Dedication

OF THE Renovated Central Library Complex

Stephen A. Akintunde, PhD, CLN Professor of Information and Library Studies University Librarian February 14, 2014 – February 13, 2020

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to God Almighty the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who performed the miracle of turning the ashes of the burnt Central Library Complex of the University of Jos to beauty in record time, enabled us to dedicate the building to Him (Isaiah 61: 3); and to put it to its intended use after forty years.

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Acknowledgements

I want to thank the Vice Chancellor (2016 - 2021) Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako for his great interest in seeing to timely delivery of the renovated library, granting permission for the Dedication of the renovated Central Library and for declaring that the complex be used solely for the purpose it was originally designed - Central Library of the University of Jos, making it the first time in its forty years history that the library will be used for its original purpose. I thank Dr. Jacob Onoja of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts who took most of the pictures used in this book. I recognize and appreciate Toepan Earnest Daniang of the Department of Mass Communications, University of Jos who gave us a beautiful aerial picture of the library. I acknowledge all University of Jos Library staff, especially the Movement Committee headed by Mr. Muhammed Etubi that arranged for resources to be moved to the new building and arranged properly. Mrs. Victoria Madueke sacrificed a lot throughout the renovation up to the dedication and must be commended. I thank all staff of the Systems Unit and the Administrative Officer in the Library - Mrs. Helen Agaku and staff of the University Librarian's office who worked assiduously to ensure that the Dedication of the Library went well. I thank Prof. Teresa M. Nmadu, a great friend of the library, whose expectation and joy were to see the burnt library restored.

I greatly appreciate Arc. Tijjani Mohammed, Chairman of Messrs. Amber Blaze, and all his staff who ensured that the burnt library building was restored in quality and aesthetics. Not only that, but he also made sure that even the environment of the library was attractive enough for learning through creative landscaping.

I thank Arc. Halima Auta and her staff (including Arc. Nacit Zwalda, the Library Desk Officer) in the Directorate of Physical Facilities who ensured that the building was renovated according to pattern, and for providing a good working environment. I acknowledge all staff of the university who were excited at seeing that the University of Jos Library recovered from the ashes of October 6, 2016. Several staff of the university and others outside of the university, in Nigeria and abroad contributed in their little ways that resulted in this big edifice that we dedicated. This includes the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the American Embassy in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria under the leadership of Prof. Lenrie Aina, the Nigerian Library Association under the leadership of Dr. Umunna Opara. Dr. Victoria Okojie, Member of Governing Board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Ambassador Samuel Jimba, Prof. Innocent Ekoja all visited the library at its time of distress.

The following University Librarians convinced their respective University managements to donate books and learning resources for the University of Jos as a result of the fire incidence. They also personally came with the

trucks that delivered the books and journals: Dr. Musa Bello of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, Prof. Jubril Attahiru Alhassan of Federal University of Technology Minna and Dr. Salisu Adamu Aliero of Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero, Kebbi State. The Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities contributed raised funds which was sent to the University of Jos. The University of Lagos couriered their donation to the University. Thank you, Dr. Mrs. Olukemi Fadehan, University Librarian, University of Lagos.

Cliff Missen of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA; Tripod Insurance Brokers, and several staff and students of the University of Jos and alumni made various donations. Prof. Danny McCain of the Department of Religion and Philosophy was and still is a great mobiliser of support for the library. He introduced Don Campion who deserves a special place in the restoration of the library because Don, on hearing of the fire disaster, responded by sacrificing space and personnel for 'Collection Point' of donations to the University of Jos Library at his airfield at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and shipped the collections to Nigeria, all at his expense. There were several organisations that mentioning them one after the other would make this "Acknowledgement" to be a separate chapter; all contributors are hereby acknowledged. UNIVERSITY OF JOS See also OPERATION **BFAUTY** FROM ASHES (unijosbeautyfromashes.blogspot.com)

However, mention must be made of Akolo Anthony James, an undergraduate student of Religion Education of the University of Jos who was so passionate in seeing the library restored that he led a project code-named "Project I Testify" to mobilize resources for the library through drama "Late Pam" and reach outs to individuals and organisations. He was able to raise about six hundred and sixty volumes of books for Operation "Beauty from Ashes".

We acknowledge the silent and 'unknown' admirers of the University of Jos library all over the world that have our interest at heart. Thank you all.

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Introduction

This book is the documentation of the proceedings at the Dedication of the renovated Central Library Complex, Naraguta Campus, the main library of the University of Jos and easily referred to as one of the best libraries, at least, in Nigeria. The renovation was carried out following the fire incidence that ravaged the three-storey building on October 8th, 2016. The building was commissioned by Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Executive Secretary Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) on December 6th, 2019, as a Pre-Convocation event. The librarian and library staff officially moved into the building to commence library service on January 13, 2020. The dedication took place inside the Big Guest Lecture Hall on the third floor of the library complex on February 10, 2020, starting at 11:00am. It was attended by staff and students of the university who filled the hall to capacity. The mass media was also in attendance. The anchor for the occasion was Samuel Magaji, a staff of the Public Relations Office in the Vice Chancellor's Office.

This publication is necessary because of the historical and institutional significance of the event. The library was taking over the Central Library Complex for the first time since the building was conceived 40 years previously. The Dedication of the building came with a lot of praise and thanksgiving to God and prophetic declarations concerning the library and the university. Readers of this book, especially staff and stakeholders of the university

will therefore do well to note the prophecies, pray them down before God and actualize them. This is the primary reason for taking time to transcribe the proceedings of the day and making it public.

