The Christian Medical & Dental Associations publishes four seasonal issues of *Today’s Christian Doctor*. Articles will inform, inspire, challenge, equip, encourage and motivate the reader in relation to some aspect of the interface of medicine, dentistry and the Christian faith. The publication exists to glorify God, showcase the impact of the ministry and inspire its readers to service in Jesus’ name.

Articles are usually written by physicians, dentists and/or their spouses, and the articles are aimed at their colleagues. We rarely publish unsolicited articles by non-medical or dental writers.

Some issues of *TCD* are thematic, and article selection will be centered on that theme. Deadlines for articles are as follows:

- **Spring Issue:** December 15
- **Summer Issue:** March 15
- **Fall Issue:** June 15
- **Winter Issue:** September 15

**How to Prepare an Article**

Please adhere to the following guidelines when preparing an article for publication:

1. **Content** – All articles for *TCD* must be meaningful to Christians in medicine and/or dentistry and must be consistent with the purposes, statement of faith, non-denominational stance and official positions of CMDA. As a rule, we do not publish articles soliciting funding for efforts outside CMDA’s wide range of ministry efforts.

2. **Structure** – When structuring your article, remember that *TCD* is not a think-piece journal, but is an inspirational and motivational magazine. To help keep this in mind while you are writing, ask yourself the following questions:
   a. Why are you writing?
   b. What do you want to say?
   c. What’s the point of this article?
   d. What do you want the reader to do as a result of reading the article?

3. **Organization** – We recommend the following organization for articles:
   a. The Lead – this is the beginning of your article that needs to be a statement or assertion that will quickly gain the reader’s attention and “hook” them into reading the rest of the article.
   b. The Body – this is the bulk of the article that documents and authenticates your premise by using illustrations, case histories, quotes, facts, statistics, examples, etc. that will continue to hold the reader’s attention.
   c. The End – this is the conclusion of the article and it must bind all of the information together. It might even summarize, challenge or make a projection toward the future.

4. **Style** – As a magazine, we adhere to grammar and punctuation guidelines as set forth in the *Associated Press Stylebook* and a site-specific CMDA Stylebook. It is important to keep in mind that we are not a technical journal. Instead, we are a reader-friendly magazine enjoyed by doctors, spouses, medical students and others. To help with style and be more effective with your writing, remember the following:
   a. Avoid complex sentence structure.
b. Maintain accuracy in spelling, grammar and punctuation.
c. Use concrete nouns and vivid verbs.

5. **Biblical References** – We use the New International Version 1984 (NIV 1984) as the magazine’s default translation. When biblical references are used in the text, it is extremely important that you provide the Scripture reference word for word, including punctuation, and identify the translation used.

6. **Source Citations** – Accuracy of references is your responsibility as the author. As we cite references as endnotes, they should appear at the end of the article in order of appearance, with numbers in the text appearing as superscripts. Use of parenthetical references in the text should be kept to a minimum.
   a. Example: Paul wrote, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26, NIV 1984).

7. **Length** – As a rule, we do not ordinarily publish articles of more than 1,600 to 1,800 words in length, plus side bars.

**How to Submit an Article**

Please adhere to the following guidelines when submitting an article for publication:

1. **Query Letter** – Send a cover letter explaining the following:
   a. What do you intend to focus on in your article?
   b. Who is your intended audience?
   c. Why do you think it is important to publish your article in this periodical?

2. **Article** – Please number your pages. No manuscript will be considered if it is being reviewed simultaneously by another similar publication or by any other publication that may buy its rights.

3. **Author Information** – Please include a biographical sidebar of no more than 150 words and a headshot photo to be used with your article if it is published. Please include your educational background, specialty and type of practice, current position and any CMDA involvement. If your article is published, you are required to sign an author’s warranty and give permission to use your photo.

4. **Illustrations** – Any photos or drawings will be used at the discretion of the editor and art director. We prefer digital photos, but they must be sharp with balanced color and at least 300x300 dpi. Do not write on printed photos; instead, number each photo and include a separate page with captions for each illustration. Make sure to identify all persons in each photo as we may need to acquire a signed written release from each person shown prior to publishing. Do not send original or valuable prints or slides.

5. **Submission Address** – We prefer that articles be submitted electronically, but they may be submitted via postal mail if necessary.
   a. Via email attachment to communications@cmda.org with TCD – Article Query in the subject line.
   b. Via postal mail to Mandi Mooney, Editor, *Today’s Christian Doctor-CMDA*, P.O. Box 7500, Bristol, TN 37621-7500.

**Miscellaneous Information**

1. **Editing Process** – If your article meets initial editorial criteria, it will be forwarded to a member(s) of the editorial committee for further evaluation. In this event, it may be returned to you with critiques and suggestions for revisions. Please keep a copy of your manuscript in electronic and/or print form.

2. **Payment** – Ordinarily, we do not provide payment for articles chosen to be published in *TCD*. 
3. **Rights** – In the case of previously unpublished articles, CMDA will retain first rights and reprint rights. Though we rarely reprint article, permission for CMDA to reprint articles previously published elsewhere should be obtained by the author prior to submission and the author will be required to sign a warranty of author.

**Article Topics**
Below is a compilation of the types of articles desired for publication in *TCD*. Please note that this is not an all-inclusive list and we welcome additional topics.

1. **Missionary Experience** – We receive many unsolicited articles relating to missions. Those we publish typically are first-person stories revealing how the experience affected the author, rather than a detail of the day-to-day schedule. A little dialogue and some humor will make your experience more realistic and enjoyable to our readers.
   a. We do not publish mission articles meeting the following criteria:
      i. Endanger colleagues in foreign mission settings
      ii. Promote any particular denomination
      iii. Seek to raise funds for efforts not endorsed by CMDA
      iv. Promote unaffiliated groups working in the same arenas as CMDA

2. **Personal Growth** – This includes articles that are primarily personal testimonies. These articles often show how God brought someone through a personal crisis of some type and into deeper faith and joy. We want to hear personal stories about what you have done to help change a life.

3. **Special Ministries** – We are interested in your special projects, and also many practical ways that you evangelize through your practice. Many CMDA members are also involved in other ministries such as providing healthcare to the poor or those in need and various evangelistic efforts for other doctors and families.

4. **Marriage and Family** – Articles for this topic focus on how our members answer the following questions and many others:
   a. How have you balanced the demands of your practice with the needs of your family?
   b. How do you spend time with your spouse and children when you don’t have any time?
   c. How have you kept the romance alive in your marriage?
   d. How have you handled your family’s devotional life?
   e. How have you handled raising the children together?
   f. What practical tips about marriage and family can you provide our readers?

5. **Christian Doctors in the “Public Square”** – Articles about how our members have gotten involved in various public issues are often inspiring to our readers.

6. **Other Practical Issues** – To name just a few: Christian management principles, surviving a malpractice suit, how to choose a practice, how to relate to partners and colleagues, managing your finances, balancing the various demands on your time and energy, special issues concerning female doctors, students and residents, mentoring and being mentored, integrating faith in medicine and dentistry, personal devotion and prayer.