roy Williams examines and evaluates the spiritual life of twenty-three prime ministers from Edmund Barton to Julia Gillard and how their beliefs helped to shape our nation.

Each chapter makes accessible the facts and insights ignored or overlooked by existing biographies. Collectively they trace our shifting religious landscape and changing Christian identity. Williams is ambitious, controversial and at times rather generous but always rigorous. We can separate church and state but not a person from their faith.



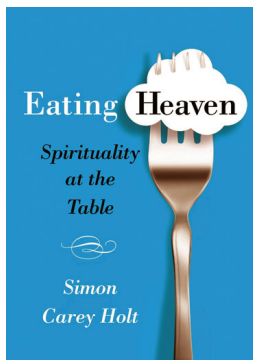
## Third Prize

### **C. S. Lewis and the Body** **in the Basement**

Kel Richards  
Strand Publishing  
ISBN 9781921202810

Cast in the role of accidental detective, Oxford don C. S. Lewis is obliged to simultaneously investigate a puzzling murder and the Christian faith. Both mysteries are well served by Lewis' humour, imagination and, above all, reason. Faith in Jesus is shown to be worthy of our consideration.

Veteran broadcaster and writer, Kel Richards, has given us an entertaining, engaging and satisfying novel.



### Shortlisted

**Eating Heaven:**  
Spirituality at the Table  
Simon Carey Holt

Acorn Press

ISBN 9780987428639

A chef and pastor reflects on what happens when we eat together. Whether at the kitchen table, a picnic table, a restaurant table, Australia's multicultural table or the Lord's table, we are not nourished by food alone. Simon Carey Holt calls us to understand and exercise the gift of hospitality. When we share together what is precious we anticipate the heavenly banquet. An everyday and ordinary activity becomes rich with possibilities.

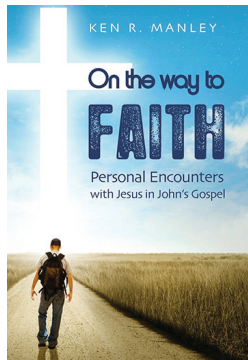


### Shortlisted

**Love is the New Black**  
Cameron Semmens

Crooked Nose Wisdom  
ISBN 9780975710029

Cameron Semmens reinterprets familiar Bible passages, restoring their power to surprise, comfort and stir us. For chaplains, educators and preachers looking for a fresh take on a familiar Bible text this is pure gold. For readers young and old, this poet will quickly become a wise and witty friend.



### Shortlisted

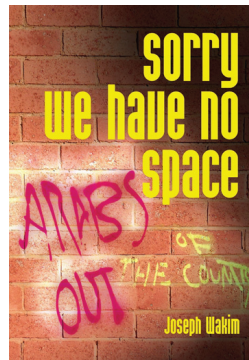
**On the Way to Faith:**  
Personal Encounters  
with Jesus in  
John's Gospel

Ken Manley

Morling Press

ISBN 9780992275518

A wise and gentle pastor retells the stories of Jesus' transforming encounters with twelve diverse individuals in John's Gospel so that we too might know Jesus and be forever changed. Ken Manley distils his lifelong experience as a preacher, teacher and disciple. His writing is contemplative, challenging and personal.



### Shortlisted

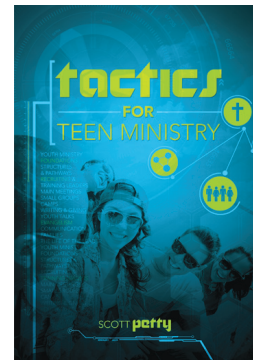
**Sorry We Have No Space**

Joseph Wakim

Connor Court

ISBN 9781922168795

'You speak up for Muslims? But you are a Christian!'  
'I speak up for Muslims because I am a Christian.'  
Joseph Wakim's personal story of faith, love and identity is intriguing enough but his conflicted journey as social worker, journalist and advocate is provocative and inspiring. An Australian Arab Christian delivers vital lessons on how to make space for all—in our country, in our perspectives and in our hearts.



