



Library Wise @LASKEY

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a publication of the Virginia Davis Laskey Research Library at Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville, TN

June 2009

Greetings!

It's here, the inaugural issue of LibraryWise @ Laskey, Scarritt-Bennett's Research Library newsletter designed to keep you, our friends and patrons, informed about the latest acquisitions; research findings; and, advancements of Laskey Research Library! As we grow, we want you to know ...



FORWARD MOVING...

Two years, gone! It doesn't seem possible... and how our world has changed! Reflecting back to early 2007, I shudder to think of the weeks, then days, leading up to the blessed event of dedicating our new research library! There was so much to get done and time was eluding us.

Old stacks needed to be removed, with new ones to fill ... and I was gingerly removing book pockets that were "permanently" affixed in books, so they could be put in the dedication invitations! The benediction, "God Be With You" comes to mind... and, He was... organizing thoughts, strengthening backs, and causing the dream to become a reality. Sought with a purpose and designed in detail, Virginia Davis Laskey Research Library is today an oasis of research meeting the information needs of persons at home and across the globe electronically!

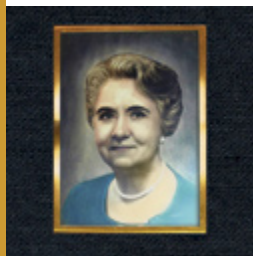
Throughout its development, various milestones have been met and this past April a rather significant one was realized. After two years of handling, evaluating, stamping "withdrawn," and removing personal names from thousands of books... the last 130 boxes of books (originally 590 boxes) were shipped out. To our satisfaction, not a book was trashed and all were placed in useful environments. Some went to the College of West Africa in Monrovia, Liberia ... the children's literature collection went to Bethlehem Center here in Nashville ... book buyers purchased some (generating a few dollars for us) ... and back in January, a small group of alumina gathered to place several in excellent places!

Destined to be a slow and steady process, development of an on-line public access catalog (OPAC) is a priority for the research library. At present, endless hours of

adding and deleting catalog records is being done. Titles chosen to be in the collection, but not in the OPAC are being added. And, in like manner, titles already in the OPAC (but withdrawn from the collection) are being deleted. Despite the "endless" editing, access to the OPAC is possible to patrons in the research library, with a goal of providing access via the Internet in the future.

At Virginia Davis Laskey Research Library, service is paramount to our success. That is why, if I can be of service, please let me know. Meeting the information needs of you, our patronage, is our goal and purpose. Call or write today!

Stephen Gateley
Research Librarian, MALS



THE HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA DAVIS LASKEY LIBRARY

The Laskey Library was a major asset of Scarritt College. It contained books and periodicals related to the education of missionaries, Christian Education theory and resources, and music theory, composition and performance resources needed by the church musician. There were also materials related to biblical interpretation, archeology, justice issues, church and community work, church history, and the churches outside the United States. And of course the usual reference materials and other resources that were a part of a liberal arts education.

Shortly after Scarritt Bennett came into existence in 1988, the board did a periodic review of the library. All music performance materials were given to other colleges within the United Methodist system that had a strong music program; Christian education resources were distributed to community centers in Nashville; options were explored regarding technology needs; and various marketing strategies were pursued to increase the use of the library. Of prime concern during all of the discussions was that of the economic impact of the library on the total budget of the Center.

In April 2004 the board received a report from its Library Task Force outlining five areas of emphasis that would carry forth the mission of the Center through the library. These areas which were approved by the board are:

- **Women's History** - current and past including women's studies and women and global culture
- **Mission**
- **Spirituality and Spiritual Formation**
- **Worship and the Arts**
- **Multiculturalism and Diversity**

This action set the course for the establishment of the Research Library in 2007. Today the Research Library contains materials regarding these five areas of focus. Materials that did not fit into these categories were given to libraries or schools both within and outside the United States.

