

NAV PRESS

Pray! Magazine Guidelines for Writers

As you read the following quotation, consider whether you are the first type of author, or the second:

“A famous Chinese writer tells us there are two classes of author. One kind will accumulate data, sort them and draw conclusions. The other kind, faced with the same data, incorporates them into his or her life, and later is compelled to write by the urgency of a vital experience.

Consequently, there will be two classes of [writings]. The first [type] has passed only through the writer’s intellect; the second is the costly fruit of the writer’s pains, struggles and joys. It reflects as wisdom tested in life’s laboratory.”

—By John White, quoted from his forward to Authority to Heal by Ken Blue

It is this second type of writer for which *Pray!* is looking.

Before writing for *Pray!*, it is important to understand *Pray!*’s audience and goals. *Pray!*’s audience has three subgroups, listed here, along with the goals for each. Note that every article need not address every audience subgroup or meet every goal—but every article should be specifically focused toward one of the audience subgroups and at least one of the goals. Also note that every article should create a passion for Christ through prayer.

1. Prayer Mobilizers/Local Church Prayer Leaders
 - a). practical tools to help them lead, equip and inspire others to pray
 - b). help for the special challenges of mobilizing children and youth to pray
 - c). inspirational articles to refresh and re-connect them in their own prayer lives
2. Seasoned Intercessors
 - a). affirmation of their role in the body of Christ
 - b). inspirational articles to refresh and re-connect them in their own prayer lives
 - c). help with the unique challenges of their role as intercessors
3. Growing Pray-ers
 - a). systematic presentation of basic prayer topics necessary to a growing prayer life
 - b). clearly spelled-out ways to apply the principles taught in each issue
 - c). inspiration about the *possibilities* of prayer, often told as story

There are several sections of the magazine open to freelance writers:

Full length pieces (1200-1500 words)

- Teaching on an aspect of prayer (for example, contemplative prayer, praying Scripture) Make sure to bring your piece to life with personal illustration/application.
- Theological articles that present doctrinal aspects of prayer. (For example, praying in one accord, the role of faith in prayer.) These also must include personal illustration/application.
- How to’s on different methods of prayer. Don’t forget the personal illustration/application on these as well.

Departments (800 words)

- A Prayer Journeys first-person narrative of how God led the author into a deepened relationship with Christ through prayer. Can relate a breakthrough, milestone, epiphany, or even a setback—but it must be compelling and instructive.

Short Pieces (Fewer than 500 words):

- News. We need prayer event coverage. Ask for a copy of “Pray News Criteria” for details.
- Ideas that will enhance the personal or corporate prayer lives of our readers. These might be on prayer techniques, journals, how to stay focused, praying on a certain topic, ideas for prayer partners, prayer meetings, etc.

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Tips for successful articles:

- The best way to see the kinds of things we do is by reading several issues of the magazine. Sample copies are available upon request, or may be viewed at our website: <http://www.navpress.com/praymag.asp>
- Make sure your piece is focused on some aspect of prayer. We do not use articles on missions, discipleship, leadership or any other of a number of worthy topics, as the sole purpose of our magazine is to mobilize prayer. A large number of articles are rejected each month because they do deal tangentially with prayer, if at all.
- Do not be preachy. Show people what God has taught you rather than trying to tell them what they ought to be doing. Use illustrations (anecdotes, examples), preferably your own.
- Do not point fingers at denominations, groups, or individuals. We strive to unify and believers in prayer; we will not intentionally print anything that would tear down a group.
- Develop your points and be specific. Don't just tell us that prayer works or that it's a good thing to pray. Our readers know that already. Show them something new or practical about praying or mobilizing prayer. Then develop those points in detail.
- Use Scripture. Where appropriate we want our articles to be supported by Scripture. We prefer quotations in the NIV; if you use another translation, please note which one.
- We do not look at book manuscripts or chapters; these must be adapted as stand-alone articles before we can consider them.
- If you're writing a teaching article, be sure to illustrate your points. Show the reader how to put each principle into practice.
- Remember to stick to the appropriate length for the type of piece you are writing. If you go over our required lengths you will be cut, so if you would rather decide what to cut than have us do it, please observe this guideline!
- We prefer original articles to reprints, (and besides, they pay better!) so if possible, put a new spin on a piece you've already published before submitting it to us.
- We do not use poetry.
- Try to look at things from a fresh angle. A lot of topics have already been covered, so we really need you to think outside the box and beyond the basics. Don't be afraid to take risks. We want to move our readers out of their comfort zones.
- Remember, this magazine is completely on prayer. Make sure you do not send articles that make broad generalizations about prayer—focus in on a specific aspect of prayer.

How to submit an article

Send either a completed manuscript or a detailed query letter. We prefer email submissions if possible. If you prefer to send articles by US Mail, please type, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only. On the first page, in the upper left-hand corner, type your name, address, phone number, and email address. Hard-copy manuscripts will be returned if a SASE is included. We respond in 8 to 12 weeks. Payment is 10 cents per word for first rights/5 cents per word for reprints, with an additional 10 percent for electronic rights, payable on acceptance.

Please submit material to:

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