

The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce
The 2023 Word Awards Short List
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2022

NOMINEES ARE PRESENTED ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME

UNPUBLISHED WORK CLASSES

FRESH INK {Student Writing Awards}

- Jamie Birtch: Smiths Falls, ON "*Phobia: Reign of Fear*"
- Daragon Keith: Mascouche, QC "*The Green Serenity*"
- Sarah VanZandbeek: Edmonton, AB "*I Am Thomas*"

IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Author Awards}

MANUSCRIPT—FIRST 3 CHAPTERS

- Paul Breen: Burlington, ON "*Coal Fusion*"
- Linda Brierly: Clearwater, B.C. "*Edge of the Ledge*"
- Willy Kotiuga: Pointe-Claire, QC "*Theology Breakfast Club*"
- Pirkko Rytkonen: Stouffville, ON "*Between Us*"

SHORT PIECE

- Rebecca Breen: Brantford ON "*When My Grandma Could Take Me Shopping*"
- Melissa Myers: Geary NB "*The Muslim Father*"
- Eugenia Robertson: Barrie ON "*Identity: Where Could I Find it?*"

SHORT STORY

- Brigitte Farrell: Grimsby, ON "*An Inconvenient Life*"
- Daniel Lewczuk: Burlington, ON "*The Beckoning*"

POETRY

- Maureen Hafso: Edmonton AB "*An Ode for Father's Day*"
- Anita McBride: Surrey BC "*Barn Owl Sleeping*"

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

- Val deVries: St Catharines ON "*The Worry/Free Challenge*"
- Sylvia St. Cyr: Niverville MB "*Grand*"
- SueAnne van Galen: Kitchener ON "*A Striking Appearance*"
- Larry McCloskey: Ottawa ON "*The University of Lost Causes*"
- Ellen Duffield: Moose Jaw SK "*Maroon Cove*"

DIGITAL ENTRY CLASSES

ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES – CHRISTIAN

COLUMN SINGLE

- Floyd Brobbel: Oakville, ON "*The freedom of religion or belief movement needs to be honest and talk about this*" (Genesis Publishing Group)
- David Guretzki: Ottawa ON "*Is the Church divided? What Ephesians says about unity and division*" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Home Equity Tax*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC "*Binding Our Digital Tongues*" (Light Magazine)

DEVOTIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL

- Karen deBlieck: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Elena Dee: Oakville, ON "*Bad Reception*" (Keys for Kids)
- Tim Perry: Grunthal, MB "*Living in two worlds: The hope of the gospel at Christmas*" (Faith Today)

LONG FEATURE

- Patricia Paddey: Winnipeg MB "*How MAiD is transforming Canadian end-of-life care: And what we ought to do about it*" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*UBC Reflections*" (Fraser River Books)
- Jens Zimmermann: Vancouver, BC "*Living Faithfully in a Secular Age*" (CRUX)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Karen deBlieck: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*My Encounter With A Wounded Bird Reminded Me of Something*" (Medium.com)
- Karen Stiller: Ottawa ON "*Christians at the convoy: How ordinary Christians ended up at Canada's noisiest protest and what it reveals about clashing views on freedom*" (Faith Today)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver, BC "*A human Christian response to depression: Avoiding secular and spiritual missteps*" (Faith Today)

PROFILE / HUMAN INTEREST

- Maureen Hafso: Edmonton AB "*MY MOM*" (Calvary Crosswinds)
- Barbara Hein & Thelma Corris: St. Catharines, ON "*Muriel's Miraculous Recovery*" (testimony/Enrich)
- Patricia Paddey: Winnipeg MB "*Recovering the voices of women long silenced: Inside the work of Canadian academic Marion Taylor*" (Faith Today)

BLOG-SINGLE

- Rachel Baarda: Ottawa ON "*Walk about Zion: What the Jerusalem ramparts walk taught me about the Eternal City*"
- Lynn Dove: Cochrane AB "*Dragonfly Dance*"
- N.J. Lindquist: Markham ON "*Thoughts About My Dad 30 Years After His Death*"

SHORT STORY

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB "*Christmas at the Crossroads*"
- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB "*Taste Budding*"
- John Van Rys: Dunnville, ON "*The Homely Dreams of a Silly Soul*" (Solum Literary Journal)

SONG LYRICS

- Jonathan Maracle: Tyendinaga Territory, ON "*I See Beauty*"
- Sally Meadows: Saskatoon SK "*You Are Loved*"

ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET

LONG FEATURE - GENERAL MARKET

- Susie Colby: Vancouver, BC "*Companionship in Grief*" (The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*UBC Reflections*" (Fraser River Books)

