



2017 Australian Christian Book of the Year

Our Mob, God's Story: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists Share Their Faith

Edited by Louise Sherman and Christobel Mattingley
Bible Society Australia
ISBN 9780647519585

Sixty-six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from the city and the bush tell the story of the wonderful things God has done for their people. They paint in a dazzling variety of styles and write with uncommon wisdom and generosity. These artists share their vision of Jesus in order to bring us together as brothers and sisters. This inspiring book demonstrates what the recent census recorded: that Christian faith is more evident and alive in indigenous communities than in the dominant settler society. It is time for quiet appreciation and deep listening. Beautiful, confident and irresistible.

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. The award recognises and celebrates excellence in Australian Christian writing. A shortlist is announced in July and the award is presented during August. The award carries a prize of \$3,000. Supplementary awards may be made. Entries are judged with an eye to the following:

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 the Brisbane Lions. 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.

Darren Cronshaw pastors the Auburn Life Baptist Church and is a researcher with the Baptist Union

of Victoria. He has doctorates in practical theology and missiology and postgraduate qualifications in linguistics and education. He trains leaders as Professor of Missional Leadership and Head of Research with the Australian College of Ministries. Darren is married to Jenni; they have three children. He keeps fit with Hawthorn Triathlon Club.

Judith Nichols is married to Tony. They have four children and thirteen grandchildren. She has a doctorate in classics and ancient history and

qualifications in theology, missiology, education and linguistics. Judith and Tony have ministered together in Indonesia, with Indigenous Australians at Nungalinga College and trained missionary candidates. She currently coordinates women's ministry at Dalkeith Anglican Church, Perth.

Coordinator

Michael Collie
National Director
SparkLit

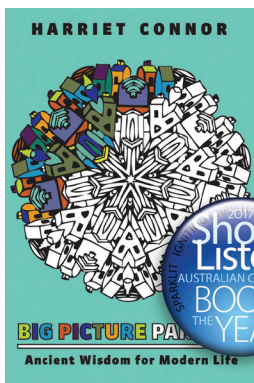


Shortlisted

After Saturday Comes Sunday: Understanding the Christian Crisis in the Middle East
Elizabeth Kendal

Resource Publications
ISBN 9781498239868

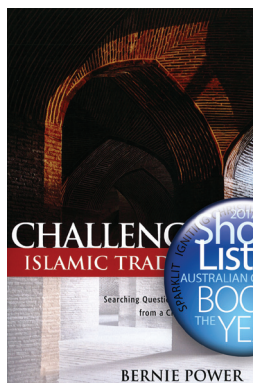
Indigenous Christian communities—Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians and Copts who lived in the Middle East long before the Islamic conquests—are being targeted by jihadists for subjugation, exploitation and liquidation. Millions have been driven out of their homelands. Yet their fate is ignored by ‘progressive’ elites in the West who are increasingly hostile to Christianity. Elizabeth Kendal exposes the extent of this genocide in the ancient Christian heartland and provides a cogent and readable explanation of the context, history and ideologies that underlie the crisis. A challenging, clear and helpful book.



Shortlisted

Big Picture Parents: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life
Harriet Connor
Resource Publications
ISBN 9781532602535

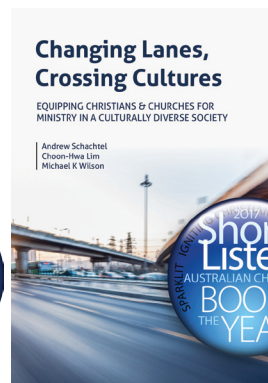
Back to basics. Rather than telling us how to feed and entertain our children, Connor explores the purpose of parenthood. In the Bible a parent discovers a joy bigger than feeling happy and a family bigger than our own household. This gives parents simple priorities but also the freedom to fail, forgive and find their own parenting style. Children need purpose, values, character and parents who practise what they preach. This book is an antidote to the psycho-babble and narcissism of parenting in the age of Facebook. Good news, not just good advice.



