

Writing for the Guideposts Family of Magazines

By Diane Stark, Guideposts Contributing Editor

THE MAGAZINES:

Guideposts – tells true, first-person stories of people using their faith to deal with life’s problems or meet a goal – full length stories range from 1500 to 1800 words – there are also departments that accept stories of 300 words – stories can be your own personal experience or someone else’s, but nearly all are in first person

Angels on Earth – tells first-person pieces of people who encounter angels or stories of people who do angelic things – full length stories are 800-1200 words – there are many departments in Angels that accept stories of 300 words

Mysterious Ways – tells stories of divine intervention and experiences that cannot be explained in any other way – full length stories are 800-1200 words – there are several departments with shorter word counts between 100-300 words – most MW stories are told in the first person

All Creatures – these are solely animal stories, but they usually involve something the animal taught the narrator – they are always on the lookout for stories about unusual animals – full length stories run between 800 and 1200 words – there are many departments with varying word lengths – stories in All Creatures do not have to have a faith angle, although they often do – most stories are first person, but some departments are third person

THE DEVOTIONAL BOOKS:

Daily Guideposts
Mornings with Jesus
Evenings with Jesus
All God’s Creatures

THE WRITERS WORKSHOP CONTEST:

In even years, Guideposts sponsors a writing contest and the prize is a week-long trip to Rye, New York where they conduct a workshop that trains you to write for Guideposts – the submissions window for next contest will open in April 2022 and close in June 2022 – they choose 12 winners, who will be notified in August 2022 and they will travel to Rye in October 2022 - contest entries should be no more than 1800 words and can be targeted for any of their four magazines – entries can be your own personal experience or someone else’s, but it should be written in the first person – multiple entries are accepted – this is the best way to break into Guideposts, as the editors love working with writers who have attended their workshop

For more information about the contest, visit <https://www.guideposts.org/tell-your-story/writers-workshop/writers-workshop-contest>

TO SUBMIT A STORY:

Guideposts has a wonderful website – you can read stories to research the type of submissions they want, check out their writers’ guidelines, and submit through their website – I recommend ordering subscriptions to the magazines if you can, or if not, subscribing to the free newsletters they send out

<https://www.guideposts.org/>

<https://www.guideposts.org/writers-guidelines>

<https://www.guideposts.org/tell-us-your-story>

<https://www.guideposts.org/newsletter-sign-up>

TIPS FOR WRITING FOR GUIDEPOSTS:

1. Guideposts is a faith-based magazine, but it’s not a magazine about God. It’s a magazine about people and how their faith helps them in their daily lives. Stories must involve a positive change in the narrator and a take-away for the reader.
2. A Guideposts story involves a small window of time. It’s not your whole life story. If you are telling the story of how your faith helped you during your cancer journey, choose one day that was especially poignant and write about that.
3. Show, don’t tell. Guideposts stories are told in scenes. Imagine that you are watching your story unfold through a window. Write what you see.
4. Guideposts stories are honest and vulnerable. Being transparent when telling your story helps the reader identify with your struggles and get emotionally invested in your story.
5. Guideposts is especially seeking stories that involve one or more of the following topics :
 - Caregiving
 - Military
 - Addiction and Recovery
 - Pets