Today, the Research Library is in two locations on campus. Titles deemed as "research" quality constitute the manuscript collection

located on the first floor of Laskey building. Included are books on missions, women, multiculturalism, and on loan, a special collection created by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, UMC. This collection includes many resources published by the Women's Division such as spiritual growth and mission studies, materials regarding social justice issues, and membership handbooks. Across campus, housed on the second floor of Scarritt Hall, in the International Room (site of the original college library), are titles of lesser research value, but containing excellent narrative content in line with the Center's mission. Included are titles on worship, spirituality, and the arts including extensive research material on hymnody. Also located in Scarritt Hall, are titles devoted to the issues of multiculturalism, diversity, and racism known as "The Harambee Institute Collection."

The archival collections at Laskey Research Library continue to be an area of development that is yielding priceless information. Twofold in content the major collection contains archival resources handed down from Scarritt College (yearbooks, historical documents, dissertations) and even resources from the training school in Kansas City. At present, indexing and proper acid-free storage is the immediate concern. Secondly, Laskey Research Library is pursuing the development of an archival collection which will incorporate the personal papers and files of women missionaries, deaconesses, and leaders of the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations. Rare in content, this collection will provide a "personal" perspective to missions as seen by some of the institution's own alumina.

Joyce D. Sohl

Laywoman In Residence



FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Research is an "enlightening" process! You search for that which you are seeking... and discover that which you did not expect. Such is illustrated in the following paragraphs.

As research librarian, I became fascinated with the "understanding" at Scarritt-Bennett Center that Dr. M.L. King, Jr. had spoken on campus.

For three days, April 23 - 25, 1957 the Conference on Christian Faith and Human Relations met in Nashville, Tennessee. In a TIME magazine article titled, "Christianity v. Jim Crow," May 6, 1957 it read, "For the next two days, on the desegregated Methodist campus of Scarritt College for Christian Workers and in the buildings of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, also desegregated, the churchmen sought sources of courage and plans of action." In Wightman Chapel, "Montgomery's Dr. Martin Luther King wound up the conference with a challenge to clergymen of both races." Before, "Leaving Scarritt College's Wightman Chapel... they received communion from white and from Negro clergymen..."

Nancy, librarian at Talbott Library, Westminster Choir

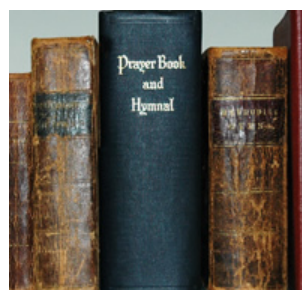
College of Rider University, inquired if our research library would have significant resources on Erik Routley. In *The Tennessean*, a local Nashville newspaper, an October 9, 1982 news clip was found titled, "Erik Routley, Composer, Found Dead." "Erik Routley, noted British born composer and hymnologist, died... the 64-year-old Routley was visiting in Nashville to participate in Scarritt College's 'Oktoberfest' church-music workshops. A Scarritt spokesman said Routley participated as scheduled in Thursday night's workshop sessions and arrived back at his hotel (room on Scarritt's campus) at approximately 10 p.m. His death was discovered when friends attempted to rouse him (the next) morning."

Jeremy, an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, sought information on J.B. Matthews for his thesis. According to his sources, Matthews was a professor at Scarritt from 1924-1927 and that he left under duress. In a *TIME* magazine article (8/10/53) it read: "He was forced to leave because of his liberal views... a furor over an interracial party held in his home, at which whites were reported to have danced with Negroes." He then joined the faculty of Fisk University for one year and eight years later moved on to become Vice President of Consumers' Report in 1935. By 1938, he then joined up with Joseph McCarthy as Director of Research for the Committee on Un-American Activities of the U.S. House of Representatives. Matthews died in New York City, 1966.