In the course of putting together what transpired at the dedication, it was also found necessary to put the occasion in perspective of the history of the University Library. This was done by providing evidence in the form of the programme and brief of the library at the Foundation Stone Laying of the Library Complex on October 30, 1981. Some pictures of the library under construction have also been provided. Pictures of the inferno and the accompanying destruction of the library was also provided. So also are pictures of the renovated library, with the hope that readers will have a wholistic understanding of why the Dedication was carried out. Some of the pictures taken at the event are also inserted to cement the memory. It is hoped that all readers of this book will find reason to praise God and also commit to making the University of Jos Library a centre of compulsive intellectual engagement, discoveries and innovations, a driver in the academic community, and the University of Jos a foremost research institution.

Enjoy your reading.

Pictures Speak

Figure 1: Cover Page of Foundation Laying programme

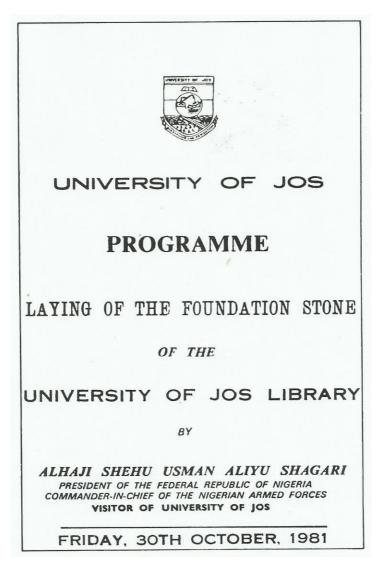


Figure 2: Programme Outline for Foundation Stone Laying October 30th, 1981

UNIVERSITY OF JOS					
JOS					
ORDER OF PROGRAMME FOR LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JOS LIBRARY.					
4.30 p.m. — Arrival of Guests					
4.40 p.m — All Guests seated					
4.45 p.m. — The President arrives					
NATIONAL ANTHEM					
The President is introduced to the Chairman and Members of the University Council.					
5.00 p m. — Address by the Chairman of Council — Dr. Nuhu Muhammadu Bayero (O.F.R.)					
5.05 p m. — Address by the President, — Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari					
5.15 pm. — Laying of the Foundation Stone by the President, — Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari					
5.20 p.m. — Vote of thanks by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos — Prof. E. U. Emovon					
NATIONAL ANTHEM					
5.30 p.m. — President departs					
5.40 p.m. — Other invited Guests depart (the venue of Foundation Laying Stone Ceremony)					
5.45 p.m. — Light Refreshments at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge					
6					

Figure 3: Original Brief of the Library on page 11 of the programme booklet for the Foundation Stone Laying of the Central Library Complex, October 30th, 1981

UNIVERSITY OF JOS LIBRARY

Introduction:

The nucleus of the University of Jos Library was established in February 1972 when this Institution remained the Jos Campus of the University of Ibadan. Located along Murtala Mohammed Way on the temporary town site of the University, the present temporary Library has undergone significant extension to both its building and stock and, today, serves as the Main Library of the University. It houses the Administration and the Technical Processing departments and serves the Faculties of Social Sciences and Law.

In December 1976, a branch Library, which has been extended, was opened at the Bauchi Road Campus of the University, some five kilometres away from the town-site campus to serve the Faculties of Arts, Natural, Medical and Environmental Sciences, and Education.

The New University Library:

The Library itself is to be built as a joint venture between a local firm from Keffi, Alhaji Abdul Gafaru Yusuf and Co., and the West German firm of Schwab Bauten

The architectural and engineering designs are by Dar Al-Handasah Consultants and the Quantity Surveyors are Adesove and Partners. Built to N.U.C. standards and cost limits, the library will be capable of housing 500,000 books and journals, and 1,500 readers. It is to be a four-storey building, 82 metres long and 48 metres broad, with four prominent circular staircase and servicing towers, two at the rear, constructed of local red brick, breaking the otherwise severely formal, yet light and airy, pattern of lace-like sun breakers in white concrete. The total floor area is no less than 15,000 square metres and the whole is fully air-conditioned. Set on the main axis of approach and at the head of the great court of the University, it will, we believe, constitute an impressive focus and key to the functions and architecture of this new University.

Figure 4: Progress of work on new library 1984



Figure 5: Inferno at Central Library Complex October 8th, 2016



Figure 6: Renovation work 2017 - 2019



Figure 7: Beauty from ashes, external



Exterior of the Renovated Library Complex

- The Central Library Complex from above.
- 2. Main entrance.
- 3. Directional Signs at Frontage of the Main Entrance.
- 4. Side view from the front.
- 5. Side view from the back.

Figure 8: Renovated interior



Figure 9: Creative reading spaces



Creative Learning Spaces inside the library complex

Figure 10: More special spaces

More Special Spaces



Figure 11: Children's library



Figure 12: Commissioning of Renovated Central Library Complex



Figure 13: Programme of Dedication

UNIVERSITY OF JOS DEDICATION OF THE MAIN LIBRARY COMPLEX

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

VENUE: BIG GUEST LECTURE HALL, 3RD FLOOR,

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

TIME: 11:00AM

PROGRAMME

1.	Opening Prayer	Prof. Teresa M. Nmadu
2.	National Anthem	
3.	University of Jos Anthem	
4.	Introduction of Dignitaries	Samuel Magaji
5.	Brief by Director, Physical	
	Facilities	Arch. Halima Auta
6.	Comment by University	
	Librarian	Dr. Stephen A. Akintunde
7.	Vice Chancellor's	
	RemarksProf.	Seddi Sebastian Maimako
8.	Exhortation and Dedication	n Prof. Ishmael Ogboru
9.	Vote of Thanks by Deputy	
	Librarian	Dr. Gupiyem G. Gupiyem
10	. Hymn	Showers of Blessings
11.	. University Anthem	
12	. National Anthem	
13	. Closing Prayer	Prof. Musa Gaiya

Opening Prayer

- Prof. Teresa Nmadu,

Immediate Past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)

Our Father and our God, we stand before you in absolute sobriety and total submission as we acknowledge you for bringing us to this day the 10th of February 2020, to be able to celebrate your goodness to us as a university. For wiping our tears away; for giving us joy in the midst of this adversity around us. Lord, we give you glory. We give you praise; we give you worship.

