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Honored Emily Russel Award 2001

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H O N O R E D

EMILY RUSSEL AWARD 2001

Ron Jordahl is being honored this evening for his contributions to the development of the Association of Christian Librarians, to Christian librarianship, and to college librarianship.

The ACL archives would bring to light some of the aspects of Ron's leadership that many current members do not know. First, as a Director-at-Large representing all the membership in the mid-1970's. Second, as the faithful and persistent editor of *The Christian Librarian* for twenty years. Third, even serving a term as President while occupying the editor role at the same time. It was at one of these exotic Fellowship of Christian Librarians conference locations that fellow member David Twiest met Ron for the first time. He soon learned that this quiet, unassuming man was much more than he conveyed upon an initial contact. Here was a man with a passion for the library, a strong commitment to service, a will to carry a punishing extra-curricular workload, and a wonderful sense of humor. Until the talent show at the ACL annual conference two years ago, many members, including some who had worked on tasks with Ron, had no idea that he does stand-up comedy!! Ron is also a great storyteller, a dinosaur fossil expert, but above all, an individual worthy of trust.

In thirty-two years of faithful service at Prairie Bible College, Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, Ron built a small one-room library with a dated collection into one that was considered on the cutting edge for Canadian Bible Colleges. He was instrumental in forming the Prairie Association of Christian Librarians, a regional group that exists to this day. Ron's colleagues have described him as: "helpful, creative, innovative, well liked by everyone, and visionary."

During Ron's service as editor of *The Christian Librarian*, it was transformed from the newsletter of the Christian Librarians Fellowship to the journal of the Association of Christian Librarians. Getting the camera ready

copy to the United States from Canada for printing was always time consuming. A phone call to Ron would get a reply like, "It is probably buried in a pile at the Calgary Post Office." As editor, Ron learned the art of begging. He was always begging for people to write articles, as he never seemed to have quite enough to publish. Ron is continuing to serve on the journal team as Consulting Editor.

Ron also served on the "three year track" to Association president. In this process he was Program Chairman for the 1981 conference at Nyack College, having Roger Nicole as the main speaker. It was difficult to plan a conference on the east coast from the backwoods of Alberta. Ron also managed to host a conference at Prairie Bible Institute in 1982. Those who were there will remember the "bags" in which the drinks were served and the fun of getting the straw in the bag that demonstrated the wave motion.

In 1998 Ron again took the challenge of working diligently to make a small library into a much larger and better one. He currently works at Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. The move from Canada to the United States put Ron and his wife much closer to their grown children and grandchildren.

What more can we say Ron! Many of us are here today and involved with Christian librarianship because of your model of servant leadership. Your leadership is by example rather than just words, which is Christ's example for the believer. Your endeavors on behalf of all of us will not be forgotten, and this award expresses our respect and appreciation for you and your service to the Kingdom, to librarianship, and to the Association of Christian Librarians.*

Ron Jordahl (left) is the honored recipient of the 2001 Emily Russel Award. The presentation was made by Woodie Moore.