

## 2022 Australian Christian Book of the Year

### The Forest Underground: Hope for a Planet in Crisis

Tony Rinaudo

ISCAST

9780645067118

Appalled and infuriated by the abuse and degradation of the environment, a boy offers himself to God. God answers this child's prayer and the ensuing adventure across continents and decades is breathtaking. The simple and sustainable system of land management that Tony Rinaudo pioneered in Niger is transforming the lives of subsistence farmers around the world and offers a model for solving our environmental crisis. Reviving dormant tree stumps is as powerful a metaphor as it is a method of reforestation. Tony is determined and faithful, and writes without guile or hubris. Irresistible, exemplary and, above all, hopeful.

### 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

**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.

**Stephen McAlpine** has a background in journalism and is the

author of *Being the Bad Guys*, the 2021 Australian Christian Book of the Year. Steve and his wife Jill have been planting and pastoring churches in Perth for almost three decades. They have a heart for helping God's people navigate the increasingly complex cultural settings of the West today and live confident and joyful lives in changing times.

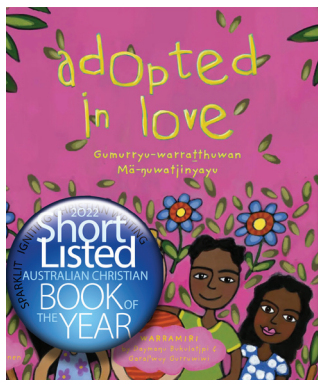
**Natasha Moore** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX). She has a PhD in English literature from the

University of Cambridge and is the author of *Victorian Poetry and Modern Life*, *The Pleasures of Pessimism* and *For the Love of God*, the 2020 Australian Christian Book of the Year. She is an incorrigible introvert, an avid reader and a surprised optimist.

### Awards Coordinator

Bei-En Zou





### Shortlisted

#### Adopted in Love

Rachel Herweynen

Acorn Press

9780647531433

Rachel Herweynen and her husband move to Elcho Island in the Northern Territory. *Adopted in Love* tells how they are welcomed and integrated into the local Yolŋu family. The generosity and tenderness they experience reflects the grace and love with which our heavenly Father adopts us through his son Jesus. The story is told in English and Warramiri. This bilingual book is charming, colourful and ground-breaking. A beautiful and disarming good news story.



### Shortlisted

#### A New Freedom:

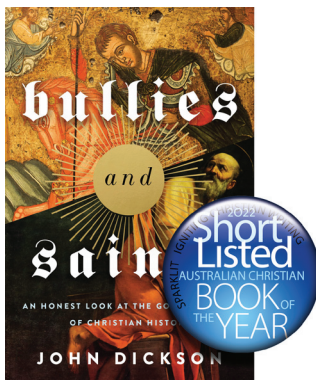
How God's Word  
Equips You for Life

Mike Snowdon

Youthworks Media

9781925879940

The author finds common ground with his teenage readers and their pursuit of freedom. He begins by introducing Jesus as the only source and example of true freedom. The paradox of freedom is explored with metaphor: A kite can only fly when tethered. Like flying, exercising freedom requires skill, discipline and practice. Snowdon is empathetic, encouraging and wise. There are numerous links to videos and other online resources. This attractive and engaging manual of Christian living and ethics takes seriously the demands of Jesus and our daily struggle to put them into practice.



### Shortlisted

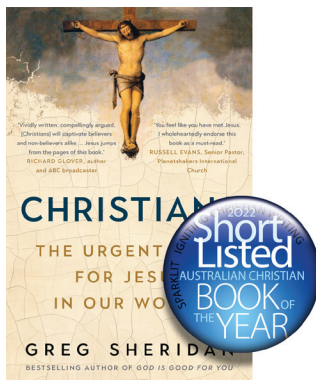
#### Bullies and Saints: An Honest Look at the Good and Evil of Christian History

John Dickson

Zondervan

9780310118367

Would the world be better off without Christianity? *Bullies and Saints* is a rigorous, astute and thorough examination of complex and little-known history. Dickson is frank and unflinching about our darkest deeds. This is a book that can be given to anyone; not just to sceptics and seekers, but also to believers wanting to thoughtfully and confidently advocate for their faith. History is rarely this accessible and fluent. Compulsive reading. A masterpiece.



### Shortlisted

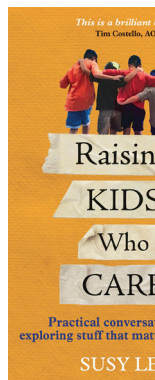
#### Christians: The Urgent Case for Jesus in Our World

Greg Sheridan

Allen & Unwin

9781760879099

A prominent journalist investigates the impact and influence of Jesus and people (including well-known Australians) who love and follow him. Sheridan writes with urgency and enthusiasm. He is curious, confident and wide-ranging. He meets common objections and questions, and appeals to the reader's common sense and discernment. The result is entertaining, credible and compelling. Perfect for unchurched readers.



