

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

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 training to write for Guideposts. The deadline to enter is June 30, 2022. Submit a true, first-person story of up to 1500 words. Include a cover letter that describes your previous writing experience.

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 begin with a problem, 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