SHORT STORY – GENERAL MARKET

- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB "*Taste Budding*"
- John Van Rys: Dunnville, ON "*Parking Spots*" (Blank Spaces)

STAND ALONE ARTICLE – GENERAL MARKET

- David Kitz: Orleans, ON "*David Kilgour, a non-partisan MP who staunchly defended human rights*" (The Ottawa Citizen/Post Media)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Home Equity Tax*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)

COLUMN SERIES – GENERAL AND CHRISTIAN

- Bruce Clemenger: Perth ON "*The Gathering Place*" ("*The priority for health care*" Sep/Oct and "*Advocating for human dignity*" Nov/Dec)" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Transgenderism/Immensity*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Through the Valley of Shadow* (Parts 2&3)" (PostMedia (The Graphic Leader))

PUBLISHED BOOKS CLASSES

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN

- Tim J. Huff and Margie Timpson : Aurora ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by: Tim Huff
- Marcia Laycock: High River AB "*Merrigold's Very Best Home*" (Siretona Kids) Illustrated by: Kyla Wiebe
- Susan Reimer: Cochrane ON "*Strawberry Tea*" (Word Alive Press) Illustrated by: Sara Thompson

CONTEMPORARY

- Beverly Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*"
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Lilly's Promise*" (Word Alive)

HISTORICAL

- Katherine J. Le Gresley: Newcastle, ON "*The Light Keeper*" (Word Alive Press)
- Donna Mann: Elora ON "*Emma's Call: A Woman of Faith*" (Word Alive Press)
- Susan A. Mason: Brampton, ON "*A Feeling of Home*" (Bethany House Publishing/Baker Publishing Group)

MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

- Johanna Frank: "*Jophiel's Secret*"
- Beverly Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*"
- Janet Sketchley: Dartmouth NS "*Bitter Truth*"

ROMANCE

- Mary Haskett: Kanata ON "*Journey to Joy; A Wartime Novel of Love & Redemption*" (KD Publishing)
- Laura Thomas: Kelowna BC "*The Christmas Cabin*" (Anaiah Press)
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Jeanette's Gift*" (Wild Heart Books)

YOUNG ADULT

- Susan Reimer: Cochrane ON "*Penelope: A Companion Book to the Forged in Flames Series*" (Word Alive)
- Heidi M. Richardson: Olds, AB "*Tower of the Deep Vol 1: The Prisoner and the Traitor*"

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

- Bruce J. Clemenger: Perth ON "*The New Orthodoxy: Canada's Emerging 'Civil Religion'*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Michael W. Goheen & Timothy Sheridan: Surrey, BC, "*Becoming a Missionary Church:*" (Baker Academic)
- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver BC "*The Resurrection of Jesus Christ: Exploring its Theological Significance and Ongoing Relevance*" (Baker Academic)
- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver BC "*Pastoral Ethics: Moral Formation as Life in the Trinity*" (Lexham Press)

APOLOGETICS & BIBLICAL STUDIES

- John Bernier: Toronto, ON "*Rethinking the Dates of the New Testament: The Evidence for Early Composition*" (Regis College)
- Bruce J. Clemenger: Perth ON "*The New Orthodoxy: Canada's Emerging 'Civil Religion'*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Ann McCallum: Tottenham, ON "*A Holy Calling: Becoming a Godly Wife: A Bible Study in 1st Peter*" (Castle Quay Books)

CHILDREN

- Tim J. Huff and Margie Timpson : Aurora ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by: Tim Huff
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park AB "*Fruit Full: 100 Family Experiences for Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*" (Kregel Publications) Illustrated by: Luke Flowers

CHRISTIAN LIVING – SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- Valerie Limmer: Richmond Hill, ON "*Captive Set Free: How to Find Freedom Through Forgiving*"
- Darla Milne: Toronto ON "*Flame of God: The Fire of the Holy Spirit in Spain*" (Word Alive Press)
- Marva Tyndale: Mississauga, ON "*Ready. Set. Not Yet! Secrets for Teens about Sex*" (FriesenPress)

CULTURE

- Idelette McVicker: Surrey, BC, "*Recovering Racists: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming Our Humanity*" (Baker Publishing Group)
- Belma Vardy: Burlington, ON "*Because the Spirit was There. Windows into First Nations Communities*" (Castle Quay Books)

DEVOTIONAL

- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*Cross+Walk: Living Where the Kingdom of God and Our Window of Time Collide*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON "*Rooted : Daily Learning the Ways of Jesus*"
- Shireen Spencer: Toronto ON "*Prayers For You Today-365 Days of Heartfelt Prayers And Meditations*" (Word Alive Press)
- Gladys Thompson: Whitby ON "*Rebuild, Restore, Renew: Growing in Christ While Going Through Divorce*" (Word Alive Press)