We thank you. Lord, our gratitude knows no description. We thank you, that with our eyes and with our ears we have seen what you have done, we have heard what you have done. And, Lord, with our hands and our feet we have come to celebrate and give you praise only ahead of the things that you are still doing continuously in the University of Jos.

We dedicate this time of rejoicing to you from beginning till the end; We ask that you alone will be lifted up in the mighty name of Jesus. Lord, as many as have come here to celebrate on the dedication of the library, Lord, we shall not go back empty handed. Rejoicing will not cease from our homes and our lives, in the mighty name of Jesus. Lord, we just thank you for the privilege and we return all glory to you, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Nigerian National Anthem

- Arise, O compatriots, Nigeria's call obey
 To serve our fatherland
 With love and strength and faith
 The labour of our heroes past
 Shall never be in vain
 To serve with heart and might
 One nation bound in freedom, peace and unity.
- Oh God of creation, direct our noble cause
 Guide our leaders right
 Help our youth the truth to know
 In love and honesty to grow
 And living just and true
 Great lofty heights attain
 To build a nation where peace and justice shall reign.

University of Jos Anthem

Unijos our Unijos Founded in the Lord's glory Fountain of knowledge Discipline and Dedication.

Building leaders in earnest Lighting up the nation's path With knowledge genuine and pure In character and in learning.

Unijos our Unijos Setting the pace in leadership and in learning In the service of God and Man To humanity's delight and development.

God is our strength Growth and excellence is our goal In all that is fair and upright God's bless our Unijos.

Introduction of Dignitaries - Samuel Magaji

Figure 14: Dignitaries at Dedication



Figure 15: Some officials at the Dedication



Brief by Director of Physical Facilities - Architect Halima G. Auta

Mr. Vice Chancellor, Sir, the immediate past Vice Chancellor, Principal Officers here present, Distinguished Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We all recall the unfortunate incidence of the evening of October 8th, 2016, when the entire first floor of the library building housing the library and two other faculties was gutted by fire. The aftermath of that traumatic night is what we are all gathered here to celebrate and dedicate to the glory of God. The university, after that unfortunate incidence was blessed to receive an intervention from the Federal Government through the TETFund Disaster Recovery Intervention of about N700 million for the rehabilitation of the floor that was ravaged by the fire.

After several integrity tests proved that the building was structurally sound despite the intensity of the inferno, the contract was awarded to Messrs. Amber Blaze Nig. Ltd. The TETFund Team that visited the scene of the incident proposed the structural rehabilitation of the building and renovation of the first floor only which was the floor that was gutted by the fire and minor rehabilitation of the other floors. It took the intervention of the Vice Chancellor and the Librarian who had a greater vision for the university and using the same fund that was provided for the same

structural rehabilitation and renovation of only the first floor with full cooperation of the contractor, this same fund was maximized and used to renovate the entire four floors of the library.

The rehabilitation work comprised of structural stabilization of the few columns that were affected by the fire. The entire floors were changed to granite. The whole electrical fittings and mechanical fittings were all changed. ICT installation, furnishing, aluminium partitioning, internal and external painting was done, landscaping and fencing of the whole library.

This has resulted into a beautiful edifice that we are dedicating today. The rehabilitation work was completed and handed over to the university on the 20th of November 2019. I will not fail to acknowledge that there have been two other interventions from TETFund, the normal 2017, 2018 Library Intervention of about N100 million, and another Special Intervention of about N100 million that complemented the furnishing.

I must not fail to mention the commitment of the University Librarian Dr. Akintunde to the completion of this project. His commitment is unparalleled. I have never seen anybody take up official work the way he had taken; turned into an architect, an engineer, a quantity surveyor, everything in building. Truly, we have learnt a lot from him while supervising the rehabilitation of this library. The commitment of the contractor must also be commended, because whenever we made a request, he will comply

with it without even asking whether it was contained in the bill of quantity or not.

I also want to thank God for my staff; Well, the Librarian will not even give them rest. Anyway, everybody had no choice but to be committed. So I am wishing us to thank them also for all their commitment.

We want to overall thank the Vice Chancellor for the vision to approve the restoration of the library for what it was designated to be, exclusively for the use of the library. Indeed, all things work together for good, and God has turned this tragic incidence of the dark night of October 2016 into what we are witnessing today. Thank you, and God bless.

Comment by University Librarian

- Stephen A. Akintunde, PhD, CLN

- 1. We have come to celebrate the renaissance of a 1,500-seating capacity edifice, destroyed but shades into beauty.
 - a. And lest I fail to mention: The Director, Architect Halima Auta and the entire Directorate of Physical Facilities are hereby acknowledged for taking upon themselves the burden of rehabilitation and your special interest in ensuring timely delivery of the Library project. Thank you for bearing long with us. It's been a great experience working together to realize our dream. Many thanks to Arch. Nacit Zwalda who is Desk Officer for the Library project.
- 2. As we do this, we recognize all those that have contributed in diverse ways to see to this realization.
- 3. We recognize that this structure has been there over the years and the library appeared like a child with stunted growth.
- 4. Attempt was made in 2007 to realize the purpose of the structure by applying for a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
 - a. We were told that we did an excellent proposal but could not be supported because the library would be isolated from most academic areas that were at the time, based on Bauchi Road Campus.

