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Blowing in the Wind:

A Note of Thanks

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*He replied, 'You
of little faith, why
are you so afraid?'
Then he got up and
rebuked the winds
and the waves, and it
was completely calm.*

Matthew 8:26

Late fall is an interesting time in Southern California. Even as our students fill the dorms and local retailers arrange displays of sweaters, scarves and furry boots, we experience a unique weather phenomenon. From late September to early November, strong “Santa Ana” winds periodically whip across the deserts of Arizona and into California, drying the grass and shrubs on the mountainsides and bringing the threat of fire. Should a wildfire spark in the midst of these hot, gusty winds, entire communities rely on well-trained teams of firefighters to safeguard their lives and property. The San Diego area has seen terrible fires in the last decade; yet, time after time, the courage and expertise of these teams has allowed them to intervene on behalf of those in danger.

The thing is, those teams were in place before the first spark crackled to life. As communities, we could see them training, planning, and preparing. To safeguard those under their protection, the fire agencies had been working all along to form relationships with city and county governments, to secure funding for necessary equipment, and to develop resource sharing agreements with other firefighting organizations. Their diligent work ensured that the entire region would be safer should a threat arise; it also engendered the strength and confidence that come with daily preparation.

A dire forecast is being broadcast by everyone from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* to the coffee shop philosopher who deduces your profession: the wind is shifting for libraries. Looming changes in technology, pedagogy, and even the economy require an examination of our personal and collective readiness for whatever lies ahead. But like those fire teams, we've been preparing for the strong winds all along. The Association of Christian Librarians has been blessed for decades with the ongoing work of groups like the Commission for International Library Advancement (CILA), the *Christian Periodical Index* (CPI) team, and those who have faithfully produced this

journal. Along with ACL members who work in countless other capacities, these teams have been constantly equipping us for service to the Lord, to others, and to our profession. As they have readied us for the work of each day, they have also prepared us for the unknown changes that lie ahead. We cannot help but be grateful.

I'm not much of a meteorologist. I can't predict the ways in which our work as librarians may be transformed, but it seems certain that the inevitable winds of change will bring encouraging transitions along with the more challenging ones. Fortunately, we are not only prepared, but we are also people with a calling that remains constant regardless of the circumstances. We trust God; we serve in the name of Jesus Christ; and, as the Apostle Paul admonished the Colossians, we submit every aspect of our work as an offering to the Lord.

As you read this issue of *The Christian Librarian*, I hope you will reflect on the ways the *TCL* team, in particular, has informed and encouraged you in recent years. I hope you'll also be encouraged by the creation of a special team to produce this issue as previous members of the *TCL* team move on to other projects and new members step forward to plan for future issues. Many of you are actually part of that special team. You responded to the call of our Executive Director, Janelle Mazelin, before the annual conference, volunteering to write articles about numerous aspects of the event without any promise of publication. You graciously (and quickly) contributed material about your own conference presentation or about issues of importance to you. Most importantly, you have continued to pray for the good work of our association. Special thanks are owed to the staff of the ACL Home Office for their determination to produce this second issue of 2013 in the absence of a standing team. It is my hope that this issue will continue *TCL's* legacy of equipping us to serve the Lord together, well prepared for any winds that await us. †