

God in focus. World in scope.

# new identity

MAGAZINE

2009-2010

*Writer's Guidelines*

New Identity magazine welcomes freelance inquiries and is open to a variety of subjects relating the Christian faith to a multicultural, multiethnic, and multifaceted world. We'd love for you to share your unique perspective with our readers. We're looking for men and women of different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds to share their lives, experience and viewpoints on interesting and relevant topics. Our mission is to educate, inform, and encourage people to think about their world and their God. We especially want to reach out to new believers in an informative, applicable and entertaining way.

New Identity Magazine covers a wide range of lifestyle topics that affect young people today, from their own backyard communities, to traveling to other countries, to passionate cultures and relationships - all with a Christ-centered mind-set. We're looking for creative, well thought out ideas that put a positive spin or altogether new insight into a different culture or perspective that may help a new follower of Christ.

## **SPECS**

Frequency: quarterly (four-a-year), winter, spring, summer, fall

Features: 1,500 to 3,000 words

Columns and departments: 350 to 1,000 words

Lead time: 1 to 2 months

Pay rate: Volunteer basis, unless otherwise noted

Payment schedule: On publication

Rights requested or purchased: First North American Serial Rights, First International Serial Rights and Electronic Serial Rights (North America & International)

## **OUR MISSION**

New Identity Magazine's mission as a publication is to help people find their new identity in Christ by representing interesting topics, issues and ideas from multiple Christian perspectives. New Identity plans to generate the communication and understanding to unite people that hail from different ends of the spectrum and encourage thought provoking discussion and commonality through Christ. By using scriptures of the Holy Bible as the source, the Word that binds Christians together, and highlighting different insights into their intention and application, New Identity Magazine will help readers live a more stimulating, inclusive, and passionate life with God. In addition New Identity Magazine will be a publication that encourages learning, wisdom, creative expression, and showcases the cultural and world aspects of life and following God.

Our goal is to represent true-to-life Christians that have questions, wonder, ponder, dream and have a willingness to learn about varying viewpoints. We desire to dissolve the rules, categories and stereotypes placed on Christians and non-Christians and shed God's light into the areas that may be forgot-

ten or rarely talked about but vital in many peoples' lives. Our readers are from different ethnicities, cultures, genders, and denominations, just like the body of Christ.

## OVERVIEW

Given the unique audience of the magazine, we rarely publish unsolicited full-length pieces, so we recommend pitching an idea first. And the best way to pitch an idea we're likely to love is to dig into our mission and purpose, read an issue or two, and identify if your idea fits our needs or has potential. You can pitch us about any subject you'd like (don't be shy) but please be as detailed and concise as possible with your pitches - we can't gauge vague pitches any more than you can start to write an article from one.

The best way to submit a query is by e-mail, but we do accept hard copies sent to our office in Torrance. For experienced writers, when sending a pitch, please include two or three writing samples (ideally published clips), either as a Word attachment, a list of URLs or by postal mail to the address below. We also prefer pitches that target to a specific department, so familiarize yourself with our departments and headings. We greatly appreciate it.

## \*HOW TO PITCH\*

- 1) **Know.** Maybe it sounds cliché, but know our identity. Make sure you get a good sense of where your writing will fit best and in which section, make sure you understand our mission and goals. This helps on both ends.
- 2) **Identify.** It's hard for us to see if a pitch is a good fit, if it's not very clear or concise. We want to know that you have a sure idea and have planned ahead with how to execute your excellent idea into an equally excellent article. Unfortunately we don't have time to read 10-page story ideas, so please keep them like the teaser trailer of a film. We'll ask for the feature, after we've liked the preview.
- 3) **Communicate.** E-mail is our preferred method of communication for pitching or querying ideas. And it's faster too. We will get back to you as promptly as we can. Pitches should be sent via e-mail to:

[submissions@newidentitymagazine.com](mailto:submissions@newidentitymagazine.com)