INSPIRATIONAL

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Angilee Clarke: Brampton, ON "*Captivated: Life with the Holy Spirit*" (Word Alive Press)
- Lisa Elliott: Ottawa, ON "*A Ministry Survival Guide: Straight from the Heart*" (Word Alive Press)
- Sterling A. Penney: Moncton, NB "*My Father's House*" (Word Alive Press Canada)

INSTRUCTIONAL

- Ruth Esau: Calgary, AB "*Shifting Perspectives, Viewing Jesus Through a Leadership Lens*" (Word Alive Press)
- Valerie Limmer: Richmond Hill, ON "*Captive Set Free: How to Find Freedom Through Forgiving*"
- R.J. Robertson: Sechelt, BC "*Crouching Moses, Hidden Jesus*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver BC "*Thank You. I'm Sorry. Tell Me More. How to Change the World with 3 Sacred Sayings*" (NavPress)

LIFE STORIES–BIOGRAPHICAL

- Janet L. Bayman: Kelowna, BC "*Daring to Care God's Way: Growing Through a Lifetime of Adventures and Misadventures*"
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Mennonite in Motion*" (Fraser River Books)

LIFE STORIES–MEMOIR

- Shelly Calcagno: Beamsville ON "*The Longest Goodbye*" (Ambassador International)
- Janis Cox: Minesing, ON "*Be a Cancer Thriver*" (Butterfly Beacons - Janis Cox)
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover, ON "*No One Brings You a Casserole When Your Husband Goes to Rehab*" (Word Alive Press)
- Janet Williamson: Vernon BC "*God of the Valleys, Mysteries Along Life's Journey*" (Word Alive Press)

PERSONAL GROWTH

- Stafford Edwards: Ottawa, ON "*Contrails and Other Life Tracks*"
- Lisa Elliott: Ottawa, ON "*A Ministry Survival Guide: Straight from the Heart*" (Word Alive Press)
- Ann Griffiths: Abbotsford, BC "*Reignite Your Leadership Heart*" (Redemption Press)
- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*Cross+Walk: Living Where the Kingdom of God and Our Window of Time Collide*" (Word Alive Press)
- Jen Pollock Michel: Cincinnati, OH "*In Good Time: 8 Habits for Reimagining Productivity, Resisting Hurry, and Practicing Peace*" (Baker Academic)
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Gladys Thompson: Whitby ON "*Rebuild, Restore, Renew: Growing in Christ While Going Through Divorce*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver BC "*Thank You. I'm Sorry. Tell Me More. How to Change the World with 3 Sacred Sayings*" (NavPress)

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET FICTION

CHILDREN–FICTION

- Fred Ash: Calgary, AB "*Jesse and the Elves*" (Siretona Creative)
- Karen Autio: Kelowna, BC "*I Can, Too!*" (Scholastic)
- Loraine Kemp: Kelowna, BC "*Luna*" (Crwth Press)
- Jael Richardson: Brampton, ON "*Because You Are*" (Harper Collins)
- Christina Van Starckenburg: Victoria, BC "*Anne's Adventure: A Pirate's ABCs*"

ADULT – FICTION

- Leslie Ruth Damude: London, ON "*Hearts Of Wax*"
- Johanna Frank: Kitchener, On "*Jophiel's Secret*"

YOUNG ADULT – FICTION

- Susan Cullen: Chatham, ON "*The World Collective*" (Chicken House Press)
- Jennifer Willcock: Kitchener, On "*Into the Forest*"

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION

CULTURE

- Elizabeth Shepherd: Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, QC "*Montreal*"
- Shiree A. Jeejeebhoy: Toronto, On "*Brain Injury, Trauma, and Grief: How to Heal When you are Alone*"

LIFE STORIES

- Victoria Jurgens: Saskatoon, SK "*Plainfolk Stories from the Farm About the Impact German-Russian Farmers had on Two Countries and Seven Generations*" (FriesenPress)
- Marcia Magee McClelland: Osgoode, ON "*People Are Not Your Problem, They Are Your Purpose*" (Word Alive Press)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Mennonite in Motion*" (Fraser River Books)
- Ashley and Brenda Tindall: Guelph, ON "*The Way I See Things: A Mother and Daughter Offer Hope Through Tragedy*"

BOOKS – SPECIALTY BOOKS

- Floyd A. Brobbel: Oakville, ON "*From Under the Altar*" (Genesis Publishing Group)
- Kay Gillen: Ladysmith BC "*Dancing Between the Raindrops*" (Writer)
- Sally Ito: Winnipeg MB "*Heart's Hydrography*" (Turnstone Press)

