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**What we're all about**

*Reach Out, Columbia* is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.



## Letter from the Editor

In August I served on faculty at a writers conference at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Toccoa, Georgia. I manned the registration desk, welcoming attendees.

Christian writers are a polished lot. Each writer that approached me was dressed in business casual. Most carried lap top cases and pulled rolling suitcases. Some lugged crates of books to sell in the conference bookstore. They were excited for the chance to learn their craft, build relationships with other writers, and gain skills that would help them impact the world through their writing.

After the first wave of conferees came through, I heard a rumbling from the parking lot. Motorcycles rolled past. Harley Davidsons, Yamahas, choppers, cruisers, two-seaters, and touring bikes.

Dismounting from their bikes and shedding their helmets, a very different-looking group of people approached my post.

“Are you looking for the Christian writers conference?” I asked.

“Yep,” one man, dressed in blue jeans and a black leather vest answered. “We’re here for the Christian riders conference.”

Surprised, I shrugged my shoulders and asked his name, but couldn’t find it anywhere on my list. “Are you sure you’re signed up for the North Georgia Christian Writers Conference?” I asked.

“Shoot, no!” he said with a laugh. “I thought you said RIDERS, not WRITERS. We’re here for the Christian Motorcyclists Association conference.”

We shared a laugh, then I directed him to the office. Over the weekend, as we passed each other in the halls, common areas, and dining room, we exchanged banter and conversation. I learned that the CMA’s goal is to evangelize motorcyclists, promote Christ internationally, and partner with Missionary Ventures to provide motorcycles to pastors in rural and third-world areas.

Like the Christian writers who were sharing the conference center with them, these fine folk had gathered to learn more about ministry, build relationships, and gain skills to help them impact the world.

Our weekend together reminded me that God calls each of us to use our gifts, talents, interests, and resources to shine the light of Christ wherever we go. Whether we’re writing for God or riding for God, our calling is the same—“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Matthew 16:15).

This month on our cover, you’ll recognize a band that’s not writing or riding, they’re *singing* the message of the gospel. I know you’ll enjoy learning more about the Christian band, MercyMe in Jean Wilund’s fun Q & A feature. MercyMe will be in town later this month. You won’t want to miss their concert.

And before you go, be sure to flip on over to read Karen Wingate’s account of how she leveraged her dream of riding a motorcycle in heaven into a chance to share her faith with a group of bikers.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Reach Out, Columbia*. Happy Fall! *Lori*