



Introduction

Putting together a book for women serving cross-culturally has been a dream of Velvet Ashes for a long time! We are so excited that you are interested in contributing to this book project.

As we have prayed and talked and listened, we keep coming back to courage. This is the heart of Velvet Ashes: to give women the courage to thrive in unlikely places. And that is exactly what we want this book to be about!

Out of the unlikely places of situations like depression on the field, dealing with infidelity, substance abuse, or a crisis of faith, we want to share stories of raw hope and perseverance. These are not the conversations you might be having at a coffee shop table or even on your team. But we hope that we can share these stories of seeing God bring redemption and courage, sparking hope in the lives of women who may be struggling with shame or feelings of failure. Instead in the pages that are birthed for this book, may they know they are not alone.

These stories will be *for* women serving cross-culturally *by* women who have or are serving cross-culturally. We can't wait to hear the story that God puts on your heart, the story of courage you've walked through and lived through.

Please read through the steps for submission carefully and also the topics for this book project. If you have questions, please contact us at book@velvetashes.com.

Need a little extra motivation as you write? Sign up [HERE](#) to receive a short series of weekly emails leading up to the submission deadline with reminders and encouragement. We would love to cheer you on!

Disclaimer: We reserve the right to choose submissions and your submission may or may not be used.

There will be no compensation given for inclusion in the Velvet Ashes book. Your words, your story, are an amazing way to give back to the community and the women who will hold this book in their hands. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go back into the ministry of Velvet Ashes.



Submission Steps

Complete the [Velvet Ashes Writers Agreement](#)

Write your submission

- Be specific as you write. Choose one of the topics below and center your writing around that one topic.
- Stories are a beautiful way to invite others into your life. Focus your submission on sharing your story in a narrative format rather than an essay or opinion piece.
- Your submission should be 1500-2000 words in length.
- Be mindful of the people impacted by sharing your story. Do you need to ask someone's permission to share a story that includes them or their experience? Please do so before submitting.
- Submit using Word doc or docx.
- Only submit original content that has not previously been posted in that exact form on your personal website or blog.
- Please thoroughly edit your submission before sending. We do reserve the right to edit upon submission for clarity and content.
- Multiple submissions on different topics are acceptable. Please send in separate Word docs.
- Email your submission to book@velvetashes.com.
- You will receive an email letting you know your submission was received. Expect to hear from us again regarding your submission by July 30, 2021.

Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2021.

Topics

How have you found courage and hope in the midst of these circumstances? Has dealing with these hard things impacted your faith and ministry?

Sexual struggles on the field: protecting yourself and one another against sexual sin
Infidelity
Sex outside of marriage (is this more acceptable in your host country?)
Living in a culture where sexual sin is more visible (i.e. massage parlors)
Pornography
Affairs



Same sex attraction (particularly in a Muslim context where contact with the opposite gender may be very limited or hostile)

Substance abuse on the field

Accountability

What does healthy accountability look like?

Can you speak about accountability on a team and it be received well?

Can you create a way for the team to feel safe to call out accountability issues?

Surrender related to the balance of calling and family

Infertility/Miscarriage overseas

Trauma and hard questions related to giving birth abroad

Giving up marriage to serve

Health Challenges

Chronic health issues

Health issues of a family member or teammate

Going through menopause on the field

Violence and Safety

Trauma related to violence

Questions of safety for family or self

When your ministry fails, burying dreams and expectations

Dealing with mental health issues on the field

Dealing with betrayal on your team or from nationals or local national church

Comparison or competition on teams or among the cross-cultural worker community

Voice in the midst of failure

After a moral failure, do I still have a voice to speak into Kingdom work?

What about if my child stops believing in God?

Experiencing sexual harassment on the field or on a team



Practicing balanced self-care

Taking care of ourselves and creating healthy boundaries for ministry and family life

Dealing with our own or other's expectations for our role or time

Experiencing a crisis of faith or crisis of relationship with the Lord on the field