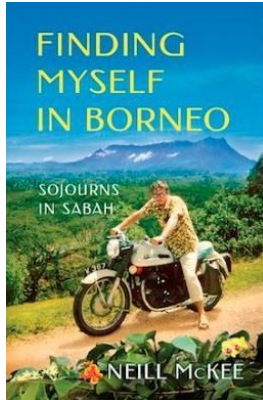


Neill McKee



Finding Myself in Borneo: Sojourns in Sabah

“An honest and buoyant chronicle of a young Canadian man’s adventures during 1968-70, while teaching secondary school as a CUSO volunteer in Sabah, Malaysia (North Borneo). Travel with Neill McKee on his unique journey through vibrant Asian cultures as he learns the craft of teaching, the Malay language and local customs, and gains many friends in his small community. He climbs the highest peak in Southeast Asia—Mount Kinabalu, has a love affair, and navigates Borneo’s backwaters to make his first of many documentary films... McKee travels by freighter to Indonesia, where he discovers the scars of that country’s recent genocide, a contrast to his hilarious motorcycle journeys in Sabah with his American Peace Corps buddy. They make a hallucinogenic discovery—North Borneo is, indeed, J. R. R. Tolkien’s famed Middle-Earth of *The Lord of the Rings*! The enterprising duo establish the North Borneo Frodo Society, an organization Tolkien joins. McKee's second Sabah sojourn and other return trips offer the reader the opportunity to match the early anecdotes to what in fact happened to the land and people who touched his life, and he theirs”.

I love it. It has so many qualities that the usual memoir lacks. Neill McKee is honest about himself, not in any way self-absorbed, but he shares his opinions with attractive openness...

—Clyde Sanger, Author and Journalist, Ottawa, Canada

Neill McKee joins a rare band who dare to write about what they brought to volunteering and, realized much later in life, what they received, learned and cherish... That McKee was able to return to Sabah a number of times after his volunteer years, offers the opportunity to match the anecdotes to what in fact happened to the people who touched his life, and he theirs. That is an opportunity and courage I envy. —Christopher Smart, Returned CUSO volunteer, Ottawa, Canada

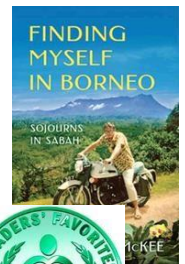
To buy the book click on [Neill's author website](#).

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Neill McKee...Prize Winner

Neill’s book *Finding Myself in Borneo* was featured in the Bulletin, No. 56, January 2019. The book won an Honorable Mention Award in the Non-Fiction—Travel category of the [Reader’s Choice international book awards contest](#).

“Neill McKee weaves strong themes into the narrative, including friendship, education, personal growth, adventure, love, and family. At times wry and at times filled with humor, *Finding Myself in Borneo: Sojourns in Sabah* is a memoir that is told in an honest voice and will inspire readers to think about how they relate to the world they inhabit. It’s simply brilliant.” —Christian Sia for Readers' Favorite. [See award info and full review](#).





[A video](#) made of the book event in Kitchener, Neill's home town, is a wonderful summary of a life in international development beginning with CUSO, on to IDRC, UNICEF, and Johns Hopkins University.

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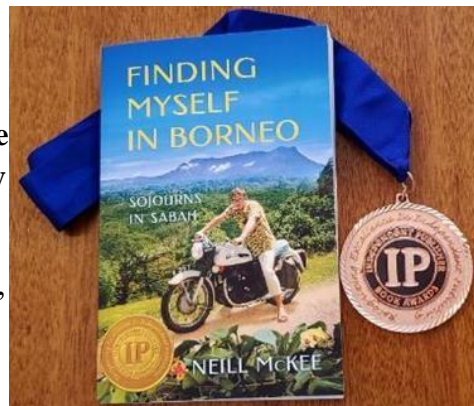
The October Bulletin also reported on Neill McKee's winning an award for his book *Finding Myself in Borneo*. Neill's done it again on November 9, 2019, Neill's travel memoir won the award for Biography-Other (than New Mexico/Arizona content) in the 13th Annual New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards. The annual contest this year had a total of 1,545 entries with were 10 finalists in Biography. This contest is open to authors and publishers, large and small, from anywhere, but books must have a direct connection to New Mexico or Arizona, either in subject, author, or publisher.

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Finding Myself in Borneo wins 2020 Bronze Medal in Independent Publisher Book Awards in the Non-Fiction regional category for Pacific Rim, including Australia and New Zealand.

Conducted annually, the "Ippy" Awards honor the previous year's best independently published titles from around the

world. The awards are intended to bring increased recognition to the books of thousands of exemplary smaller publishers, university presses, and self-published authors.

