

Zaphon

April 2010



- *Events listing for 2010 ~ CALEB Prize, CALEB Mentorships, Word Writers Fair*
- *Wendy Sargeant ~ writing for magazines*

Big changes heading our way!

2010 is a renaissance year for Omega Writers! There's so much happening, I've had to make a list!

Check out these fabulous new events and initiatives -

- (1) The CALEB Prize for faith-inspired writing (previously published work)
- (2) CALEB Mentorships (for unpublished writing) in QLD and SA
- (3) New central venue for meetings in Brisbane
- (4) Bring Home the Book - working with others to finish *your* book
- (5) 1111 Freebooks - that fantastic giveaway that happens in November
- (6) The Word Writers Fair (in conjunction with *Light the Dark*) in August in Adelaide and November in Brisbane
- (7) We've just become an incorporated association
- (8) Our new websites are UP and WIP (Work-in-Progress)!

Upcoming Events

Faith-inspired writers are welcome to Omega Writers' next bi-monthly meeting on **Sunday April 11** at 2pm, which tackles the topic:

WRITING IS JUST PART OF THE STORY: WHAT'S YOUR PROMOTION PLAN?

Successful writers don't just write; they also promote. Learn tips to pitch your book to the world; through writing articles, e-zines, press releases – and ever more imperative, the web; find out how knowing the upcoming movies can help you as a writer through private label rights & public domain.

WHERE: the annexe of Old Bishopsbourne, St Francis' College, Milton, 233 Milton Road (enter via Baroona Road driveway), very close to Milton railway station and buses. Ample parking.

Meetings are always a mix of opportunities to:



You are invited to a
BOOK LAUNCH & CELEBRATION

2.30 pm Sat June 5

St. Matthew's Church Hall
Sherwood



mang-coloured realm
is a new children's fantasy
published by Wombat Books
and written by local author
Anne Hamilton. Come along
on the day for the party!

Order the book prior to June
at www.manycoloured.com
and receive a whole swag of
extras completely free!

RSVP: 3375 1775

by June 3



*** learn * write * challenge * share * support
* pray**

INFO: <http://www.omegawriters.com/> CONTACT: (07)
33751775 or 0411 782 404

EMAIL: info@omegawriters.com (replace AT with @)

ADVANCE NOTICE! JUNE 6 MEETING

**The World of Young People; Keys to communicate
effectively**

Stephen Harrison speaks on writing for the youth of today. He is Director of Youth, Children's and Family Ministries, Anglican Diocese - Ministry Education Commission (<http://ministryeducation.org.au/>)

Writing Articles for Newspapers & Magazines

Wendy Sargeant

In-house trade magazines are always looking for material and writing for these can be a way into the writing profession. Generally magazines will take a maximum of 2000 words for articles, with anything ranging from 800 and up for women's magazines to 1000 to 1400 words for technical magazines, depending on the complexity.

Length of article is vital to the magazine's requirements as is the style of the opening paragraph, the way key information is handled, the number of anecdotes, the quality of sources and the use of sidebars—boxed lists or anecdotes.

Your opening sentence should be an eye catcher and a heart stopper if possible. If you were trying to auction your house, you wouldn't dream of leaving the front yard unkempt. Trying to sell an article without hewing the opening sentence would have the same affect on the sale.

The opener should be the core of your story's thesis. This is the first and possibly last thing the editor will read if it is not done well. Magazine editors will often put the opening sentence in italics or larger type to grab attention.

Once you have written the article you should go over the first sentence again and again until it is the best part of your story. This is what will sell the article. The opener could be, for instance, how one person discovers that they have a rare condition. The story might tell about how the invalid discovered they had the condition. The climax might happen the moment when a relative donates a vital organ to save them—the drama surrounding the operation.

The following are some suggestions of ways you can grab the reader's attention:-

- A quote such as a doctor's prognosis of a limited life span could be used to announce the discovery. A question to the reader such as "If you were given two weeks to live, what would you do?"
- A comparison between two characters, e.g. the sporty, high achieving donor and the recipient of the transplant;
- An unusual fact about the condition that emerged during your research;
- A proverb with a different ending;

When writing technical information, you are making yourself into an expert. As an 'expert' there are very important protocols you should follow. The vital information your publisher wants is your sources. Without expert source material, for all he

knows you could have made things up. There will be real experts reading what you've written, and they will be the first to complain if sources are not accurate. So choose them carefully.

