

Guidelines for Submissions
Best New Canadian Christian Author Contest 2009
Sponsored by Castle Quay Books Canada

Competition Purpose

To encourage first-time Canadian authors to write fiction and nonfiction books expressing Christian faith in a clear, original and inspiring way.

Prize

The winning manuscript will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize, or a \$1,000 advance against future royalties and a book publishing contract, should Castle Quay Books Canada decide to publish the book. The winning writer will receive publicity through media releases and other materials. The winner will be announced during The Word Guild Writing Awards Gala on June 17, 2009.

Eligibility

1. The contest is open to any professional or non-professional writer who has not previously had a book published and who is not currently under contract with a publisher *(see below).
2. The contest is open to writing by all Christians who affirm The Apostles' Creed** (see below).
3. The contest is open to Canadian citizens (including Canadian citizens living abroad) and to non-Canadians living in Canada who have legal permanent resident status.
4. The contest is open to original manuscripts written by the entrant that have never been published previously; in particular, books that have already been self-published are not eligible.
5. Members of the Best New Canadian Christian Author Contest administrative committee and their immediate family members are not eligible.
6. The Word Guild reserves the right to decline entries.

*For the purposes of this competition, a first-time author means a writer who has not previously had a book published by a royalty-paying publisher or on a work-for-hire basis. This includes sole authorship, or co-authorship with another writer. An author who has self-published another book or books previously is eligible to enter the contest provided he or she paid ALL the costs of publishing the book(s). An author who has written a book for a company as part of his or her job will qualify unless the person was identified as the sole writer of the piece, or the content or product was sold as the author's own work.

****The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

* the whole or universal church - not any one denomination

Rules for manuscript submission

1. Manuscripts must be received no later than November 28, 2008.
2. Manuscripts will not be returned.
3. One entry per writer.
4. Must be an original, never-before-published, completed manuscript of book length (no less than 30,000 words and no more than 90,000 words) written in English by the entrant.
5. May be in any fiction or nonfiction genre; no poetry or plays.
6. If the author represents the manuscript to be nonfiction, such as a life story told in the first person or third person, but it contains fictionalized segments, the author must write a cover letter to accompany the manuscript that clearly explains what aspects have been fictionalized. (For example, the manuscript is based on a true story, but the author used fiction techniques to create scenes or dialogue, or changed details to protect the identity of characters, etc.)
7. Target readership must be adults or young adults; children’s manuscripts are not accepted.
8. Target readership may be Christian believers or mainstream/secular/unchurched readers.
9. A manuscript that was previously submitted in this contest may be resubmitted one time if significant rewriting and revision has been done by the author. Please enclose a cover letter describing the significant changes, additions and deletions, so that judges can determine which sections have been rewritten, added, etc.
10. The manuscript may not be simultaneously submitted to another book publisher anywhere in the world while it is being considered for this contest. An entrant who is not named on the shortlist of finalists may submit the manuscript elsewhere after the shortlist is announced. Shortlisted entrants who are not contacted by the publisher within seven days after the announcement of the winner may submit the manuscript elsewhere.
11. Should employ a style that is positive (i.e., not destructive or accusatory) and objective (i.e., based on defensible facts and interpretation of biblical text; not highly subjective or ethereal) in presenting Christian faith.
12. Should set forth Christian truths and biblical information in a manner that is both fresh and clearly expressed, avoiding religious jargon, poorly explained biblical allusions or Christian “shorthand” that may confuse non-Christians.
13. May address complex and often ambiguous issues—such as the changing shape and structure of families, racism and prejudice, the search for spiritual fulfillment, evolving roles for men and women, poverty and unemployment, aging—in ways that are honest, open-minded and compassionate.

14. Must not violate the rights of any third party.
15. Must follow the Canadian Press Stylebook

Manuscript Format

All entries **MUST** follow standard format. Any entries that do not follow the format will be disqualified, and entry fees will not be refunded:

- Clean printing with a laser printer or good quality inkjet printer using black ink
- Good quality sharp photocopies are acceptable
- Times New Roman 12-point font for all text including any footnotes or endnotes (titles, chapter headings, etc. are excepted)
- Single-sided pages, numbered sequentially (pages **MUST** be numbered)
- Double-spaced lines
- Margins of at least 1" (2.5 cm) at left, right, top and bottom
- Include cover page listing manuscript title, word count
- **DO NOT** put the author's name on the title page or anywhere else in the manuscript
- Manuscript must be submitted as a stack of loose pages, in sequence, bound by elastic bands
- Do not staple or bind manuscript pages. Do not insert manuscript into binders, folders, etc. Do not "three ring punch" pages.

