

I fell in love with words and the power of words as a fledgling writer in sixth grade English class. I will never forget the comment my teacher scrawled in red at the bottom of my essay. "I like your interesting verbs, Lori," she wrote. "You are going to be a great writer someday." Her words cast a lofty goal that I may never attain, but they conveyed the unwritten message, "I believe in you." Her words were much more valuable than the A+ that followed.



Lori Hatcher

I fell in love with Jesus, whom the Bible calls The Word, as a frightened teenager sandwiched between high school and college. Overwhelmed with the responsibility of making decisions that would chart the course of my life, I eagerly embraced the opportunity to yield my life to Someone much wiser than I. "If any of you lack wisdom," my pastor quoted to me from James 1:5, "let Him ask of God who gives to all men liberally without finding fault, and it will be given to him." I asked that day, and have continued to ask ever since. God continues to be faithful to give.

I fell in love with *Reach Out, Columbia* at first sight, and the love affair continues. ROC embodies all that I love about writing. Each month this magazine gives voice to the diversity and beauty of the body of Christ and puts faces on God's children. It speaks to theologians and thespians, businessmen and busy moms, doctors and dog walkers. It proclaims the marvelous mystery that God has chosen to carry out His plan of redemption through the frail yet faithful members of His family. ROC challenges and compels, encourages and equips. On its pages we see men and women who are carrying out God's work in venues as varied as they are.

I am humbled to be a part of the plan God has for this magazine. I invite you to join me as ROC's eyes and ears, hands and feet. If you have an idea for a story, let me know. If you have a submission, send it in. If you would like to advertise or subscribe, to sponsor a rack or invite us to speak at your meeting or fellowship, contact us. As members of the Columbia community, we are all richer when we do life together.

Let's Reach Out, Columbia!

Lori

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what we're all about

Reach Out Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.