Use footnotes where possible. This will not be as necessary once you are known to the publisher, but initially it will give them confidence that your knowledge is 'au fait'. The conclusion should introduce a new thought, such as a scenario for the future or a reference to some controversial point.

Include lists of 'where to go, places to know' etc on a separate page under the heading 'SIDE BAR'. Editors expect side bars. They also expect magazine quality photographs and it is always worth purchasing at ISTOCK photos online or through a photography club if you don't have them.

Most magazines have archived issues where you can ensure that your topic has not previously been covered. Before sending to the magazine, check the masthead for the name of the features editor. Address your query letter to this person by name or it may not reach him.

The Query letter

Paragraph 1

You need to capture the editor's imagination in your opening sentence. This sentence should also reflect the magazine reader's likely interest.

Paragraph 2

Paragraph two should have the title and the topic of the article or short story.

Paragraph 3

This paragraph should reveal your credentials and the reason you are writing the story.

Paragraph 4

Here you should mention any authorities, case studies or anecdotes that would give credibility to your article.

Paragraph 5

This should discuss the magazine's audience and why they would choose your article or story.

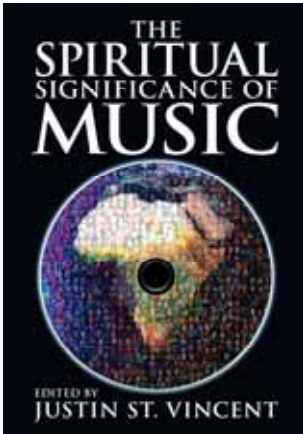
Paragraph 6

Your predicted word count should be here and also the potential finishing date. In closing you should also mention photographs that you will supply and remember, put your best writing forward, as though it were the bricks and mortar of a house sale.

***The Lookout Magazine is currently seeking submissions and pays up to .11 c a word for non-assigned and .17c a word for assigned articles.*

Wendy Sargeant spent time as a columnist for an international magazine before becoming an editor & writing mentor. To find out about the latest discount Wendy is offering for editing/tuition, contact her at wordfisher52@gmail.com For more writing tips see her blog at www.scribwm.wordpress.com Wendy can represent your work to publishers for a one-off fee

Latest releases from both sides of the Tasman!



Justin St. Vincent's *The Spiritual Significance of Music* is now out and is available through Amazon!

Some cool reviews are already up for you to check out at -

<http://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Significance-Music-Justin-Vincent/dp/0473156903/>

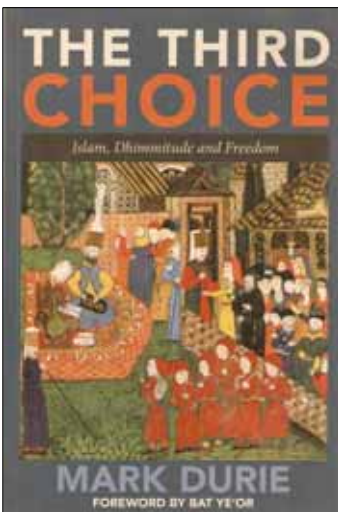
Also just out is Jo-Anne Berthelsen's *Laura*, published by Ark House Press, RRP \$19.95 in bookstores or from www.jo-anneberthelsen.com.

LAURA: *Be Thou My Vision*

Can you imagine growing up totally blind, yet longing to attend a normal school and be treated the same as anyone else?

Despite encountering rejection, discouragement and injustice, Laura Harding is determined to prove that those with perceived disabilities can achieve whatever they want to in life. At times Laura needs all the strength she can muster to hold onto her dreams – but will it be enough? And can she ever have faith in a God who seems to have let her down in so many ways?

This story honours those who with great courage and determination have overcome so much to develop their God-given gifts to the full, thereby blessing and inspiring us all.



WHY RADICAL ISLAM IS CHANGING WORLD POLITICS

*More and more non-Muslims are being subjected to Sharia Law across the World – and according to Dr. Mark Durie's latest book, **The Third Choice: Islam, Dhimmitude and Freedom**, the result is the stripping away of basic human rights*

Durie, who is an expert on Islam, is concerned with the Islamic institution of the dhimma, the theologically-driven political, social, and legal system, imposed by Islamic law upon non-Muslims as an alternative to Islam (i.e. conversion) or the sword (i.e. death or captivity). He describes the challenge posed by Islam's treatment of non-Muslims, exposes the spiritual roots of this challenge, and offers a solution. RRP \$23.95 For more information go to www.markdurie.com

Two free online magazines!

