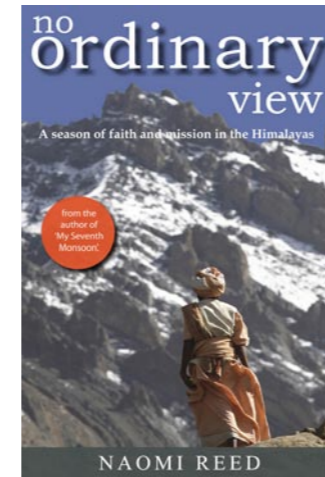




AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY

2009 Australian Christian Book of the Year

Winner



No ordinary view:
A season of faith and mission in the Himalayas
Naomi Reed
Ark House Press
ISBN 9780980452341

A gripping story, compellingly told. An Australian missionary, wife and mother in Nepal during the recent Maoist revolution, Naomi Reed involves the reader in the drama that enveloped

her family. From within the uncertainty of Nepal's political unrest, Naomi continues the story of her family's vision to share God's love in words and action, training Nepali physiotherapists. With refreshing candor, she builds into her story helpful reflections on how Christ was at their side during the worst (and the best) moments. It's all about trust.

Naomi is a gifted writer who holds the reader spellbound in this sequel to her first book *My seventh monsoon*. More than once we were moved to ask ourselves, what are we doing with our lives?

The Himalayan view from our back porch was normally breathtaking but that day I sat there and wondered. Ten years of civil war, a deteriorating health care system, an economic crisis and a political stalemate. It was a background of hopelessness for the lives of our Nepali friends and the community that we lived in. In such a setting of pain and darkness, how could God reveal his nature? And how could he call me by name? I wasn't sure. I didn't think it was possible.

Joint 2nd Prize



Catherine's gift:
Inside the world of Dr Catherine Hamlin
John Little
Pan Macmillan Australia
ISBN 9781405038829

John Little continues the story of Catherine Hamlin, an Australian regularly hailed as a 'national living treasure'. Together with her late husband she founded a fistula hospital in Ethiopia half a century ago. *Catherine's Gift* tells the story of Dr Hamlin and her patients, and how her work attracted recognition and support from around the world. Her life of faithful obedience makes a vivid story that all readers are likely to find deeply moving.

Other Short-listed titles



Bright lights, dark nights:
The enduring faith of 13 remarkable Australians
Simon Smart
Blue Bottle Books
ISBN 9781921460104

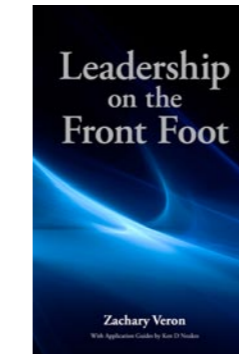
The thirteen Australian Christians include Aaron Baddeley, Tim Costello and Justin Langer together with others whose stories are not as well known but deserve to be. The focus is on how their faith has an impact on their daily lives. From the wife of a former prisoner to a Federal Court judge this book tells the story of thirteen remarkable Australians in natural and accessible language to encourage you to persevere and to inspire others to believe.



Now that you are back:
A journey through depression
Richard Beeston
Blue Bottle Books
ISBN 9781921460098

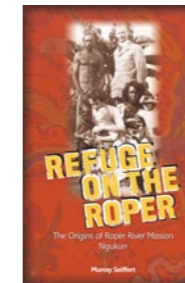
A revealing personal story about a journey into the blackest depression and back again. This is an awareness-raising book that will be helpful for anyone who experiences depression or knows someone who does. It will enable individual Christians and church communities to better support people who suffer from depression themselves and those who 'suffer' with them.