- 5. Then, in 2013, a committee headed by the then University Librarian Professor Adakole Ochai was set up by the Administration of Professor Hayward Mafuyai to plan for the occupation of the library. The plan was drawn up, bills obtained, but could not be executed because there was no funding of an estimated N3billion budget.
- 6. Then the October 8, 2016, inferno:
 - a. The fire set out to erase whatever modest progress the library, and, indeed, the University of Jos was making in global competitiveness.
- 7. However, the disaster turned out to be a blessing in disguise.
 - a. Now, we believe the Bible when it says that "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you", I Thessalonians 5: 18; because our ashes of three years ago, have resurrected into a beauty of diamond shape.
 - b. Thank you Prof. Seddi S. Maimako for taking all the heat at that moment.
 - c. Thanks for your patient endurance: staff and students of the Faculties of Arts, Education, Management Sciences and Social Sciences, and the Department of Geology whose books and journals, put together for over 40 years, suddenly disappeared.
 - Staff and students of the faculties of Management Sciences and Social Sciences turned into migrants, nomads, refugees and

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Thank you for your resilience.
- d. I salute the heroism of the great students and determined staff of the University of Jos to protect and defend their academic heritage in the night of October 8, 2016; but, tried as they did, could not salvage the inevitable.
- e. I commend the sagacity of Professor SS Maimako for refusing to be buried in ashes but rising *immediately* to rebuild, through a prophetic slogan of "Operation Beauty from Ashes" on October 20, 2016.
 - i. As a leader, he conscripted his Principal Officers to donate N1m each to lead the way.
- f. I commend the Committee of Deans and Directors, through their chairperson – Professor Lami Lombin who equally immediately responded by queuing to donate to rebuild.
- g. Today, we recognize individuals and groups within the University and outside of the University, including the diaspora that contributed money, books, journals, computers and other learning resources.
 - The category includes the American Embassy in Nigeria, the National Library of Nigeria, Nigerian universities and other organisations well captured on our website.
- h. We particularly thank members of the Professor Danny McCain Administrative Committee that

- sought to determine the cause of the fire and possible remedies.
- i. We thank the Professor Stephen Mallo ledtechnical committee that tested the integrity of the building and gave us cheering news that the structure was largely intact after the inferno.
- j. We recognize and thank Don Campion of Banyan Air who turned his airport facility in the United States into a Collection Point for donations to the University of Jos. He also ships the donations to Jos at his own expense.
- k. The British Nigeria Education Network in the United Kingdom, the London School of Oriental and African Studies and several other organisations in the United Kingdom are well recognized.
- I. I commend the entire staff of the University of Jos Library for their courage and hope in the midst of disaster. I particularly thank members of the Library Movement Team who ensured that resources and all we needed were moved from the Bauchi Road Campus Library to this new building. They also worked with the University Librarian and Architect Nacit Zwalda to arrange furniture in rightful spaces.
- 8. Today, the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund is fully celebrated for recognizing the disaster that befell us and releasing funds to bring back the library within a space of three years. It is a remarkable intervention and is highly commendable.

- a. We commend the contractor who was so committed to restoring the building that he ensured that even the environment was attractive for learning.
- 9. As we gather here today, it may interest you to know that this building that we are gathered in was conceived in 1979 by the then University Librarian – late Mr. Bartholomew Udemmadu Nwafor, the first substantive University of Jos Librarian. In 1980, the concept was accepted, plan was drawn and approved by Council.
 - a. Visits were made to universities in Europe and America to have a globally relevant building.
 - b. In 1981, precisely October 30th, 1981, the Foundation Stone-Laying was carried out by President Shehu Usman Shagari.
 - c. The library was planned to be the spine and heart of the university, hence its central location in the Master Plan of the University.
 - d. When in mid 1990s the building was partitioned in the wisdom of the then University Administration, it became clear that the library had longer years to remain in the proverbial Egypt.
- 10. Our gathering here today in the University of Jos Library after 40 years of conception and sojourn in a foreign land, is therefore historic and worth commending to God for fruitfulness. It marks a new beginning; not only for the library, but the entire university.

- a. It has been a long wait, and the wait has afforded us to bring in the best possible ideas in providing a central space for deep intellectual engagements and discoveries.
- 11. We have come to thank God who made us and has brought us thus far; making our gathering today possible.
- 12. We have therefore come to ask for God's presence and blessing upon this building and all that would be using it: for safety and prosperity in every way excellent academic productivity, problem-solving research, and committed staff.
- 13. The University of Jos now has four functional libraries Bauchi Road Campus (Science) Library, Law Library, Medical Library at Lamingo Campus, and the Main Library Complex at Naraguta Campus. All of these, without exception, compare to the best academic libraries in any part of the world. We are asking God to make these libraries trigger an outburst of compulsive productive intellectual adventurism.
- 14.1 thank you all for joining us to mark this historic occasion.
- 15.I congratulate Professor SS Maimako for receiving this visitation of God on our campus during your tenure as Vice Chancellor.
- 16. May God answer our prayers.

Remarks by the Vice Chancellor

- Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako, PhD, FCA

Let me specially recognize the immediate Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof. Hayward Babale Mafuyai, the Principal Officers of the University, Deans and Directors, staff and colleagues, students as well as those who have invited themselves to this occasion.

