

## 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year

**The Bible in Australia:  
A Cultural History**  
Meredith Lake  
NewSouth Publishing  
ISBN 9781742235714

Meredith Lake gives an arresting and comprehensive account of how preachers, suffragists, unionists, politicians, writers, painters, musicians, immigrants and Indigenous peoples have used the Bible to shape Australian history and culture. Scripture arrived tattooed on the bodies of convicts aboard the First Fleet and, in the hands of Indigenous Christians, has nourished movements for justice, for land rights, and for recognition and reconciliation. Lake shows that Australia has been neither a secular society nor a Christian nation. At every level the Bible has been held to be everything from a resented imposition to the word of God. However, even while Bible reading and biblical literacy decline, the Bible is an indelible part of our story. This is a history of national importance and an insight into Australian culture.

### 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

**Akos Balogh** is CEO of The Gospel Coalition Australia. Akos holds degrees in arts, engineering and theology. After five years in the RAAF he served with AFES at Southern Cross University. Akos and his wife Sarah live in Lismore with their three children. He is an elder at Southern Cross Presbyterian Church and relishes time with family, blogging and cycling.

**Bill Brown** has been on the staff of Syndal Baptist Church for over forty

years, initially as youth pastor and since 1987 as senior pastor. He has been president of the Baptist Union of Victoria. He is currently chair of Australian Baptist Ministries and serves on the board of the Christian Coaching Institute. Bill is married to Julia and has four adult children and eight grandchildren. He enjoys cricket, football, gardening and time with family and friends.

**Judith Nichols** is married to Tony. They have four children and fourteen 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 coordinates women's ministry at Dalkeith Anglican Church, Perth.

### Coordinator

**Michael Collie**  
National Director, SparkLit



### Shortlisted

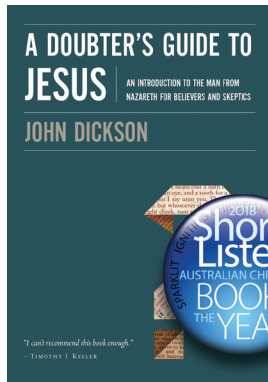
#### **The Bidura Effect**

E. P. George

Ark House Press

ISBN 9780648173489

A young social worker encounters brokenness beyond the reach of human sympathy and solution. Her attitudes, faith and identity are challenged and transformed by her relationship with an elderly house-bound Aboriginal woman. This is a raw, lively and engaging novel.



### Shortlisted

#### **A Doubter's Guide to Jesus: An Introduction to the Man from Nazareth for Believers and Skeptics**

John Dickson

Zondervan

ISBN 9780310328612

John Dickson challenges both believers and skeptics to reconsider what they know about Jesus. He first outlines the consensus of secular historians, then looks at how our presuppositions influence the way we interpret the evidence. The text is broken down into manageable morsels and includes primary sources, personal testimonies, social commentary and suggested reading. While busting myths and meeting common objections, Dickson is ironic yet humble and respectful. This book is short and snappy and can be shared with confidence.



### Shortlisted

#### **The Frog and the Fish: Reflections on Work, Technology, Sex, Stuff, Truth and Happiness**

Chris Parker

National Institute for Christian Education

ISBN 9780648064329

Wake up! Like a fish in the sea we are unaware of our milieu and like a frog being boiled alive in a pot we are oblivious to our destiny—unless, of course, we acquire the necessary curiosity, discernment and wisdom to evaluate the world around us. Chris Parker teaches us to ask questions and think about the way our lives and choices are shaped by our culture. He makes complex ideas clear and accessible. From personal experience he shows why the gospel of grace is different from and better than competing toxic assumptions about possessions, sex, identity and happiness.



### Shortlisted

#### **The Glue: Relationship as the Connection for Effective Youth Ministry**

Mike Stevens

Urban Zeal

ISBN 9781640082151

Mike Stevens, an experienced practitioner, shares sound and effective guidance for making disciples. The strategy is simple: invest in people, integrate them into a multi-generational church community and love them. While aimed at novice youth workers, this advice should be taken to heart by all leaders. True to its message, *The Glue* is warm, generous and encouraging.



