



Volume 54 | Issue 1

Article 7

5-2011

CILA News: Change is Coming / "Shooting the Big 5" in Africa

Georgianne Bordner

Ferne Weimer

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

Recommended Citation

Bordner, Georgianne and Weimer, Ferne (2011) "CILA News: Change is Coming / "Shooting the Big 5" in Africa," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 54: Iss. 1, Article 7.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1503>

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Christian Librarian* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.

CILA News:

Change is Coming / “Shooting the Big 5” in Africa

Georgianne Bordner
CILA Team Coordinator

Ferne Weimer
CILA General Secretary

Change is Coming!

By Georgianne Bordner

The world is changing, and CILA is making some changes that we hope will enable us to better serve libraries around the world. The weekend of Oct. 30-31, 2010, a five-member task force consisting of Linda Poston, Janelle Mazelin, Frank Quinn, Carol Reid, and Georgi Bordner met at the ACL office in Cedarville, Ohio for a CILA Summit meeting. The goal was to examine and evaluate every aspect of CILA's organizational structure and activities in order to determine what is working well and what needs to be improved. Many of the recommendations that came out of that meeting are still being considered by the ACL Board and the CILA team. We'll report the decisions as they are finalized.

One change that has already been announced to the ACL membership is a slight change in CILA's name: Instead of the “Commission for International Library Assistance,” we are now officially known as the “Commission for International Library Advancement.” The task force recommended the name change as a way to more clearly describe what we do, and hopefully avoid confusion about the kind of assistance we provide. At the same time, we wanted to keep the familiar acronym “CILA” and didn't want to make a major change. The addition of the word “Advancement” further strengthens our association with our mother organization, the Foundation for the Advancement of Christian Libraries (FACL). We look forward to additional changes that will help to better accomplish CILA's mission.

Attendees of the annual ACL conference in June will notice another change: The 2011 conference schedule will not include the usual

evening program focused on CILA activities. Instead, CILA will be presenting information in some new ways that we hope will reach even more ACL members. Watch for CILA in the business meetings, poster session, and a program on volunteer opportunities in ACL. We're always eager to tell you more about what we're doing and how you can get involved!

One change that I'm very sad to report is that CILA lost a good friend on Feb. 8, 2011, when Dr. Eva Kiewitt made her final journey to join her heavenly Father. Eva was a 1997 recipient of ACL's Emily Russel award and served as a former CILA Team Coordinator who made many trips to assist overseas libraries. Her contributions to CILA live on in the library training syllabus that she and her good friend and co-worker Lois Lehman wrote to accompany *The Librarian's Manual*, as well as in her mentoring of current CILA members and others who have participated in past CILA projects.

A final change in the way CILA is serving overseas libraries is evident in Ferne Weimer's report on her most recent trip to Africa. We reported at the June 2010 ACL conference that CILA would be providing scholarships to assist African librarians wanting to attend a conference in Kenya, and Ferne was also able to attend that conference. We are happy to be able to support international librarians not just by going overseas to train them, but by providing opportunities for them to help each other in their professional development. We look forward to sharing additional opportunities with you as we look for new ways to serve our changing world.

“Shooting the Big 5” in Africa

By Ferne Weimer

Would you accept an invitation from a friend to join an African safari and “Shoot the Big 5?” Hunters and tourists pay thousands of dollars to hunt down the Big 5 trophy animals of Africa, i.e. the lion, leopard, Cape buffalo, elephant, and rhino – either as game or images. Have you planned a “trip of a lifetime” to some exotic place? Many people do.

For two weeks in July 2010, I went on a different sort of “shooting” expedition – ticking off libraries and library events like big game on a “must have” list. At the CORAT conference center in Nairobi, Kenya, I participated in the 10th annual conference of CALA (Christian Association of Librarians in Africa) and afterwards re-visited four libraries as a consultant.

Perhaps Ephesians 3:20-21 can give structure to this trip report.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine ...”

In one article it is difficult to tell all of the good things that happened before, during, and after the trip. But here are a few highlights:

- Dates were divinely directed – and guided by my host missionary who was on a key contingency planning committee for her mission. (Travel was scheduled immediately before a country-wide referendum on the new Kenyan constitution.)
- Software upgrades went amazingly well – and several unexpected opportunities allowed the sharing of experiences with other schools attending the library

conference that used the same software. Concourse, Destiny, ResourceMate, and MarcEdit)

- Hardware failed – at a perfect time – before carrying it to Kenya but after copying all important personal files to a flash drive. Plus an ACL friend was available to help select a new laptop and software just two nights before departure.
- Some inherited money made this all-expense paid trip possible and allowed last-minute costs of computer equipment to be covered without concern.
- Perfect timing of each leg of the journey allowed enough time at each stop on my Big 5 adventure:
 - CALA Conference, Karen, Kenya
 - Moffat Bible College, Kijabe, Kenya (Joyce Kasero, Librarian)
 - Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe (Olive Ndungu, Senior High Librarian)
 - Kijabe Hospital Library (Monica Kamanu, Librarian)
 - Bible Translation and Literacy Centre, Nairobi (Annah Ogeto, BTL & SIL)
- God provided the necessary Internet connections to accomplish that which was needed.

“according to his power that is at work within us ...”

As some may know, after working for 26 years in one library, financial support for my position suddenly ended in 2004. That was a time of some uncertainty but through it I learned that the Lord had plans for me that I could not ask or imagine. They were “according to his power that is at work within” me.

He gave me the gift of an 18-month, unexpected sabbatical – the exact length of COBRA health insurance coverage. I was privileged to work primarily as a consultant for Nairobi

Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) and visit several SIL libraries in East Africa. All trip expenses to Africa were paid by grants, and much of the work for NEGST could be done from my home in Wheaton, IL, or a warehouse in Grand Rapids, MI.

