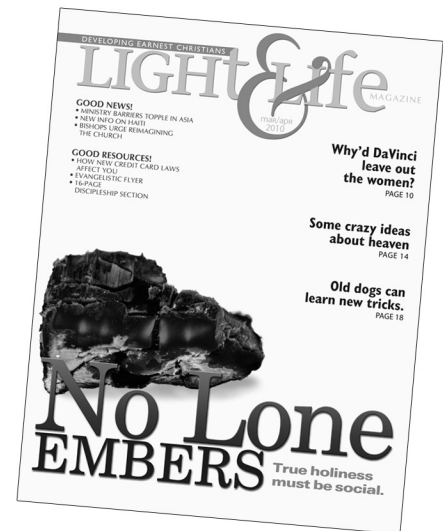




WRITER'S GUIDELINES

ABOUT LIGHT & LIFE

Light & Life is a bimonthly magazine with a circulation of 38,000 that exists to promote thoughtful Christian discipleship from a Wesleyan-Arminian perspective. While it originates in the context of ministry through the Free Methodist Church of North America, Light & Life is not published to serve only the Free Methodist denomination. Nor is it written exclusively by — or for — Free Methodists.



Our goal is to offer the evangelical Christian community an energetic magazine that encourages honest, biblical reflection on contemporary topics and Christian living. We want to help develop thinking Christians who enjoy a victorious Christian life and to provide well-written, thought-provoking content that is readable, desirable and usable — articles and pullout materials that will equip and excite maturing Christians seeking to live holy lives.

The Evangelical Press Association has repeatedly recognized Light & Life as an award-winning magazine, and we continue to reevaluate our look and feel to meet our readers' changing needs.

In Philippians 2:17, Paul wrote of being poured out like a drink offering. With that in mind, Light & Life's underlying philosophy is "pull me apart and use me up." The magazine has been intentionally designed so that pieces of it can be easily removed: a 16-page Bible-sized study guide for individuals and groups ("Deeper Path"), a four-page testimony-driven evangelistic handout ("LifeNotes"), and two full-color regulation-sized postcards for those who want to encourage others in (or outside of) the body of Christ.

Each issue of Light & Life contains a feature article (along with three others) that ties directly into the "Deeper Path," a two-page "LifeStyle" section that helps readers put what they're reading into action in their lives and an informative one-page section called "Money Wise."

Our articles and "LifeNotes" are most often contributed by freelancers who have queried us or spoken with us at writers conferences. Occasionally, articles are assigned to trusted authors whose work has already appeared in our pages. More than ever, we are looking for submissions from authors who write competently using current information, provide clear application and employ contemporary style and illustrations.

ARTICLES

Approximately 50 percent of each issue comes from freelance writers. Every manuscript is carefully evaluated, but we are able to accept only a small percentage of the many we receive. We are looking for articles in four major categories:

Christian Perspective

- Thought-provoking, relevant, competent analysis of current events and cultural issues. Must be crisp and crystal clear. Expert information sources. Not mere opinion.
- Doctrinal, theological, apologetic and philosophical articles. Must be written in a compelling, nontechnical style. The goal is to write articles that will acquaint the layperson with classic bedrock teachings of the evangelical church and promote doctrinal literacy among a Wesleyan-Arminian readership.
- True Christianity contrasted with cultural Christianity and the encroachments of secular or tradition-bound thinking.

Christian Living and Growth

- Fresh, lively, upbeat pieces about practical Christian living. How-to articles. Devotional articles wrapped around an interesting anecdote. Common questions and concerns facing the average Christian.
- Feature articles about historic and well-known Christian people whose lives exemplify passions and patterns worth emulating. Excerpts and modernizations of classic Christian writers.
- Growing in faith. Discovering and developing the fruit and gifts of the Spirit. The nature and goal of Christlikeness. Spiritual disciplines. Character development.

Christian Mission

- Where is the church at work? Analysis of the evangelical witness in America. Trends in the church. Suggestions for greater fruitfulness. Creative local church ministry.
- How can individual Christians get involved in significant ministry? Interviews with Christians making an impact in the world. How to represent Jesus Christ more effectively. Advocacy for groups or types of people with special needs and how to help.

Personal Testimonials

- Our LifeNote “Two Gods Under One Roof?” won the 2004 EPA Higher Goals award for best evangelistic article. We are looking for more award-winning testimonials (first-person or as-told-to). The key is to grab readers quickly, present a crisis experience or a new thought, and provide a takeaway that will enable the reader to approach life in a new way as a result of reading about someone else's crisis moment or turning point.
- We're looking for encouragement and transferable content, exciting stories of dramatic events that will carry over into the minds and hearts of our readers.

SUBMISSIONS

Length: Articles — 800 to 1,500 words; “LifeNotes” — 1,000 words.

Response time: 12 weeks. Pays on acceptance.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please indicate in the e-mail's subject line that you're sending a query or manuscript submission. Attach your document in Word (.doc, not .docx) format. Be sure it's double-spaced and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Send to: LLMAuthors@fmcna.org.

If you must send hard-copy submissions: use 8.5 x 11 white paper. Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font is preferred. One-inch margins. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with hard-copy submissions. Upon acceptance we will request that your article be resubmitted electronically to: Light & Life; Manuscript Manager; P.O. Box 535002 Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002.

PLEASE NOTE: If your submission comes as a result of a contact you made with one of our editorial staff at a writers conference, please use the contact information/instructions you received at that time.

Be sure to include all of your contact information (phone, e-mail, snail-mail address) and the manuscript's total word count at the top of page 1. All subsequent pages should include your name and consecutive page numbers in the upper right-hand corner.

Attach a cover letter introducing yourself and the article briefly. No need to be clever. Please do not submit multiple pieces at one time. Send seasonal material at least six months in advance.

All book and Web sources must be cited. NIV is our preferred Bible translation. (When using another Bible version please identify it immediately following the verse reference.) Recommended writer's resource: Associated Press Stylebook.

Let us know if photographs and/or graphics are available to accompany your article.

payment

Light & Life pays on acceptance, starting at 15 cents per word. Three complimentary copies will be sent to you upon publication. Requests for additional copies or reprints can be processed at the time of acceptance or thereafter.

poetry

We do not accept poetry.

themes, query letters

We do not publish a theme list. If you are unsure about the “fit” of your article with our future needs, it is best to write a standard query letter first. Please allow eight weeks for a response.

RIGHTS, reprints

Light & Life is a copyrighted periodical. We copyright the “work as a whole” and not the individual articles.

Light & Life buys first (one-time) rights. We prefer first-time rights and rarely use “second rights” or reprinted articles. First rights revert back to the author once the next issue is available. (For example, Jan/Feb rights revert to the author March 1.) If/when offering second rights on an article, be sure to list the publication(s) and dates where it has already appeared — right at the top of page 1 of the manuscript.

Inquiries from other publications or organizations regarding permission to reuse articles that have appeared in Light & Life are always referred to the author for permission and payment arrangements. When granted permission to reuse any of our articles, others are asked to include a credit line indicating that the article first appeared in Light & Life.

internet use

Light & Life regularly features all content from the current issue on our denominational Web site (freemethodistchurch.org). Authors whose material appears on our Web site do not receive additional payment, but they do receive the added exposure of having their names, faces and writing available to Internet readers the world over. New for 2010 is a digital edition of Light & Life, featuring immediate click-through links that will increase exposure for authors with websites. Visit freemethodistchurch.org/Magazine for more.



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