SPECIALTY AWARDS

DEBRA FIEGUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Karen Autio: Kelowna, BC "*I Can, Too!*" (Scholastic)
- Bruce Clemenger: Ottawa, ON "*The Gathering Place*" ("*The priority for health care*" Sep/Oct and "*Advocating for human dignity*" Nov/Dec)" (Faith Today)
- David Guretzki: Ottawa, ON "*Is the Church divided? What Ephesians says about unity and division*" (Faith Today)
- Tim J. Huff & Margie Timpson: Aurora, ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by Tim Huff
- David Kitz: Orleans ON "*David Kilgour, a non-partisan MP who staunchly defended human rights*" (The Ottawa Citizen/Post Media)
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover, ON "*No One Brings You a Casserole When Your Husband Goes to Rehab*" (Word Alive Press)
- Patricia Paddey: Winipeg MB "*Recovering the voices of women long silenced: Inside the work of Canadian academic Marion Taylor*" (Faith Today)
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Elizabeth Shepherd: Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, QC "*Montreal*" (Writer)
- Karen Stiller: Ottawa, ON "*Christians at the convoy: How ordinary Christians ended up at Canada's noisiest protest and what it reveals about clashing views on freedom*" (Faith Today)
- Ashley and Brenda Tindall: Guelph, ON "*The Way I See Things: A Mother and Daughter Offer Hope Through Tragedy*"
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Jeanette's Gift*" (Wild Heart Books)

HARVEY/MACKEY JOURNALISM AWARD

- Susie Colby: Vancouver, BC "*Companionship in Grief*" (The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)
- Sterling A. Penney: Moncton, NB "*My Father's House*" (Word Alive Press Canada)

WRITER OF COLOUR

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Angilee Clarke: Brampton, ON "*Captivated: Life with the Holy Spirit*" (Word Alive Press)
- Karen deBlicek: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Stafford Edwards: Ottawa, ON "*Contrails and Other Life Tracks*"
- Sally Ito: Winipeg MB "*Heart's Hydrography*" (Turnstone Press)
- Shiree A. Jeejeebhoy: Toronto, ON "*Brain Injury, Trauma, and Grief: How to Heal When you are Alone*"
- Jael Richardson: Brampton, ON "*Because You Are*" (Harper Collins)
- Shireen Spencer: Toronto ON "*Prayers For You Today-365 Days of Heartfelt Prayers And Meditations*" (Word Alive Press)

BEST BLOG SITE OF THE YEAR *done*

- Sandee Macgregor: Georgetown ON "*Sovereign Radiance*" (sandeemacgregor.com/blog)
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover ON "*Leah Grey*" (LeahGrey.com/blog)

BEST BOOK COVER AWARD

- Susan Cullen: Chatham ON "*The World Collective*" (Chicken House Press) Cover design by Alanna Rusnak
- Ann Griffiths: Abbotsford, BC "*Reignite Your Leadership Heart*" (Redemption Press) Cover design by Lynette Bonner
- Victoria Jurgens: Saskatoon SK "*Plainfolk*" (FriesenPress) Cover design by Victoria Jurgens and Friesen Press
- Marcia Laycock: High River AB "*Merrigold's Very Best Home*" (Siretona Kids) Cover design by Kyla Wiebe and Colleen McCubbin
- Susan A. Mason: Brampton, ON "*A Feeling of Home*" (Bethany House Publishing/Baker Publishing Group) Cover design by Design Publish LLC / Jon Godfredson
- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON "*Rooted : Daily Learning the Ways of Jesus*" (Writer) Cover design by Cindy Thompson of Burst Impressions
- Beverley Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*" (Fraser River Books) Cover design by Alanna Rusnak
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park AB "*Fruit Full: 100 Family Experiences for Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*" (Kregel Publications) Cover art by Luke Flowers
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Lilly's Promise*" (Word Alive)
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Gracie's Surrender*" (Wild Heart Books) Cover design by Evelyne Labelle with Carpe Librum Book Design
- Jennifer Willcock: Kitchener, On "*Into the Forest*" Cover design by Jenneth Dyck

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE IT ONTO THE 2023 WORD AWARDS SHORTLIST

Copies of the 2023 Shortlist in both .docx and .pdf will be posted on
our [Media page](#) and [Finalists page](#)

Winners of The 2023 Word Awards will be announced on
September 15, 2023

BECOME A 2023 AWARDS SPONSOR

Please consider becoming a 2023 Awards sponsor. With your assistance we support Christian writers
across Canada.

To become a sponsor, please email us at: awards@thewordguild.com
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We also wish to thank last year's sponsors for their generous support
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