### Shortlisted

#### Raising Kids Who Care Practical Conversations Exploring Stuff Together

Susy Lee

598 Press

9780645141009

Want to change the world? Start at home. Forty conversations for the whole family about relationships, ourselves, inner selves and the world. The conversations are in scope and content. Told in a way that is visiting your local community. Being part of the conversation. Fighting fair. Mum like Susy Lee.



**Who Care:**  
Conversations for  
a World That Matters,

the world?  
A guide to  
options for the  
about our  
our culture, our  
d the world.  
ons are global  
ontemporary  
gh tech talk.  
cal politician.  
ne solution.  
laking good  
We all need  
y Lee.



### Shortlisted

**Refuge Reimagined:**  
Biblical Kinship in  
Global Politics  
Mark R. Glanville  
& Luke Glanville  
InterVarsity Press  
9780830853816

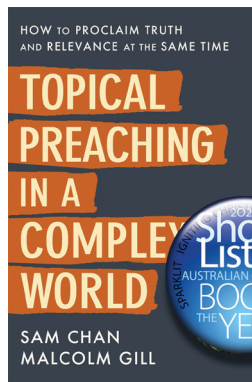
A timely reminder that displaced people looking for a home are our kin. The authors show how the biblical narrative and theology of kinship challenge our assumptions about refugees, national identity and the mission of the church. Bible scholarship is beautifully applied to one of the most vexed and urgent moral issues of our time. The book is both troubling and inspiring. An invitation to allow God to replace our guilt and fear with welcome, feasting and joy.



### Shortlisted

**Spacemaker:**  
How to Unplug, Unwind  
and Think Clearly in  
the Digital Age  
Daniel Sih  
100 Movements Publishing  
9781735598864

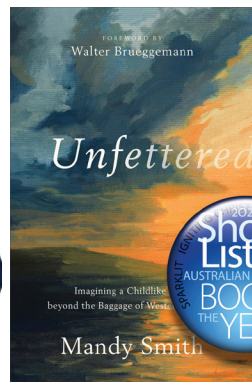
How do you spend your time? Need a dash of digital discipline? To tackle our complex relationship with technology, the author draws on sobering research, personal struggles and biblical wisdom. His life hacks have been tested and proved while rearranging the habits of industry leaders and business managers. Daniel Sih is clear, direct and practical. A manual for reclaiming space in our lives for what really matters.



### Shortlisted

**Topical Preaching in  
a Complex World:**  
How to Proclaim Truth and  
Relevance at the Same Time  
Sam Chan &  
Malcolm Gill  
Zondervan Academic  
9780310108900

While rehabilitating the neglected art of topical preaching, Sam Chan and Malcolm Gill deliver advice and techniques that will improve any sermon. The authors practise what they preach. Like a good sermon, the book is well-organised, clear, logical, culturally astute, vivid and includes good illustrations. They explore the theology, process and dynamics of how to speak the words of God to diverse audiences. An excellent textbook.



### Shortlisted

**Unfettered:**  
Imagining a Childlike Faith  
Beyond the Baggage of  
Western Culture  
Mandy Smith  
Brazos Press  
9781587435058

What did Jesus mean when he said that we can only enter the kingdom of God if we receive it like a little child? Mandy Smith endeavours to find out. Fasten your seatbelt. The journey is liberating but profoundly counterintuitive and countercultural. To enter the kingdom we must first repent of our inclination and aspiration to be self-sufficient and in control. Then, like a child, we must rest, receive and respond to the good things God has in store for us. Original, surprising and provocative.



