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Editorial

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The Christian Librarian

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As Spring weather beckons us outdoors, our hearts anticipate coming attractions of the season such as Easter, commencements at our various institutions, and then, of course, the next ACL annual conference. Each event brings new life, renewal, resurrection, rejuvenation.

Each year Easter brings me to my knees. I cannot imagine the sufferings Christ endured for my sake. His last hours on this earth were filled with shame, torture, and humiliation.

Only His death could wash away the stain of my sin and reconcile me to God. Only He is worthy of my eternal worship and service in thanksgiving.

And my thankful service to Christ includes my daily duties here at my desk in the library, answering

the telephone, typing emails, cataloging new books, learning new software. The mundane tasks of my work take on new meaning when I consider the awesome responsibility that God has given me to serve Him in this small corner of His world, doing His work in the lives of those students who cross my doorstep every day.

These students will leave our campuses following graduation in May and embark on exciting new careers and life adventures. I'll never forget Billy Graham's final exhortation to my brother's 1996 graduating class here at Liberty University. "Graduates, commence!" My prayer is that I will have purchased or cataloged a book that may have impacted their life or

changed the course of their thinking as they conducted research. Or perhaps I helped them when they were late for class and desperately needed paper installed in the photocopier before they hurried to class. Or perhaps I was their last resort for research advice before they threw up their hands in despair. I like to believe that I have had a small part of their success.

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One of the greatest delights I have in working with distance education students arrives in May, when many flock to campus to participate in the graduation festivities. I know these students by name, or email screen name, or by voice over the telephone. Now I get to see them face to face and grasp their hands in congratulations of a job well done and finally accomplished. Many of them are so

appreciative of my help and personal attention over the years, and literally, over the miles. Daily I receive emails or phone calls from students serving in the military on bases on foreign soil or on ships in locations they are not allowed to reveal. My prayer for them is a safe return and that someday I will see them on a special day in May at the end of their educational career.

The next big event on our calendars is ACL's conference in June, this year at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. I look forward to seeing everyone there, and as always, to attending those exhilarating workshops that will work so nicely as articles in the next issue of TCL.

Diane Garber
Design Editor