



The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce
The 30th Annual 2018 The Word Awards Winners
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2017

This Press Release is listed on our website [TWA Finalist Listing Page](#)
Copies of the 2018 Shortlist Media Release in both .docx and .pdf can be found on our [Media Page](#)

June 16, 2018

The Word Guild honours evangelical statesman Glen Argon along with other winners in the 29th Annual Word Awards

MISSISSAUGA, ON — An elder statesman for Canada's Christian community has been formally recognized for his lifetime achievements by Canada's premier fellowship of Christian writers, The Word Guild.

Glen Argon; former editor of the Western Catholic Reporter and the Inner City Voice has impacted Catholics and culture for more than four decades. Glen is this year's recipient of the Leslie K. Tarr, Lifetime Achievement Award announced at The 30th Annual Word Awards Gala on June 15. Argon was chosen for his long and dedicated commitment to Christian journalism, the consistent thoughtful quality of his writing and for the publications he produced. In a video message from his Alberta based home, Argon told the assembly he was honoured to receive the significant award named after Leslie K. Tarr; another influential *magazine man* whose life and writing was of great consequence to Canadian culture.

Journalists, novelists, poets, theologians, academics and song-writers, along with their guests gathered for the annual Word Awards gala in Mississauga. Sponsors attended, presenting awards to winners along with words of encouragement, increasing motivation for writers to continue with excellence.

This year's awards were filled with laughter, cheer, tears of joy and claps of praise. The crowd was engaged as they listened to the 'short' excerpt for the Christian Living category winner; Jared Brock and Aaron Alford's *Bearded Gospel Men*. Laughter was heard throughout the hall as the *follicular funnies* kept coming.

The most inspirational aspect of the 2018 Gala that attendees will not soon forget, was the acceptance speech of Castle Quay's 2018 Best New Canadian Manuscript Award Winner, Kevin John White from Huntsville, ON. Kevin shared in complete humbleness and gratefulness for the mercy of God in his life. As an alcoholic homeless man, White moved in with Steve and Julie Hill, beginning his recovery with their love and support. White expressed his thankfulness to the Hill family and especially Julie when he had her join him on stage. Communicating his gratefulness for the influence she had in his life, Kevin insisted they accept the award together. He shared how it had been Julie Hill who planted the idea for his journals to become a book. As White finished his heartfelt speech, a thunderous applause was heard throughout the building when people rose to their feet for a standing ovation.

"Dancing on a Razor is a collection of short stories taken from the life of Kevin John White, a homeless alcoholic street beggar. What begins as a journal penned by the trembling hand of a hopeless wino, gradually changes into a powerful realization of God's love for a terribly broken man. It is as he writes this "book" that Kevin sees God's hand through all his years of wandering aimlessly across the country, and he is undone by the amazing grace God has poured over him for so long."

This year's grand prize winner was W. Ross Hastings, taking home the \$5,000 Grace Irwin Prize for the Best Book in 2018. Ross's book, *Echoes of Coinherence: The Trinitarian Theology and Science Together*, published by Cascade Books took the full attention of the Grace Irwin judges. Hastings was overwhelmed at the news of his win and overcome with honour being shown to him. His immediate response was, "To God be the glory!" Experiencing a recent back injury, Hastings was not able to attend but sent his video acceptance speech for all to hear, voicing his gratefulness to the Irwin family for their years of involvement to writers in Canada. Honourable mentions were given to Mark Clark and Faye Hall for their excellent entries.

Karen Stiller appropriately won the 2018 Debra Fieguth, Social Justice award with her piece, "Welcoming Refugees in Uganda", published in *Faith Today* magazine, as coming to the aid of refugees close to Debra's heart. When Karen received confirmation that she won this award she immediately cried, sharing how important this win was to her, having been a friend of the late Debra Fieguth. Honourable mention was given to Angela Reitsma Bick for her article "God's Infinite Love: Speaking Up After a Son's Suicide" on such a heart-breaking topic, as printed in the *Christian Courier*.

