

AN EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY COMMUNIQUÉ FOR OUR WRITERS



the INNER CIRCLE

M A R C H 2 0 1 1

A Note from Your Publisher

This month I'd like to talk to you about our website, which is a wonderful resource for you, not only for determining your next writing project, but also for providing you with the material you need to promote your book.

I know that you are familiar with our story submission process – you know how to learn about our new book topics and submit your stories online in the “Submit a Story” section of our website. But I want to make sure that you are also familiar with other parts of our website that are designed to help you with promoting your book at charity events, book signings, or speaking appearances. Our “Newsroom” section contains all of the materials you need, from press releases about each book (“Book Media Releases”) to high resolution JPEGs of our book covers and our Chicken Soup for the Soul logos that you are welcome to download and use for posters, bookmarks, and other promotional material related to your Chicken Soup for the Soul books (“Cover Art/Logos”).

Angie Sayers is fighting terminal cancer. Her last wish is to be a published author.

[Click here to read Angie's essay](#)



Our website also contains a wealth of information on the history of Chicken Soup for the Soul, bios of our authors, a look at our licensed products, and other interesting facts. You will also find links to videos, and right now you will find a link to a beautiful piece written by Angela Sayers, a talented twenty-year-old writer who has been valiantly fighting cancer and who very much wished to be published. Her work is outstanding and it was a privilege for us to honor her wish and for a brief time be part of her life. You can click above, or go to our website, to read Angie's inspirational words.

Your publisher, Amy Newmark

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends;
they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors,
and the most patient of teachers.

~Charles W. Eliot

INSPIRATION for
Writers

Changing the world, one story at a time®



Loaded with 36 books

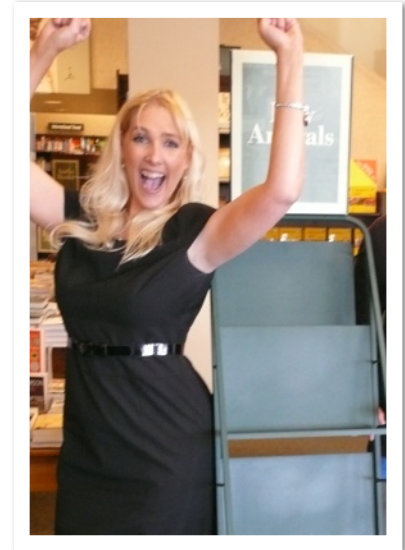
A New Kind of Before and After

On February 5th, Rebecca Hill shed a lot of weight... about thirty-six books' worth! Rebecca, who wrote "Cheeseburger in Paradise" and "Are We Full Yet?" for *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Shaping the New You*, held a book signing at the Barnes & Noble in Marina del Rey, CA. She signed and sold an amazing thirty-six books, which is a big success for a book signing.

Rebecca's cheeseburger story is one of our favorites. Rebecca, a former self-proclaimed "junk food addict," confesses to ordering secret cheeseburgers while working on location in Hawaii shooting a fitness show. Every night, she'd avoid the protein shakes

and steamed vegetables her co-workers were eating, preferring instead to buy room service cheeseburgers. She covered her tracks by leaving the empty trays in front of other guests' doors, until her roommate saw the bill and her delicious secret was out.

Though she still enjoys the occasional cheeseburger, Rebecca has come around to the idea of steamed vegetables. She has lost forty pounds and is a trainer at a Curves gym.



Sold out!

AP style versus literature style

We know that many of our contributors work in media or were trained in journalism, which means following AP style or other newspaper style guides. We've noticed that many of you adhere to AP style and are sometimes surprised that we don't. Interestingly, we hire editors from the journalism side of the world, so our own people are quite familiar with AP style and have to "un-learn" it here!

Lucky for us, we don't have to follow AP style in books! So you will see that we generally spell out numbers below 100 (because it looks nicer), capitalize titles in our bio section (because you earned those titles), and spell out the names of states in our stories (because it reads better).

In some of our books, when our co-author is a journalist accustomed to AP style, or the book is heavily numbers oriented, you will see us following AP style for numbers or other things. But in general we adapt our style guide for each book as we deem appropriate. We aim to be internally consistent within a book, but flexible in our style guide from one book to the next.

