

Being the Badd Guys

How to Live for Jesus
in a World
That Says You Shouldn't

Stephen McAlpine

2021 Australian Christian Book of the Year

Being the Bad Guys:

How to Live for Jesus in a World
that Says You Shouldn't

Stephen McAlpine

The Good Book Company

9781784985981

No longer just quaint or irrelevant, Christians in Western society are once again regarded as “haters of humankind”. After exploring the ways a Christian worldview is unacceptable in contemporary Australia and the complex situations in which this places orthodox believers, Stephen McAlpine gets down to business. There is neither reason nor time for indulging in despair or victimhood. *Being the Bad Guys* calls on Christians to admit our failures and embrace life as a creative minority. As a community on the margins, we can welcome the actual victims of contemporary culture as they look for grace and solace from its bruising brutality. McAlpine is fearless, feisty and fluent. This book is an overdue reset for Christians who have not yet realised that they are more like Daniel in Babylon than Solomon in the land of milk and honey.



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 September. 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

Stu Cameron is the CEO and Superintendent Minister of Wesley Mission. Stu qualified as an accountant and worked as a systems analyst before being ordained in the Uniting Church in 2004. He served for over 14 years as Lead Minister for Newlife Church in Queensland. Stu is an entrepreneur, advocate, popular speaker and long-suffering supporter of the Adelaide Crows. Stu and his wife Sue have two adult children and a splat dog called Splash.

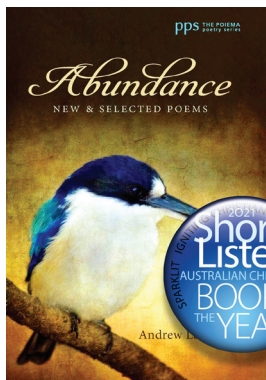
Greg Clarke has a doctorate in modern literature and long experience in publishing, academia and Christian mission. He was Group CEO of Bible Society Australia from 2010 to 2019 and is the author of the 2014 Australian Christian Book of the Year, *The Great Bible Swindle*. Greg and his family are members of St Mark's Anglican Church in Darling Point, Sydney.

Judith Nichols has four children and fourteen grandchildren. She has a doctorate in classics and

ancient history and qualifications in theology, missiology, education and linguistics. Judith and her late husband Tony 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

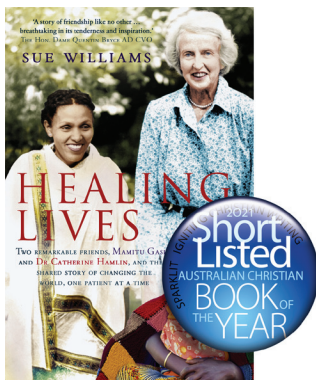


Shortlisted

Abundance: New & Selected Poems

Andrew Lansdown
Cascade Books
9781725284579

Andrew Lansdown has spent a lifetime observing, recording, honing and perfecting his art. This collection displays a masterful poet of form and image at home among his family, kingfishers, grasshoppers, puddles and his Lord and Saviour. Play and discipline. Joy and melancholy. *Abundance* is exquisite, delightful and always powerful.

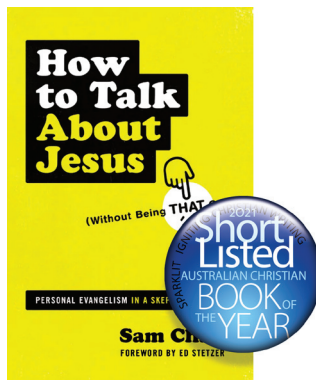


Shortlisted

Healing Lives

Sue Williams
Pan Macmillan Australia
9781760982034

The extraordinary deeds of gynaecologists Catherine and Reg Hamlin in Ethiopia are retold alongside the story of one of their patients. Mamitu Gashe triumphs over the trauma of childhood marriage, catastrophic injuries in childbirth and cultural constraints to become a renowned fistula surgeon. Despite their strikingly different backgrounds and personalities, Mamitu and Catherine were united by their commitment to a shared vision, and formed an enduring partnership. A wonderful story of practical spirituality, incredible determination and a remarkable friendship.



Shortlisted

How to Talk About Jesus (Without Being That Guy): Personal Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Sam Chan
Zondervan
9780310112693

In a post-Christian age the gospel is, again, wonderfully foreign. This climate favours the amateur evangelist. Less talking, more listening. Fewer answers, more questions. Less debate, more hospitality. Fewer formulas, more stories. Sam Chan is bright and enthusiastic, and has a firm grasp of contemporary culture and attitudes. His handbook is fresh and encouraging and seeks to ensure that if anyone offends or shines, it will be Jesus.

