



Blessings
for the Graduate

from the
President and Faculty
of
Nazarene Bible College



Graduate Sending Chapel
May 16, 2007



GRADUATE SENDING CHAPEL

The Sending Service of Nazarene Bible College is that special chapel event in which the faculty and administration send the graduates of the college out to minister to our world.

Such a sending should be done with great Joy and blessings, that the students might be empowered, and the faculty might be strengthened by the product of their labors.

***Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields;
for they are white already to harvest.***
These are ready for the work.

May the greatest blessings be those given by our Master.





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Remember the words of our Lord as found in the Gospel of John 20:19-22.

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

The God who called you is faithful - He has kept you through the years of preparation and he will keep you as you go.

I note that twice in this passage our Lord blesses his disciples by saying **“Peace be with you.”**

It is most appropriate in this Sending Chapel for those who have taught you, encouraged you, prayed with you, and believed in you to have the opportunity to send you with a blessing.

 President Harold Graves Jr. 



As you leave this sacred place...
May the strength of God pilot you,
the power of God preserve you.

May the wisdom of God instruct you,
the hand of God protect you.

May the way of God direct you,
the shield of God defend you.

May the host of God guard you against the snares
of the evil one and the temptation of this world.
May Christ be with you.

Christ before you and behind you,
Christ above you and beneath you,
to your left and to your right.
May Christ be within you.

Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of you,
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of you,
Christ in every eye that sees you,
Christ in every ear that hears you.

May the salvation of the Lord be yours this day and evermore.

Amen.

~ Adapted from the Breastplate of St. Patrick.

 Ron & Ann Attig 



You all answered the call to come to NBC to prepare for ministry. Now you begin the journey through the challenges and joys of servanthood. I would like to share with you words I borrowed from John Wesley:

“Do all the **good** you can, by all the **means** you can, in all the **ways** you can, in all the **places** you can, at all the **times** you can, to all the **people** you can, as **long** as **ever** you can.”

A humble, God-centered attitude will lead to deeper personal peace and a greater positive impact on the world around you. It will also bring joy and honor to God, who dearly loves you. The closer you draw to God, the deeper your love will grow and the more like Jesus your attitude will become. Philippians 2:4 & 5 (NIV) says,

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

I ask God’s blessing on you as you cultivate a God-centered attitude.

 Patsy Crane 



There is no greater joy, no finer pursuit
Than occupying the place where God
has chosen for you to serve Him.

When you go forth to serve Him, May He fill:
Your Heart with His Love
Your Mind with His Joy
Your Spirit with His Peace

May you:
Take each step with Patience
Speak each word with Kindness
Live each day in Goodness

May your life be characterized by:
The Faithfulness of God the Father
The Gentleness of Christ our Savior
The Self-Control of the Holy Spirit

Go with our love and blessing.



3 יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה עֹשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:

Psalm 134:3

May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you.

May you be blessed for the contributions
you have made to our lives here on campus.

May you become a blessing to those
whom you will serve in the near future.

May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you.

3 יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה עֹשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:

Tom King



I don't much like goodbyes. When it comes time to say them, I tend to slip out the back. In her book, *Praying Our Goodbyes*, Joyce Rupp reminds me, however, that the word *goodbye* originally meant "God-be-with-ye," or "Go-with-God."

It was recognition that God was a significant part of the going. Goodbye was a blessing of assurance that if God went with you, you would never be alone.

Graduates, though you have made your home in our hearts, we would not keep you from moving on. We know your leaving is essential for your growth. So, go; go with God. Goodbye!

Take with you my favorite scripture. It was God's goodbye blessing to Moses:

**My Presence will go with you,
and I will give you rest.**

Exodus 33:14

 Terry Lambright 



As you have been fed at this table,
go to feed the hungry.

As you have been set free,
go to liberate the captive.

As you have received,
give.

As you have heard,
proclaim.

And the blessing that you have received
from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be always with you.

Amen.

~ Adapted



You have been the student and the follower. Now you will go forth to be the teacher and the leader. May you hold close to your heart the understanding that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve.

Become great through serving, be first, by being the very last, and the servant of all. When you serve, do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ—and you will be blessed.

In your service may your life remind others of how Jesus took a little child into his arms and said,

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me. Let the little children come to Jesus, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such children.

---and you will be blessed.



In 2 Corinthians 3 and 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul writes to those who have received the blessings of his ministry.

