

Date: June 28, 2004
For Immediate Release



2ND ANNUAL GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS STRENGTH OF CHOICE AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - JUNE 28, 2004-The recipient of the second annual *God Allows U-Turns-Strength of Choice Award* was announced June 27th at the annual *AWSA Golden Scroll Awards Banquet* held at the Sheraton hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The award goes to the person who in the previous year best exemplified a consistent determination to rise above difficult circumstances while maintaining a clear focus on the One who not only "allows" U-Turns, but who remains with us on any life journey, no matter how many twists and turns it may bring.

Receiving this year's *God Allows U-Turns-Strength of Choice Award* was **RAMONA RICHARDS** who displayed courage and determination as the single mother of a special need's child when told by doctors that for her daughter to have both quality and quantity of life, Ms. Richards would need to quit her job and "come home."

As the financial provider for their little family, Ramona Richards drew on her faith in Jehovah Jireh, the Lord her Provider, that He would supply her every financial need as she left her salaried editorial position with Thomas Nelson to begin work as a stay-at-home mom/freelance editor. As this year's recipient of the *God Allows U-Turns-Strength of Choice Award*, Ramona Richards exemplifies what it means when we share the *God Allows U-Turn* motto; "*The choices you make change the story of your life.*" Ramona Richards exhibited a *Strength of Choice* from which we can all learn.

The *Golden Scroll Awards Banquet* is sponsored by the *Advanced Writers and Speakers Association (AWSA)* a professional support group made up of the top 10 percent of CBA women in both publishing and speaking who have written at least two books and who speak to groups of 100 at least three times a year across state lines. Currently, *AWSA* are more than 200 women strong.

The annual banquet takes place just prior to the opening of CBA, when *AWSA* invites authors, editors, and publishers to gather for their presentation of the *Golden Scroll Member, Editor, and Publisher of the Year Awards*, along with the presentation of the annual *God Allows U-Turns-Strength of Choice Award*.

For more information about *AWSA* or the *Golden Scroll Awards Banquet*, contact Linda Evans Shepherd at lswrites@aol.com

For information about the God Allows U-Turns Project, contact Allison Bottke at allison@godallowsuturns.com

THE GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS® - Strength of Choice Award WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

Established in 2002 by Kevin and Allison Bottke, Founders of the *God Allows U-Turns Foundation*, the *God Allows U-Turns - Strength of Choice* award is given annually at the Golden Scroll Awards Banquet sponsored by *AWSA* - the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, held just prior to the opening of CBA International.

The *God Allows U-Turns - Strength of Choice Award* goes to the person who in the previous year best exemplified a consistent determination to rise above difficult circumstances while maintaining a clear focus on the One who not only "allows" U-Turns, but who remains with us on any life journey, no matter how many twists and turns it may bring. The recipient of this award outwardly lives Philippians 4:12-13, "*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything in Him who gives me strength.*"

AWARD CRITERIA:

Selected annually by *AWSA* Founder, Linda Evans Shepherd, *God Allows U-Turns®* Founder, Allison Bottke, and the previous years recipient of the *AWSA* Member of the Year award, (Lindsey O'Connor in 2003,) the recipient of the *God Allows U-Turns - Strength of Choice Award* can be anyone within the Christian publishing industry who displays the courage to boldly share their faith with the world while experiencing a formidable life challenge. Like the Biblical Paul, the recipient of this award is a Warrior for Christ, never ceasing to share how God not only allows U-Turns, but also is ever-present in every step of the journey. Along with courageously sharing their faith, the recipient of this award clearly exhibits that God is with them wherever they go. "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and*

courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

AWARD:

The *God Allows U-Turns - Strength of Choice Award* is a \$500 cash donation made from the *God Allows U-Turns Foundation* in the name of the award recipient to a faith-based non-profit organization of the recipient's choice. This donation will be made privately, without public announcement. The recipient will also receive a commemorative award plaque at the annual Golden Scroll Awards Banquet preceding CBA in honor of their *Strength of Choice*.

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