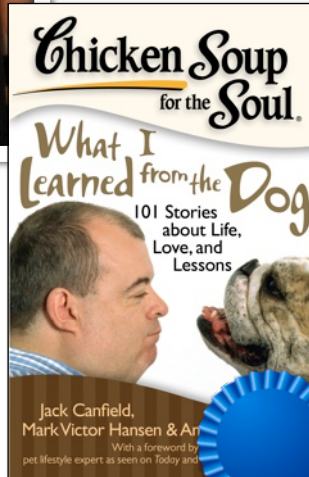
Editor's Tips



A little information
on our
style guidelines



Above: Publisher Amy Newmark at the Dog Writers Association of America dinner wearing the Maxwell Medallion we were awarded.

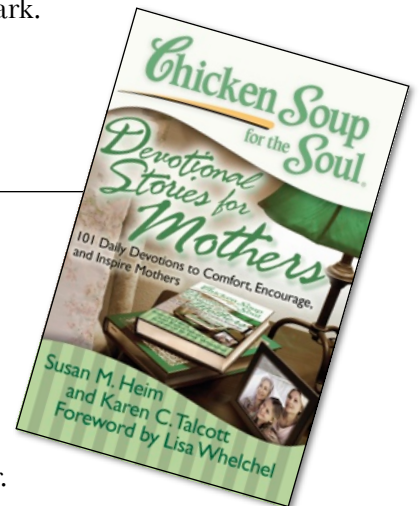


Best in Show

We are proud to announce that *Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from the Dog* won the Dog Writers Association of America's award for best anthology for the 2009-2010 period.

The annual awards dinner was held on Sunday, February 13, the night before the famous Westminster dog show opened in New York.

We want to congratulate everyone who contributed to the book. It was a joint effort by all of us – the contributors and your editors for this book – D'ette Corona, Barbara LoMonaco, and Amy Newmark.



Opening "The Door"

We recently heard from Terrie Todd, a contributor to *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Mothers*. Terrie, who lives in Manitoba, Canada, took part in an event sponsored by her church – a ministry to under-resourced women called The Door. She and the women ate chicken soup and played games, and Terrie told them all about her writing journey. Each woman went home with a signed copy of the book. Says Terrie, about the experience, "I don't take that sort of support lightly!"

Below: Terrie Todd (in red) with the women who attended The Door.



FUN FACTS *about* Chicken Soup for the Soul®

Yes, we have joined the modern age, even though a few of us are past fifty! Our publicity firm, Shelton Interactive, which has worked with many of you on news coverage for your stories, runs our “social networking” for us.

On Twitter, you can read inspirational quotes, find out which blogs are doing “giveaways” of our new books, and follow Chicken Soup for the Soul news in general.

Go to <http://www.twitter.com/chickensoupsoul> to “follow” us.

Did you know that you can follow us on Twitter and check us out on Facebook?

On Facebook, you can share information with other fans of Chicken Soup for the Soul, enter contests, and chat with readers from around the world. “Friend” us or “like” us at <http://www.facebook.com/ChickenSoupfortheSoul>.

Inside Scoop



What happens to stories submitted for the wrong topic?

Sometimes we find that a terrific story has been submitted to the wrong book. It's easy to make a mistake with that pull-down

menu! In those cases, we will move the story to the correct database and evaluate it for the intended book.

But what happens if you have a great story that isn't really on topic, and we have no suitable place for it? This happens occasionally, and if we have no place to move the story, it will languish in the wrong database and may never find its way to the right book. If you have a great story that was a “stretch” to make the book you submitted it to, and then we subsequently post a topic that is more suited to your story, please resubmit it to the new database. We won't mind at all, and in fact, we will be happy to have another chance to evaluate the story for a more suitable topic.

Coming out in March...



Chicken Soup for the Soul: New Moms

101 Inspirational Stories of
Joy, Love, and Wonder
On Sale 3/8/11

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Grandmothers

101 Stories of Love, Laughs,
and Lessons from
Grandmothers and
Grandchildren
On Sale 3/22/11



Ask the Webmaster

I have a wonderful idea for a new Chicken Soup for the Soul book title. Where should I send it?

We thank you for your interest, but we do not accept title ideas from our contributors or the public. We found in the past that the titles proposed were usually similar to the ones we were already considering, had already considered and rejected for various reasons, or were already working on in-house. Keep checking our website – under the “Possible Book Topics” link – for

we are adding new titles all of the time. Maybe the one you wanted to suggest will be added soon.

For a complete list of all of our published Chicken Soup for the Soul book titles please visit our website. Select the “Books and Other Products” link on the left toolbar and then the “All Titles” link. That list is current and updated each time a new title is released.