

Local author holding book launch today in Kelowna

By Okanagan Saturday Staff

Filled with poetry and songs about religion, *The Way In* by author W.C. Fipke of Kelowna isn't light reading. It is, however, a very interesting read, as it's anything but an atypical novel.

One description of *The Way In* calls it a poetic exploration of Jesus' story, and radically expands the view of Jesus.

"Everybody knows the subject of Jesus," said Fipke. "Everybody's

been aware of the Bible and aware of the sayings and so on. But this is about looking behind that and allowing the human parts of each of our existences — we're not all blessed to be the sons of God; we're human and we all have failings, we have tragedy and we have things that we share, like love. That's the biggest thing: Love."

The book has garnered interest and positive reviews, including this endorsement from Noll Derriksan of the Westbank First Nation:

"Astounding! Masterly crafted, expertly written, truly a joy and an inspiration to read. The book brings to mind many images. I'd love the opportunity as an artist to do images for it. It should be adapted by Disney or the best movie producers into a family movie, with top quality animation. I was very surprised how skillfully the prose-like writing was — beautifully done."

For his part, Fipke calls his book "introspective . . . searching for a deeper awareness through the eyes of Jesus. So, by looking in that direction, these are some of the ideas and thoughts."

The Way In is filled with ideas and thoughts. Overall, it features 63,980 words crafted onto 243 pages. Such an undertaking didn't happen overnight.

"I believe the words are less important than the ideas," he said. "In trying to have a consciousness of what's the thought behind the word, a few words can make a lot more depth of thought. With Jesus, his words are very deep, yet simple.



"It's about allowing the words to sink in and stir the imagination. Once imagination is looking for the story, or the back-story one might say, then it comes. I didn't find it was hard to write; it was hard to get into the stage of mind to write. But once you're in that state, it flows,

because you're really talking to the unconscious mind, or letting the unconscious mind parse the words. That's the process I was involved in.

"But it took years. It wasn't like I was hard at work every day like I was in a rock quarry. It's pleasurable when you're listening, trying to find the music that's out there."

In breaking down his book, Fipke says "the lyrical parts are the better parts. And by lyrical, it's the way the language runs. So if you're telling a story and you're talking about moving from place to place and meeting this person and that, that's fairly standard prose. But if you're allowing the whole moment to bring you in, then it becomes more lyrical, more poetic, because the metaphors, the similes, it's just . . . maybe it's more romantic. But I would say the lyrical parts are better than what I could do. It just flows."

Today, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Fipke will be holding a book launch at Mosaic Books.