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Nothing Could Be Finer

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49th Annual Conference of the Association of Christian Librarians

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You will not want to miss the 49th annual conference of the Association of Christian Librarians, June 13–15, 2005 in Columbia, South Carolina. The planning team has pulled together a strong program of expert speakers and workshops led by your ACL colleagues. Excellent pre-conferences will provide more in-depth educational opportunities. The schedule is organized to increase time for fellowship and spiritual enrichment and the Christian networking that makes ACL conferences unique. Our hosts, the staff of the G. Allen Fleece Library at Columbia International University, are preparing to provide for your every need.

Location

The Association is eager to return to the southeastern United States for the first time in a decade. We hope members and friends in the region will be sure to join us, especially if you have been unable to make the journey to more distant locations.

For those traveling from near and far, South Carolina offers a wide range of vacation destinations. You may want to think about a pre or post conference holiday with family or friends.

Keynote speakers:

The planning team is excited to bring you an excellent program addressing a broad range of library interests and issues. Dr. Carol Tenopir, Library Journal columnist and professor at the University of Tennessee will keynote on Tuesday morning. Recipient of numerous awards and research grants, Dr. Tenopir was recently awarded a Fulbright Seniors Specialist Scholarship to teach in Finland next fall. One of the most productive faculty members among library and information science professionals, Dr. Tenopir’s research areas include the practical use of data from electronic resources and the intersection of technology with journal publishing.

This year we are adding a second keynote on Thursday morning, David Mash, former CIU library director and current Dean of Information Resources and Technology. David recently keynoted the New York Library Association annual conference.

One Book, One Conference

We are especially excited to introduce a new element at this year’s conference that we hope will become a favorite of many attendees. Following the very successful phenomena of the One Book, One City trend, our conference will feature One Book, One Conference with ACL librarians reading Girl Meets God: on the Path to a Spiritual Life by Lauren Winner (Algonquin, 2002). At the conference, you will have opportunities to discuss the book in both informal settings and scheduled “book clubs.” On the last day of the conference, Lauren will join us for an afternoon conversation about Girl Meets God and a post-banquet talk about spiritual autobiography. In addition to Girl Meets God, Lauren is the author of Mudhouse Sabbath (Paraclete, 2003) and the forthcoming Real Sex: the Truth about Chastity (Brazos, April 2005).

If you are a member of ACL, be sure to watch the ACL list for frequent updates highlighting conference plans. All members will receive a mailing soon, providing you with further details. Even more details are available on the conference section of the ACL webpage: www.acl.org/conference05.

The conference planning team and host library encourages every ACL member to include ACL 05 at Columbia as part of your professional development this year. Encourage your Christian colleagues who haven’t yet become members to come to the conference and see what ACL has to offer.