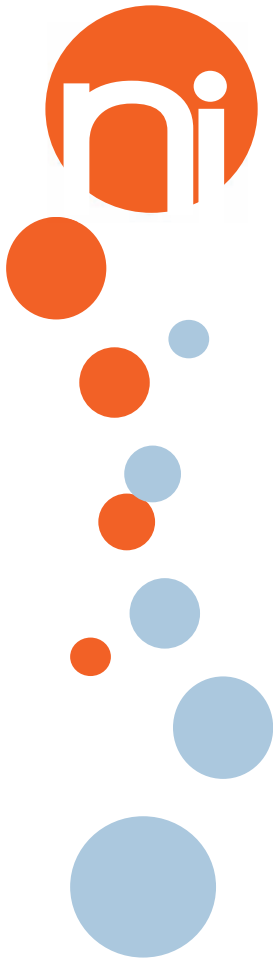
Whether you're an experienced writer or a newbie, we hope to have something for everyone in the many areas a freelancer can contribute to, including:

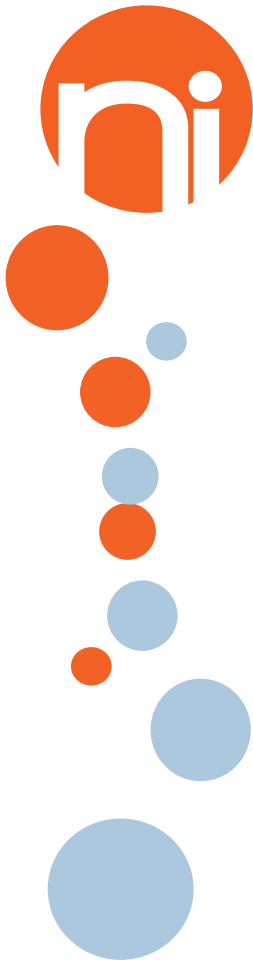
## COMMUNITY

Articles relating to outreach, neighborhoods, family and influencing others and the greater community.

### Give Back

Highlights non-profit organizations, groups, clubs and schools. This section features a different organization or charity, their mission and goals and how you can become involved.





### Relationships

Friends, family and significant others - this section focuses on relationships, roles, gender differences and how we relate to or learn from the other people in our lives.

### Discovering God

Here we share real life stories of growth and transformation and how different Christians have come to know Christ through certain circumstances or people in their lives.

### People

Features a q-and-a with a Christian in the community doing something to positively impact the people around them and the surrounding environment for God.

## ENVIRONMENT

Features sustainability, creation, conservation and other environmental topics and the discussion of issues relating Christians to the environment.

### Health and Home

This section includes topics related to gardening, pets, décor, home solutions, health and medicine.

### Nature

Topics involving nature and the plant and animal world.

### Recreation

Presents articles around active lifestyles, sports and outdoor recreation.

### Science and Technology

Look into innovative science and technologies that affect everyday life with positive change. We like to inspire, covering breakthroughs and future possibilities of technological advancements and how God is constantly changing the world we live in through science.

## CULTURE

Articles about issues or reflections pertaining to different cultures and ethnic groups and the intertwining of such lives and the breaking of barriers.

### Spotlight: In Perspective

This section spotlights current and relevant issues or topics in an objective way from multiple Christian perspectives and the Bible references to support those perspectives.

### Denominational Differences

In this section we define different Christian denominations and other religions objectively to simply provide information and education to the faiths around the world.

### Careers & Callings

Profiling Christianity's impact on the business world, Christian entrepreneurs and ways Christian businesses are reaching people with the love of God and showing Jesus' principles in practice.

### The Arts

This section includes music, art, design, poetry, photography, dance and other forms of expression. We focus on learning to use the gifts and talents we are given, as well as the ministries started around them. In this section we also accept previously unpublished photographs, poetry and music.

### WORLD

This section includes a variety of areas relating to the world, both from global and personal views. We desire International writers and encourage the perspectives of Christians from or living in foreign countries (outside the U.S.).

### Missions

This section focuses on the mission field, either small groups in a home or oceans away from familiarity. We hope to bring insight into true mission work and its trials, tribulations and triumphs from an honest and intimate perspective.

### Travel

Stories of experience or encounters with cultural immersion in foreign countries (or even foreign backyards), traveling and new surroundings.

### Cuisine

New foods to try, with exciting recipes and ethnic cuisines.

### Snapshot

Glimpse of the daily life of a Christian in a different country, outside the United States.

