

April 2004

Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book



RBP STUDENT MINISTRIES

Writer's Guide

Writing for Regular Baptist Press Student Ministries Periodicals

From the Editor

Thank you for your interest in writing for RBP Student Ministries. It may interest you to know that our publications are placed into the hands of almost 50,000 students all over the world each week. Writing for students is a great way to impact many lives for eternity.

Mel Walker
Director of Student Ministries

Our Audiences and Publications

Living My Faith is a 12-page, full-color weekly periodical for early adolescent students ages 12 to 14. Each issue combines a week's worth of daily Bible devotions (written by RBP staff members) with timely features (personal experience, nonfiction, fiction) that speak to students about the daily concerns of their lives, show them the Biblical perspective, and challenge them to faith and spiritual growth.

Word count ranges: 300-800 words for articles and features; up to 1,000 words for true and fiction stories.

Real Faith in Life is a 96-page, full-color quarterly devotional planner for senior high students. Each issue combines in-class worksheets, planning pages, and daily Bible devotions (written by RBP staff members) with articles and features about the spiritual issues that are important to senior high students.

Word count ranges: 400—1,200 words for articles and features; articles of more than 600 words must be structured with subheads to lead readers through them.

Current status for contributing writers: Articles are mainly by assignment. However, we are looking for writers who are familiar with RBP student ministries materials and who are well acquainted with churches where this curriculum is being used. Submissions must fit RBP theology and support Bible curriculum themes. (See manuscript instructions.)

Bottom Line: We want Christian junior high and senior high students to see the importance of living out their faith in daily experiences. Reading the real-life testimonies of real students helps readers appreciate that the Lord can accomplish His will in and through their lives as well.

Kinds of Manuscripts Desired

To accomplish our goals we are looking for:

- The works of teenage writers, such as testimonies or letters, articles and insights, interviews, or first-person, or as-told-to accounts (400 words). Tell peers how God is at work. Tell them what's on your heart.
- Personal experience, as-told-to stories, and interviews that convey spiritual insight with good take-away value to a teen audience (800–1,200 words). Articles can be by a student or by a youth worker or freelance writer who knows a particular student's experience of wrestling with a spiritual issue and the testimony involved. The focus should be not on the student but on the issue, how the student found God's answer, and how this student's testimony can help others dealing with a similar issue.
- Informational and how-to articles about faith, truth, spiritual issues, personal evangelism, student ministry experiences (e.g., missions, serving in the church, serving in the community), school life, social life, relationships (parents, siblings, friends), moral issues, decision making skills, etc. (500–1,200 words).
- Articles about ordinary students who are involved for the cause of Christ (800–1,200 words). Articles can be written by a student, youth worker, or freelance writer who knows a more or less "normal" student or group of teens others can relate to who is doing something to impact his or her world for Christ. The focus is not on a one-time situation, but an ongoing area of participation.
- Personal reflections and other kinds of writing (400–800 words) that help teens grow to understand God as He has revealed Himself through His written Word (as Trecia wrote from Grenada in the West Indies, "Your [publications] help me to know and love the Lord better.").
- Well-written fiction that is suited in subject and style to a specific teen audience (500–1,200 words) and meeting the stated goals of RBP Student Ministries products.

RBP Policies

- The devotional Bible study sections in these publications are by RBP staff or assignment only; no unsolicited items will be considered for these sections.
- E-mail queries to Mel Walker, Director of RBP Student Ministries, at mwalker@garbc.org.
- Please send unsolicited submissions to Mel Walker at mwalker@garbc.org. (RBP does not promise to respond to unsolicited manuscripts unless submissions are accepted for publication.) Only Microsoft Word 2000 (or newer versions) electronic files will be accepted.
- Assigned manuscripts may be e-mailed as attached Microsoft Word files.
- Files must be double-spaced in 8 1/2 x 11-inch, portrait format.

- Your name, address, and phone number must appear in the upper left corner of page 1. (If your article is published, you will be asked to submit your Social Security number to RBP's financial department.)
- Please place your name at the top right-hand corner of each additional page of your article.
- Indicate your intended audience (junior highers, senior highers) in the upper right corner of page 1.
- Place the word count on page 1 below your statement of audience.
- Place the title of the article and your byline (or pen name) in the center of page 1.
- If your article is a true story or based on a true incident, state this fact after your byline.
- Use the King James Version in all Bible quotations.
- If you quote any other published material, send a photocopy of the title page, copyright page, and page with the quote. It is your responsibility to obtain permission to quote printed material that is copyright protected (e.g., song lyrics). Include the permission letter with your manuscript.
- RBP needs a resume or biographical sketch and photograph from writers of all accepted manuscripts.

Photographs

RBP welcomes clear, sharp photographs or slides—especially action photos—that support the article. Payment is made for photos used. Please be sure a name and return address are placed on the back of each photo to assure remuneration and return of pictures. Good quality, high-resolution digital pictures are also acceptable.

Purchasing Rights and Editing

Regular Baptist Press is a publisher of church education materials, and the curriculum periodicals are a division of our curriculum department. Our policies are intended to preserve what is distinctive about our materials. When we purchase the right to publish an article, story, project, puzzle, or other work, we are purchasing

- the right to edit the material to meet the needs of our audiences,
- the right to publish it at a time that fits with our needs,
- the right to reprint it at some future time (applies to publications for children and teens; see next paragraph).

For our children's and junior high publications, RBP purchases all periodical rights in order to correlate content of the materials with the curriculum cycle for a specific department. Consideration will be given to a writer's written request to sell published material to another publisher as a reprint. We purchase first rights to assigned articles or stories for our senior high and adult periodicals. We prefer first rights when considering unsolicited manuscripts but may consider second- or one-time rights (note when/where published) only for articles and stories that are particularly well-suited to our audience in terms of theology, slant, writing quality, and take-away value. RBP is not interested in simultaneous submissions. The copyright of RBP materials protects the materials published in them.

Payment for Manuscripts

Payment for material varies according to quality, rights purchased, and type of writing. We pay a premium for items that require minimal editing and go the extra distance in providing sidebar material, subheads, etc. Rates start at 5¢ per word for reprints and go up as we deal with first rights, articles by assignment, and quality manuscripts. We pay upon acceptance. Normally a writer will receive a response of accept or decline within 4 to 8 weeks, but there are occasional times when the decision takes longer. We have a hold-for-payment-upon-publication policy for fillers or sidebars that have potential for being slotted but are not suited to any particular issue or theme at the time they are received.

Publication Date

For assigned work, your story or article will probably appear within 12 months. For unsolicited pieces, publication typically occurs within 3 years. A complimentary copy of the issue in which your story, article, puzzle, etc., appears will be sent to you upon publication. If you desire a greater quantity, contact Mel Walker at the end of the quarter of publication. More copies of your work may be purchased in quantities up to 10 copies at a rate sufficient to handle current RBP printing and postal costs.

Our Goals

- To offer enjoyable reading (active words, crisp sentences) and a clear sense of movement from an inviting opening, through a well-developed body, to a solid conclusion to the article or story, without clichés or a preachy tone.
- To help non-believing readers come to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- To help believing readers understand God more clearly, trust Him more fully, and love Him better.
- To enable students to see their complex world from a Biblical perspective and to understand and apply Bible truths to their own lives.

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you have ideas or suggestions for future issues of *Living My Faith* or *Real Faith in Life*? We want to hear from you.

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