

CHRISTIAN STANDARD

MinistryLife

SUMMARY

MinistryLife is a column written by a different freelance writer each month. It is a factual, personal narrative essay about some aspect of the writer's life in ministry.

DETAILS

MinistryLife is a 500- to 700-word reflective essay in which the writer tells of an experience through which he or she gained wisdom or learned some vital ministry principle.

These well-written essays are often touching, humorous, or sometimes both. The story may well be the one the writer tells best or most frequently.

This column has a strong storytelling component using sensory details (i.e., sight, sound, taste, etc.) and vivid description. Here are a few suggestions for good essay writing:

- Set the scene, include action and maybe dialogue.
- Consider using figurative language (similes and metaphors) and fiction techniques (describing an inciting incident, conflict, setback, climax, epiphany, resolution).
- Let the reader discover the takeaway, almost serendipitously, through the story itself rather than overtly driving home the point.
- Avoid the predilection to use big words (such as *predilection* and *serendipitously*).

Good examples of this kind of writing abound in magazines such as the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, and others. The best example for MinistryLife writers is "5-Minute Memoir," a regular column in *Writer's Digest*. (Go to www.writersdigest.com and search for "5-Minute Memoir." You can find excellent examples and get good ideas from their stories.)

We ask *Christian Standard* readers to submit their own MinistryLife pieces to tell their stories. Submit it to CS@ChristianStandardMedia.com with "MinistryLife" in the subject line.