

Organizers of The Gathering 2009, the new winter event for the Christian products industry, are offering a Christmas gift to two Christian retailers.

The storeowners or representatives will be given scholarships to attend the Jan. 7-9 event in Kissimmee, Fla., being sponsored by *Christian Retailing* magazine. The packages include airfare, registration and two nights' accommodation each.

To be held at The Ramada Orlando Celebration Resort & Convention Center near Orlando, Fla., The Gathering will feature an education and training track with more than 20 workshops, fellowship and inspiration, and an exhibition floor with around 80 exhibitors.

Dave Condiff, publisher of *Christian Retailing* magazine, invited nominations for deserving recipients direct from stores themselves or from other retailers and suppliers.

"We have heard from some stores that really want to be at The Gathering because they know how strategic it is for their coming year, but just are not able to budget for it because of the way the economy is right now," he said. "We want to help, as we are able."

Nominations for the two scholarships should be submitted to Condiff at: dave.condiff@strang.com. The recipients will be announced Dec. 22.

The Gathering will begin with a time of united prayer for the industry. Attendees are being asked to bring photos of their stores and staff with them to be placed on a prayer wall that will be created for the length of the event.

For more details and to register, go to <http://www.thechurchbookstore.com/events.php> .