While in that Grand Rapids warehouse, I received my “call” to the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) – a telephone call – to apply for a position at GIAL.

“to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus”

In October 2010, I celebrated five years of service at GIAL, a school that prepares students for service in Bible translation, literacy, and other language development services. GIAL and NEGST are sister schools in relation to Bible translation. Assisting their library in support of a new Ph.D. program in Bible and Translation Studies prepared me for work in my present position.

For five years, reaffirmation of accreditation and other projects kept me close to home – with no opportunity to visit Africa. That is another reason I praise God for this perfect trip.

He can be praised, as well, for all of the librarians He has called to the institutions represented at the librarians’ conference. CALA, the Christian Association of Librarians in Africa, hosted 35 librarians from 29 schools. Five countries from outside Kenya were represented: 2 came from Ethiopia, including ACL member Muriel Teusink, 2 from Tanzania, 1 from Uganda, 1 from Rwanda and 1 from DRC-Congo. ACL member Fran Etemesi of AICMAR (African Institute for Contemporary Missions & Research) also attended. Conference costs for ten participants were covered by a gift from ACL.

CALA met from July 26 to 30, 2010, with the main theme of “Improving Access to Information: The Changing Role of the Librarian.” Planners set five sub-themes: (1) Using ICTs in improving access, (2)

Digitization and digital libraries: Where and how do you begin? (3) Open access and open source, (4) Leading a theological library in Africa: challenges and opportunities, and (5) Information ethical issues to access. Additionally, Catherine Muriuki described her experiences in the U.S. as a Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC 2010 Fellow. Presentations and photos were distributed on CDs at the end of the conference.

Three members of the CALA Executive Committee have attended at least one ACL conference: Phyllis Masso, Ephraim Mudave (NEGST), and Charles Nandain (Nairobi International School of Theology, NIST). Wayne Bornholdt of the Theological Book Network (TBN) in Grand Rapids was the other visiting American. Several libraries received large cartons of books from TBN for their libraries.

“throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”

At the CALA conference, I met a young man, David Shala, who studied at Bunia Seminary in eastern Congo, and now serves at R.I.E.T. (Rwanda Institute of Evangelical Theology). I wondered if he had known Sylvia Doane, the Africa Inland Mission teacher who taught at Bunia and had spent nine months preparing the first draft of the 1994 *Librarian’s Manual*. He said, “You mean Auntie Sylvia who baked the cake for my wedding 19 years ago?” It was with great joy I could say, “Yes,” and together we could remember her good work in Zaire/Congo before the Lord called her Home.

Pray for the African Church and schools like R.I.E.T. Their website reminds us of great need:

“Only 5% of Rwanda’s proliferating evangelical churches have a pastor with any kind of theological training. This is a problem in most African countries, but it seems to be particularly acute in Rwanda where the very events that led to a new spiritual openness have deprived the country of the people best suited to shepherd and lead the congregations.”

To see how God is filling this need for theological education in Rwanda, view R.I.E.T's story at: new.aimint.org/usa/explore/videos/20-so-we-do-not-lose-heart.html

The prayer request I received most often from my new friends at the conference was this ...

"Pray that the Lord will supply the funds for me to continue my library training and direct me to the best courses. I want to learn as much as I can to support what our school library needs."

If you would like to attend a conference in a more exotic location than Cedarville, Ohio, consider CALA. The 2011 CALA Conference will meet July 25-29 at BTL, Ruiru, Kenya. ACL members are invited to participate and may contact Ephraim Mudave of NEGST for details at: Ephraim.Mudave@negst.edu. To preview the conference center, visit: www.lukengetaway.com.

You might ask the Lord some questions ...

"Lord, do you want me to meet my African colleagues at the CALA Conference, July 25-29, 2011? What might I learn from them? What experiences have you given me that might assist them? How will we encourage each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ?" ✚

How to Add a Day to Your Workweek

As with many topics I research, my interest in e-mail management stemmed from a lunch conversation at the 2007 ACL Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While we sat one noon around the cafeteria table, various colleagues began complaining about the lack of time at their respective places of work for professional duties and interests such as reading or research. They especially bemoaned the TBR (to be read) piles on their desks. Although several years have passed since that June day, I'm sure the same people have higher reading piles and have further reason to feel pressed for time because the economic shortfalls most of us have experienced in private Christian higher education these past two years, have resulted in employee reduction as well as in budgets. Our work hours, squeezed even further as we adjust to compensate for extra duties, have put time management skills to the test. Furthermore, the postmodern march to keep informed 24/7 has not abated but only increased as we handle Twitter, Facebook, wikis, and blogging, and other Web 2.0 communication methods.

This could be another article about the tips and tricks we can employ to resolve this apparent 2.0 overload, but the problem is more systemic than that. We librarians, as well as other professionals, are in denial about the negative impact digital communication, especially business e-mail, plays in our working lives even as we acknowledge our increasing reliance on it. *The American Time Use Survey* (Table 1 <http://www.bls.gov/atus> 2008) informs us that the average adult American spends over 21% of a day – roughly 1.6 hours involved in telephone calls and e-mail. If this is factored around an 8 hour working week, the amount of time spent on e-mail is 8 hours and 40 minutes a week. In 1962 article about an executive's workday showed a graph depicting only around 15% of the day in mail and telephone for executives (Case, 1962). This equals about 4 hours a week. Surely our technologic advances should have reduced the amount of time spent on business communication not doubled it. Surely we should have more time for research, grant writing, and other major incentives, not less. To compound the issue, not only is the amount

*Linda Jones
Director of Reference and
Bibliographic Instruction
B. Thomas Golisano Library
Roberts Wesleyan College
Rochester, New York*