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Christian Periodical Index Corner

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Greetings from your Christian Periodical Index (CPI) Team! I trust your year is off to a great start. For this installment of *Christian Periodical Index Corner*, I thought you might enjoy a few fun facts about the index.

When did CPI start?

The index began in 1957 as the dream of Ruth Butler, who served as the first CPI Editor (a role she served in until the mid-1970s), starting with indexing for 1956 issues. When CPI went online in 1999, the electronic index was not able to immediately go all the way back to 1956, though the goal was to eventually include all of the indexing from the print products in the online database. In the 14 years since our online database debuted, we have been working to digitize back files of the index and are very pleased that this work is paying off! We should soon have coverage all the way back to the 1956 beginning date for the index.

How many periodicals are indexed in CPI?

The *Christian Periodical Index* currently indexes around 150 publications, though when you consider the many that have ceased publication or changed titles, the total number of actual titles you will find in the index is much higher. New titles are added every year, based on the scope and purpose of the publication. Approving a title is just the beginning, though; before a title appears in the index, someone has to index it (which leads me to the next fun fact).

How are articles/reviews indexed in CPI?

All of our indexing is done by volunteers (some of whom handle multiple titles). CPI would not be possible without our team of indexers. Are you interested in indexing? Just let us know.

You can start with just one title and see how you like it! By the way, you do not need to be a cataloger or an ACL member to index. Carrie Beth Lowe, our Index Training Coordinator, will walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have along the way. (By the way, indexing for CPI is an excellent form of professional development and looks great on your resume or vitae!)

Just how many articles and reviews are in CPI?

In early 2013, thanks to our many hardworking indexers, we passed the 300,000 milestone. We typically add indexing for about 8,000–10,000 new articles and reviews annually. (This does not include digitizing of back issues of the index, which we are also actively pursuing.) We are now well over that 300,000 record mark. This amazing accomplishment is a tribute to all who have worked on, and those who continue to work on, the *Christian Periodical Index*.

Who serves on the CPI team?

The team consists of 9 people: Jule Kind, *Coordinator*; Steve Brown, *Associate Editor*; Douglas Butler, *Editor: Articles*; Jamey Wilkes, *Editor: Reviews*; Beryl Pagan, *Publicity Coordinator*; Carrie Beth Lowe, *Indexing Training Coordinator*; Sarah Wessel, *Data Integrity Coordinator*; Rusty Tryon, *Retrospective Indexing Coordinator*; and Lori Thornton, *Secretary/Proofreader*. Any member of the team would be glad to talk with you about the index! ✠