

# BOOKS

## The Word Guild honours the best Canadian Christian Writing of the Year

Annual awards picks the winners of best writers in books, news articles, screenplays and more



Readers, writers, publishers, editors, family and friends gather at the post-Gala reception to celebrate sharing the Good News through writing at The 2008 Canadian Christian Writing Awards. Photo by Bridget Bates

A full house celebrated The 2008 Canadian Christian Writing Awards at World Vision headquarters in Mississauga with 38 winners chosen from more than 230 entries, as they received awards in 14 short categories and 17 book categories. Herbie Kuhn, the in-house announcer for the Toronto Raptors, skillfully hosted the evening and Canadian singer/songwriter, Jacob Moon, provided musical entertainment.

The Awards are sponsored by The Word Guild, an association of writers and editors who are Christian.

Paul M. Beckingham, a freelance writer, professor at Carey Theological

College and Canadian Armed Forces' chaplain, was a multiple-award-winner in the short categories for his personal experience and inspirational articles. Jennifer Green, an editor and journalist with the Ottawa Citizen, also won multiple awards.

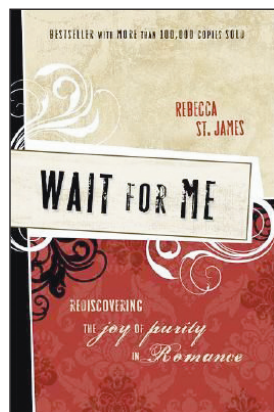
High profile winners in the book categories included Bruxy Cavey of Oakville, Ont. for *The End of Religion* in the General Readership category, Jean Vanier of Trosly-Breuil, France for *Our Life Together: A Memoir in Letters* in the Life Stories category, and William P. Young of Gresham, Oregon, for *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*, in the Contempo-

rary Novel category.

Kevin Dautremont, MD, of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan won the 2008 Best New Canadian Christian Author Contest sponsored by Castle Quay Books Canada for his fiction manuscript, *The Golden Conquest*.

Connie Brummel Crook of Peterborough, Ont. was awarded the Leslie K. Tarr Award for outstanding career achievement for her nine young adult novels and three children's picture books which portray Canadian history and are widely used in public school classrooms and libraries.

A full list of award-winners can be found at [www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com).



### Wait for Me: Rediscovering the Joy of Purity in Romance

by Rebecca St. James  
Paperback, 224 Pages  
Thomas Nelson Publishers  
ISBN: 1400312876

Everyone longs to be loved deeply by someone, and Rebecca St. James is no different, as demonstrated by her hit song "Wait for Me." In this revised and updated version of the 2002 release, Rebecca shares the same desires as other young people as her resolve

to remain sexually pure until marriage is not common in our society.

Using Scripture, pop culture, and her own experience as a point of reference, Rebecca paints a relevant and appealing picture of the value of waiting. But Rebecca also reaches out with compassion to those who have already made mistakes and reveals the mercy and healing that God brings.

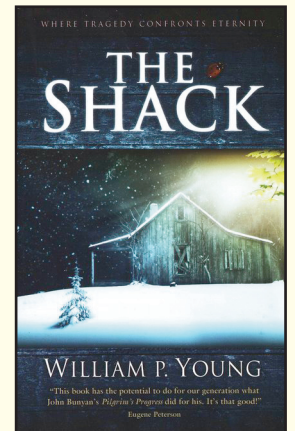
The new edition of this bestseller includes: a fresh design with eye-catching graphics; a new introduction from Rebecca; journaling sections and a study guide for personal or group use.

Review

## The Shack offers a novel approach to dealing with God and a world filled with pain

### The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity

By William P. Young  
ISBN: 978-0964729230  
Page Count: 248  
Rating: 5 stars out of 5



Don't miss out on this incredible must-read!!! This is the most unique, genuine and truly inspired book I have yet to come across. Appropriate and relevant for the most ardent believer or newest spiritual seeker. *The Shack* begins by telling the story of a Father (Mack) whose young daughter (Missy) is kidnapped and brutally murdered, but it also tells another story. It tells the story of every person who has ever asked the question "where does a loving God fit into a world so filled with pain?"

Although the story begins with young Missy's murder, that is only the backdrop to what the story's real 'meat' is... Mack's 156 pages of dialogue with God. In these pages *The Shack* dares to tackle difficult theological questions with ease and clarity, touching on dozens of topics. Because of this, I would like to argue that the book is not Christian fiction at all, but creative non-fiction on Christian themes.

*The Shack* has been endorsed by many in the Christian community. Michael W. Smith stated that "The Shack will leave you craving the presence of God" and Wynonna Judd said that "this story has blown the door wide open to my soul". I could not have put it better myself, and I agree with Eugene Peterson who stated "This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* did for his. It's that good!"

*The Shack* is Canadian author William P. Young's first published work. It is remarkably well written containing descriptions that will help you see through Mack's eyes. It is a very "outside the box" look at God. It will challenge you to think about what you believe and why you believe it. I feel that it was written to glorify God and to help bring people into a more personal and intimate relationship with God, and an understanding of who God really is.

This book caused me to laugh out loud many times, and also to cry on more than one occasion. I highly recommend it. Visit [www.theshackbook.com](http://www.theshackbook.com) to order your copy, to read excerpts from *The Shack*, to see what others are saying about their experience with this book, or to contact the author. I hope you will be as blessed as I was.

Reviewed by Jennifer Boone