### Shortlisted

**Tactics for Teen Ministry**

Scott Petty

Youthworks

ISBN 9781922000972

Scott Petty draws on his experience as Youth Minister at Christ Church, St Ives, in Sydney. In a single volume he combines structure, strategy and tactics, in balance and in an Australian context. Petty moves swiftly from theory to practical detail. In a crowded and noisy field this book is distinguished by its clarity of purpose: build relationships and grow disciples.





## 2014 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

### Winner



**Heidi Waddell**  
***The Bridge***

What is the Bridge? What lies on the other side? How badly do you want to find out? The narrative is seductive

and engaging. The detail is evocative and believable. The characters persuade and surprise the reader. *The Bridge* is a clever, memorable and beautifully conceived allegory.

### An extract from *The Bridge*

*I shall neither tell of their farewells, nor of the narrow path through which we walked. I suppose though, that you are wishing to know what it is that I saw on the other side. For my father, and his father, and his father before him; the shop was their Bridge. The Bridge was the river and many, like my father, had learnt to lean back and to enjoy all that there was to offer.*

*But as I came out of the narrow corridor, through which we passed, my breath was stolen from me and tears filled my eyes as I*

*looked out to the west and the setting of the sun. There was truth in what my father had said, and the river is lovely enough, but what he never told me was that it is the Ocean we should be looking forward to.*

### Second Prize



**Joshua Maule**  
***Ilesomo***

This is a well-researched biography of a diligent and courageous leader who is currently Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite the extraordinary detail, the story is easy to follow. The author deals impartially with historical events that are both confronting and chaotic. From a country sadly synonymous with bad news comes a challenging and inspiring story.

### An extract from *Ilesomo*

*The plane skidded across the runway and into the bush. One of the wings struck a rock and the plane came to an abrupt standstill. Ilesomo caught a glimpse of the pilots and saw that they were covered in blood. Smoke began pouring into the cabin and he thought they were all going to die. Someone forced out a window and each person made their way out of the burning cabin. People from the airport were rushing over to extinguish the fire and take the injured to receive medical treatment. Ilesomo was last out. By the time he had his feet on the ground, the pilots had made it out of the plane through a small door and were on their way to the hospital. The other passengers nursed broken limbs and abrasions.*

*'Are you OK?' someone asked.*

*Patting down his body, Ilesomo reported that he was unscathed. 'I think I am OK. I need someone to take me to the church because I am preaching.'*

*Someone drove him to the Anglican Church in Goma. He was an hour late. As he walked through the door, the congregation looked at him. ...*

*Ilesomo made his way to the front and greeted everyone. 'Thank you very much. I wish I could have been here on time. But there was an accident.'*

### Third Prize



**Chantelle Pitt**  
***Loving Floyd***

Vulnerable and in pain, a young mother's confidence in God's love and sovereignty is tested. She must learn again

how to trust and honour God. The priceless fruit of grief is shared here with courage and honesty. This is strength in weakness.

### An extract from *Loving Floyd*

*I challenged God. 'Why haven't you healed him yet? I know you can do it.' Instead of getting the answer I wanted, in my spirit I felt challenged back with, 'What if Floyd doesn't get healed? How will you respond if this doesn't go the way you want it to?'*

*It was then I started to think that maybe God's plan in all this was something we hadn't yet dared to imagine. I realised God was saying to me that I had to let go. If the unimaginable was to happen, how would I respond? Would I still love God? Would I still honour Him?*

*By now there were a lot of people back home, in different parts across Australia, and even overseas who knew about our situation and I felt God say to me, 'If Floyd dies, your response will speak louder to them than if I were to heal him.'*



## 2014 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

### Winner



**Annie-Jo Vogler**  
**Ellesmere Road**

*Ellesmere Road* evokes the world of an adolescent boy, an expanding realm—family, school and neighbourhood—mapped by the streets where he rides his bike. In a year of crisis to whom will Jude turn? Ambitious and unusual themes are woven into the fabric of the story: the impact of fractured Christian fellowship on a family, God's supernatural protection and the gradual process of growing and learning to trust God. Incidental details create a strong sense of time, place and mood. The writing is evocative, subtle and restrained. This writer understands the power of words.