Carl, in Kihei, Hawaii sent an e-mail requesting information on a Scarritt graduate and Methodist missionary, who ultimately broadcast for the North Koreans. As a June, 1930 Bachelor of Arts graduate of Scarritt College of Christian Workers, Ann Wallis, immediately pursued a missionary tour in Korea. Meeting her husband in Shanghai, she then dropped from missionary service and developed an interest in Korean politics. On August 16, 1950 a "Seoul City Sue" began broadcasting over North Korean airwaves in an effort to demoralize United States forces. In an August 27, 1950 *TIME* magazine article it reports. "Seoul City Sue was identified as American-born Mrs. Anna Wallace Suhr, wife of a Korean newsman, by the Methodist Missionary Organization. The group says that Suhr, in her mid-40's, is a former missionary school teacher in Korea, and had tutored American diplomats' children in Seoul. Methodists also claim the dull tone of her broadcasts is proof that she is being forced to do them."

Stephen Gateley

JEWELS WITHIN THE STACKS



A jewel is most often defined as a gemstone used as decoration on wardrobe accessories, sacred items, or highly valued pieces of art. But "jewel" can also describe something bright or distinctive, something that "stands out" from the ordinary. It is in this sense that these books can be described as jewels within the mission section of the Research Library.

Home Mission Trails by Jay S. Stowell was written in 1920 to tell the Methodist Church clergy and laity about what was happening in home mission work. The bulk of the book tells of work in the southeastern United States, including a brief history of the early missionaries that followed the "trail" in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Mr. Stowell describes these persons: "In the midst of selfishness and greed they have taught brotherhood, cooperation and service; in the face of recklessness and lawlessness they have stood for law and order and the established forms of justice. They have built churches, established schools, and provided Sunday schools, without which millions of our young people would have grown into manhood and womanhood uncared for by the church and ignorant of Jesus Christ."

Stories are told of helping street children in Los Angeles; overcrowded Sunday Schools meeting outdoors in the Salt River Valley of Arizona; and the Mexican girls school, Mary J. Platt School of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in Tucson. Mr. Stowell also includes in his book a description of work with the Japanese in San Francisco; work among Native Americans throughout the west; and the work of Dr. Charles Tindley in Philadelphia with the Negroes who migrated from the south to northern cities.

Women and the Way: Christ and the World's Womanhood is a written symposium put together by Friendship Press in 1938. The question addressed by the eleven different women was "What has Christianity meant to the women of my country?" Gertrude Schultz in the Foreword said: "The chapters in this book have been written by a group of Christian women, living in various parts of the world, who strongly believe that they have found this way. Each one is loyal to her own country, her own national ideals, but all see in the Christ the one who will fulfill these aspirations and bind all the nations together in a world fellowship. These women have come from the home, the school, the church, from political and professional life, from places of high leadership to pay humble and loving tribute to The Way."

Tsêng Pao-Swen of China wrote: "The most precious gift of Christianity to the Chinese woman is her emancipation from superstition and a creative conception of suffering and redemption."

Gnanambal Gnanadickam of India wrote: "when Christ becomes the head of the Indian home, the atmosphere of grief and discontent is transformed into that of equality and liberty controlled and directed by his Spirit of Love."

Jorgelina Lozada White of Argentina wrote: "the weak are cared for, and womanhood is respected and exalted, thanks to the efforts of Christianity."

In the Epilogue by Muriel Lester of London she says: "Christ has redeemed the world for us women...We were divided; He has made us one. We were torn with fear, jealousy, and passions. He has shared with us his confidence in the dignity of his Sonship, the future, his serenity, his strength." She pleads for all women to stand together in peace in opposition to those that are fighting and preparing for war.



