

*It is my happy privilege to welcome you this evening to the Murphy Memorial Library and to say a few words about the significance of this occasion. Tonight's performance will be the first one given in this room since the Baptist Bible College moved to this campus from NY State.*

I first entered this magnificent building as a visitor more than 22 years ago while it was still occupied by the Maryknoll Fathers. Little did I realize that within 6 months I would become a librarian under the new administration. Since that time this structure has become my second home.

With a few modifications, such as carpeting and additional lighting, along with the necessary furniture and shelving, this chapel was transformed into a library in the summer of 1968. We attempted to treat it with all the dignity befitting an edifice rich with religious symbolism. While this room is only a portion of the library, it certainly is the most beautiful part.

This chapel, built in 1929, is formed in the shape of a cross, reminding us of our Saviour's death for sinners. Above His cross, in three languages--Hebrew, Greek, and Latin--appeared the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews." Two of those languages--Hebrew and Greek--are studied in this library on a regular basis because they constitute the original languages of the Bible. The other language--Latin--appears in the inscriptions above our heads, and testifies of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We read of Christ in Isaiah's prophecy, chapter 9, verse 6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given : and the government shall be upon his shoulder : and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The very next verse in that passage has been inscribed in the Latin tongue in the center panel above our musicians. In our English Authorized version it has been translated in the following words: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."

In a building used for the study of books, it is significant that one book is exalted above all others, for the Holy Scriptures, as the Apostle Paul says, "are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim.3:15)

It is of Him that our talented and dedicated musicians sing tonight. They do not wish to make a name for themselves; rather, they want to exalt the God who created us, redeemed us, and gave us all things richly to enjoy. In the words of the Latin over the entrance, "Laudate Dominum" = "Praise the Lord".

For this performance tonight we are indebted to Dr. David Harris who first conceived the idea of music in the library. As a new faculty member he had not yet learned why it couldn't be done. Since it is true that this would make a splendid recital hall, let me go on record as stating that this librarian will gladly surrender the keys to the music department if the college administration will build me a new library.

*David C. McClain Spring 1990*