### Shortlisted

#### **Jesus the Game Changer: The Book of the Game**

Karl Faase with Mark Marriott & Jani Olive

Olive Tree Media

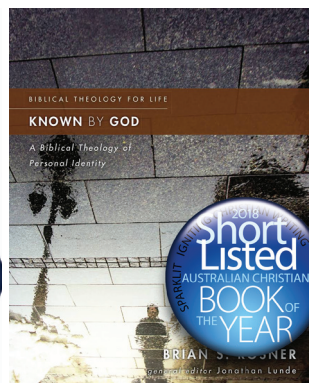
ISBN 9780994543427

*Jesus the Game Changer* showcases the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, which the life, death and resurrection of Jesus changed our world for the better. This book traces the origins of our world, of equality, freedom, democracy, science, endeavour, education and public health. It examines the impact of game-changing events present in the world. The reader might also find Jesus and follow him. This attractive book is a series of video games and is perfect for leaving on the table in a waiting room to browse.



**The Changer:**  
The Series  
by George  
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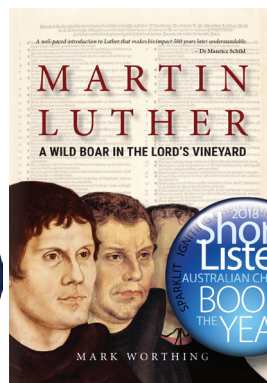
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## Shortlisted

**Known by God:**  
**A Biblical Theology of**  
**Personal Identity**  
Brian Rosner  
Zondervan  
ISBN 9780310499824

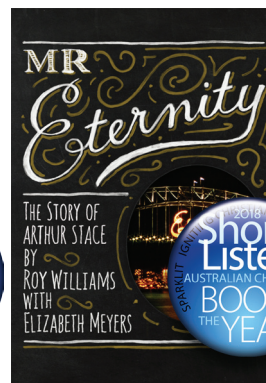
This timely book addresses a defining dilemma of our time. However we might seek personal authenticity and autonomy, Rosner exposes the futility of defining ourselves by ourselves. We know ourselves by being known—by other people and by our creator. Driven by a devastating personal crisis Rosner turned to Scripture and found both comfort and clarity in his identity as one known by God. With reference to a wide range of thinkers he explores the richness and power of this simple biblical truth. In a confused world this is a profoundly practical and liberating book.



## Shortlisted

**Martin Luther:**  
**A Wild Boar in the**  
**Lord's Vineyard**  
Mark Worthing  
Morning Star Publishing  
ISBN 9780648030539

Beginners and scholars alike will be intrigued by this concise and entertaining introduction to Luther and the Reformation. Luther's life, achievements and errors are set in their difficult and dangerous political and religious context. The chapters are short and the scope is broad. With enviable agility, Mark Worthing guides the reader through complicated theological debates and turbulent events. Luther emerges as a person of grit, courage, faith and consequence.



## Shortlisted

**Mr Eternity:**  
**The Story of Arthur Stace**  
Roy Williams &  
Elizabeth Meyers  
Acorn Press  
ISBN 9780994616654

With Arthur Stace's iconic copperplate script emblazoned on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Australians ushered in the third millennium. Together with Sydney-siders, the whole world was called to consider their eternal destiny. Arthur would have been pleased. In a style appropriate to the piety of his time we read about his appalling childhood, tragic descent into crime and degradation, astonishing conversion, and fruitful life as a street preacher and pavement artist. This is a vivid and valuable portrait of a man and his era, and a tribute to Christian visionaries who preached the gospel and ministered to the needy. A potent story of God's grace.



## Shortlisted

**Pathways: Local Mission**  
**for All Kinds of Churches**  
Ken Morgan  
Pathways 4 Mission  
ISBN 9780648105008

*Pathways* is a practical tool for helping churches make disciples. As most people are introduced to Jesus by friends, Morgan proposes that churches promote rather than hinder the formation of relationships outside the church. The approach is simple, flexible and modest, and uses existing leaders, structures and resources. First identify the nature and needs of your community. Then equip church members to reach out and serve family, friends and neighbours, and provide leaders with support that complements and cultivates their gifts. This book is like a wise and encouraging friend.