BOOK REVIEW

Title: *The Family of God*

Author: Jesse Lee Cuninggim

Published: 1948 by The Parthenon Press, Nashville

As Joyce Sohl (retired Deputy General Secretary of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church and currently Laywoman-in-Residence at Scarritt-Bennett Center), Becky Waldrop (Director of Development, Scarritt-Bennett Center), Kim Roberts Johnson (Director of Educational Enrichment, Scarritt-Bennett Center), Stephen Gateley (Director of Laskey Research Library, Scarritt-Bennett Center) and I sorted through the books that didn't fit the Research Library criteria, one of the categories for the reading collection of the research library were to keep all books written by faculty of Scarritt College. I ran across Dr. Jesse Lee Cuninggim's book *The Family of God* and was captured. We constantly had to remind each other that we were not supposed to stop and read. We were to sort and shelve.

I "unofficially" checked-out Dr. Cuninggim's book because it took only four pages for him to bring forth Scarritt College as his working illustration that "the family is the ideal training school for life and service." (14) In 1921 Dr. Cuninggim left the comfortable confines of Southern Methodist University as professor of religious education to lead Scarritt Bible and Training School through its crisis of accreditation, reaffirmed focus on social and religious study, and relocation to Nashville. It was an overwhelming task, but he received the ultimate burning bush message when Belle Harris Bennett from her death bed said to the women of the Woman's Missionary Council, "Tell him that I am assured he is God's man!" In 1923 the decision was finally approved and a certificate from the secretary of the State of Tennessee was granted and properly recorded on December 20, 1923.

Dr. Jesse Lee Cuninggim served as President of Scarritt College from 1921 to 1943. He retired in Nashville and died in 1950. He selected Henry Hibbs as the architect for the Belle Harris Bennett Memorial and worked with him to capture the character and spirit of the unique educational core values of the school. At the end of his tenure three projects were completed: the opening of the Crossville Rural Center, supported and managed by Scarritt; the Joint University Libraries, a project of Vanderbilt, Peabody and Scarritt; and the Nashville School of Social Work, a project of the University Center, but envisioned, instigated and promoted by Scarritt.

The Family of God (14-22) is an excellent summary of the establishment of core values for Scarritt College as it began in its Nashville location. The design for social rooms and a dining hall focused on "family like" areas for social interaction especially around the dining table. What is most fascinating is Cuninggim's discussion of the presenting question for the faculty which was: What kind of Christian workers? (15) What should Christian workers be in order to serve faithfully and effectively among peoples of differing cultures, colors and

countries?

Dr. Cuninggim spends most of his writing exploring the concept of "family of God" through its meaning and realization. I found his final section the most engaging. He calls it: The Family of God-its Social Significance. Realizing that he is writing in the shadow of World War II and the explosion of the atomic bomb, he jumps into issues that still seem relevant: capitalism, personal wealth, commercialized recreation, redefinition of work, self-centeredness, a government consumed by greed and graft and the need for balance in the marketplace. Dr. Cuninggim's answer may seem simplistic in 2009 - living totally as followers of Jesus. He says it this way: "the only perfect answer lies in the ideal of the family of God...The sole way to achieve one world is for all of us to become one family." (117)

H. Sharon Howell

President, Scarritt-Bennett Center

Become a Friend of the Laskey Research Library... help us to remember...



The Virginia Davis Laskey Research Library opened officially in March of 2007 thanks to many generous donations from the members of the Founders' Circle. The Founders' Circle members now invite you to become a Friend of the Virginia Davis Laskey Research Library by making a gift to its ongoing work. We at Scarritt-Bennett are committed to this exciting

work and to the careful preservation of the histories of laywomen in mission - the inspiring record of their lives and ministries around the world. It is a story that has become a touchstone for all of Scarritt-Bennett Center as we live out its legacy here on our historic campus everyday.

Please come to see us soon and tour the Research Library in its two locations. Tours of the Scarritt-Bennett campus are available upon request if you call ahead of time: 615-340-7472.

Send your donation to Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave., South, Nashville, TN 37212-2166, Attn: Becky Waldrop. You may use a credit card to donate as well...simply call 615-340-7472 and we will take your credit card information over the phone. Thanks so much for remembering.



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