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## Editorial

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# The Christian Librarian EDITORIAL

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Forget the hoopla of New Years Day 2000; we know that January 1, 2001 actually marks the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That fact notwithstanding, in this first issue of *The Christian Librarian* for the new millennium you will find a "business as usual" attitude. Perhaps that is because not all of the TCL team members share my mathematical insistence this is really the first month of the new millennium, but more likely it is because my colleagues are more concerned about the realities of Christian librarianship in the real world than they are in sophomoric niceties.

We have followed the professional literature prescribing in its time appropriate responses for the eighties and the nineties. Now writers are appealing to the excitement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Actually, the reason for that is not that they pretend to have a century's worth of wisdom, but rather are stymied as to how to number this decade. Libraries in the 0s? The role of the library in the "oughts"? "noughts"? You see the difficulty. We can solve the problem by just ignoring it. We can talk about life in the 50s and 60s (well, some of us can), but things are moving so rapidly now that we are not projecting ahead for a whole decade (well, some of us aren't).

The role of librarians is changing rapidly in keeping with revolutionary developments in information storage, retrieval, and communications, as well as evolving user needs and expectations. We are so occupied with meeting ever increasing challenges, that we often fail to identify and articulate foundational principles and values for our profession.

We attempt to maintain in *The Christian Librarian* a balance between philosophical and practical articles, both of which are essential. Last year

each issue contained articles and regular columns on technology. Each issue last year also contained an article on the values and foundations of Christian librarianship: "The Christian View of Vocation for Librarians," by John Allen Delivuk (January); "A Philosophy of Christian Librarianship,"

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by Gregory A. Smith (April); "Keepers of the Light," by Donna F. Crow (September); as well as the regular column, "The Y Factor," by J. Ray Doerksen.

As we work among burgeoning technological developments it is increasingly important to establish our foundations.

There are at least two reasons why we need to do this. First, we cannot adequately plan future services in the exploding infotech world if we have no clear mission, philosophy, and values. Second, there must be stabilizing influences in our purpose statements, which identify our role as librarians in the increasingly amorphous melange of education, business, information, and communications. The business side of librarianship sometimes eclipses the education side, and we are becoming more and more information technicians and brokers. We need both stability and adaptability.

*The Christian Librarian* provides a forum for your interaction with others of like heart and mind. The Association of Christian Librarians will continue to mature as we encourage and challenge each other.

It is comforting to know that there are things that transcend the vagaries of future human inventions and interactions. We do not know what a day will bring forth, but we know the immutable character of the architect of the ages and we know how it will all end. In the meantime there are things to do.

Ron Jordahl  
Consulting Editor