## 2018 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

### Winner



**Jessica Dinning**  
***The Mirror***

In an image-obsessed world, a teenage girl's fight to overcome insecurity about her body and identity is depicted with insight and candour. The subject is highly relevant and the writing is inventive and stylish.

### An extract from *The Mirror*

*I followed my friends into the bathroom for our morning routine.*

*Step 1: Ensure your skirt is just the right length. Not so far above your knees that you're inviting that detention slip but not so low that only your calves are the star of the show.*

*As I wriggled my skirt around my belly, I couldn't help noticing my legs.*

*They didn't look like the well-toned limbs that my sporting friends had. They looked a little straight. No curves.*

*I examined them for a few seconds longer and got annoyed, so I decided to move onto the next step.*

*Step 2: Take out your phone and bring yourself up-to-date on the latest Instagram stories.*

*They rolled by like sluggish YouTube ads.*

*The buffering was terrible—Instagram was slow on my brick of a phone. I decided that it wasn't doing much for my image, so I transitioned to the final step.*

*Step 3: Review your face in the mirror.*

*It mustn't look too beautified—just some cute tendrils here, some clear skin there.*

*I twirled my hair around my finger until my tendrils were sufficiently curled. They didn't look that bad—it was just the picture they were framing that wasn't the greatest.*

*Plain, boring, ugly me. Okay, I'm not eyesore ugly, but I'm not drop-dead gorgeous either. I can't change what I look like, no matter how hard I try. And I don't know what to do about it.*

### Second Prize



**Abigail Hewagama**  
***Bella's Story***

When it seems she has nothing more to lose, Bella discovers purpose and meaning. Her experience of loss

and abandonment is described with sensitivity and nuance. Her newfound capacity to comfort and love others is as natural as it is unexpected.

### An extract from *Bella's Story*

*A figure rushed into the room. Long strands of hazelnut hair covered her face so that I couldn't see her expression. She was so puffed out that she didn't seem to notice me.*

*When she finally saw me on the bed, she blushed.*

*"Room 316, right?" she asked.*

*When I shook my head, she gasped for air and collapsed into the chair. Her hand flew to her forehead and her words rushed out.*

*"I am so, so sorry. It's my first day and I was in a rush to finish so I could go home. My sister's son is sick and all by himself. I should be with him but I have to work*

*since the rent was due last week, and my mum doesn't have the flu, it's pneumonia, which means that if Ezra caught it he has pneumonia too. And I just can't do it. I am so, so exhausted! I'm so sorry for blurting this out to you. I'm the cleaner, for goodness' sake. What am I doing?!"*

*Her words soon became sobs. I wasn't sure what to say or do. I was alone in the hospital room with this depressed woman. Unable to get out of bed to comfort her, I began to hum a little tune. My mum had always done that for me when I was upset.*

*The lady stopped crying and listened to the song. It was all in Spanish, but it seemed to bring peace. When I was finished, I said, "My name is Bella. What's yours?"*

*The lady wiped the tears away with her sleeve. "Sandra."*

*The youth pastor had said that we can spread God's love to others. I realised that I could make a difference, legs or no legs. I did have a purpose—to help people and love them. I could change my old ways of feeling like I was worth nothing. I could start now.*

### Third Prize



**Sharon Jeikishore**  
***Impossible Made Possible***

Sophie's plans to take revenge on those who bully her are derailed by the God of forgiveness and reconciliation. The development of the characters and plot is thoughtful and well sustained. This is an exciting story of personal transformation and the power of prayer.

### An extract from *Impossible Made Possible*

*I was half asleep when I rocked up to school.*

*Blery-eyed, I grabbed my books from my locker, jammed the lock shut, tripped over my own feet, stubbed my toe on a step and*

made my way to maths.