New for 2009

DO NOT include the author's name anywhere on the manuscript. The cover page must only list the manuscript title and the word count.

An entry consists of:

- **THREE** copies of the manuscript (good quality photocopies are acceptable)
- **FOUR** copies of the completed entry form. Please email one completed entry form to admin(at)thewordguild.(com). In the subject line, please type: Best New Author Contest 2009 Entry Form-your name.
- Cheque made payable to The Word Guild for the correct entry fee (see below).

Entry Fees

This contest has two categories of entries. Entrants must choose one of two options:

1. **Category One.** \$50 entry fee. The entrant's manuscript will be evaluated by two judges but the entrant will **NOT** receive any feedback or written critique from the judges. Enclose cheque payable to The Word Guild for \$52.50 Cdn (\$50+ \$2.50 GST) for residents of Canada. For non-residents of Canada, enclose cheque for \$50.00 U.S.
2. **Category Two.** \$150 entry fee. The entrant's manuscript will be evaluated by two judges and the entrant will receive two manuscript critiques (written comments). Enclose cheque payable to The Word Guild for \$157.50 Cdn (\$150.00 + \$7.50 GST) for residents of Canada. For non-residents of Canada, enclose cheque for \$150.00 U.S.

Judging

Judges chosen by executive members of The Word Guild and Castle Quay Books Canada will select a shortlist of entrants. Castle Quay Books Canada editorial and management staff will choose the winner. The decision of the judges will be final. Castle Quay Books Canada reserves the right to select no winner if, in the sole opinion of the judges and the editors, none of the manuscripts submitted is of publishable quality.

Castle Quay Books Canada reserves the right to award a \$1,000 cash prize in lieu of a \$1,000 advance against future royalties and a book publishing contract.

If Castle Quay Books Canada elects to publish the book, it will offer a standard form author's agreement to the author of the winning manuscript. Those terms of the offer not specified in the printed text of the standard form author's agreement will be determined by Castle Quay Books Canada at their sole discretion. The winner may request reasonable changes in the offered terms, but the publisher shall not be obligated to agree to any such changes. Winners will be required to complete a full book proposal form as supplied by Castle Quay Books Canada.

Should Castle Quay Books Canada decide to award a \$1,000 cash prize in lieu of a \$1,000 advance and author's contract, the winning writer will be free to submit the manuscript elsewhere.

Castle Quay Books Canada may, at its discretion, consider for publication manuscripts submitted by other entrants.

Comments made by the judges in the manuscript critiques are private, and are meant to help the entrant improve his or her writing. The judges' comments are not reviews and may not be used as endorsements of the manuscript. As a condition of entering this contest, entrants must agree that they will not make the judges' comments public or quote from the judges' comments, including on web sites or book jackets, without first obtaining the express written permission of the judges. Entrants **MUST** not contact the judges without permission from an executive of The Word Guild.

Mailing of Judges' Comments: If you entered Category Two, you will be mailed the two judges' critiques in July 2009, after the winner is announced at the Writing Awards Gala.

Shortlisted entrants

1. Those entrants chosen as the shortlisted finalists, if any, will be notified no later than May 31, 2009.
2. Finalists should be prepared to send a good-quality (preferably professional) head and shoulders photograph for publicity and promotional purposes.
3. For publicity purposes, finalists should be prepared to send the news release announcing the shortlist of finalists to local or denominational publications and media outlets that would potentially publish news about the finalist's inclusion in the awards. Instructions will be sent to all finalists about how to adapt the news release and add personal information to create local news interest.
4. Finalists are invited to attend The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards Gala. If the winner is present, he/she will be asked to make a few brief comments.

Mailing Instructions

All entries must be sent to the address below. Do not send entries to Castle Quay Books Canada. Entries must be received no later than **November 28, 2008**.

Best New Author Contest

The Word Guild
Box 34
Port Perry ON L9L 1A2

For courier deliveries, address the package to:
Best New Author Contest
Attn. Jane Twohey
572 Fralicks Beach Road
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B6

For guidelines and entry form, go to <http://www.thewordguild.com>.

For inquiries, email admin@thewordguild.com or leave a voice mail message at 519-886-4196.

Entrants are advised to keep a copy of their submitted work for their own protection. Castle Quay Books Canada and The Word Guild will not be responsible for lost, damaged or mislaid manuscripts.

Manuscripts will not be returned.

This contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law.