I think it is still safe to say, "Good morning".

I have just few remarks to make because the speech by the Librarian is comprehensive, it is adequate, it is relevant and scientifically proven. Librarian, thank you very much. I appreciate the speech, the Vote of Thanks as well . . . extending our appreciation to all those that have made this project a reality. When this incidence happened, on Saturday evening, after students finished their exams and most had left this place, I received a call that evening. Incidentally, I was with some guests, and we were discussing something about the university, on what we needed to do, then the sad news came that this place was on fire. We were all running on different directions. We didn't really know where to start and what to do. But he reminded us today about the commitment of staff and students in an effort to redeem this building. People wept. including the Vice Chancellor. Today, we are telling a different story.

This library, if you recall, cohabitation was responsible for that fire disaster. The Librarian acknowledged the two key committees that worked on this library after the incidence. But, you know, out of your misfortune, some people will try to take some advantage. Surprisingly, those who are having oversight functions on us instead of sympathizing with us, the university, even if they don't want to sympathize with the Vice Chancellor, this was a great loss. People tried to avenge advantage as it were, out of this project. The various committees we received, the hostilities and so many other things that today I would not want to talk about. We thank God, they are still alive from our records. I want them to come in here and see for themselves. Next time when they are coming to harass me or my successor, then they will see what is here.

I deeply appreciate everybody. This library compares with every other library. We have visited some renown libraries in other countries to help us on what to really do. This really has been sympathetic to our cause. This project, three of them took place, the commencement was almost about the same time: the Faculty of Engineering, the rehabilitation of the Library, and the Faculty of Management Sciences. Today all the three have been completed and handed over to the university. So, we thank you all.

Many people contributed personal resources, learning materials, and our modest contribution which he acknowledged. The Chairperson of Deans and Directors had promised that she was going to beat our figure, they suddenly backslided and started contributing something lower to justify it on account of their number, and said they were more in number and so they would beat our target of six million naira. Many people have supported the university to rebuild this library. We thank the Federal Government. We thank TETFund. We thank the contractors.

Madam Physical Facilities, the Librarian has appreciated you enough, you have also done your best. And I pray that God will give you that commitment to continue to support the university. I have always advised that you don't look at the Vice Chancellor; Look at the university. If you look at the Vice Chancellor, you will miss it. If I tell you now that the advert for my successor will come out this year you will ask "When? How? When did you spend four years? But I have already spent four years. So, this is how every Vice Chancellor will come, whatever addition you can add, you add. What you cannot do others will come and do it. If I have not met my expectations today, I know that my successor will even do better.

I have a feeling that sometimes the university community may not even know what we have. Many people may not know this is the type of library that we have. In fact even academic staff. So, on this, I am directing the Registrar that he next Regular meeting of Senate will take place in this Hall. Let our colleagues come round and see what we really have. If they don't even know, they cannot advise their students about what the university has. Those who have visited have given testimonies. The testaments have

been wonderful. This library can compare with any other one.

So, when I come to think of it, in a few days' time, our friend is leaving the office. We had a lot of challenges, and we still have a few, and each time I will call him, and we will sit; I am deeply deeply worried if you would not move to this library before you leave the office, I will be deeply disappointed. And he took up that challenge, making this place almost like a second home. On weekends, he is here, odd hours, he is here to make sure that these things are in place.

If you have the commitment, we can compete with any other person. We can compete with any other institution. And we have a lot of goodwill now for the university. You can see the Digital Library. This intervention came through some staff who mentioned it to me, and I took the Librarian along and we went to Abuja. This is the result. Our friend who was there promised that for as long as I was still around, he would still see what to do for the university. Fortunately for him, but unfortunately for the university, he has been upgraded to a higher position, making even my access to him now more difficult. But he has promised that beyond this, he was still going to assist us.

And more support is coming from TETFund. All of us should join hands in thanking God and also the Federal Government and Professor Bogoro who is still doing quite a lot for this university. The library has received three special interventions for us to get to this stage. At each

stage I would think it was not going to work, but suddenly things have just been going on in the right direction. Over the weekend, the Executive Secretary of NUC and TETFund were in Jos. They came for a visit to the proposed Karl Kumm University. The University of Jos is supposed to serve as a mentor and on behalf of this university I made that promise that we are indeed going to serve as a mentor to Karl Kumm University. That visit has also brought additional support and special intervention for the university.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, when God is working, so many things, even if you are not factored into an arrangement, God will suddenly bring you into that arrangement. And that is what happened for the University of Jos because they were surprisingly here, did all the talk together, we did everything together and the Executive Secretary of NUC made a pronouncement that the University of Jos should be considered for an intervention in research. TETFund is now going to establish TETFund Centre of Excellence for Research.

Two Federal universities have been chosen per zone. As of Saturday before we met, obviously the name of the University of Jos was not there. And the support they are giving to our university is N1Billion; Three hundred million naira for equipment, and throughout yesterday we were clarifying our own area of research specialization which was to be submitted yesterday. They said it had to be before 4:00pm. I already knew that we did fairly well for

the National Research Fund and now that this support was coming, we needed something.

Other universities that have heavy connections, they already knew over the weekend what they were going to get as they had been selected. So, immediately we now thought about an area, and I wanted the contribution of the Dean of Veterinary Medicine and the Dean of Agriculture. Then I linked up with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) who had been chairing most of these committees. And we worked and worked to bring up a proposal at a short notice. Our proposal, by the grace of God, has been accepted and the next time the budget of TETFund is going to the Federal Executive Council, when there is an approval, count Unijos as one of the beneficiaries of the TETFund Centre of Excellence.

