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Spiritual ensemble was moving

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Centre College offered a wonderful concert with the American Spiritual Ensemble to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I was so moved (literally and figuratively) by the music the ensemble sang.

As I was leaving the concert, this thought crossed my mind. It is my hope that all of us who heard them sing believe in what they sang.

God gave us a most wonderful gift of music and in particular the Negro spirituals. Throughout history, many groups as well as individuals have suffered greatly, and the Negro spiritual teaches us, like few other genres of music, that we can be freed from what enslaves us through Jesus. The Negro spiritual, so well sung by the ensemble, is so deep in theology and truth that it is more than just music, it expresses a belief that helps all of us through life.

Toward the conclusion of the concert, they sang Moses Hogan's arrangement of "We shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace." Dr. McCorvey, the Ensemble's founder and director, dedicated this song to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the others suffering from the tragedy in Tucson.

There are two lines sung with each stanza that read: "If Jesus Himself shall be our leader, We shall walk through the valley in Peace."

Truly, it is my prayer that those who heard this being sung as well as those reading this believe with all of their hearts what these two lines tell us.

Thanks again to Centre College for hosting this event, for Dr. McCorvey and the University of Kentucky for bringing this wonderful group together, for Centre's Diversity Student Union, and most of all The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who believed and lived out what they sang.

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