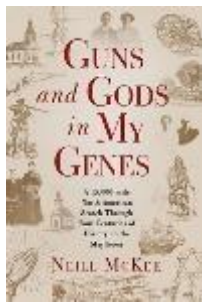


This is Neill McKee's third award for this book, which can take you on an entertaining journey to a different time and place, if you need relief for a few hours from world events these days. If you have already read or listened to it and enjoyed the experience, [please send this on to your friends and colleagues](#). It's available in **paperback**, **ebook**, and **audiobook** through many outlets:

<https://www.neillmckeeauthor.com/buy-the-book>

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Guns and Gods in My Genes: A 15,000-mile North American search through four centuries of history.



Neill takes the reader through 400 years and 15,000 miles of an on-the-road adventure, discovering stories of his Scots-Irish ancestors in Canada, while uncovering their attitudes towards religion and guns. His adventure turns south and west as he follows the trail of his maternal grandfather, a Canadian preacher who married an American woman in Wisconsin, and braved the American Wild West. Much to his surprise, McKee finds his American ancestors were involved in every major conflict on North American soil: the Civil War, the American Revolution, and the French and Indian War. In the last chapters, he discovers and documents his Pilgrim ancestors who arrived on the *Mayflower*, landing at Plymouth in 1620, and their Puritan descendants who fought in the early Indian Wars of New England. he tracks down and tells the stories of the heroes, villains, rascals, as well as, the godly and ordinary folk in his genes, discovering many facts and exposing myths. He also lets readers in on a personal struggle: whether to apply for Canadian-United States dual citizenship or remain only a Canadian.

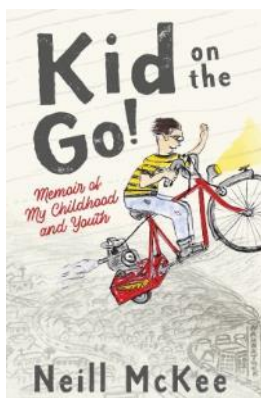
I loved the stories of the life and times of my paternal grandfather, a Methodist minister, who ventured into the American West as far as Newcastle, Wyoming, a place with a two-story brothel and a sheriff who carried a gun with 20 notches on its handle. A wonderful historical memoir which, I believe, has universal appeal.

Catharine Neill, Richmond, British Columbia

The book can be purchased in paperback on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indigo-Chapters or from [Neill's web site](#).

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[Kid on the go! Memoir of My Childhood and Youth](#) Neill's third work of creative nonfiction is a humorous and poignant story about his childhood up to 1968 when he departed for Malaysia with CUSO, growing up in an environmentally polluted small town in Ontario, Canada ...one of the centers of production for Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

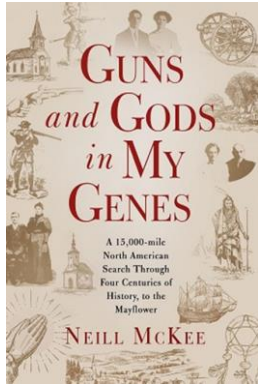


[Click](#) for a list of places to buy the book. News of Neill's other books are on the Alumni website's [Alumni in Print](#).

"While this saga is an amusing trip down memory lane, it is also an intense drama of an unfolding life. On the amusing side we are entertained with 'tongue-in-cheek' humor as Neill McKee learns the ways of the world from "older and wiser" cousins and friends. But on a more serious side, the author invites us on a journey that will cause us to reflect on the building blocks of our own adult lives. McKee's formative years were spent in a society that knew little diversity and where tolerance was limited to tolerating different interpretations of Christianity. In the last chapters and a postscript, we learn about the factors that led him to an international career, traveling to Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and living in seven diverse countries."

★★★★★ **Ken Frey Ed. D., retired management consultant, Milton, Ontario, Canada**

Neill Wins again



His [Guns and Gods in My Genes: A 15,000-mile North American search through four centuries of history, to the Mayflower](#) is the winner of New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards 2021 in non-regional Biography category, and finalist in History, Travel, and Cover Design categories. [See more info here](#) and [places to buy here](#).



Also, it won Bronze Medal - Readers' Favorite 2021 International Book Awards - Non-Fiction Genealogy.



This contest is open to independent authors and large and small publishers. 2021 was their "largest contest ever, with thousands of contestants from all over the world and nearly all categories having hundreds of entrants." Due to the contest marking system, the Bronze Medal was the highest award in the category of Genealogy. [See more info here](#) and on Neill's [Neill's Website](#)