Joint 2nd Prize



Leadership on the front foot
Zachary Veron
Anglican Press Australia
ISBN 9781921460180

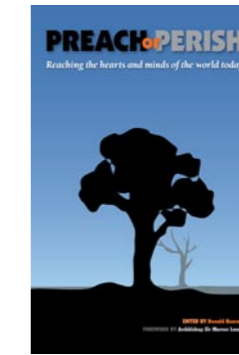
This book has the potential to change the church in Australia. While many Christian leaders are suffering from a crisis of confidence, Zachary Veron issues a timely challenge to boldly and courageously exercise Biblical leadership. In compiling this clear and pragmatic handbook, Zack draws extensively from his own pastoral experience. This is a 'skilling' book made even more practical by the useful application guides written by Ken Noakes. A book for anyone engaged in, or preparing for, Christian ministry.



Refuge on the Roper:
The origins of Roper River Mission, Ngukurr
Murray Seiffert
Acorn Press
ISBN 9780908284672

The astonishing story of the birth and growth of the Roper River Mission in the Northern Territory; beginning with God's work in the hearts of Victorian Christians in the early years of the 20th century. This carefully researched and scrupulously documented book tells a story that needs to be told about the positive role of missionaries in the lives of remote Aboriginal Australians. Well illustrated and indexed, this is an important addition to Australian Christian history.

Joint 2nd Prize



Preach or perish:
Reaching the hearts and minds of the world today
Donald Howard (ed)
Donald and Nan Howard
ISBN 9780646502649

This volume gathers a wealth of practical wisdom from Marcus Loane, Ken Short, John Chapman, Peter Jensen, J I Packer and a host of others. The editor contributes linking chapters that make this much more valuable than a simple anthology. This book will provide inspiration and guidance for anyone called upon to preach or lead a Bible study or teach in Sunday School. This may well become a standard text in theological and Bible colleges.



Take heart:
For families living with disability
Kate Hurley
Blue Bottle Books
ISBN 9781921460135

A mosaic of stories about those who are living with disabled children, the difficulties they face daily and their faith in the Saviour who loves their children even more than they do. This book meets a need for an informed, empathetic and Biblical view of disability. It will enable churches and Christians generally to better understand and support families who are challenged by living with a disabled child.

Judging criteria

Entries are read and 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.

Overall design, layout, cover, text and illustrations.

Contribution that the book makes in meeting a need in 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 art. Alex is married to Penny. They have three children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the secretary of the Mathew Hale Public Library based in Brisbane.

Kel Richards is an author, journalist and broadcaster. He currently works as a Presenter and Producer for the ABC's national News Radio network and the ABC's News Division, and writes and presents the daily Word Watch radio program. Kel has written 41 books including the best sellers *The Case of the Vanishing Corpse* and *The Aussie Bible*. Kel was awarded the degree of Master of Letters at the level of High Distinction by the University of New England for his thesis critiquing the noted atheist writer Richard Dawkins. Kel is a lay canon of St Andrews Cathedral. He is married to Barbara and they have two adult children.

Sally Smith is passionate about nurturing writers towards excellence and has spent the last 16 years in the book industry as a curriculum writer, author and Commissioning Editor for Scripture Union. Together with a role in children's ministry development for Baptist Churches NSW, she is a freelance editor and writer of Christian education resources and books for children. Her own writing has been published overseas and by four different Australian publishers. Sally serves on the SPCKA Council and is a long time member of BelAir Baptist church in Newcastle where her husband is an elder. They have three married daughters and five grandsons.

Coordinator

Michael Collier SPCKA National Director

Books submitted

ABC Books

God, Actually
Roy Williams

Acorn Press

Choices: One person's journey out of homosexuality
Christopher Keane

Jesus unbound: The story of Jesus of Nazareth
Jonathan Holland

Refuge on the Roper
Murray Seiffert

Ten Commandments and ethics today
Scott Cowdell

Wasps, tykes and ecumaniacs: Aspects of Australian sectarianism 1945–1981
Benjamin Edwards

Advance Books

17 irritating laws of followship: Rediscovering what it means to follow the radical Jesus
Mark Gladman

Allen & Unwin

The freedom paradox: Towards a post-secular ethics
Clive Hamilton

The miracles of Mary
Bridget Curran

Anglican Press Australia

Leadership on the front foot
Zachary Veron

Anne Hamilton

The winging word
Anne Hamilton

Apollos

Exploring Exodus: Literary, theological and contemporary approaches
Brian S. Rosner and Paul R. Williamson (eds)