We are winding down on the African Centre of Excellence by March, so this God is also bringing this one on board. The Director of Office of Research and Development I am putting it to you here clearly. They don't want a virtual centre. I don't know how we are going to do it, but they need a centre as befitting as that of the Africa Centre of Excellence in Phytomedicine Research and Development. So, put on your thinking caps, the Deans and Directors, because it is going to affect a number of faculties, as it is multidisciplinary research in the sciences. So, we thank God, many good things are coming.

By the grace of God before I leave in terms of infrastructure, some faculties are going to benefit, and then we are going to pray that, for this university, nobody

can stop our progress. Nobody. Sometimes the signs are worrying, and the threats look so disturbing, but let us not be discouraged or disturbed, we should stand our ground. We built this place; we don't have another place. Some people were thinking of moving to another place, another piece of land elsewhere. You will not find any piece of land more than what you have. You cannot in the next hundred years produce all the structures that you have here. Not with the current practice of funding.

God has been merciful to us now and we should take adequate advantage of that. Whatever we want to do, we would do it; And all we need to do is to be in prayers always and to support the system. I would be very discouraged and sometimes I am deeply worried when you get to hear people working against the university and they are university staff. My own concept of training and my own philosophy in life is completely at variance with that. I will continue to say, Me as a person, since 1989 that I joined the university, I still don't know how I can pay back this university, even after leaving office as Vice Chancellor. So, we thank God. Those who are threatening us are only being misguided and the thought of evil towards this university will perish in the name of Jesus. It will be well with this university.

Librarian, we will miss you. We will certainly miss you. How I wish I had another power to extend your tenure by just six months to one year and to make sure that this place is solidly on ground before you leave, but I don't have that power. The one we have we have already done.

That one for one year. Beyond that, nothing else. But it is well. You have written your name in gold. Congratulations. That is what is required of service. When we leave, we pray that we leave at a time when the ovation is loudest. So, I thank members of the university community. Continue to support us. When I came here I was reminded of a song the students gave me when we were commissioning this place:

Ya Allah ka yi abin da ka ke so (O God do whatever you want to do)

Na ba ka raina, kayi abin da ka ke so (I offer you my life, do whatever you want to do)

Mai ceto, ka yi abin da ka ke so (Our redeemer, do whatever you want to do)

Na ba ka raina, Ka yi abin da ka ke so. (I offer you my life, do whatever you want to do)

And the students reworded it:

Maimako mun ba ka UJ ka yi abin da ka ke so ... (Maimako, we give you UJ, do whatever you want to do ...)

Chaplain's Message - Rev. Prof. Ishmael Ogboru

The Vice Chancellor and his wife, other Principal Officers here present, Served Principal Officers, Deans and Directors and other Professors here present, academic and non-academic staff, guests of the University, students, ladies and gentlemen, and of course, gentlemen and women of the Press.

I want to sincerely thank the Lord for this honour and privilege to be here. I recall when the Librarian was giving his speech, this place went on fire on the 8th of October and in October 1981 the foundation was laid. In October... October. Today we are standing here, and like the Vice Chancellor did mention, it gives joy when you discover that even if it were five naira that you contributed to this place, you will be glad that your contribution brought this to this place, and we earnestly thank the Lord.

I will read two passages of scriptures; But, before I do that, Mr. Vice Chancellor, Sir, permit me to say that on occasions; When I say occasions, I mean not two, not three, not four, and even today when you stood up to speak, as much as I possibly could, I listened and watched you, I observed you. And, without gainsaying, people who know me know that I don't sing praises of men; but very honestly, I discovered that you have been consistent in not taking glory. All glory, always I noted,

you want to ascribe to the Lord, and you have made that attempt today, and we give God praise for that.

When a man decides to do that, God honours that man. And that is what we are experiencing here. By my side, is the immediate past University Librarian, the immediate past Vice Chancellor, and other Deans that have served, other library staff that are also here to grace this occasion. I recall when we prayed for the continuation of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Sir. The students, particularly, you know, one of the things that students like to do is to heap praise on people. May be they think that is a good way to show that we are supporting; may be it is good, but I recall that as we were doing that and they were heaping praises upon you, you wept. The Vice Chancellor wept, and he just wiped his eyes and all of that; and I marked it.

When a man's shoulder is levelled, you don't raise your shoulder, God lifts you up. And what we are doing today, the Librarian, the Vice Chancellor, Principal Officers here and every other person here cannot take the glory. Why? In Romans Chapter 9 verse 14, follow me: The Bible says "Are we saying then that God was unfair? Of course, not". When this place went on fire, the general tendency and the question on many lips of staff and students is "Why?" because this was another calamity happening to us. "Why? ... Why?... Why is God allowing this?" Just a few months into the leadership of the Vice Chancellor. Verse 15 says "For God said to Moses, 'I will show mercy to anyone I choose. I will show compassion to anyone I choose'. So, it is God who decides to show mercy, we can neither choose it nor work for it". For the scripture

says that God told Pharaoh "I have appointed you for my very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth. So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some and chooses to harden the hearts of others." What we are standing to witness today is the mercy of the Lord over the University of Jos on account of your tenure, Sir. And as you stood to speak and you said TETFund has again granted an intervention to the university running into that bulk amount that you mentioned, you discover that it was not planned. So it is not because the Vice Chancellor has several connections. it is the mercies of God. And He says, "I choose who I show mercy to, and I choose who I show compassion to". On occasions like this we want to return all the thanks and glory to the living God who has shown us this compassion and this mercy.