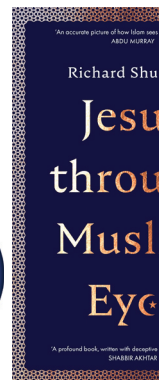


Shortlisted

I Want to Fix Ears: Inside the Cochlear Implant Story

Graeme Clark
ISCAST
9780645067101

A giant of medical science tells the story of the invention of the bionic ear. After watching his father struggle with hearing loss, Graeme Clark overcame obstacles and opposition to bring the gift of hearing to profoundly deaf children and adults. *I Want to Fix Ears* is beautifully presented and comprehensive. It includes testimonies of patients and chronicles research, innovation and advances across numerous disciplines. Clark's compassion, creativity, integrity and accomplishments are attributed to his trust in Jesus. An inspiring journey of perseverance, enterprise and faith.



Shortlisted

Jesus Through Muslim Eyes

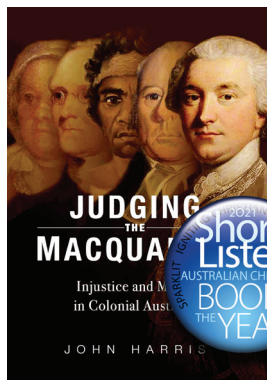
Richard Shum
SPCK
9780281081936

Jesus Through Muslim Eyes examines and explores how Jesus we meet in Islamic tradition. The Bible in a lucid way. Richard Shum is both rigorous and accessible. By focusing on the common ground, he moves the conversation between Christians and Muslims in a positive direction. He recognises both the connection and the difference, and leaves the reader with the heart and mind of the gospel: the love of Jesus. A truly valuable book.



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Shortlisted

Judging the Macquaries: Injustice and Mercy in Colonial Australia

John Harris

Acorn

9780647530412

In this well-researched study of Australian colonial life, John Harris evaluates the life and legacy of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth. Their correspondence reveals a couple united by deep affection and motivated by Christian devotion. Kindness defined Lachlan Macquarie's personality and actions, and his merciful treatment of convicts and Aboriginal people attracted both admiration and scorn. However, the crime at the heart of colonialism—the injustice of dispossession—cannot be smoothed over; not by charity, not even by the most compassionate of colonial administrators. A most timely and pertinent work.



Shortlisted

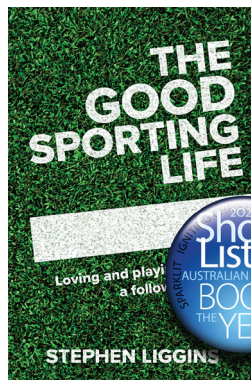
Talking Sex By the Book: Giving Kids a Bible-Based View of Identity, Relationships and Sexuality

Patricia Weerakoon

Youthworks

9781925879476

Christian parents overwhelmed by ubiquitous pornography and multiplying expressions of sexual identity will find Patricia Weerakoon's authority, experience and pastoral style appealing. This is not a time to retreat or acquiesce. Weerakoon is frank, explicit and practical, and unapologetically places the benefits of what God has revealed above political correctness. This book is easy to navigate and each section includes a guide to age-appropriate talk and action.



Shortlisted

The Good Sporting Life: Loving and Playing Sport as a Follower of Jesus

Stephen Liggins

Matthias Media

9781925424645

Sport might be time off work, but it is not time off being a Christian. *The Good Sporting Life* examines the nature and power of sport and its place in Australian culture. In this unique book, a passionate sportsman and follower of Jesus shows how Christians can profitably engage with sport as players, coaches, fans, parents and spectators. As Christians we are to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Liggins is wise, practical and easy to read. There's nothing wrong with competition. The challenge is in how we play the game.



Shortlisted

Western Fundamentalism: Democracy, Sex and the Liberation of Mankind

Gordon Menzies

Gordon Menzies

9780648728504

Western Fundamentalism exposes the brittle state of Western society following the rejection of its Christian foundations and social contract. Gordon Menzies shows how our unquestioning commitment (fundamentalism!) to democracy, sexual freedom and deregulated markets is radically individualistic and a threat to human flourishing. His critique is profound and provocative, and transcends the narratives of both Left and Right. Menzies is original, wry and surprising.