This year's recipient of the Harvey/Mackey award for excellence in journalism was Craig Macartney for his article on "Rev. Lim and the Church That Prayed Him Out", published in *Faith Today* magazine. Macartney encouraged the audience to allow God to take what they have and use it for God's glory. Sharing parts of his life story of how God took an unlikely and seemingly "unqualified" person to influence others through his writing, Craig inspired those listening to believe God could do the same through them.

Throughout the evening, the musings of Scott Radley kept the crowd laughing. This veteran newspaper columnist and host of The Scott Radley Show on Radio 900CHML, fulfilled the role of Gala Master of Ceremonies for The Word Awards held at Roma's Hospitality Centre in Mississauga.

Following is the complete list of award winners:

LESLIE K. TARR AWARD

- Glen Argan

GRACE IRWIN AWARD

Winner

- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver, BC *Echoes of Coinherence: Trinitarian Theology and Science Together* (Cascade Books)

Honorable Mentions

- Mark Clark: Vancouver, BC *The Problem of God* (Zondervan)
- Faye Hall (Malcolm Guite): Winnipeg, MB *Seven Whole Days* (Castle Quay Books)

DEBRA FIEGUTH AWARD

Winner

- Karen Stiller: Ottawa, ON "Welcoming Refugees in Uganda" (*Faith Today*)

Honorable Mention

- Angela Reitsma Bick: Newcastle, ON "God's Infinite Love: Speaking Up After a Son's Suicide" (*Christian Courier*)

HARVEY / MACKEY AWARD

- Craig Macartney: Ottawa, ON “Rev. Lim and the Church That Prayed Him Out” (*Faith Today*)

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

- Kevin John White: Huntsville, ON *Dancing On A Razor*

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – CHRISTIAN

BLOG

Sheila Wray-Gregoire: Belleville, ON “*The awful legacy of Hugh Hefner*”
www.tolovehonourandvacuum.com

COLUMN SERIES

- Carolyn Arends: SURREY, BC “Response-ability,” and “A Persistent Problem” (*Faith Today*)

COLUMN SINGLE

- Steve Bell: Winnipeg, MB “*Success: The Art of Staying Closely Behind*” (*Seven Magazine*)

INSPIRATIONAL/DEVOTIONAL

- Carolyn Arends: Surrey, BC “Happy Birthday, Dear Church” (*Christianity Today*)

LONG FEATURE

- Karen Stiller: Ottawa, ON “Welcoming Refugees in Uganda” (*Faith Today*)

NEWS

- Craig Macartney: Ottawa, ON “Rev. Lim and the Church That Prayed Him Out” (*Faith Today*)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Marguerite Cummings: Toronto, ON “Baby in The Manger” (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider; That’s Life! Communications*)

POETRY

- Sandy Ayer: Calgary, AB “Resurrection Breakfast” (*Crux*)

SHORT STORY

- Sally Meadows: “A Blessed Christmas” (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

PROFILE/HUMAN INTEREST

- Angela Reitsma Bick: Newcastle, ON “God’s Infinite Love: Speaking Up After a Son’s Suicide” (*Christian Courier*)

SHORT FEATURE

- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON “When a Nation Prays: The prayer story behind the miracles of Dunkirk” (*Testimony*)



LYRICS – TERRENCE L. BINGLEY AWARD

SONG LYRICS (TERRENCE L. BINGLEY AWARD)

- Carolyn Arends: Surrey, BC “This is The Place”

SCRIPTS

SCRIPTS / CHRISTIAN / SHORT SCRIPT

- Glynis Belec: Drayton, ON “The Search” (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

SCRIPTS / CHRISTIAN / FULL-LENGTH STAGE OR SCREEN PLAY

- Barb Draper: Elmira, ON *Family Ties Through Thick and Thin*

SCRIPTS / GENERAL MARKET / SHORT SCRIPT

- Marcia Laycock: Blackfalds, AB “A Pattern in Blue”

