

# Local author, columnist wins award

BY TRACY FARNHAM  
news@morganton.com

As a child, her heart's desire was to become a writer, but it wasn't until after God called her to the mission field that she finally found the time and muse.

Taryn Hutchison resides in Morganton with her husband and writes a column in the Faith and Values section of The News Herald. It was one of those recent articles that she submitted to a contest for the Amy Foundation Writing Awards and it won recognition as Outstanding Merit and an additional cash prize to boot.

The article was "Evangelism; The Latest Cool Thing" and it was printed on her birthday, she said.

This was her second year submitting writing for contests prior to winning.

"I was totally amazed and humbled. It's such an honor, and the prize was huge," she said adding the prize winnings helped out with

home repairs.

Hutchison said, "I like inspiring people to take the next step in their walk with God, infusing them with courage that he will enable them to do whatever he calls them to wherever that may be. I also enjoy tongue-in-cheek commentary on daily life," she said.

As a published author, Hutchison's book, "We Wait You," has sold 2,800 copies. Given that the average book in the United States sells 500 copies puts things into perspective. She traveled as a missionary to Eastern Europe and worked for Campus Crusade for Christ for 21 years.

"I'm pretty excited," she continued. "Mostly, though, what thrills me are the lives touched through my book."

Hutchison said she keeps a notebook, which is filled with responses through emails and letters from around the world of touched lives through reading her book. "That makes all of the hours of hard work so worth it."

She describes her writing as both a calling and God-given talent.

"After years as a missionary too busy to write, I remembered the dreams God put in my heart as a child to become a writer and I promised him I'd start to do something about that," she said. "I had something significant to write about now. It had become an issue of stewardship with me. I think I have a little God-given talent and a whole lot of desire. Any talent needs to be exercised in order to grow."

Hutchison is also available for speaking engagements and was recently interviewed on the radio show "Life Lessons." Her book, "We Wait You," was named to the 2012 United Methodist Women's National Reading Lists and has been translated into Romanian. She has her third short story published in "A Cup of Comfort for Christian Women" (Feb 2011).

Hutchison may be contacted at [www.tarynhutchison.com](http://www.tarynhutchison.com).



Taryn Hutchison was recently honored for a column that was published in The News Herald.

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