Christian Authors Guild — 2010 Catch the Wave Writers' Conference

SHORT STORY FICTION CONTEST

CONTEST & WRITING GUIDELINES

ENTRY FEE: $10.00 PER ENTRY

PRIZES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE

Ten (10) Bonus Points will be awarded for entries that adhere to all of the Contest/Writing Guidelines.

- **Deadline for Eligibility**: ***Entrants must be registered and conference fee paid for the 2010 Fall Conference by August 10, 2010 to be eligible.***
- **Contest Entry Fee**: $10.00 per manuscript entered. Enclose a personal check or money order with your entry.
- **Deadline for Entries**: ***Entries must be post-marked no later than August 14, 2010.***
- Winners will be announced and awards presented during the Closing Session at the 2010 Fall Conference—must be present to win.
- Stories must be original fiction and written by the author. Not required to have a Christian theme, but must adhere to Christian principles. Work should not be edited by CAG board members
- Typed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper
- Separate Cover Page stapled or paper clipped to top of manuscript labeled Short Story contest. Include title, author's name, and word count only
- Do not put author's name on the manuscript
- Title and Page Number only in the footer on all pages (title at left margin; page number centered or right)
- Double-spaced (lines and paragraphs)
- Single-spaced between sentences
- Title in all caps
- Word count: 800 to 1,500 words (use computer word count)
- See the Contest Judging Criteria for a list of how the submissions will be judged
- Submit two (2) copies of each manuscript—stapled or paper clipped. Enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard if you want confirmation your entry was received. Entries received that do not contain the correct amount of postage will be returned.
- Manuscripts will not be returned to the authors, so keep a copy for your file

** Before submitting your entry, take time to ensure that you have followed the Guidelines. **

Mail your entry to: Christian Authors Guild, Attn: Short Story Contest, P. O. Box 2673, Woodstock, GA 30188
Don't forget to enclose the entry fee.

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORMAT:

COVER PAGE

Short Story Contest
TITLE
By B. A. Writer

word count: _____

MANUSCRIPT

TITLE

TITLE Pg. 1

CHRISTIAN AUTHORS GUILD

2010 CATCH THE WAVE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

SHORT STORY FICTION CONTEST

CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA

— maximum ten (10) points awarded per category —

1. OPENING:
   - Is there a hook to capture the reader's interest?
   - Does the story start in the right place or is there too much backstory?

2. MAIN CHARACTERS:
   - Vivid
   - Likeable
   - Believable
   - Well described
   - Do they have something special that makes them come alive?

3. SECONDARY CHARACTERS:
   - Believable
   - Provides a good addition to the story

4. CONFLICT:
   - Action
   - Believable
   - Intriguing

5. NARRATION:
   - Balanced with other story elements
   - Descriptive/Five senses

6. DIALOGUE:
   - Each character's voice distinctive, natural, and realistic
   - Moves the story forward

7. SETTING:
   - Time & place presented in clear fashion

8. VERB TENSE:
   - Maintained one verb tense throughout (unless another used for flashbacks)

9. PUBLISHABLE:
   - Similar to publishable material
   - Almost ready to submit
   - Avoids clichés
   - Author has unique voice or style
   - Avoids head-hopping
   - Pacing flows throughout the story

10. BONUS POINTS: Entrant followed all Contest and Writing Guidelines