

**AMERICAN CHRISTIAN FICTION WRITERS
GENESIS CONTEST SCORE SHEET**

Category _____ Entry # _____
Manuscript Title _____ Judge # _____

Note to judges: These score sheets are returned to the contestants. Please write constructive comments whenever possible on both the manuscript and scoresheet. Whole points only, no decimals. Remember that a 3 is AVERAGE and an AVERAGE entry will have a total score around 60. **If you score 2 or 1, please comment to explain.** Score values are: 5=Excellent, ready for publication; 4=Above average, needs minor tune-up; 3=Average, off to a good start; 2=Below average, major problems/revision needed; 1=Poor quality, needs lots of revision.

PROFESSIONAL IMPACT – 10 POINTS (1-5 points each)

_____ Does the author have a command of the elements of grammar, punctuation, and spelling?
_____ Taking into account the varying requirements of different CBA publishers, is the manuscript
_____ appropriate for the general CBA market?

STORY – 50 POINTS (1-5 points each)

_____ Does the story hold your interest to the end of the entry?
_____ Is the point of view consistent? Are POV changes smooth and logical?
_____ Do sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) enhance each scene?
_____ Does the setting support the story? Is the story well-grounded in the setting?
_____ Do inspirational elements grow organically out of character or plot?
_____ Do scenes flow smoothly, giving a sense of movement?
_____ Is there an opening line or paragraph that immediately hooks the reader into the story?
_____ Is the writing fresh and original, avoiding clichés?
_____ Does the writer utilize showing and telling skillfully?
_____ Is the author’s voice distinct and unique?

CHARACTERIZATION – 15 POINTS (1-5 points each)

_____ Is the main character identifiable yet unique? Does anything about the character feel
_____ clichéd?
_____ Do secondary characters contribute to the story without distracting from it?
_____ Do characters’ emotions seem believable and/or provide understandable motive?

CONFLICT – 10 POINTS (1-5 points each)

_____ Are character motivations powerful enough to create sufficient conflict?
_____ Is a potential for conflict established that is strong enough to move the story forward?

DIALOGUE – 15 POINTS (1-5 points each)

_____ Is the dialogue between characters natural and not stilted, revealing plot and emotion in a
_____ way that narrative cannot?
_____ Are the characters’ voices distinct and appropriate for the setting (time period or scenario)?
_____ Is narrative necessary and well-placed with the dialogue, not overwhelming the reader?

_____ **TOTAL SCORE (out of possible 100 points)**

COMMENTS:

PROFESSIONAL IMPACT:

STORY:

CHARACTERIZATION:

CONFLICT:

DIALOGUE:

STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES:

Optional:

Judge experience: __ Published __ Multi-published __ Unpublished __ Award-winning __

Freelance editor

Genre(s): _____