The second passage that I want to read is from Isaiah 43 verse 19. It reads: "See, I am doing a new thing. Now it is starting. Will you not take note of it? I will even make a way in the waste land and rivers in the dry country." "See, I am doing a new thing". He says, "Won't you take note of it?". As I sat and was talking with the Director of Physical Facilities, and we were just sharing and she was saying, "You know the tendency is for people not to see what God is doing". And if you do not see what God is doing, it is either you are blind, or you deliberately decided not to see. The amount of money that has been said to have been pumped into this place. . . You know this used to be my faculty building, Social Sciences. You know where we are using now used to be the largest Hall, and the kind of place that it was, Room 185.

God has done amazing things. And He says "See . . . See " You must have eyes to see. When you see, you appreciate God. When you see and appreciate God, there will be no room for criticizing. When you see and appreciate God we are full of thanksgiving. When you see and appreciate what God is doing, the tendency is that He will do more for us. And, the Vice Chancellor has requested that we pray along that line. Again, you see that he wasn't selfish. If it was a selfish Vice Chancellor he would be saying "When I leave, let nobody surpass my work." But that is not the case here. We earnestly thank God. We will continue to glorify Him. We will continue to honour Him; and greater mercies and favour will come, in the name of Jesus Christ.

You know when the Bible says here that "Rivers will flow in dry land . . . and . . . I will make a way in the wasteland . . ." Over many years, resources would not come to the university. If you ask people that have served over the years, Mr. Vice Chancellor, they will tell you how many attempts they made at pulling resources here that did not work. It just did not work. And, suddenly, God decided to turn His eyes to us. May that continue, in the name of Jesus.

So, as we thank Him and pray that God will grant to us to use these facilities maximally and that this place will be known for excellence; His name will be honoured and glorified in the name of Jesus Christ. Shall we pray together.

Prayer of Dedication by the Chaplain, Chapel of Faith, - Rev. Prof. Ishmael Ogboru

Our precious heavenly Father, we come to you this afternoon, recognizing that you are the owner of resources. You said. "A thousand cattle on a thousand hills are mine." You place people in positions of authority, and you turn your eyes in favour, in mercy, and in compassion to whomsoever you choose. We thank you for choosing our Vice Chancellor Professor Seddi Sebastian Maimako at this time. We thank you for the enormous favour that you have brought to this university in this his tenure. Several structures that were hitherto uncompleted have been completed, new structures sprang up; and like a joke as if to build is something that overnight will just come up. We have seen buildings, and even when the devil arose and brought about the destruction of this building, we thank and bless you that you turned ashes into beauty. And, because of that we are gathered here this morning, to recount your wondrous works, to return thanks and praise to you alone who rules over the affairs of men. You turned the hearts of kings withersoever you will just to prove that you rule over the affairs of men.

We confess, Lord, that we have seen your hands and work and we return thanks and praises to you in the name

of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the present administration and the favour that you have put in their hearts at whatever level, whether TETFund, Federal Ministry of Education, and all the other agencies of government that you have caused to grant us all of the favour that we have experienced and the many more that will yet come. We return all the thanks to you, in the name of Jesus Christ. We again bow before your majesty this afternoon. We declare that the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. This university is yours. Nigeria is yours. The world is yours because you created every human being; therefore, we are yours.

We again ask that all that have been said, the testimonies we have received from the Librarian, from the Vice Chancellor, and from the Director of Physical Facilities, we return all the glory to you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you that we are gathered together in this fashion to, again, witness your compassion on us, in mercy. We ask that your compassion on the University of Jos will never run dry. Let it flow like a river. Let waste lands and fallow grounds in this university be filled up, in the name of Jesus. Even the fresh promises that are coming, may they never be the end for the university, in the name of Jesus Christ.

We therefore declare that for the past several years, this year being the fortieth year this library complex is more or less being opened, forty years of the making; we thank you that even the library that you have brought to maturity. We thank you for the staff members, male and female; we thank you for the staff members of the

University of Jos, academic and non-academic; we thank you for the students at all levels – Diploma, Remedials, undergraduate, postgraduate levels. We ask that, indeed, concerning this edifice that we are standing in to witness your glory, your splendour, that, Lord, we will not just have an edifice of glory of this nature, but that our academic standard will also be excellent to the praise and glory of your name, in the name of Jesus Christ. We therefore ask that we will all take maximum advantage of this facility, staff and students alike. Students, O God, will be known for researches that are of cutting edge; the same with staff members, in the name of Jesus Christ.

We ask, the Vice Chancellor just said to us, "Amazingly, several people will even be surprised that when did you start and that you have done four years already?". We thank you for your hands upon him. Thank you for his going out and his coming in. It was you, because of your mercy and compassion, that just moved him to that meeting at Karl Kumm University ground, otherwise the new intervention would not have come. That is why, when you move people in compassion, they may not even know why they are doing it. They may just say, "Let me just go there." The tendency is "What would I do there, I am not doing anything serious there?" But see the amount of favour you brought just by his presence. We ask that you continue to move him like that. For the remainder of his tenure, let greater favour come to the university. Let, O God, beyond his wildest imagination, by the time he will be rounding up his tenure, he will be rounding up very well. He will be rounding up gloriously, and that we would see the hand of God mightily at work

that you and you alone will be exalted, you and you alone will be magnified.

