

Brother John Wallace Isom Jr.

The U-Can! Man LLC

Mandie Gossage

I've always been interested in editing because I love helping other writers to shape, perfect, and express their ideas in a way that any reader will easily understand. For five months now, I've been doing exactly this for John Isom Jr, and I am so excited to help him share a valuable message with the world in whatever way I can.

One day in June 2008, I was riding the train to Chicago, Illinois, where I'm taking classes toward a master's degree in English, and I got a phone call from my good friend Cirena Evenson. Cirena, a talented graphic designer, said she would appreciate my help on her latest assignment, the creation of the U-Can! Man website. She explained that there was a lot of text on the website, so she and John had decided they should enlist the help of a copy editor to make sure it was all correct.

I was excited as soon as I got the assignment—honored that I'd been asked, and anxious to put my newly acquired skills to good use—I'd just taken a class in copyediting, and had never imagined I'd be blessed with an opportunity like this so soon. At the same time, I had no idea what to expect. Little did I know I was now involved with a mission that went far, far beyond a website.

Editing the U-Can! Man website was my first introduction to John, his values, and his mission. I was so inspired by his Scripture-based motivational message. It was clear to me from the beginning that John cared about and wished to reach as many people as possible. The content was all there—it was my job to arrange the sentences so that their meaning was clear, the right words were emphasized, and John's important message could shine through.

Not too long after I finished editing the website, John started getting in touch with me to have me proofread all sorts of other documents—a brochure, a newsletter, and even some material for a book that's being written about his life and work. It was during these months that I really got to know the amazing story behind the U-Can! Man, and that made his message so much more meaningful. John's life has been far from easy, but his story is an incredibly inspiring example of God using adversity and remarkable circumstances to strengthen and teach. John has learned and experienced so much, and now God is using him to minister to other people.

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And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Ezekiel 34:26

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I am so confident that absolutely anyone would be able to find encouragement from John's powerful, unwavering faith and his insightful, courageous outlook on life. I know that I have personally been blessed by our correspondence. John always does an amazing job making sure everyone on his team feels included and is well-informed on every step of his journey. He makes sure we know that he believes in us and that he is praying for us, because he has committed his life to the simple truth that through God, all things are possible.

The U-Can! Man's mission is just starting out, and I know that I can't even begin to imagine all the good that God might do through it and all the lives that He might touch. I also know, however, that I've been very blessed to be part of this mission and I'm definitely looking forward to working on it in the future.

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