Aquila

1 and 2 Samuel: Hope for the helpless
Andrew Reid

Ark House

Nemesis train
Nathan Brown

No ordinary view
Naomi Reed

Outback from Baragula
Mary Hawkins

Unlocking the power of prayer
Berni Dymet

Watch out! Godly women on the loose
Corallie Thornton

Women rising: A challenge to stand up and step out
Amanda Antcliff

Aureolin Blue

Ragged edges: Poems from the margins
Charles Ringma

Broughton Publishing

The place of Anglicanism in Australia: Church, society and nation
Brian Fletcher

Blue Bottle Books

Bright lights, dark nights
Simon Smart

Now that you are back: A journey through depression
Richard Beeston

Take heart: For families living with disability
Kate Hurley

Cambridge University Press

An introduction to world Anglicanism
Bruce Norman Kaye

Church Publishing

Reinventing Anglicanism
Bruce Norman Kaye

Donald and Nan Howard

Preach or perish
Donald Howard (ed)

Downstairs Studio

Free too
Chris Thiele

Frank Communications

A divine society: The Trinity, community and society
Dave Andrews

Fremantle Press

Camino footsteps
Kim and Malcolm Wells

Pope Max
David Caddy

Ginninderra Press

Southpaw
Adrian Lane

Hendrickson

At home in a strange land: Using the Old Testament in Christian ethics
Andrew Sloane

HSM Publishing

Baileys Crossing
Jeff Townsend

Francy the fearful firefly: Teaching children about fear
Jen Anderson

Piece By Piece
Tammy Tolman

Water, wine and a wonderful wedding
Cameron Semmens

InterVarsity Press

Messiah: Jesus, the evidence of history
Paul Barnett

A Bird's eye view of Paul: The man, his mission and his message
Michael Bird

John Garratt Publishing

God in the present moment: Prayer in the 21st century
Hedley Beare

Liturgical Press

A costly freedom: A theological reading of Mark's Gospel
Brendan Byrne

Margot Ogilvie

You can be another great Australian: The challenge of Australia's Christian heritage
Margot Ogilvie

Margaret Wilcox

Saint Anthony
Margaret Wilcox

Matthias Media

A foot in two worlds: The joy and struggle of the normal Christian Life
John Chapman

The essential Jesus
Various

You: An introduction
Michael Jensen

Melbourne University Press

Sambell: A man of the word
Michael Challen

New Creation

Power in relationships: Issues of love and control
Martin Bleby

To live is Christ
Ian Pennicook

Oxford University Press

God, the best and evil
Bruce Langtry

Pan MacMillan Australia

Catherine's Gift: Inside the world of Dr Catherine Hamlin
John Little

Paulist Press

God and Bible: Exploring stories from Genesis to Job
Antony Campbell

Random House

Fifty years of silence
Jan Ruff-O'Herne

Show & Tell

The sceptic's guide to God
David Heenan

Spectrum

Taking the plunge: Seeking, accompanying, baptising
Ron Browning

Strand Publishing

Open house
Sheridan Voysey

Re-Jesus: A wild messiah for a missional church
Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch

Thomas Nelson

The trouble with Paris: Following Jesus in a world of plastic promises
Mark Sayers

UNSW Press

Children on demand: The ethics of defying nature
Tom Frame

Upon the Hill: A History of St Patrick's College, Goulburn
David Bollen

Wakefield Press

Matthew Beovich: A biography
Josephine Laffin

Wipf and Stock

First Corinthians: An exegetical and explanatory commentary
B Ward Powers

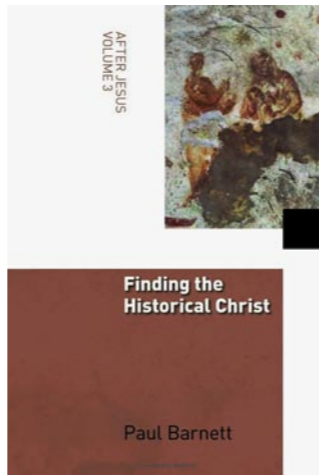
On Rowan Williams: Critical essays
Matheson Russell (ed)