### An extract from *Ellesmere Road*

*Jude watches with satisfaction as the first days of autumn usher a distinct coolness into the air. Perhaps now he can justify the shivers. But even if they stop, there are still the flickers of darkness that flash across his bedroom*

*window. They only began to show a week ago—the day when the moonlight was weakest. And when they did, Jude's shivers became even more violent.*

*Though they may not always feel it, no one in the house at the corner of Gumtree Lane can shake off the feeling that something is going on. They may not know what it is, but it is there.*

*And since last week Jude's parents have spent more than one night awake with fingers intertwined and lips moving in whispers. Their words are those of a million prayers.*

## Certificates of Credit

**Karina Sholl**  
***Hope***

**Bethany Buckley**  
***A Stranger's Face***

## 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.

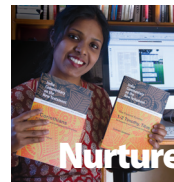
**Literary style**, including suitability for the target audience.

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

## You can fan the flames of faith



Where the gospel is preached literature will be needed. You can help **SparkLit advance God's Kingdom by empowering Christian writers and publishers** around the world.



**SparkLit nurtures emerging publishers** by directing funds, expertise and energy where Christian writing is needed most.

We encourage local initiative and support sustainable enterprises. As a result, indigenous churches are given a voice, Christ is made known and lives are changed.



**SparkLit equips publishing professionals.**

We invest in the training and development of promising Christian writers, editors,

designers and booksellers. We embrace strategic opportunities and love discovering hidden talent.



**SparkLit makes Christian books available, accessible and affordable** where commitment is strong but support and

resources are scarce. We provide theological texts and essential reference works to students and pastors in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

To find out how you can support the work of **SparkLit** and its partners in difficult places visit: [www.SparkLit.org](http://www.SparkLit.org)

**Books submitted for the  
2014 Australian Christian  
Book of the Year Award**

**Acorn Press**

*Eating Heaven:  
Spirituality at the Table,*  
Simon Carey Holt

*Pieces of Eternity,*  
Michael Jensen

**ANU E Press**

*Pacific Missionary*  
George Brown,  
Margaret Reeson

**Aquila Press**

*Church of the Triune God:  
Understanding God's Work in  
His People Today,*  
Edited by Michael Jensen

*Exodus: Saved for Service,*  
Andrew Reid

*Ezra & Nehemiah:  
Walking in God's Words,*  
Peter Adam

*GPS: God's Plan for Salvation,*  
Allan Chapple

*The Heart of Marriage:  
Loving Your Spouse with  
a Christian Mind,*  
Michael Hill

**Ark House Press**

*Top Cop: The Remarkable,  
True Story of One of  
Australia's Great Cops,*  
David Nicholas

**Barbara Miller**

*The European Quest to Find  
Terra Australis Incognita:  
Quiros, Torres and Janszoon,*  
Barbara Miller

**Bible Society Australia**

*In God They Trust?  
The Religious Beliefs of  
Australia's Prime Ministers  
1901–2013,*  
Roy Williams

*The Great Bible Swindle  
... and What Can Be Done  
About It,*  
Greg Clarke

**Brian Curtis**

*The Promised Land,*  
Brian Curtis

**Carpenter's Son  
Publishing**

*Help! I've Been Blessed!  
How to Stop God's Blessings  
from Becoming Curses,*  
Julian Archer

**Clare Mclvor**

*The Shadows Where We Walk,*  
Clare Mclvor

**Collective Wisdom**

*Girlwise: A Girl's  
Guide to Friends!*  
Sharon Witt

*Girlwise: A Guide  
to Being You!*  
Sharon Witt

**Connor Court Publishing**

*Sorry We Have No Space,*  
Joseph Wakim

*The Conservative Revolution,*  
Cory Bernardi

**Copyright Publishing**

*Anglicans, Trams &  
Paw Paws: The Story of  
the Diocese of Brisbane  
1945–1980,*  
Jonathon Holland