**Titles submitted for the
2021 Australian Christian
Book of the Year Award**

Acorn

Judging the Macquaries,
John Harris

The Cost of Compassion,
Tim Costello

The Pleasures of Pessimism,
Natasha Moore

Ark House

Are We There Yet?
Ruth Baker

*Christians Contemplating
Abortion?*
Sharon McFee

Forty Years of Thankfulness,
Nada Appleby

Four Visions,
Paul Cummings

Grit, Grace and Hustle,
Rachel Reva

Hollow Hearts,
Alison Mortimer

Jump Into the Unknown,
Melanie Downes

Looking for NX14771,
Ian Heard

*Reconciled from Abortion's
Chains,* Sharon McFee

Science and Genesis,
Neville Piper

Subtitles, Shadi Alexander

*The One and Only Saviour of
the World,* Carlee Yardley

Australian Heart

Cross and Culture,
Kurt Mahlburg

Authentic Media

A Time to Hope, Naomi Reed

The Man in White,
Ernest Crocker

Blue Gum

*A Nature Lover's Guide
to Seeing God,*
Bob & Evelyn McDonald

Cardinia Ranges

Unexpected,
Jozua van Otterloo

Cascade

Abundance,
Andrew Lansdown

*Conversations With
Silence,* Sally Longley

*Holding Up Half the
Sky,* Graham Hill
Prophets as Performers,
Jeanette Mathews
Salt, Light, and a City,
Graham Hill

Christopher Dawson

Heart to Heart,
Ed. David Daintree

Coventry Press

Call No One Father,
Berise Heasley

Clericalism, Gideon Goosen

*Jesus as Portrayed in the New
Testament,* Michael Fallon

Neither Male Nor Female,
Noel Schultz

Not Forgotten,
Ed. Anne Benjamin &
Seamus O'Grady

*On Being Blackfella's Young
Fella,* Glenn Loughrey

When We Pray,
Ed. Stephen Burns &
Robert Gribben

**Daughters of Love
and Light**

Daring Clare,
Jenny Glazebrook

Saving Beth,
Jenny Glazebrook

Deborah Hilton

Out of Control,
Deborah Hilton

Denise Champion

Anaditj, Denise Champion

Michael Babbage

On the Way,
Michael Babbage

Elephant House

Skinny Girl, Susan Brown

Enclave

Apprentice, Kristen Young

Fifty Days Press

When the Smoke Clears,
Chrissy Guinery

Fontaine

*Money, Sex & Eternal
Life,* John Bryant

Garratt

*Doorways into Hope
and Joy at Advent and
Christmas,* Michael McGirr

*Leadership in a Synodal
Church,* Anne Benjamin
& Charles Burford

Leading Catholic Schools,
Angelo Belmonte &
Richard Rymarz

Virgins and Jezebels,
Christopher Geraghty

Golden Grain

Organized Backup,
Meredith Resce

**Good News in the
Gum Trees**

Glory, Jodie Cooper

Gordon Menzies

Western Fundamentalism,
Gordon Menzies

Hawkes Flight Media

The Syrian Stone,
Nick Hawkes

I Was Carried

Declare, Roma Waterman

ISCAST

I Want to Fix Ears,
Graeme Clark

Jane Berry

Ministering Like Jesus,
Jane Berry

JMB Books

Down by the Water,
Jo-Anne Berthelsen

Kani Consultants

*Salvation Through the
Gift of Help,* Sandra Joy

Lion Hudson

Reflect With Sheridan,
Sheridan Voysey

Matthias Media

The Good Sporting Life,
Stephen Liggins

Mercia Press

Murderers and Missionaries,
Travis McHarg

Monash University

Binding Things Together,
Ronald Noone

Morning Star

*"Do You Love Me?" and
Other Big Questions Jesus
Asked,* Graham Hooper

Catherine Booth,
David Malcolm Bennett

Harry Goodhew,
Stuart Piggin
Letters Patent, Graham Leo

Ordinary Miracles,
Rob Coyle

The Sacred Life of Words,
Mark Worthing

NavPress

Hide This in Your Heart,
Michael Frost & Graham Hill

Nenge Books

The Treasury of Teapu,
Ray Grindley

Noel Towns

Good News Poetry,
Noel Towns

Ocean Reeve

Walk On, Haydn Parsons

Pacific Wanderland

Hands Upon the Anvil,
Sara Powder

Pan Macmillan

Healing Lives, Sue Williams

Rachel Stubbersfield

Ruth, Edgar Stubbersfield

Reading Stones

Matt's Boys of Wattle Creek,
Olwyn Harris

Reflections, Helen Brown

Resource Publications

In the Twinkling of an Eye,
Paul Cummings

*The Fault Lines Founding
Liberty,* Sarah Bacaller

The People, Ian Heard

The Person, Ian Heard

Routledge

*Evangelicals and the End of
Christendom,* Hugh Chilton

SCD Press

*Embracing Life and
Gathering Wisdom,*
Ed. Edwina Blair, Catherine
Kleemann & Stephen Smith