16 year old Jessica Parish has just released *Girls of Purity Magazine* online. Young girls from 8 to 80 years old (and upward) are encouraged to visit the website and have a look at the mag. And of course their parents. Please also consider allowing your young lady to subscribe. This would be a great encouragement to Jess. Here's the link to the magazine.

<http://girlsofpuritymagazine.presspublisher.us/>

The "Autumn" issue of *Christian Woman* will be released as a free online version any day now. Just log on to the CW website: www.christianwoman.com.au and click on the link which says **Free Digital Version. Read Now!** <http://www.mediaincorp.com/newsletter/signup/index.html>

AUSTRALIA: A RACIST COUNTRY? The 2010 Eureka Street/Reader's Feast Award for social justice and humanitarian writing is now open for submissions. Essays should be no more than 2000 words in length, and first prize is \$5000.

Out of Egypt

Egypt evokes many strong images – Pyramids, Nile, Cleopatra, Moses and the enslavement of the Israelites are but a few. Two years ago, as I travelled around the country with a mission team, I was privileged to see an Egypt that remains hidden from most outsiders – a Christian Egypt.



The Egyptian Church has prevailed in the face of continuous persecution, even today. Against all the odds God has preserved a people for himself in this ancient land, with around 11 million believers. That's about 46% of all believers in the Middle East region. Egypt holds the key to unlocking the Gospel in the heart of the Islamic world!

For so long mission strategy has been to fund Western missionaries, teach them Arabic, train them in cross-cultural matters and place them in work contexts that allow them to get visas. It is time for new strategy!

Our Egyptian brothers and sisters can travel freely anywhere in the region, are native speakers of the language, understand the subtleties of Middle Eastern culture and have a faith that has been tested. It makes far more sense to invest our time and money in them.

CityHarvest International's Ben Gray and team are taking up this challenge over the next

three years. This September we will send a group of Australian Pastors to train over 150 Egyptian Pastors. CHI and its partners will fund the training at \$50 per head and by paying our own airfares.

To help facilitate the strategic training program they are offering you an exclusive holiday that combines insights into modern Christian Egypt with the best sights and experiences that the country has to offer. You'll meet local believers and witness first-hand their mission projects.

See for yourself how desert monasteries have ensured the survival of the church through Roman persecution and later Arab invasion. Visit the Cave Church where thousands gather through the week to uphold the name of Jesus. You'll also sail down the Nile on a 5* luxury cruise; see the Pyramids, Sphinx and all the usual sites.

Join us for our '**Ancient and Living Stones Egypt Tour**' on 5-16th September for a holiday of a lifetime, knowing that you are making a real difference. To find out more or to secure your booking for just \$500, visit our partner's website www.uplifttoursandtravel.com/grp/jrny_egypt.php Together we can bless Egypt!

Jonathan Gould, CityHarvest International

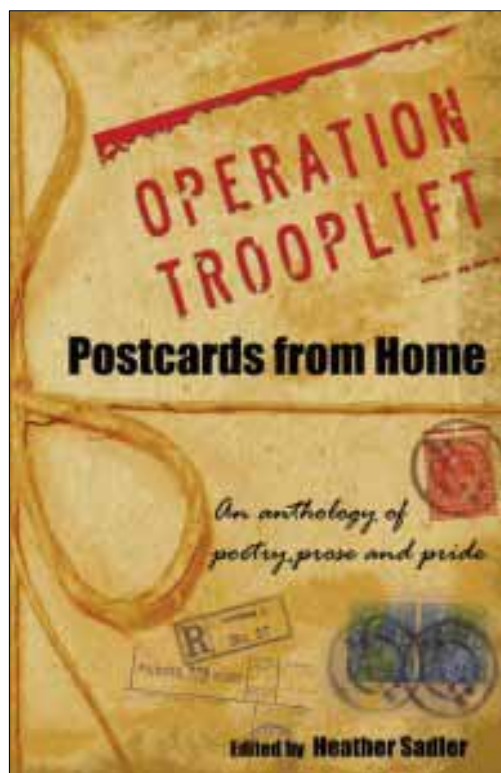
Perfect for Anzac Day!

Operation Trooplift: Postcards from Home.