Shortlisted

Challenging Islamic Traditions: Searching Questions about the Hadith from a Christian Perspective
Bernie Power
William Carey Library
ISBN 9780878084890

This learned work on the Hadith (a collection of writings that both expounds and explicates the Qur’an) offers an explanation for why Islam has failed to deliver what it promises to Muslims and the reasons behind the violence in the so-called ‘clash of civilisations’. Bernie Power presents a well-reasoned critique of the tensions and struggles within contemporary Islam and a valuable clarification of the lines of demarcation in word and deed between Muhammad and Jesus.



Shortlisted

Changing Lanes, Crossing Cultures: Equipping Christians and Churches for Ministry in a Culturally Diverse Society
Andrew Schachtel,
Choon-Hwa Lim and
Michael K Wilson
Great Western Press
ISBN 9780869010808

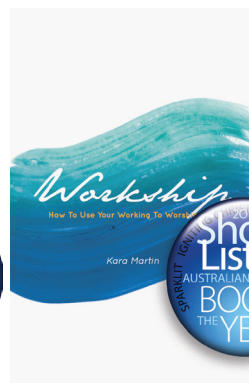
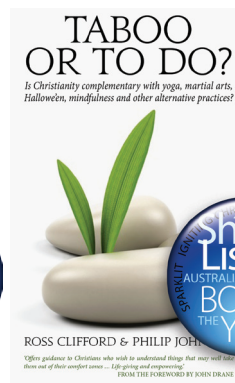
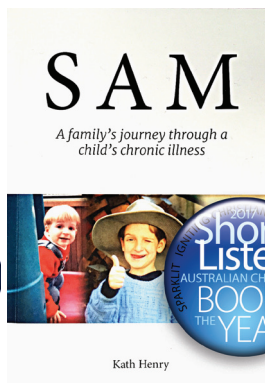
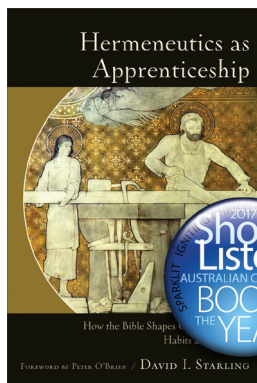
This well organised handbook challenges churches to reach out beyond their own culture. It is written by people with experience in cross cultural ministry in Australia and overseas. The six modules can be used by individuals or in small groups and provide clear steps for making the cross-over from an ethnically monocultural church to a warm and welcoming multi-cultural church. It is time for local churches in Australia to share in the exciting growth of the global church.



Shortlisted

Faith: Embracing Life in All Its Uncertainty
Tim Costello
Hardie Grant Books
ISBN 9781743791925

There is much to be learned from the way Tim Costello has won such widespread respect for his moral vision and compassionate leadership in society. His words are credible, persuasive and shaped by experience. In this meditation on faith, he traces his journey from an appealing story of his upbringing to his universal theological education and his involvement in the church and his wide experience as a pastor and advocate for the poor and oppressed. It is a portrait of one man's road to faith.



Shortlisted

Hermeneutics as Apprenticeship: How the Bible Shapes Our Interpretive Habits and Practices

David I Starling
Baker Academic
ISBN 9780801049392

David Starling responds to recent debates challenging the Reformation principle of the sufficiency of Scripture to interpret Scripture. He invites us to sit at the feet of the prophets and apostles and let them teach us how to read and interpret the Bible. Such apprenticeship is illustrated by examining the internal hermeneutic revealed in fourteen stimulating case studies from Deuteronomy to Revelation. When we read Scripture we are taught how to understand Christ in the light of Scripture and how to understand Scripture (and all things) in the light of Christ.

Shortlisted

Sam: A Family's Journey Through a Child's Chronic Illness

Kath Henry
Kimbrada Publishers
ISBN 9780992325862

This is the story of a mother's courageous battle to ensure that her son received the best possible treatment for his severe neutropenia, a blood condition that leads to severe and often lethal infections. The style is engaging and the author is honest about her feelings and spiritual highs and lows. Parents and supporters of children with chronic illness will find her transparency encouraging. Sam is a much cherished child who grows to maturity in the midst of a loving Christian family, not least through his mother's fierce drive and practical faith.