Signs Publishing

Advent, Nathan Brown

*If You Are Thirsty You
Can Be Spirit-Filled,*
Peter Roennfeldt

Sisters in Arms,
Sukeshinie Goonatilleke

Simon van Bruchen

Fear Not,
Simon van Bruchen

Space Between

The Unexpected Gift,
Joelle Kabamba

SPCK

*Jesus Through Muslim
Eyes,* Richard Shumack

*The Spiritual Formation
of Evelyn Underhill,*
Robyn Wrigley-Carr

**Strategic Book Publishing
and Rights (SBPRA)**

Read Your Bible!
James Campbell

Sun Seeker

Overcome, Rachele Sadler

Tabor

Moments and Memories,
Barry Chant

The Dust Poet

*Songs of Love to
God in the End Time,*
Geraldine Callaghan

The Good Book Company

Being the Bad Guys,
Steve McAlpine

Wesley Mission

*Faith, Compassion
and the Challenge of
Business,* Keith Garner

Wipf and Stock

As for Me and My House,
Daryl Potts

*Grounded in the Body,
in Time and Place, in
Scripture,* Ed. Jill Firth &
Denise Cooper-Clarke

*Jacob's Story as Christian
Scripture,* Philip Kern

*Liberating the Will of
Australia,* Geoffrey Burn

Youthworks

I Saw a Lamb, Michael Raiter

Talking Sex by the Book,
Patricia Weerakoon

Zondervan

*How to Talk About Jesus
(Without Being That
Guy),* Sam Chan



2021 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

Winner



Megan Southon *Daisies in Winter*

To escape her constant battle with crippling social anxiety, Daisy writes poetry. However, to be open to the

prospect of love she must look beyond her secure and stagnant solitude. Daisy turns from asking God, "Why am I like this?" to begin a courageous journey of self-acceptance. *Daisies in Winter* combines immersive, stylised self-talk with natural dialogue to explore the struggle for self-discovery which characterises adolescence. Tension is generated by drawing tangible parallels between external events and the protagonist's internal world. *Daisies in Winter* is warm, mature and thoughtful. The struggle and the triumph is learning to reach out to God, not just once, but on a daily basis.

An extract from *Daisies in Winter*

Daisy reclaimed her bag. Because she wanted to. She wanted to be in control of her safety, her 'happiness' and herself. Maybe that's why God never helped her. She always reclaimed her baggage.

She only realised the reality a minute into the walk. Jack was walking her home, sharing an umbrella with her.

She was scared. Forced into a fork in a road. Two choices. Speak, and mess everything up. Don't speak, and mess only a lot of things up. Don't speak, she chose.

She wished she had the ability to express herself in prose as she did in poetry. No such luck, so it was better to keep her mouth shut.

The silence wove its way into her heart, slowing its rhythm. Into her mind, quieting the voices of failure. A welcome silence. Usually silence only turned up the noise in her mind.

Jack broke the silence. The unusual, awkward safety.

"I wish you'd talk."

His words drizzled down to the bottom of her heart. No-one, except Jeremy, ever wanted her to talk, to be herself. No-one ever thought there was more to her than meets the eye. He'd seen the real Daisy, somehow, and that unlocked all the doors in her heart.

That was what allowed her to be simply Daisy for the rest of the purposefully slow walk home. She talked. He listened. He talked. She listened. Safe. It was a different kind of safe. It was beautiful. A daisy blooming through winter.

Second Prize

Anaya Rajaratnam *A Lesson in Murder*

Third Prize

Joel Simmonds *Evacuation Day*



2021 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

Winner



Rémy Chadwick *Creativity and Faith in Postmodern Australia*

Rémy Chadwick employs a range of styles and genres—essay, homage, homily,

literary criticism—to explore the ways in which the crucified and resurrected Christ challenges our fickle and competitive consumer culture. He is insightful, polemical and persuasive, and his voice is versatile and resounding. An effective apologist for his generation.

An extract from *Creativity and Faith in Postmodern Australia*

Beauty is evidence of premeditated grace. It is the joy of God materialised. In the Book of Job, when God finally responds to Job's cries for an explanation of his suffering, he offers no theological argument, nor explicit sympathy, nor reference to Job's circumstances. Instead, he uses poetry. God sings of what he has created: the humble and the great, the gentle and the terrible. Have a read of Job 38–41. God stops to pay tribute to his design for the weather. He casts the constellations—which men like Job named—as living creatures ruling the Earth in a firmamental drama.

God's theodicy includes even the wild donkey. Job cannot argue with such a performance. He remains in silent awe, in ashes, humbled beyond even his sufferings. I wonder what Job must have felt in that moment? Perhaps a sense of limitless love. A sense that not even his ruin can blemish the indestructible joy God has poured out in all things. A sense that he is no longer himself, having witnessed in a fraction of time the torrential majesty of his Maker's hands.

Honourable mention

Tanya Strydom
The Watch Collector

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 2021 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented on Thursday 2 September 2021.

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

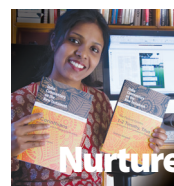


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