It was published by members of the Australian Defence Organisation as a gift to our troops deployed on operations overseas, as a reminder of home and to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers while we wait for their safe return. There's a bit of everything in this anthology: humour, poetry, sci-fi, Anzac spirit, tales of Christmas and holidays, military life, photography and artwork, and contributions from some of our chaplains and padres.

We present this book to the Australian community to allow them to share in our appreciation of our troops' efforts and commitment to our safety back home. For each copy purchased, another copy is donated on behalf of the buyer to the troops. Each copy is \$32.95, which covers the cost of both copies. The book is in colour, 214 pages, paperback-sized.

See: <http://odysseybooks.com.au/operation-trooplift-postcards-from-home>



Light the Dark - Christian Party Plan

With an emphasis on books (plus a smattering of gifts), *Light the Dark* is different in every way. Australian and NZ products are sold exclusively through this party plan. *Light the Dark* is looking for suppliers of quality Australian products (either Christian or family-friendly) and for representatives to sell via party plan. See www.lighththedark.com.au for more details.

New books arriving soon from Wombat Books

Does my bum look big in this ad? Body Image and the media

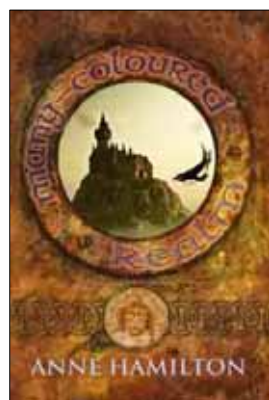
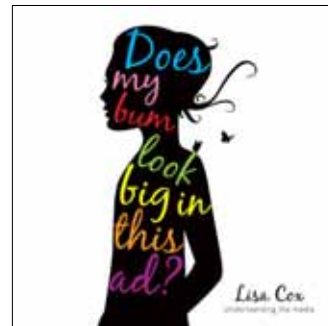
\$12.95 Available mid -April

By Lisa Cox and illustrated by Amanda Dunne.

Check out more about Lisa at www.Museinthemirror.com or www.lisacoxpresents.com or more about the book at

www.wombatbooks.com.au/inthisad.html

This is an important book for pre-teens and teenagers everywhere. Preorder now!



Many-Coloured Realm by Anne Hamilton \$19.95 Available June 1

Young adults and adults will love this new fantasy. It has already presold several thousand copies! Don't miss out on a signed first edition or the amazing prizes you can win simply by pre-ordering at the website.

www.manycoloured.com

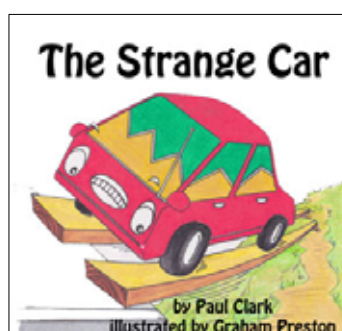
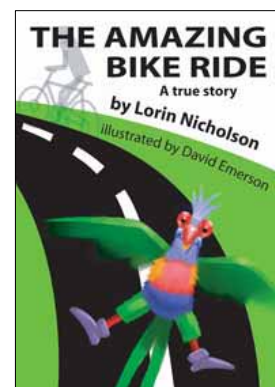
The Amazing Bike Ride by Lorin Nicholson

Illustrated by David Emerson \$12.95

Available May 1

The amazing true story of Lorin as a blind teenager riding his bike to the beach! Lorin is about to ride from Perth to Sydney in support of Vision Australia. Check it out at www.blindcourage.com He will be on the Today Show. To find out more check out

www.blindguitarist.com



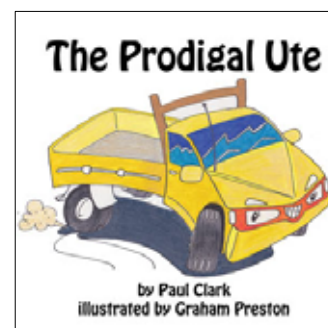
The Strange Car

The Prodigal Ute

by Paul Clark, illustrated by Graham Preston

The first two books in the Car Park Parables series. Cars tell the stories of Jesus, the parables and much more. Teach the bible to your kids in a language they will understand. The Prodigal Ute - the

story of the Prodigal Son. The Strange Car - the story of Zaccheus climbing a tree to see Jesus - the parking inspector car drives onto a roof to see Jesus. \$5.95 each or preorder both for just \$10. Email info@evenbeforepublishing.com to preorder!