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET PUBLICATIONS

COLUMN SERIES

- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “Practically a Spa Day” / “A Bone to Pick” (*The Herald Leader*)

COLUMN SINGLE

- Michael Coren: Toronto, ON “The man I will worship this Easter” (*The Toronto Star*)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Eleanor Shepherd: Point Clair, QC “I Knew You Would Come” (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

SHORT STORIES

- Robert Bruinsma: Edmonton, AB “Chasing Butterflies” (*Christian Courier*)

NOVELS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN

- Donna Simard: Saint-Lazare, MB *Shhh! It's a Surprise! Off to Nunavut* (Word Alive Press)

CONTEMPORARY

- Reg Quist: Parksville, BC *The Church at Third and Main* (Christian Kindle News)

ROMANCE

- Stacey Weeks: Brantford, ON *In Too Deep* (White Rose Publishing)

SUSPENSE

- Linda Stauth: Stratford, ON *Stormy Lake* (Word Alive Press)

HISTORICAL

- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB *Maggie's War* (Waterfall Press)



BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver, BC *Echoes of Coinherence: Trinitarian Theology and Science Together* (Cascade Books)

APOLOGETICS/EVANGELISM

- Mark Clark: Vancouver, BC *The Problem of God* (Zondervan)

INSTRUCTIONAL

- Preston Pouteaux: Chestermere, AB *The Bees of Rainbow Falls: Finding Faith, Imagination, and Delight in Your Neighbourhood* (Urban Loft Publishers)

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Iain Provan: North Vancouver, BC *The Reformation and the Right Reading of Scripture* (Baylor University Press)

CULTURE

- Preston Manning: Calgary, AB *Faith, Leadership and Public Life* (Castle Quay Books)

CHRISTIAN LIVING

- Jared Brock: Guelph, ON & Aaron Alford: Cambridge, ON *Bearded Gospel Men* (Thomas Nelson)

INSPIRATIONAL/DEVOTIONAL

- Allison Alley: London, ON *Eyes to See: Reflecting God's Love To a World in Need* (Compassion Canada)

LIFE STORIES

- Paul Boge: Winnipeg, MB *Hannah's Hope: A Mully Children's Rescue Story* (Castle Quay Books)

NOVELS – GENERAL MARKET FICTION

CHILDREN

- Kevin Miller: Kimberley, BC *Moody Bee* (Millstone Press)

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION

CULTURE

- Daniel Coleman: Hamilton, ON *Yardwork: Biography of an Urban Place* (Wolsak & Wynn)

LIFE STORIES

- Mark Petersen: St. Stephen, NB *Love Giving Well* (Cascade Books)

Books – SPECIALTY

- Faye Hall (Malcolm Guite): Winnipeg, MB *Seven Whole Days* (Castle Quay Books)



FRESH INK {Student Awards}

HIGH SCHOOL

SHORT STORY

- Sarah Brownlee: Langley, BC “My Side Of The Mountain” (Langley Christian School)

1st 3 CHAPTERS (UNPUBLISHED NOVEL)

- Leah Beldman: Brampton, ON *Cat & Maus (Home Education)*

UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE

SHORT STORY

- Kristen Wood: North York, ON Half Empty (Tyndale University College)

1st 3 CHAPTERS (UNPUBLISHED NOVEL)

- Carly Ververs: Wasaga Beach, ON “When The Snow Comes” (Redeemer University College)

POETRY

- Kristen Wood: North York, ON My Brother Ozymandias (Tyndale University College)

IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Work Awards}

POETRY

- Vicki Whittemore: Cambridge, ON “SOS”

1st 3 CHAPTERS (UNPUBLISHED NOVEL)

- Brenda Tindall: West Montrose, ON *Hanging Onto Life*