

THE SECRET PLACE

Guidelines for Writers

Information about THE SECRET PLACE

The Secret Place was begun in 1937 by a woman who wanted to provide a way to draw Christians closer to Christ and to one another. *The Secret Place* is now a quarterly devotional magazine with a worldwide readership of more than 250,000 and editions in regular print, large print and Braille. *The Secret Place* is published by Judson Press, American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

To order *The Secret Place*, call 1-800-458-3766 (ABC/USA).

How to Submit Devotions

The Secret Place is written solely by freelance writers, and anyone may submit original, unpublished meditations for consideration. Each submission should be keystroked or typed (if possible) using single space and emailed (if possible), and contain:

- your name, address, and phone number in the upper left-hand corner of each devotion
- a suggested Scripture passage to be read
- a title
- a “Thought for Today,” usually a Scripture verse (cite full reference and Bible version) but may also be a pertinent thought; we use the New Revised Standard Version unless you specify otherwise
- an original meditation of 150 to 200 words (excluding the Scripture, Thought for Today, and prayer) that relates to your Scripture reading and “Thought for Today” (do not quote other sources at length unless you include written permission to do so)
- a brief concluding prayer
- your name, city, and state as you would like them to appear in print

We are especially interested in devotional meditations that:

- are original, creative, and spiritually insightful
- are concise and focused on one theme
- explore less familiar biblical passages and themes
- if making personal references please do not use actual names
- address urban/suburban as well as rural/nature experiences
- appeal to young adults as well as older adults
- encourage outreach, mission, and service
- are written by men as well as women, young adults as well as older adults
- reflect racial and cultural diversity and use inclusive language

We retain the right to edit submissions as necessary for clarity, brevity, and inclusivity of language. We work nine to twelve months ahead of schedule, so please plan any seasonal submissions accordingly, and do not send more than six at a time. E-mail submissions (one attached devotion per e-mail) are preferred and will be responded to via e-mail. If sending submissions via U.S. mail, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for notification and return if not accepted. Due to the volume of material we receive, we are unable to give updates on the status of individual submissions. If we are unable to use your submission, please allow one to two months for notification. Since we work well in advance, notification of publication may take as long as two years.

We pay \$20 for each submission published and purchase first rights to the use of original, unpublished material in *The Secret Place* and unlimited rights for use in related electronic material (www.judsonpress.com). Thank you for contributing to this ministry through your support, submissions, and prayers.

E-mail your submissions to TheSecretPlace@abc-usa.org. If e-mail is not possible, mail your submissions to THE SECRET PLACE, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

SAMPLE

Your Name
Your Street or Box Number
Your City, State, and Zip Code
Your Telephone Number

Isaiah 43:1-7

Promises, Promises

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)

Our now-healthy son, Jamie, was sent to Buffalo Children’s Hospital for tests as a baby. His muscular development was quite slow; we feared he had an incurable disease. One Christian assured us that he didn’t.

“How do you know?” we asked.

“Because I don’t think God would do that to you and Dave.”

I couldn’t share his view. God doesn’t promise to play favorites in the circumstances of our lives. While miracles do occur, the waters do not inevitably part for Christians. We get cancer and have car accidents, for it is the common lot of all people on earth to “pass through the waters” and “walk through the fire.” God says “when,” not “if.”

God does promise to his children certain benefits that nonbelievers cannot enjoy, however--benefits that make all the difference: the promise of his presence, the pledge to set limits to the trial, the assurance of sustaining grace, and finally, victory. God promises that one day we will have passed through all the waters, rivers, and fires and will end up safe on the other side. These are the promises we can count on.

PRAYER: Lord, help us not to presume upon promises you have not given but to put our absolute confidence in those you have; through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Your Name As You Want It to Appear—City, State