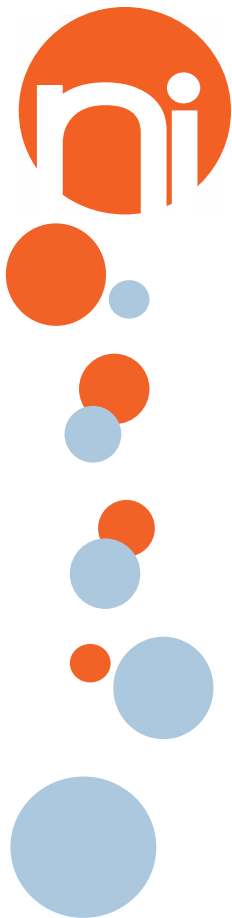
\*With Features Stories we especially welcome profiles, investigative stories, trend pieces, and think pieces.\*

## FURTHER SUBMISSION DETAILS

### Content

We are seeking submissions that focus on the different perspectives and backgrounds of those following Christ. More specifically we want to know how different peoples' lives in God interact with the world and the experiences that have shaped their opinions or perspectives. We also welcome articles of those who are not followers of Christ but include reactions to Christians and/or Christianity and how faith is perceived through the eyes of non-believers. We like a broad range of topics and encourage stretching the reaches of faith and the inclusion of different Christian perspectives that may not be the 'norm' or mainstream.

We try and make as few assumptions as possible at New Identity magazine and rely on God's word as presented in the Holy Bible and are accountable to the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ. We prefer articles that explore living



for Christ in a global, multi-cultural world, written in a journalistic style so that those outside of the Christian environment can understand and immerse into the issues and topics covered. There will be some room for human interest, journal-like reflections in our columns and departments, but we value more factually supported, second or third-person style articles when writing for feature story placement. This style helps the reader dig deeper into each topic that is covered.

We are not interested in aggressive or opinionated tones, but balanced and researched professional writing. Our goal is to target a faith-based audience but still communicate valuably to the causal reader. For the benefit of the lay reader, please refrain from using too much Christian jargon, cultural language or unfamiliar terms. And if such words are present please define them accurately for our readers.

Please cite Bible references. We prefer the New International Version (NIV), but other translations are accepted. Just please remember to cite the version that's used with each reference or scripture that is used for the basis of a thought point. If you have quoted primary sources, please include their contact information (address/phone/email) for verification of the article. And please reference all other sources in your submissions. Unfortunately we do not accept Bible studies, sermons, or fiction. Poetry, music and photography are accepted for specific sections. Sorry for all these details, but we're just trying to help you get a better sense of what we're looking for.

#### Format

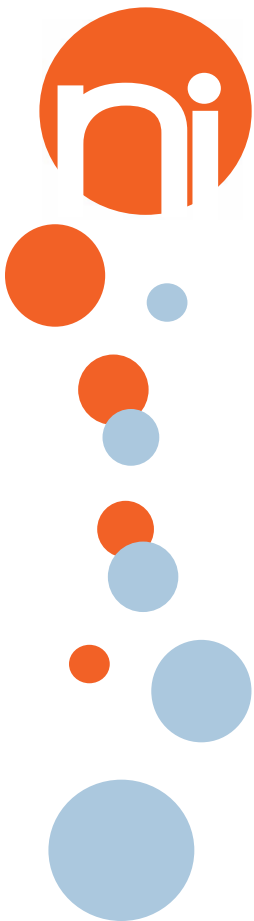
Lastly, the length of each article will depend on the material and the section it's featured under, but in general we suggest 1,200-2,500 words for each article. Features are usually on the larger side 1,500 to 3,000 words but can reach up to 4,200. Columns and other departments are smaller, 350-1,000 words. Submissions should be in typed form, completed and sent before the editorial deadline to:

**[submissions@newidentitymagazine.com](mailto:submissions@newidentitymagazine.com)**

We are interested in fresh material so reprints may be less likely to be accepted. However, if you would like to send us a reprint you feel is just perfect for us we would greatly appreciate it. Just please include the date, previous publisher and what rights they may have to the manuscript. (All very important.)