**Crooked Nose Wisdom**

*Love Is the New Black,*  
Cameron Semmens

**Even Before Publishing**

*Broken Melody,*  
Trudy Adams

*Doctor Sahib: The Story  
of Dr Cecil Silas Mead,*  
Elva Schroeder

*God's Panoply: The Armour  
of God. The Kiss of Heaven,*  
Anne Hamilton

*Living Life at the Top:  
100 Reflections on  
Abundant Life,*  
Paul Clark

*Suzannah's Gold,*  
Carol Preston

*The Celtic Stone,*  
Nick Hawkes  
*The Inheritance,*  
Jo-Anne Berthelsen

*The Bible on the  
Key Issues of Life,*  
Nick Hawkes

**Fervr**

*A Life Already Started:  
Finding a Positive Path in  
Unplanned Pregnancy,*  
Dr Megan Best

*The Cross,*  
Edward Surrey

**Garratt Publishing**

*The Australian Catholic  
Youth Prayer Journal,*  
Ann Marguerite Rennie

*Walk4One: Paving  
a Path to Unity,*  
Samuel Clear

**Givenworks**

*Psalmscapes,*  
Mal Austin and  
Matthew Jacoby

**Growing Faith**

*Cyber Parenting: Raising  
Your Kids in an Online World,*  
James Boswell and  
Simone Boswell

*The Best Sex for Life,*  
Dr Patricia Weerakoon

**Hannah Boland**

*Superstitious Christianity:  
Discovering the Heart  
of Faith,*  
Hannah Boland

**Hannah Boland &  
Cecily Paterson**

*I'm Sad and I Need Cake:  
When Real People Write Real  
Letters About Grief,*  
Hannah Boland and  
Cecily Paterson

**Morling Press**

*On the Way to Faith:  
Personal Encounters with  
Jesus in John's Gospel,*  
Ken Manley

*Who Do I Think I Am?  
Exploring Personal Identity  
and What it Means to  
Be 'In Christ',*  
David Claydon

**Mosaic Press**

*Promises and Blessings in  
the Book of Revelation,*  
Doug Rowston

**New South Publishing**

*Providence Provides:  
Brigidine Sisters in the  
New South Wales Province,*  
Janice Garaty

**Palmer Higgs**

*Hannah's Song,*  
The Dust Poet

**Penguin**

*Father Bob:  
The Larrikin Priest,*  
Sue Williams

**Penny Reeve**

*More Than a Mouse,*  
Penny Reeve

**Poetica Christi Press**

*Capturing Clouds:  
The View from the Tree House,*  
Leigh Hay

*Exploring the Depths,*  
Edited by Janette Fernando

**Redeemer Baptist Press**

*Genesis 1–11: The Beginning  
of Covenant History,*  
William Dumbrell

**Resolve Publishing**

*We Have a Voice!  
The Hope We Possess,*  
Mike Potter

**Strand Publishing**

*C. S. Lewis and the  
Body in the Basement,*  
Kel Richards

*Open House: Conversations  
with Leigh Hatcher,*  
Leigh Hatcher

**Tabor Publications**

*Gifts of the Spirit:  
A Reappraisal,*  
Barry Chant

*This is Revival,*  
Barry Chant

**The Poatina Tree**

*These Wandering Feet:  
Reflections from a  
Travelling Pilgrim,*  
Joel McKerrow

**Wakefield Press**

*God's Donkey:  
Sister Mary Theodore and  
The Story of Mithra,*  
Peter Gale

**Youthworks**

*Children's Ministry  
on the Front Foot,*  
Edited by Zachary Veron  
*Tactics for Teen Ministry,*  
Scott Petty

The 2014 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented in Melbourne on Thursday 14 August 2014.

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by **SparkLit**. Formerly the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia and the Australian Christian Literature Society.  
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Christian  
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