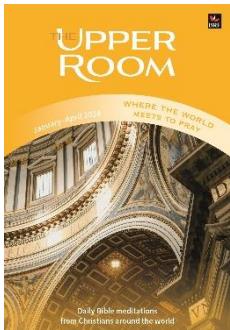


PRESS RELEASE

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The Upper Room writing competition 2023–24



The winners!

BRF Ministries is delighted to announce the winners of this year's competition to write a reflection suitable for publication in the UK edition of *The Upper Room* Bible reading notes.

The winner is **Georgie Tenant**, from Norfolk, for 'Coming like children', an arresting and original take on a favourite verse. The two equal runners-up are **April McIntyre**, from Derby, for 'Trusting' and **Christine Woolgar**, from Oxfordshire, for 'Stay or go?' Five entries were highly commended: Jane Haslam ('True hospitality'), Alison Cross ('Beauty for brokenness'), Helen Hewitt ('Waiting for morning'), Lorna Clark ('God's jigsaw') and Peter Edwards ('Into the deep'). In addition, Angela Uberoi receives a special mention for 'Rise up like eagles'.

High standards

The standard of entries was consistently high. Eley McAinsh, editor of *Bible Reflections for Older People* selected the long list and Olivia Warburton, head of content creation chose the winner and runners-up. After judging, Olivia commented:

'What an impressive set of entries! As ever, it wasn't easy to make the selection, but "Coming like children" rose to the top for me. Many reflections on this verse focus on the qualities of innocence and vulnerability, and how we should be "like a child" primarily in this sense. Georgie Tenant unpacks Jesus' comparison more robustly, noting the less appealing – but authentic – aspects of childhood and how that can free us up in how we approach our heavenly Father.'

'Congratulations too to April McIntyre for "Trusting", an insightful reflection on how building trust in God takes time, and to Christine Woolgar for "Stay or go?", which reminds us that our understanding of scripture can change and deepen over time as we interact prayerfully and honestly with it.'

The Upper Room

The Upper Room is a series of Bible reading notes published in 35 languages and read by an estimated three million people across the world every day. Known as the place 'where the world meets to pray', what makes *The Upper Room* unique is the fact that its readers are its writers. The three winning entries will be published in future issues of *The Upper Room*, and highly commended entries and special mentions will be considered for inclusion as part of the normal selection process. We are grateful to everyone who entered and send warm congratulations to the winners.

More about the winners and previews of their reflections, can be found [here](#). For more information about *The Upper Room*, click [here](#).

For further information, please contact:

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