

Summer 2019: Tribute to Valparaiso University Law School (1879-2019)

Thanksgiving for the Student Spaces, Part I: 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18 (NLT)

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THANKSGIVING FOR STUDENT SPACES, PART I

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10, 16-18 (NLT)

**Kyle Joseph Farris – Editor in Chief, Valparaiso University Law
Review, 2018-2019**

⁸We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

¹⁶That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Paul reminds us that while we think we are at the end of our rope, we are never at the end of our hope. At times like this, it can be easy to focus on the pain and forget about the joy.

I've been asked to talk about one source of joy this building provided—student spaces. As a member of law review, having spent, roughly, a thousand hours a day in the law review office this year, I thought it appropriate to tell you all a story about that.

Around March of last year, the 3L students were still holding down the law review office, and we lowly, naïve 2L law review members were trying to find a place to call our own. Lucky for us, we had plenty of “student spaces” to choose from. The atrium, the cafeteria, the tables outside the cafeteria, and the rooms in the library.

We sat in the atrium and hatched out a list of deadlines for the 2L Notewriters. We had our first Volume 53 editorial board and executive board meetings in the cafeteria. We graded *Bluebook* competitions in the library and held our first Notewriter meeting around the tables outside the cafeteria. Then, it finally happened. We were given keys to the law review office—our home for the next 12 months. Within the walls of that office, we held weekly meetings the first semester and formulated four separate publication plans. The idea for the Tribute came from inside that office, and the work started in there. The Halloween and Easter events for Hilltop were also planned in that office. We used the cafeteria, the atrium,

and the big hallway to host those events and brought into this building dozens of smiling 3–5-year-old faces, filled them with sugar and pizza, and handed them back over to their parents.

We had our own space to work. It was home within the law school. We could go into that room at 6 a.m. or stay until 11 p.m. and really get stuff done. Work on a mammoth project and accomplish a task with a group of intelligent people who all soon became dear friends. Friendships were kindled there, and it truly was a magical place. Except for when Kalley and Sean were arguing about whether it was constitutional to allow meditation in public schools as a means to combat rising rates of depression, suicide, and school shootings in school-age children. And my goodness did they argue.

But that's the whole point of this and other student spaces isn't it? To provide students with the opportunity to discuss controversial ideas. This building gave us that. Not only in the law review office but also in the atrium and cafeteria. And the number of ideas and the planning that has taken place in that office, and around this building, I cannot even begin to fathom. The law review office, and all these other student spaces, gave us hope when we needed it. And that hope was not in vain.

Yes, our school is closing. This building is closing. But the ideas that were created in this building, the friendships formed, intellectual curiosities that were stimulated, and the passions ignited cannot be taken from us. And neither can the spirit constructed within the hearts and minds of each person who had the privilege to walk these halls. Because make no mistake. Our building may be gone. But the dreams inspired within this building and the passions that were fueled under this roof, will live on. And that cannot be taken away from any of us. This building leaves behind, in each one of us, the spirit of Valpo Law – and that spirit will live on.

And *that* is why we never give up. Even when we are pressed on every side by troubles, we are not crushed. Even though we are knocked down, we are not destroyed. Because although the things we see now will soon be gone, the things we cannot see will last forever.