To pre-order any of these books, order at the Wombat Books website: www.wombatbooks.com.au

If you are writing & looking to submit to Wombat Books, please check out our updated submission guidelines on www.wombatbooks.com.au/info.html



The CALEB Prize for faith-inspired writing

Primary first prize: \$1000

Secondary first prizes: \$250

Categories: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry

The inaugural CALEB Prize for faith-inspired writing is open to Australian & NZ authors & publishers, including self-publishers. Submissions will be accepted from 1 May - 30 June 2010.

To be eligible for the prize, books must have been released between 1 January 2008 and 30 June 2010. Either author or publisher may enter.

There will be 3 categories:

- (1) Fiction (including children's)
- (2) Non-Fiction (including devotionals)
- (3) Poetry

We are looking for innovative thought, elegant presentation, quality production values and appeal both for, and beyond, Christian readers. These are not all equal factors. The writing need not be overtly Christian in nature but it must be evident that faith has influenced the work. Omega Writers Inc. reserves the right *not* to award a prize in any category where entries do not meet standards of quality or do not fulfil the judges' criteria.

The overall winner of the 3 sections will receive a cash prize of \$1000. The winners of the other 2 sections will receive cash prizes of \$250. Other discretionary cash or voucher prizes may also be awarded by our sponsors.

Winners will be announced and awarded at a ceremony following the Word Writers Fair in Brisbane in November 2010. A short list will be announced in August/September and finalists in late September/early October. Independent judges have been appointed. Jeff Townsend, formerly of CMCA and now of Write Advice, will be one of our judges. Jeff *may* offer marketing advice, if requested and if, in his view, it would be of benefit to the author. This will incur an additional fee. Please contact us if you think you might be interested in this service.

Entry fee: \$AUD 25

Five books need to be sent with the entry fee and completed entry form to:

Omega Writers Inc.
PO Box 492
Corinda Qld 4075
Australia

For more information or clarification, phone (07) 3375 1775 *after* May 1.

CALEB Mentorship program

sponsored by Omega Writers Inc. and Wombat Books

Please note: this programme does not open until May 17. If you have questions, please phone (07) 33751775 after May 1.

The concept:

There are many Christian writers developing their skills alone. Let's face it, God doesn't want us to work alone! We're part of a body and we need each other's help. You may have a brilliant idea but unless it's in a format that can be marketed simply and effectively, then it just won't get picked up. So here is an opportunity to get together for an week's intensive along with other writers and a mentor/tutor. Successful applicants will work on their own manuscripts in order to bring them to publishable standard. Ideally this event will be a tremendous opportunity to develop your manuscript and get it ready for final presentation to a publisher. (Two publishers are already behind this concept and will be looking forward to seeing manuscripts after the week! The sponsoring publishers do not guarantee to publish any manuscripts but do require first right of refusal to any manuscript in which they hold a financial interest.)

When and where:

2010: 22 - 27 August (SA - between 3 and 8 places available)

2010: 7 - 12 November (QLD - Noosa - 8 places available)

Who can apply?

Aspiring writers, emerging writers and established writers may all apply. Both children's and adult fiction will be considered for the first set of mentorships.

What you get:

Subsidised tuition, accommodation and food. Mentorship/editing and submission advice from a tutor, peer advice opportunities, prayer and praise times. Ongoing support can also be arranged, but ideally by the end of the week your finished draft will be turned into a publishable manuscript.

Free attendance at the Word Writers Fair (6 November 2010: www.thewordwriters.com)

All travel costs are the responsibility of the applicant.

What do I need to bring?

A complete manuscript – your tutor needs to be able to read this before they attend.

Your own laptop. (Please advise us if you are accepted into the programme and don't have one, there may be the facility for one or two people to be loaned a computer for the week).

Value: over \$2950

Unsponsored Cost: \$1100

Sponsored Cost: \$550

How do I get a sponsorship?

Omega Writers have a limited number of sponsorship opportunities for mentorship available.

Some authors are sponsored directly by a publisher. (If you'd like to come and already have a publisher, talk to them about the opportunity and ask them to contact us for details.)

If you do not have a publisher and your book is not yet ready for submission, this is the perfect opportunity to get it ready and find out where you should submit it!

Process:

Mentorships are only open to full members of Omega Writers Inc. (So if you're not already a full member, think about joining now!) As prayer is an integral part of the intensive, signed agreement to the Omega Writer's statement of faith is essential.

