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Message of the Open Bible

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Treasuring His Deeds

ANDREA JOHNSON/*Editor*

My mom assigned each of my four siblings and me names with the initials "A.P." at birth, after the Associated Press. My uncle, for whom she worked, edited and published our small-town newspaper. I loved stopping by his shop after school, breathing in the smell of newspaper ink, perusing the cartoons taped all over the counter, and feeling the constant rhythm of the press. His uplifting column, "Good Things," by Cliff Elmore, was always the first item I read. So it should not have surprised me when I started to seriously consider writing.

Suddenly a single mom at age 30 with small children, my dreams for ministry as I had envisioned it had been shattered. Missions or pastoral appointments were out of the question. Though God provided miraculously, any job with adequate pay (with my theology degree) was not easy to come by. So, how could I minister to others?

God reminded me that writing could be done any place at any time, even when the kids were in bed. And my marital status wouldn't matter. Writing courses could be taken by correspondence. The road was not easy. Between working a paying job (writing is not usually a well-paying venture), raising kids, and church participation, writing got pushed aside, until the Lord – in His time – opened doors. And amazingly, God has used me as a vessel to encourage others – at least I hope!

Of course I would love to give writing more time. Opportunities abound, from letters to the editor (which reach a broad audience), to magazines and books, to one's own memoirs. Think of all God has done in your life and the lessons He has taught you. How sad if that history were lost to your children, or to theirs.

God revealed Himself to us through the written word, knowing better than to rely on the memory and interpretations of man. Today we can read the same words He spoke to Moses – words recorded through human vessels, scribes. Although the Bible is God's authoritative Word, He still wants to speak to His creation. As He has done throughout history, He may choose to use a human vessel. Could that be you?

Andrea Andrea Johnson, Managing Editor

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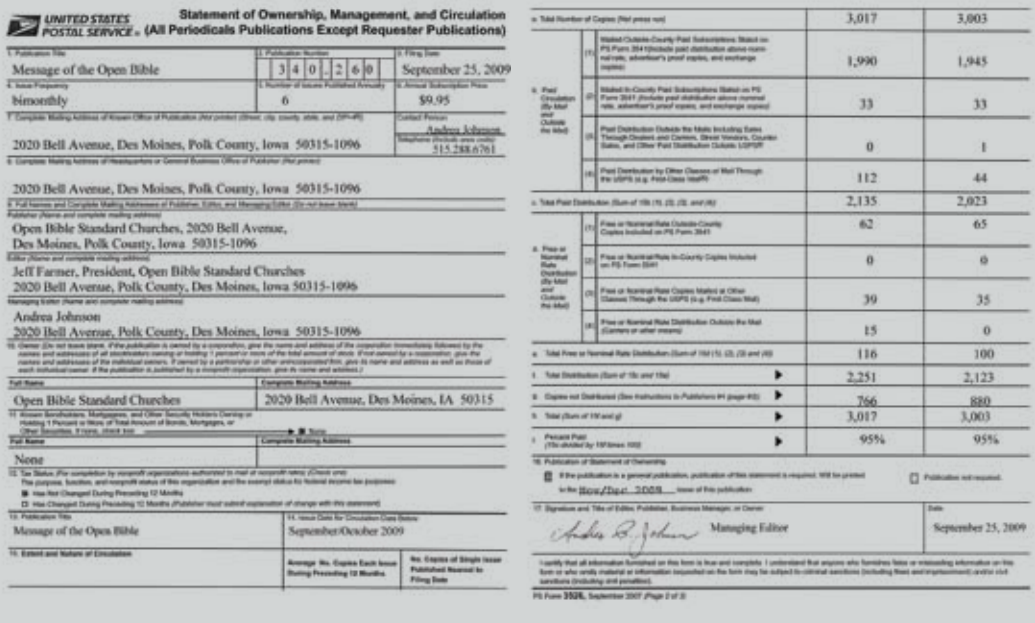

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