



Volume 63 | Issue 2

Article 3

12-1-2020

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Trott, Garrett (2020) "Letter from the Editor," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 63 : Iss. 2 , Article 3.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol63/iss2/3>

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Letter from the Editor



**Garrett Trott, *TCL* Editor-in-Chief
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As *The Christian Librarian* typically releases around the end of the calendar year, it is common for me to use the time between Christmas and New Years as a time of reflection. It is needless to say that 2020 has been an odd year. COVID-19 and the challenges it has brought has made many of us deal with a variety of scenarios we never thought we would have to deal with. Many look forward every year to the ACL conference. In 2020, many had to deal with the switch to an online venue and the challenges it incurred. While ACL did an online conference which presented some excellent content, I think many of us will acknowledge that it was not the same. We must acknowledge that 2020 has been a different and difficult year for many of us. In spite of the fact of the challenges we all have dealt with in regards to this year, we have much to be thankful for.

As a Librarian Christian, I am thankful that God has brought individuals into my life who have helped form me and shape me into who I am and subsequently have helped me piece together some sense from the changes that have come due to COVID-19. I am also grateful for the many challenges I have faced, anywhere from the challenges brought by COVID-19 to the challenges of individuals who for various reasons have claimed me as an unbeliever. I am grateful for these because God uses these scenarios to teach me that my salvation is dependent upon the gift of his grace and mercy, not upon my action. This does not imply that because I am saved that I can go around and do any action with little to no repercussion, but it does imply that my life should be one of gratefulness, thankfulness and humility, recognizing that God does work in mysterious ways, in and through me as a believer and in and through challenging scenarios like COVID-19.

Reflection forces me to ask questions of myself. My reflection this year will largely be asking, “What have I learned through 2020 and COVID-19?” and “What will I continue to learn in 2021 through the challenges of COVID-19?” And one dynamic of that specifically will be looking at how the dynamics of my faith have impacted my profession through these challenges. Some see librarianship as a service profession. The reality of the depth of service libraries and librarians can offer their communities has been displayed through COVID-19.

Have I had peace through 2020? John 14:27 states, “Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” Peace comes from the Lord Jesus Christ not from the world around me. Despite the chaos that is around me, is my focus upon God’s nature and the gospel? Have I been able to have peace in the midst of chaos, understanding God is reigning in spite of what the world may tell me.

Do I have empathy for those who are suffering through COVID-19? Have I allowed myself to learn through these circumstances? What is God trying to teach me? It is often time said that tough times reveal character. What has these challenges revealed about me? As a Librarian Christian, have these challenges been times in which I trust God’s working in these scenarios.

One dynamic which COVID-19 has brought to my forefront is racial inequity. I will be the first to admit that many of these issues are systemic and difficult for me to address as an individual. However, COVID-19 has manifested a concern that I have had. As Librarian Christians we have an opportunity to educate the communities of which we are a part in this regard.

How is my faith manifested through my profession? How has my faith been displayed in my profession through COVID-19? What drove me to pursue faith integration is the simple fact that all of us spend much of our time investing into our profession. There are various components which drive this, some of us really enjoy our profession while we also understand the fiscal elements that are tied to it. As a Librarian Christian, my faith calls me to love my neighbor as I would myself and to be creative in so doing. As I noted earlier, the life of a Christian should be one embedded with gratefulness, thankfulness, and humility. How can these be displayed in our profession as librarians?

This editorial has asked a lot more questions than it has answered. I noted above that the end of the year tends to bring out a time of reflection for me, which asks a lot of questions like this. As I strive to integrate Jesus Christ into all facets of my life (and sometimes am an utter failure at so doing), these questions help me understand what it means to be a Librarian Christian, and enables me to strive better at becoming a stronger follower of Jesus. †



Soli Deo gloria

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