*Maths. Never before had that one word sounded like music to my ears.*

*Maths. The one class where I could sleep and not get caught doing it.*

*I sighed in gratitude as I stepped through the door and proceeded to the desk at the back of the class.*

*To my surprise, Trent nervously patted the seat next to him.*

*"Hey, Sophie. I saved you a seat."*

*This was definitely out of the ordinary. I was about to walk past and decline the offer when he hastily whispered, "Look, I'm sorry I bullied you. I've had things happening at home and I vented my anger on you. I know this is no excuse. But I'm really sorry. Will you forgive me?"*

*He looked into my eyes—he seemed sincere. "Look, Sophie, I know it's hard for you to believe the fact that I've changed. But I have and there's a reason."*

### 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. This award was withheld in 2018.

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 2018 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented in Melbourne on Thursday 16 August 2018.

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

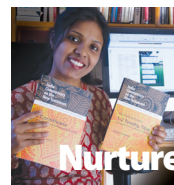


The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia Incorporated  
ARBN 119 800 645  
A member of Missions Interlink  
PO Box 198, Forest Hill, Victoria 3131  
Telephone 1300 13 7725  
admin@sparklit.org  
www.sparklit.org

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## Titles submitted for the 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

### Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Australia

*A Celebration of God's Faithfulness*, Kathryn Naden, Michelle Wighton, Francine Riches & Monica Short

### Acorn Press

*Excellence in Leadership: Essays in Honour of Peter and Merrill Corney*, Denise Cooper-Clarke & Stephen Hale (editors)

*Mr Eternity: The Story of Arthur Stace*, Roy Williams & Elizabeth Meyers

*They Shall See His Face: The Story of Amy Oxley Wilkinson and Her Visionary Blind School in China*, Linda Banks & Robert Banks

### Anglican Press Australia

*Shadows of the Cross: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament*, Michael Raiter

### Ark House Press

*And There Came a Lion*, Beryl J. Spencer

*Christ: Saviour of the Weary*, Rosamund J. Kirkwood

*He Is Faithful From A–Z: 79 True Accounts of God's Extraordinary Faithfulness in the Life of a Very Ordinary Person*, Trish Harrop

*He Speaks Tenderly: The Bridegroom Is Waiting, Speaking Tenderly to His Bride. Will you Listen for Him?* Beryl J. Spencer

*Shaped: Is Your Life Pear-shaped or Purpose-shaped?* Kaye Hollings

*The Bidura Effect*, E. P. George

*Torn Between Two Loves*, Beryl J. Spencer

*Winning between the Ears: Creating Pathways to Transformation*, Gary Blackford

### Authentic Media

*Dangerous Prayer: Discovering a Missional Spirituality in the Lord's Prayer*, Darren Cronshaw

*God Conversations: Stories of How God Speaks and What Happens When We Listen*, Tania Harris

### Broughton Publishing

*Performing the Gospel in Liturgy and Lifestyle*, Charles Sherlock

### BSB Ventures LLC

*The Practising Christian*, Bronwen Scott-Branagan

### Cascade Books

*Salt, Light and a City: Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community*, Graham Hill

*The God Who Plays: A Playful Approach to Theology and Spirituality*, Brian Edgar

### Christine Dillon

*Grace in Strange Disguise*, Christine Dillon

### City Bible Forum

*Under Pressure: How the Gospel Helps Us Handle the Pressures of Work*, Andrew Laird

### Col Stringer Ministries

*The Value of True Friends*, Col Stringer

### Deep River Books

*Life Interrupted*, Nathan Thebridge

### Eerdmanns

*Into all the World: Emergent Christianity in its Jewish and Greco-Roman context*, Mark Harding & Alanna Nobbs

### Emilia Baeyertz Society

*This Is My Beloved Companion: For Readers of This Is My Beloved. The Story of Emilia Baeyertz*, Garth Coverdale

*This Is My Beloved: The Story of Emilia Baeyertz*, Jewish Christian Lady Evangelist, Betty Baruch & Amanda Coverdale

### Evening Press

*Life without Cameron: A Glimpse of Grief*, Rhonda Mason

### Garrat Publishing

*A Friendly Guide to the Birth of Jesus*, Mary Coloe

*A Friendly Guide to Women in the New Testament*, Rosemary Canavan

*Bonded through Tragedy: United in Hope. The Catholic Church and East Timor's Struggle for Independence*, Hilton Deakin with Jim & Therese D'Orsa