Shortlisted

Taboo or to Do? Is Christianity Complementary with Yoga, Martial Arts, Halloween, Mindfulness and Other Alternative Practices?

Ross Clifford and Philip Johnson
Darton, Longman & Todd
ISBN 9780232532531

A timely examination of popular customs and practices that looks beyond rigid and legalistic reactions. The authors describe these practices and their origins, identify critical issues and introduce principles of discernment. They then suggest various ways in which Christians might respond, and leave readers to draw their own conclusions. Where they do not feel compromised, Christians are urged to boldly enter the market place of ideas and consider how Jesus might fulfil the longings of those who see themselves as 'spiritual but not religious'.

Shortlisted

Workship: How to Use Your Work to Worship God

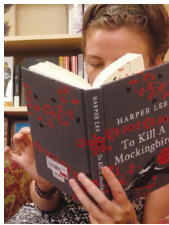
Kara Martin
Graceworks
ISBN 9789811128134

In *Workship*, Kara Martin applies Romans 12:1–2 to the whole of life and particularly to our attitudes and habits in the workplace. To biblical principles, Martin brings stories and practical examples to show both the realities of the workplace and possible Christian responses. *Workship* is an accessible and helpful workbook for individual and group study. It is also a profitable read for pastors who need to understand the challenges facing those to whom they preach.



2017 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

Winner



E P George ***The Bidura Effect***

The attitudes, faith and identity of a young social worker are transformed by his relationship with an elderly, house-bound

Aboriginal woman. Her tragic story is compelling and confronting. This is skilful and high-impact writing.

An extract from *The Bidura Effect*

"You see, it wasn't just white people who were shamed of them babies, Mum was shaming her family, too."

"What was she supposed to do?" I railed.

"I dunno," Doreen swatted angrily at her tears. "She was supposed to not get pregnant."

Wynn wheezed sympathetically.

"Bloody men," she said helpfully.

"How many babies did your Mum have, Doreen?" I tried a fresh tactic.

"Five by the time they got us. Five of us little brown halfies. Half-castes, they'd call us." She put her tissue over her mouth and ducked her head down in shame.

"What was your Mum's name?" I suddenly realized that I had written no names down.

"She's dead." Doreen said abruptly.

Wynn clicked her tongue at my cultural

gaff. "We do not speak the name of our dead. We do not keep their picture. We let their spirit move on."

"I'm sorry," I suddenly understood why we had warnings on TV pre-empting Aboriginal names being mentioned or images shown. "Um, can you tell me about the five kids, then?"

"There were Sonny, then me, then Charlie, then Nelly, then Biddy was the baby. That was when they got us, mind. I don't know but Mum had a handful more after us."

I pencilled the five in, then left a gap with a question mark after Biddy. I was not brave enough to ask the inevitable next question.

Wynn leaned forward, over her tummy and kindly asked it instead, "How'd they get you, love?"

"Oh," Doreen threw back her head and started to wail. "It was awful! I'll never forget that day if I live to be a hundred." She wrapped her arms around herself and rocked back and forth as she wailed.

I looked at Wynn helplessly. She heaved herself out of the maroon walker and waddled over to the lounge, where she sunk down next to Doreen and wrapped an arm around her heaving shoulders. "Hush now, you're safe now, love. They can't get you anymore. Hush now."

"It's too late," Doreen cried, "They already have. They got me, they got my babies and they got their babies. They can't get anymore cause there is nothing more they can rip out of my arms, they're empty!"

Second Prize



Rachel Sharp ***The Unhumans***

A thrilling allegorical rendering of the gospel. The characters are vigorous and their world is vivid. An original and gripping story for young adult readers.