**Titles submitted for the  
2022 Australian Christian  
Book of the Year Award**

**100 Movements  
Publishing**

*Spacemaker*, Daniel Sih

**598 Press**

*Raising Kids Who Care*,  
Susy Lee

**Acorn Press**

*Achievement Addiction*,  
Justine Toh

*Adopted in Love*,  
Rachel Herweynen

*Storytellers*, Bernie Power

*The End of Thinking*,  
Mark Stephens

**Allen & Unwin Australia**

*Christians*, Greg Sheridan

**Ark House Press**

*A Fuller Reality*, Linda  
& Richard Berlach

*A Road Divided*,  
Neil Emerson

*Days of Your Youth*,  
George Statheos

*Dust Rising*, Neil Emerson

*Fight, Flight and Faith*,  
Nikki Florence Thompson

*God's Ad-Man*, Tom Glynn

*God's Great Embrace*,  
Adrian Best

*Land of the Bible*,  
John Cronshaw

*Tell Them I'm Alive*,  
Marion Estelle Brown

*Vertical Living*,  
Michael Hubbard

**Australian Heart  
Ministries**

*Power of Prayer*, Kurt  
Mahlburg & Warwick Marsh

*Power of the Gospel*, Kurt  
Mahlburg & Warwick Marsh

**Authentic Media**

*Walking Him Home*,  
Feby Chan & Naomi Reed

**Bible Society Australia**

*Soar Above the Storm*,  
Nick Hawkes

**Big Sky Publishing**

*Sky Pilot*, Peter Davidson

**Bloomsbury Publishing**

*God in the Landscape*,  
Kerrie Handasyde

**Bluestone Books**

*Bridging the Gap*, Lee Koole

**Brazos Press**

*Unfettered*, Mandy Smith

**Canberra Baptist Church**

*Yes!* Thorwald Lorenzen

**Cardinia Ranges  
Publishing**

*Leadership & Me*, Philip Hunt

**Cascade Books**

*To Whom Shall We Go*,  
Ed. Irene Alexander &  
Christopher Brown

**Coventry Press**

*A Book of Blessings*,  
Glynn Cardy

*A Journey from the  
Beginning*, Margaret Ghosn

*Alive with Disability*,  
Khoi Doan Nguyen

*A Time to Speak*, Ray Cleary

*Living with COVID*,  
Bruce Kaye

*Making Australia Fair*,  
John White

*Matters of Life and  
Faith*, Paul Mitchell

*Music from a Breaking  
Wave*, Denham Grierson

*Pandemics and Spiritual  
Seekers*, Paul Kraus

*Softly Shines This Love*,  
Marie Leonie Williams

*The Church as Salt*,  
Sally Douglas

*The Joy of Ageing*,  
Brian Gallagher

*Will I Go Blind?*  
Noel Mansfield

**Diakonia**

*Last Trip to Eternity City*,  
Neil Flower

*The Mission Dimension*,  
Neil Flower

*Tough Track to Eternity  
City*, Neil Flower

**Daughters of Love & Light**

*Two Sisters and a Brain  
Tumour*, Emily Maurits

**Fiona Pfennigwerth**

*The Book of Psalms  
Illuminated*, Fiona  
Pfennigwerth

**Forty South Publishing**

*No Ordinary Convict*,  
Janine Marshall Wood

**Frendrussi Press**

*A Dozen Disappointing  
Disciples*, Tom French

**Garratt Publishing**

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

*This Cup We Bless*,  
Michael McGirr

**Gurumbi Publishing**

*The Breach*, Mac Cusiter

*The Star Child*, Mac Cusiter

**InterVarsity Press**

*Refuge Reimagined*, Mark R.  
Glanville & Luke Glanville

**ISCAST**

*The Forest Underground*,  
Tony Rinaudo

**Jacob Thomas**

*The Theology Basement*,  
Jacob Thomas

**Lavinia Wilson**

*Where's the Red Button?*  
Lavinia Wilson  
& Alison Lloyd

**Lexham Press**

*The Apostles' Creed*,  
Ben Myers

*How Do We Talk with  
Skeptics?* Sam Chan

**Living Letters Publishing**

*You Can Handle the Truth*,  
Chad Mansbridge

**Louise Coetzee**

*Closer than Breath*, Maria  
Coetzee & Louise Coetzee

**Monika Zanardo**

*Refinding Joy*, Monika  
Zanardo

**Morling Press**

*Rise*, Jim Baucom  
& Ross Clifford

**Moshpit Publishing**

*Charge at the Dark*,  
David Schaeffer

**Niv Neyland**

*Finding Myself Inside*,  
Niv Neyland

**Pan Macmillan**

*A Doctor in Africa*,  
Andrew Browning

**Piquant**

*Pub Theology*,  
Ed. Irene Alexander  
& Charles Ringma

**Planetshakers Ministries**

*Think Like a King*, Neil Smith

**Regnum**

*Islam & Women*, Moyra Dale

**Resource Publications**

*Ruth*, Edgar Stubbersfield

*Finding Your Voice*,  
Jennifer Turner

**Routledge**

*Theology and Climate  
Change*, Paul Tyson

**Signs Publishing**

*Remembering Mona  
Mona*, Brad Watson

*The Command*,  
Bruce Manners

*Advent for Kids*, Karen  
Collum & Nathan Brown

*Your Church Has Changed*,  
Peter Roennfeldt

**SPCK**

*Music of Eternity*,  
Robyn Wrigley-Carr

**Steph Penny**

*Surviving Childlessness*,  
Steph Penny

**Tellwell Talent**

*A Letter to Dabjebrosato*,  
John Moore

**The Good Book Company**

*Truth on Fire*, Adam Ramsey

*Who Am I and Why Do I  
Matter?* Chris Morphey

*Read This First*, Gary Millar

**The Invisible Tree**

*The Invisible She*,  
Kirrily Lowe

**Tulip Publishing**

*The Gospel*,  
Neil Cullen McKinlay

*The Westminster Confession  
of Faith*, Rowland Ward