- (1) Send correctly formatted *original, unpublished & completed* manuscript to Omega Writers Inc. along with the entry form (downloadable from our website www.omegawriters.com).
- (2) Send application fee of \$50. This is a reader's fee: you will receive a short appraisal for this fee.
- (3) Receive appraisal and advice as to whether or not application is successful.

I've checked the cost of similar mentorships and I realise that this is amazingly good value. Can I just pay full price to ensure a spot?

Yes. There are limited places, however, and we encourage you to go through the sponsorship process. If you are not offered a sponsorship and there are still places available, then your \$50 entry fee will be deducted from the full \$1100. (Please note if you are offered a sponsorship your \$50 will not be deducted from the \$550 as your entry is already heavily discounted).

What if I miss out, what are my options?

If you do not get a place in 2010 but wish to apply again in the future, please advise us and we will consider if it is possible to run a special event in your area for a group.

Follow the advice on your appraisal and give us a call about whether or not you should re-submit or go straight to a publisher.

Why just fiction?

Two reasons -

- (1) this is what the sponsoring publishing houses are looking for and
- (2) this is a neglected area in Australian Christian publishing.

Other areas to be considered in the future are:

Editing

Writing an autobiography/memoir

Non-fiction: turning an academic style into a work accessible to the general reader.

2010 Tutors - so far confirmed:

Meredith Resce (SA)

Anne Hamilton (Qld/SA)

Wendy Sargeant (Qld)

Mary Hawkins (Qld)



Mission: Under God, to change *Australasia*, The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, one book at a time

Vision and Values: Under God, to
o take risks/be bold
o share our talents
o work as a team

Services: Under God, to
o provide Christian prayer support
o disseminate publishing & marketing information
o facilitate manuscript critiquing & assessment
o assist with appraisals, editing, proofreading, reviews
o hold regular meetings & events

New Member – Omega Writers

Please fill out details, including payment options and sign the belief statement following.

Name:.....

Address:

Home Phone..... Email:

Age: [] Under 20 [] 20-29 [] 30-39 [] 40-49 [] 50-59 [] 60 and over

How long have you been writing?

Publishing Status:

[] Unpublished. Publisher House(s) you are targeting:

.....

[] Published in fiction.....

[] Published in non -fiction.
.....

[] Self -published
.....

A list of titles:
.....
.....
.....

NB: All information collected and stored by Omega Writers Inc. is for the sole use of Omega Writers Inc. and will not be disclosed or sold to any third party.

- [] Cash in person \$20
- [] CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER for \$20 — please make payable to ‘**OMEGA WRITERS INC**’
- [] PAYPAL (To pay via PayPal please visit the membership payment/renewal payment page at www.omegawriters.com)
- [] Invoice me to pay direct deposit

I embrace the mission and values of Omega Writers Inc. and I agree to be bound by the Rules of Association.

Beliefs:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Please write AMEN and sign.

Signed: Date: / /

Please send completed application form to:

Omega Writers Inc.
PO Box 492
Corinda Qld 4075
AUSTRALIA

Alternatively, copy and paste this information into the body of an email and write AMEN at the end with your name. Send to info@omegawriters.com

Disclaimer: the usual apply. *Zaphon* is a free e-magazine put out by Omega Writers Inc. It's done in the spare time of the editor, Anne Hamilton, and happens when it happens. It is more or less regular and generally coincides with one of our meetings or events. Should you have anything which may be of interest to Christian readers and writers across Australia and New Zealand, we welcome your input. The editor reserves the right, should no one contribute, to write about mathematics, meteorites, medieval poetry or the meaning of names. Whichever she happens to be researching at the time. (And hey, because I haven't had the chance to throw many exclamation marks around this time, I have to share an amazing discovery with the Jameses of this world... it's only taken me 10 years or so to figure it, but it's really amazing!!! So you thought your name was from Jacob and means 'usurper' or 'deceiver'? No, guys, sorry to disillusion you. It's from Jamin - as in Benjamin - and it means *my right hand*.) Advertising is free. If your marketing plan doesn't include us, you're not really serious about getting your book noticed. Omega Writers supports Christian authors through bi-monthly meetings, workshops, conferences, prayer support group, *Zaphon*, and competitions including the inaugural Caleb Prize for faith-inspired writing.