2017 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

Winner



Tanya Strydom ***Sir Tain and the Peasant's Sword***

A coherent and well paced allegory of Christian grace that is demonstrated not just

in sacrificial death but also in community life. The writing is mature, inventive and polished.

An extract from *Sir Tain and the Peasant's Sword*

"So, where are you from?"

"Here, originally," replied Tain.

It was Mon's turn to look surprised. "I have never seen you before," he said.

"I have been away for several years," answered Tain vaguely. "Tell me, have the Sians often been raided and oppressed?"

"Yes," replied Mon slowly, "A few years ago, there was a particularly bad time of house raids. Many Sians were killed by the Imperial Monarch's Army."

"I heard about one family where the father, mother, and young daughter were cruelly slaughtered," continued Tain, hesitantly.

"Yes," answered Mon sadly, "That was one of the worst."

Tain looked at him closely. "What would you say if I said I was their son?"

Mon looked at him with genuine sympathy. "Then you escaped the Imperial soldiers and are all alone?"

Tain looked away and said roughly, "I am the soldier who killed them. You can leave me if you like. If you don't want to be friendly anymore, I understand."

He heard Mon slowly stand up, but forced himself to continue staring at the ground. He felt Mon's hand gently touch his head. He looked up, but there was no hate or anger in the face or eyes of the young man. He did not look afraid either. His eyes were full of compassion, as though he could read the misery and chaos in Tain's soul.

"Come home with me," he said, "My father will treat you kindly, and my mother will be pleased to have you spend the night in our house."

Tears filled Tain's eyes, and he rose to his feet unsteadily. Mon reached out and helped him up. Tain said nothing, but Mon could see his face, and he knew what Tain was feeling. He slipped his arm under Tain's shoulders, and together, they walked toward the house.

Second Prize



Caylie Ellen Moore *Tethered*

During a conversation with a dead patient and friend, a young doctor confronts his guilt, fear and self-loathing.

Sophisticated, insightful and convincing.

Third Prize



Jessica Dinning *Deserted*

A chaotic life is captured with precise and confident language. Phoebe has given up on God.

But God, it seems, hasn't given up on Phoebe.

Judging criteria

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

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.

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 following:

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.

The 2017 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented in Melbourne on Thursday 17 August 2017.

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by SparkLit (The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia Incorporated and the Australian Christian Literature Society)



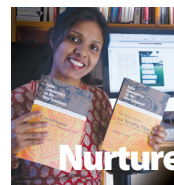
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Titles submitted for the 2017 Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

Acorn Press

A Better Way to Live: 52 Studies in Proverbs and Psalms,
Graham Hooper

When the Lights Go Out: Memoir of a Missionary to Somalia,
Ruth Myers

Aquila Press

A Spectator's Guide to World Views: Ten Ways of Understanding Life (3rd Edition),
Simon Smart (Editor)

Deuteronomy: One Nation under God (Reading the Bible Today Series),
George Athas

Philippians and Philemon: Joy in the Lord (Reading the Bible Today Series),
Paul Barnett

Australian Scholarly Publishing

Our Principle of Sex Equality: The Ordination of Women in the Congregational Church in Australia 1927–1977,
Julia Pitman

Authentic

The Wesleys: Two Men Who Changed the World,
Julian Wilson

When Oceans Roar: Powerful True Stories of Courageous Faith and Changed Lives,
Ernest Crocker

Baker Academic

Hermeneutics as Apprenticeship: How the Bible Shapes Our Interpretive Habits and Practices,
David I Starling

Bible Society Australia

Our Mob, God's Story: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists Share Their Faith, Louise Sherman and Christobel Mattingley (Editors)

The Bible Down Under: How the Bible Helped to Shape Australian Culture, History, Art and Everything Else,
Meredith Lake

Chi-books

The Hidden Half: Women and Islam,
Stuart Robinson

Covenant College

The Fifth Gospel,
Michael Nair

Darton, Longman & Todd

Taboo or to Do? Is Christianity Complementary with Yoga, Martial Arts, Hallowe'en, Mindfulness and Other Alternative Practices?
Ross Clifford,
Philip Johnson