2 Corinthians 3:1-3

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

As the Lord, Jesus Christ, has redrawn our lives after his image in the ink of the Spirit, and as by his grace, he has used us to redraw your lives after his image by that same Spirit, may the Lord of Life use you to rewrite the life stories written on tablets of human hearts. And as you leave us, we look forward to that day when we will all be reunited before his throne, and we shall bear you as our proud crown of hope and joy as you lay at our Lord's feet the diaries of your lives filled with parchments of those who by your ministries have been born not of flesh and blood but of the Holy Spirit.

 Jay Ott 



The story is told of a young Jewish student who had studied for a long time under the wise guidance of a Rabbi named Moishe. After several years of study, the student became very troubled and agitated. And so Moishe visited with the student to discover what the problem was. The student looked at Moishe and said, "I have studied the lives of the heroes of the faith for several years now. And I have become very frustrated. I have discovered that regardless of how faithful or insightful or wise I try to become, there will always be an Abraham or a Moses or a Solomon who is even more faithful or more insightful or wiser than I am. How can I truly serve God and give myself to His Kingdom when there are so many other individuals who will always be greater than I am? How can I ever become an Abraham, or a Moses, or a Solomon?"

Moishe looked at his student for a moment and then answered, "My child, the greatest challenge that God has ever given to me was not for me to be an Abraham or a Moses. Rather, the greatest challenge that God has ever given to me was for me to be Moishe."

As you leave this place, I do not want to challenge you to become another Alan Lyke, or another Janice Duce, or another Tom King. I want to challenge you to become the person that God has created you to be. Go from this place and be the man of God or the woman of God that God planned you to be. Be the servant leader that God intended YOU to be.

Paul told us how to do this in Galatians chapter 2 when he wrote, "**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.**" May the Lord bless you, and may you become Christ incarnate to a lost and dying world.



You came to NBC at the call of your Redeemer. You have studied and prepared in fulfillment of that call with the hope that He who called you is faithful.

And now, as you follow His leadership from these hallowed halls to your ordained destination...

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loves us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 NIV

 Jim Russom 



You have been educated at Nazarene Bible College for assignments that are somewhat paradoxical. You have been prepared to lead those you will serve and to serve those you will lead.

You are to serve among the people of God. You are not more holy than are they, nor are they less Christian than are you. Peter wrote the following to all Christians everywhere and for all times; remember that this applies to you because you stand among His people.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

I Peter 2:9



Speed thy servants, Savior, speed them;
They were bound, but Thou hast freed them,
Be Thou with them; 'tis Thine arm alone that saves,
Friends, and home, and all forsaking,
Lord, they go at Thy command,
O be with them! Lead them safely by the hand.

When they reach the land of strangers
And the prospect dark appears,
Nothing seen but toils and dangers
Nothing felt but doubts and fears,
Be Thou with them;
Hear their sighs, and count their tears.

Where no fruit appears to cheer them,
And they seem to toil in vain,
Then in mercy, Lord, draw them near,
Then their sinking hopes sustain;
Thus supported, let their zeal revive again.

In the midst of opposition,
Let them trust, O Lord, in thee;
When success attends their mission,
Let Thy servants humbler be,
Never leave them, till Thy face in heaven they see.

There to reap in joy forever,
Fruit that grows from seed here sown,
There to be with Him who never
Ceases to preserve His own,
And with gladness, give the praise to Him alone.

*Adapted from a Charles Wesley hymn.

 Tom Umbel 



Your task is not to extend the kingdom or even to build it, your task and mine is to invite people to enter the kingdom. It is there we participate in his rule, his presence, and his provenience.

I join with the Apostle Paul and pray this special prayer for you:

May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened that you may know what is the hope of Christ's calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards you, according to the workings of his mighty power. I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all discernment. Approve all things that are excellent; that you may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. You are to be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling I commend you. Place your hands in his strong hands and allow his rule, his presence and the witness of his Spirit to be yours forever and ever, amen!

Ephesians 1:18 & Philippians 1:9

 Joe Warrington 



One of the most important spiritual disciplines is to develop the knowledge that the years of our lives are years on a mission.

Henri Nouwen

As the Father has sent us - we send you. I pray you will spend the rest of your life on a mission of fulfilling God's call for your life.

Heavenly Father ~

We bless your chosen ones. They have responded to your call, they have prepared their hearts, minds, and spirit, and now we send them into the world. I pray that you will protect them from the evil one, that you protect them by the power of your name, that they will have the full measure of our Lord's joy, and that your love may be in them.

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.**

This we pray in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

 President Harold Graves Jr. 



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