Wombat Books

Yellow zone
Janelle Dyer

2009 Australian Christian Theological Writers' Award

Winner



Paul Barnett

After Jesus, Volume 3: Finding the Historical Christ

William B Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, ISBN 9780802848901

Paul Barnett is one of the most productive and important Australian Christian writers of this generation. His writings on the New Testament have won him both national and international

respect. In recognition both of his achievements and the calibre of this book, the final instalment of his 'After Jesus' trilogy, the judges have selected Paul Barnett for the 2009 Australian Christian Theological Writer's Award. *Finding the historical Christ* provides a fund of information for those seeking to better understand the background to the New Testament. It has a clear polemical design, seeking to engage with those sceptical of the New Testament documents as a reliable guide to the historical Jesus. As with Barnett's other books in the series, it is clearly structured, persuasive and accessible to both the scholar and the lay person.

Honourable Mentions

Michael Bird

A Bird's eye view of Paul:

The man, his mission and his message

InterVarsity Press, Nottingham, ISBN 9781844742554

From the prolific New Testament author, this is a fine, readable introduction to the theology of the Apostle Paul. The book combines up to date scholarship with a personable, easy-to-read writing style. While the book is aimed at the theological student and informed lay person, it proves a profitable and stimulating read for those in the academic fraternity. As well as addressing the traditional issues of salvation, justification and the gospel Bird brings Paul's perspective on contemporary issues, dealing briefly with such points of controversy as women's ministry and homosexuality.

Andrew Sloane

At home in a strange land:

Using the Old Testament in Christian ethics

Hendrickson, Peabody, ISBN 9781598560848

This is an honest and engaging attempt to confront some of the problems the Old Testament presents in constructing a Christian ethical framework. A book for both the academy and the church, Sloane writes with an easy-to-read style. In dealing with thorny issues such as slavery, holy war and ritual impurity he is frank yet sympathetic to their offence to the modern reader.

Roy Williams

God, Actually

ABC Books, Sydney, ISBN 9780733322921

Australia's best-selling religious book of last year (reprinted three times in Australia) *God, Actually* is a lay person's response to the arguments of the New Atheism. Williams, a lawyer, writes with honesty and conviction. This is an original and well-written book aimed at the general reader. It is a significant contribution to the growing apologetic literature that is seeking to engage and refute Dawkins and others.

2009 Young Australian Christian Writer of the Year

Winner

Leng Te

Into your mystery

The richness of life experience from which Leng Te draws, the enthusiasm with which she writes about it and the maturity with which she reflects upon it prove irresistible. The reader is quickly seduced.

Leng interweaves autobiography, Biblical narrative, journal entries and song lyrics in a way that brings the reader into the conversation between the God of infinite surprises and her personal pilgrimage and fearless probing. The issues dealt with are far from trivial and close to the everyday lives of young Christians everywhere. Each section or story concludes with a practical exercise which invites us to connect our own story with the author's journey of discovery.

Into your mystery is passionate, relevant, displays a good range of genre, excellent use of life experience and wise Biblical reflection.

I wasn't old enough to fully experience what my family went through in their journey from Cambodia to Thailand, and then to Australia. I was the child in the belly, and the woman in this story is my mother. I'm telling her story because in many ways it's my story too. It's God's story. This is a story about Him watching over us even before we knew Him. It's a story about God keeping us safe, and calling my parents to Himself at just the right time. It's about God not abandoning us even when at times it felt like there could be no God and no justice.

2nd Prize

Justin Denholm

Talking about ethics

Certificates of Commendation

Roslyn Weaver

Altar ego

Nathan Hobby

The house of Zealots

Skye Parry Jones

Free-falling

Rhonda Mason

Life without Cameron

Scott Buchanan

My Creator, my Redeemer: A study of the Gospel According to John chapters 1–3

SPCKA

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Christian literature in difficult places