Eerdmans

An Anomalous Jew: Paul Among Jews, Greeks, and Romans,
Michael F Bird

Fervr

Unshakable: Following Jesus in Your Teens and Beyond,
Richard Beeston (Editor)

Graceworks

Workshop: How to Use Your Work to Worship God,
Kara Martin

Great Western Press

Changing Lanes, Crossing Cultures: Equipping Christians and Churches for Ministry in a Culturally Diverse Society,
Andrew Schachtel,
Choon-Hwa Lim and
Michael K Wilson

Hardie Grant

Faith: Embracing Life in All Its Uncertainty,
Tim Costello

Harper Collins

Live, Love, Lead: Your Best is Yet to Come!
Brian Houston

The Sisterhood: How the Power of the Feminine Heart Can Become a Catalyst for Change and Make the World a Better Place,
Bobbie Houston

InterVarsity Press

The Disruption of Evangelicalism: The Age of Torrey, Mott, McPherson and Hammond,
Geoffrey R Treloar

JMB Books

Becoming Me: Finding My True Self in God,
Jo-Anne Berthelsen

Kimbrada Publishers

Sam: A Family's Journey Through a Child's Chronic Illness,
Kath Henry

L & R Morgan

Walking Home: 2000 km in 80 Days,
Andrew Sav

MAF Australia

Liberator: The Harry Hartwig Story,
Ron Watts

Morning Star

The Apocalyptic Heart: The Book of Revelation in an Unjust World,
Ron Browning

Naomi Reed

The Zookeeper: A Tale of Unimaginable Love,
Naomi Reed

New Hope Publishing

Following Jesus: Finding and Fostering Hope on a Cosmic Scale,
Allan Demond

Orbis Books

Faith-Based Development: How Christian Organizations Can Make a Difference,
Bob Mitchell

Peter Baade

Falscastra: Journey to the King,
Peter Baade

Redeemer Baptist Press

The Biblical Spirit: A New Covenant Commentary,
William Dumbrell
with Russell Bailey

Resource Publications

After Saturday Comes Sunday: Understanding the Christian Crisis in the Middle East,
Elizabeth Kendal

Big Picture Parents: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life,
Harriet Connor

Set Free to Soar

It's Official, It's a Miracle!
Annette Mace

Signs Publishing

Dearest Folks: Letters Home from a Missionary Wife and Mother,
Margaret Watts
with Robyn Priestley
Following Jesus: Disciple Making and Movement Building,
Peter Roennfeldt
Retirement Ready? Plan Now to Retire Well,
Bruce Manners

Silvereye Media

The Truth Paradox: Why God is Real and Atheism Makes Sense,
Rob Sutherland

Simon Says Publishing

When Santa Learned the Gospel,
Simon Camilleri

SMBC Press

Out of Darkness: 100 Years of Sydney Missionary and Bible College,
Anthony C Brammall

Strand

Top Cop 3: On Patrol,
David R Nicholas
Train Your Brain: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life,
Margaret Court

The Wandering Bookseller

Inside Sydney: An Insider's View of the Changes & Politics in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, 1966–2013,
Bruce Ballantine-Jones

WestBow Press

A Day in the Life of a Pair of Trousers and Other Stories: 48 Stories for Use in Christian Worship and on Other Occasions,
Brian A Curtis

Whine Press

How to Respond to Marriage Reality in Australia's Current Debate,
Bill Medley

William Carey Library

Challenging Islamic Traditions: Searching Questions About the Hadith from a Christian Perspective,
Bernie Power

Engaging Islamic Traditions: Using the Hadith in Christian Ministry to Muslims,
Bernie Power

Windsor Scroll Publishing

Grace Undone: Encounter,
Marlene Marburg

Xlibris

Establishing the Kingdom: A Twenty-First-Century Bible Part 2,
Brian A Curtis

Zondervan

What Christians Ought to Believe: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine Through the Apostles' Creed,
Michael F Bird