Again, e-mail transmissions are preferred. (The quickest for sure. And eco-friendly.) All manuscripts can be submitted via e-mail, either a Microsoft Word attachment or similar or inserted into the base of the e-mail message (eventually we'll have a website submission form where you can copy and paste, but not yet). If e-mailed in a plain text format, please leave it single-spaced, with one free line separating each paragraph and no paragraph indentations. Very helpful in the editing room.

Parameters for submissions via regular mail include, typed, double-spaced, on



8-1/2" x 11" paper, printed on one side only. (But to save paper, please e-mail your work instead). If you're still going to snail-mail it, on the front page also include your name, address, phone number and word length. We also appreciate if your manuscripts include a working title. And please include a correctly sized self-addressed, stamped envelop (SASE) if you want your manuscript returned to you.

Re-titling or editing for length or content may be requested of the author or performed by the editors at their discretion. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, clarity, brevity and tone.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for a response (we'll try to get back to you as soon as possible). Also, if you would like to be a continuous contributor for a particular section (which would be fabulous) please let us know at:

[inquiry@newidentitymagazine.com](mailto:inquiry@newidentitymagazine.com)

NOTE: And just in case, please set your spam blocker/filter to accept mail from '@newidentitymagazine.com' to ensure you get a reply.

Please note that New Identity magazine cannot be held responsible for lost, damaged or unsolicited materials.

#### **COMPENSATION**

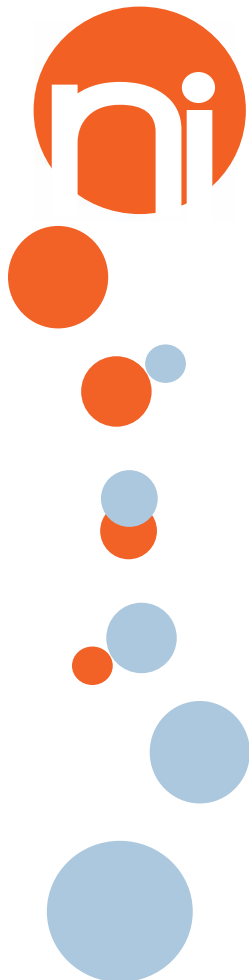
All contributions to New Identity magazine are made on a volunteer basis. As a start-up non-profit, we are constantly striving to grow our audience and become better able to reward your great writing. In place of getting a sum of money as compensation, we do offer a great writing experience and other benefits:

- A published article to show to your peers and colleagues and add to your portfolio
- A professionally edited and designed magazine to purchase in print or view free online
- Potential ad space for your book or organization
- The opportunity to gain recognition in the community (Christian and otherwise)
- You will be supporting the mission of this not-for-profit publication, which is hopefully something that you (like us) believe in

We sincerely thank you, and couldn't provide this publication to help new believers, the community and others without your dedication.

#### **COPYRIGHT**

We will assume first publication rights upon acceptance, but authors will retain all future rights. Meaning we request copyright for the first six months after the magazine is published. After that, you get full rights. By submitting to New Identity magazine you give us permission to post a portion of the article online and for publication in the print edition and digital version of the magazine. A portion of your work (usually the first paragraph) may be displayed on the magazine's website for six months from initial publication to help plug your



great article. Editors reserve the right to reject a manuscript at any stage before publication.

### **\*SUBMITTING YOUR QUERY\***

Please send your writing proposals and questions to Cailin Briody Henson, Editor-in-Chief, at the following address and when communicating by e-mail, please write "Query" in the subject bar.

Also include as much of the information below with your query as possible:

- **Section of the magazine you're interested in writing for** (if it's in-between, just pick the closest category)
- **A working title of your proposed article** (or you can leave that up to us, but do you dare?)
- **An outline (tentative) or a detailed summary** (mostly for your benefit, honest)
- **The purpose of the article, why or how it would benefit our readers** (meaning what urged you to write, or gave you the inspiration, what perspective you're taking, why it's a relevant topic to you and would be to others.)
- **Proposed completion date and length** (how soon can you have it finished)
- **Author's biography** (this is all about you! Always wanted to be famous, right?)
- **All writers please let us know if you have a photograph of yourself that you are able to submit for publication as well.** We like to give you the credit you deserve.

Thanks and we hope to hear from you very soon.

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