*Breakthrough: A Journey from Desperation to Hope*, Fr Rob Galea

*Celebrating Saints: Student Work book*, Joanne Crawford & Anne-Maree Scown

*Children Love to Meditate*, Ernie Christie & Cathy Day

*Trapped in a Closed World: Catholic Culture and Sexual Abuse*, Kevin Peoples

### Growing Faith

*Birds and Bees by the Book*, Patricia Weerakoon

### Heritage Resources

*Israel, Jesus & Covenant*, Kelvin Crombie

### InterVarsity Press

*To Alter Your World: Partnering with God to Rebirth our Communities*, Michael Frost & Christiana Rice

### Irene Voyagey

*Naming God*, Irene Voyagey

### Matthias Media

*Travelling the World as Citizens of Heaven*, Stephen Liggins

### MediaCom

*Deep Work: Spiritual Practice in our Workday World*, Jenny Tymms

*Soulstice: The Journeys and Seasons of the Soul*, Sharonne D. Price

### Morning Star Publishing

*A Climate of Justice: Loving your neighbour in a warming world*, Mick Pope

*A Contemporary Missionary: Reflections of a Nigerian Priest Working in a Suburban Australian Church*, Emmanuel Ikechukwu Aguiyi

*I Used to be Dead: Tahlia's Story*, Colin Pearce

*Martin Luther: A Wild Boar in the Lord's Vineyard*, Mark Worthing

*The Unexpected Light: Reflections From a Year of Mercy*, Peter Fleming

*What the Dog saw*, Mark Worthing

### MST Press

*Do You Remember? Recollections and Reflections*, Aubrey Whitehouse

*Political and Social Issues in Christian-Muslim Relations*, Peter G. Riddell

*The Rome Gospel*, Ben Chenoweth

### National Institute for Christian Education

*The Frog and the Fish: Reflections on Work, Sex, Technology, Stuff, Truth and Happiness*, Chris Parker

### NewSouth Publishing

*The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History*, Meredith Lake

### Northside Baptist Church

*Follow: Experiencing Life with Jesus*, Graeme Anderson

### Olive Tree Media

*Jesus the Game Changer: The Book of the Series*, Karl Faase with George Marriott & Jane Faase

### Paraclete Press

*Barefoot Revolution: Biblical Spirituality for Finding God*, Paul Marshall

### Pathways 4 Mission

*Pathways: Local Mission for all Kinds of Churches*, Ken Morgan

### Penguin Random House

*There Is More: When the World Says You Can't, God Says You Can*, Brian Houston

### Rhiza Press

*Unnoticed: Beauty For Ashes*, Amanda Deed

### Salvo Publishing

*Fingerprints of Grace*, Claire-Louise Grace Watson

### Signs Publishing

*Following the Spirit: Disciple-Making, Church-Planning & Movement-Building Today*, Peter Roennfeldt

*Live More Happy*, Dr Darren Morton

### SMBC

*Lewis's Interesting Life*, Anna Brotherson & Sarah Ang

### St Jude's Anglican Church

*People of the Risen King: A History of St Jude's Carlton, 1866–2016*, Elizabeth Willis

### Stone Table Books

*Arboretum: Emissary of the Oppressed*, Ian Miller

*Beast Speaker: Dragon-Friend*, W. A. Noble

*Beast Speaker: The Flight*, W. A. Noble

### Strand Publishing

*Train Your Brain: Change your Thinking, Change your Life*, Margaret Court

### Urban Zeal

*The Glue: Relationship as the Connection for Effective Youth Ministry*, Mike Stevens

### Watto Books

*Champion Blokes Learn to Love*, Ian 'Watto' Watson

### Wipf & Stock

*Anglican Evangelicalism in Sydney 1897 to 1953*, John A. McIntosh

### WorshipCentre Christian Church

*Just a Bloke from the Bush: Authorised Biography*, Linda Taylor

### Zondervan

*A Doubter's Guide to Jesus: An Introduction to the Man from Nazareth for Believers and Skeptics*, John Dickson

*Known by God: a Biblical Theology of Personal Identity*, Brian S. Rosner

*Unshakeable: 365 Devotions for Finding Unwavering Strength in God's Word*, Christine Caine