**Ultimate World  
Publishing**

*Living by Faith*,  
Amanda Nickson

*Don't Just Fly, Soar*,  
Kelly Markey

**Vivienne Freestone**

*Discovering Matthew*,  
Vivienne Freestone

**Wilkinson Publishing**

*Christianity is Good  
for Us*, Kevin Donnelly

*A Glorious Ride*,  
Tony McLellan

**Wipf & Stock**

*Living for Shalom*,  
Jeanette Woods

*The Narrative Integrity of  
Mark 13:24–27*, Peter Bolt

**Written For Our  
Instruction**

*Distinctively Christian  
Retirement*, Simon  
van Bruchem

**Youthworks Media**

*A New Freedom*,  
Mike Snowdon

**Zondervan**

*Bullies and Saints*,  
John Dickson

*Seven Things I Wish  
Christians Knew about  
the Bible*, Michael Bird

*Topical Preaching in a  
Complex World*, Sam  
Chan & Malcolm Gill



## 2022 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

### Winner



### Rachael Board *To Be Like Him*

Reeling from the loss of her twin brother, Georgia wrestles with her grief ... and his faith. Can Blake's God

have anything to say to her now? Georgia tells herself she's not having a bar of it! But sometimes people say one thing and mean another. The protagonist's internal contradictions are realistic and the story's tone is refreshingly raw. The gradual revelation of God's loving and life-giving presence in the aftermath of tragedy is thought-provoking and hopeful.

### Extract from *To Be Like Him*

*I walked into the kitchen to find Ophelia, my divorced and not-so-commendable mum, working a piece of dough on the counter. She smiled up at me and beckoned me over to take a seat. My steps were slow yet determined. I walked away from the picturesque white counters, olive green splashback and pot plant-infested window and followed the wooden floorboards along the hallway into my bedroom.*

*I sat cross-legged on my bed and let the tears run down my cheeks. Emotions were strange to feel upon my face, after weeks of*

*blank emptiness. I let the wetness wash the cracks and plaster I had endured for so long. In that moment I let everything peel off to reveal my true self. Broken and lost.*

*Closing my eyes, I felt myself being pulled back to warmth and love. I opened my foggy eyes and fell back onto my pillows. Staring at the ceiling, I read the quotes Blake had often said, only now I knew these were the words of his God.*

*"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."*

*"I am your fortress."*

*"Be still, and know that I am God."*

*I wrapped a blanket around my feverishly shaking body and rested among the pillows.*

*I may have been there moments, or maybe hours, but when I opened my crusty eyes, I found Ophelia laying beside me, also wrapped in my blanket. My every instinct was to scream at her face but her comfort for my pain was long overdue.*

*Being loved was long overdue.*

### Second Prize

### Melinda Herman *Of War and God*



## 2022 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

### Winner



### Nichola Chadwick *Breathe on Me*

Close, intricate and consistent, this collection of poems traces the writer's journey as she grapples

with questions of God's character. Rich metaphors make her doubt and struggle, as well as her awe at the majesty of creation, relatable. Chadwick's language is powerful and mature. She reveals a complex understanding of the nature of God, moving from fear of the idea of his presence, to fear in his presence.

### "Breath" from *Breathe on Me*

*Is the thickness of the stars amidst their  
blackness  
really the embrace of your cupped hands  
fused around us?*

*Maybe divine hands glitter  
or perhaps you're wearing evening gloves.  
It looks like space to me.  
You evade and tangle me  
standing small on this tiny earth  
Your breath brushes past my ear  
when I have lost mine  
and I lose mine*

When I look at the sun,  
 that inextricable elixir  
 gazing life and glaring death  
 when I watch bees slung low with pollen  
 sharing whispers across blooms  
 when opaque eyes clear into galaxies  
 and the soul's breadth sings  
 when a lofty peak bows its head  
 permits me to stand upon it  
 and behold

But is it not simply my own lost breath  
 blowing back in my face?

Breathe on me.  
 Take off those illusionist gloves  
 Let me see your palms patterning the sky

## Second Prize

**Stephanie Cluff**  
*Yield*

## 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 2022 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented on Thursday 1 September 2022.

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

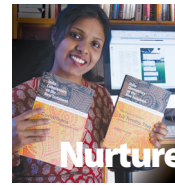


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