We again ask, that as you keep working for us, all honour, all praise, all glory we will continue to ascribe to you. We thank you. We therefore stand together in your presence in this Hall of Meeting as we witnessed your wonders, we witnessed your provisions, we witnessed interventions even for this building, we ask that today, the 10th of February 2020, we dedicate this building to you, every inch of this building, every inch of the compound, that they will serve to your praise, serve to your glory, serve to your honour, in the name of Jesus Christ. We ask, O God that for all that have contributed in one way or the other, that they will experience greater manifestations of your presence in their lives and families in the name of Jesus Christ. We ask that you alone forever be magnified. We thank you. Be honoured and glorified. Theft will not be a portion here. Destruction and havoc will be far from this place. As staff members and students come to work and to study here, they will know your peace and your presence.

And, continually, the University of Jos will continue to ascend in the frontiers of knowledge and learning and that your name forevermore will be exalted and glorified. We cover the whole arena with the blood of Jesus, which speaks better things than the blood of Abel; and that You, and You alone, be magnified. Take all the praise, the glory and the honour. In Jesus' mighty name we have prayed. Amen!

Vote of Thanks

- Dr. Gupiyem G. Gupiyem,

Deputy University Librarian (Subject Libraries)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Seddi Sebastian Maimako and his wife, the immediate past Vice Chancellor Professor Hayward Babale Mafuyai, the University Librarian, and the immediate past University Librarian, all Principal Officers of the university, all past Principal Officers of the university present, Deans and Directors, Heads of Departments, Director of Physical Facilities and her staff.

On behalf of the University Library, I am standing to say "Thank you" to all of you. I want to start with the Vice Chancellor for the role that you have played to make this building to come back to life and to make it a reality. Thank you very much, Sir.

I want to use this opportunity to thank TETFund in absentia for the role that they have played, the funding that they have done, to make this building to be rehabilitated within three years; We thank God for that.

I want to thank my immediate boss Dr. Akintunde, who is another bulldozer in the University of Jos. Mr. VC, please, permit me to call him 'bulldozer'. He has worked very hard to see that this renovation of the library has come to reality. He has done very very well. Even on Sundays, after finishing Church Service, you will see him here, coming to see that one thing or the other is in the right place. Thank you; Well done. I believe that your shoes will be very difficult for whoever is going to come; but we are praying that the Lord will put him through, in Jesus' name.

The Director of Physical Facilities and your able hands, you have done well; because most often, they can be called upon if the University Librarian thinks that something needs to be done here and there. He would just send for them, and they would immediately come over. Thank you for all that you have done.

We also want to use this opportunity to thank the Advancement Office because they have played one role or the other to see that "Beauty from Ashes" is a reality.

I also want to use this opportunity to thank everyone seated here and outside for the contributions you have made with respect to realizing the "Beauty from Ashes". We are indeed very grateful. And it is our prayer that this University Library is going to serve as a model to other university libraries in this country, and others will come to learn from the University of Jos how we have done it and how they can learn from us. I want to thank you all.

I want to thank all staff of the University Library for being there and supporting the University Librarian, especially the Movement Committee. The Movement Committee has worked very hard to see that we moved resources from the Bauchi Road Campus to this place. We want to thank you for everything.

And, for all those that contributed in one way or the other, on behalf of the University Library, We are very grateful. Thank you... Thank you... Thank you. May God bless us all. Amen!

Hymn:

Showers of Blessings

There shall be showers of blessing:
 This is the promise of love;
 There shall be seasons refreshing,
 Sent from the Saviour above.

Refrain:

Showers of blessing, Showers of blessing we need: Mercy-drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead.

- There shall be showers of blessing, Precious reviving again; Over the hills and the valleys, Sound of abundance of rain. [Refrain]
- There shall be showers of blessing:
 Send them upon us, O Lord;
 Grant to us now a refreshing,
 Come and now honour Thy Word. [Refrain]
- There shall be showers of blessing:
 Oh, that today they might fall,
 Now as to God we're confessing,
 Now as on Jesus we call! [Refrain]

University Anthem

[See page 24]

National Anthem

[See page 23]

Closing Prayer

- Prof. Musa Gaiya,

Director Office of Research and Development

Our heavenly Father, we thank you that you have helped us to have a successful session of praising and thanking you for this great work you have done, how you have turned this place from ashes to beauty. We give you thanks. Thank you for bringing each one of us to this place. Thank you for the individuals and the groups of people that you have used to bring this place to what it is today. We give you thanks. Thank you in particular for the office of Physical Facilities and the Director; We thank you for the Librarian and the staff of the library. We thank you for our Vice Chancellor and the Principal Officers that supported him to bring this University Library to what it is today.

We thank you because that victory, you did it even before you created this world. And we are realizing that victory that you gave to us as your children; we know that the evil one had wanted to attack, even the life of our Vice Chancellor; but, Lord, you intervened, and this thing happened. You transformed it. We can't say anything but to thank you; And to thank you for all that you have done. Lord, we pray that this university will never retreat, but it will move forward and excel, that Lord whoever you are

going to appoint to succeed this our brother, we pray that he would add and add more. That, Father, this university will never be the same. Thank you that you have used him as a mark and as a sign that whoever trusts you, he will never fail. Lord, we pray that whoever is coming will look up to you and take up the mantle of the God of Sebastian Maimako and take this university to greater heights.

Thank you for the Librarian and how he has worked hard. Thank you that at the end of his tenure, he can look back and give you thanks because you have carried him on your wings. He can see what you have done through him at this particular moment. As he goes, we pray that you bless him, that, Lord, he will regret nothing but that he will see you do wonderful things in his life. Because he has laid down his life for this university he will do wonders. Thank you, Lord, because we know that you will do more than we imagine in this university. And this university will rank among outstanding universities of this world, and we would be proud that we have been part and parcel of the University of Jos. Dismiss us with your blessings. Take us to our various offices and homes safely with your blessings because we ask and pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!

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