



## Robert W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY

Atlanta University Center

Clark Atlanta University • Interdenominational Theological Center • Morehouse College • Spelman College

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### **Sermons of Rev. Gardner Taylor Available for Research at the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library**

The Archives Research Center of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Woodruff Library has opened its Gardner C. Taylor Collection of manuscript writings for scholarly research.

The Located AUC Woodruff Library provides collaborative library services to the four colleges and university of the Atlanta University Center—Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College—comprising the world's oldest consortium of historically black institutions of higher learning.

The Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, named the “dean of the nation’s black preachers” by *Time Magazine* and one of *Ebony Magazine*’s “15 Greatest Black Preachers,” donated his collection of writings to the AUC Woodruff Library in 2008 in honor of his late wife, Laura Taylor (b.1916, d.1995). The Taylor Collection, which spans a period from 1947 to 2001, includes more than 1,100 manuscript titles, primarily sermons, as well as speeches, prayers, eulogies and lectures. The majority of the materials are dated in the 1950s-1970s.

Taylor’s passionate and eloquent preaching has earned him the title “poet laureate of American Protestantism.” A much sought after speaker, Taylor has given sermons and speeches across the United States and around the world, including Austria, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Japan, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia. He has received more than 100 honorary degrees and has lectured and taught at numerous seminaries and Ivy League divinity schools. In January 1993, Rev. Taylor delivered the inaugural sermon at the Prayer Service for President William Jefferson Clinton, and in January 1997, offered the benediction at President Clinton’s second inauguration. In August 9, 2000, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

AUC member institution, the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), and the AUC Woodruff Library Archives Research Center are working in partnership to help preserve and promote Rev. Taylor’s legacy for the benefit of current and future students and scholars. In 2005, ITC opened the Gardner C. Taylor Archives and Preaching Laboratory of more than 150 audio and video recordings of Taylor sermons. ITC also facilitated Taylor’s donation to the

Woodruff Library Archives and provided financial support to prepare the manuscript collection for research use.

“There is perhaps no modern figure who has made a more profound impact on the art of preaching than Rev. Gardner Taylor,” said Dr. Edward Wimberly, VP and Provost of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. “In each of his sermons and oral presentations, you find a blueprint for eloquence, organization and infinite impact. His works individually and collectively provide master classes in the philosophy and practice of preaching.”

The Taylor Archives and Preaching Laboratory at ITC includes audio and video recordings of Taylor’s sermons and lectures, as well as technology for videoconferencing, listening to and viewing audio and video media, and a small exhibit highlighting some of Rev. Taylor’s achievements.

View the finding aids (by title, scripture, date and place) for the AUC Woodruff Library’s Gardner C. Taylor Collection at:  
<http://www.auctr.edu/rwwl/Home/ManuscriptArchivalCollections/tabid/326/Default.aspx>. For more details about the Gardner C. Taylor Archives and Preaching Laboratory, visit:  
<http://www.itc.edu/>. To arrange a research visit at the AUC Woodruff Library Archives Research Center, call 404-978-2052 or email: [archives@auctr.edu](mailto:archives@auctr.edu).

#### **About the Library**

Constructed in 1982, the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library is an independent entity organized and operated for the exclusive benefit of its member institutions—Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College. With a combined enrollment of more than 10,000 students, these colleges and universities represent the world’s largest consortium of historically black institutions of higher learning.

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