



Blessings *for the Graduate*

from the
Faculty and Administration
of
Nazarene Bible College

Graduate Sending Chapel
May 19, 2010





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.





To Our Graduates

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. 



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And although one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV)

You have been designed to be in relationship . . . with God, certainly, but also with those you meet along life's journey.

Nazarene Bible College has equipped you with the tools for building relationships. The enemy of God would have those tools to rust from lack of use. He would separate you from others, using division. He works best on those who are alone.

Your God, the Gentle Shepherd, bids you *come* . . . to Him, to His flock. Whether He has called you as an under shepherd or sheep, stay near to Him and His people. Do everything you can to build and strengthen His flock. Be in relationship . . . be a friend!

 Mike Arrambide 



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. ~



As I look toward the future
Bright hope conducts this prayer,
For I know the plans You have for them
Were wrought with divine care.

Holy Spirit, lead them.
Let them run at your command,
Yet be still and know that You are God
When trouble's close at hand.

Your Word will be a lamp for them,
A guide to light their way,
A solid place to set their feet,
A compass when they stray.

May they live their life to praise You,
Not for fortune, nor for fame,
May everything they say and do
Bring glory to your name.

May their eyes stay fixed upon You
As they seek the way that's pure,
Tasting your love and goodness
Sleeping and rising secure.

Planted by your living streams
They'll delight in all your ways,
Hidden by your sheltering wings
With new mercies for each day.

Even in a dangerous land
When storms threaten to destroy,
At the cross they'll stand upon the Rock
Their Strength, their Hope, their Joy.

Dear Lord, show them your favor,
At all times keep them blessed,
May your face ever shine upon them,
With peace and perfect rest.

Amen.

~ Adapted from Mary Fairchild. ~



As you follow the call into ministry, always serve others by taking time for yourself and to spend time with those around you. Always remain positive, humble and aware of whom you are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Look to Him in all circumstances and be thankful God has provided you with unique talents and abilities. Welcome each ministry challenge in ways that will bring you continued growth and strength. Be aware of your most important possessions which are honesty, integrity, and being an example of God's love throughout your daily walk in ministry.

Romans 12:10-13

My prayer to our Lord is to be blessed with guidance, success, and happiness as a result of answering your call to ministry. Give them discernment and patience to deal with obstacles, joy as they reach goals, persistence to finish the race and to always experience your infinite love and wisdom in all things.

Proverbs 24:3-5

"Lord, grant that I might always desire more than I can accomplish."

Michelangelo

*"You're not very smart if you're not a little kinder
and wiser than yesterday."*

Abraham Lincoln

"What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other."

George Eliot

*"People become really quite remarkable when they start
thinking that they can do things. When they believe in
themselves they have the first secret of success."*

Norman Vincent Peale

*"Don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where
there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."*

Ella Fitzgerald



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 



William McNamara comments on what an awesome, “terrible” thing it is to be called by God. To the question, “Where art thou?” the author suggests this halting and reverent response: “Here I am, Lord, standing defenselessly and transparently in your presence. Take me, possess me, seize me, consume me, and then if you will, if it is your good pleasure, send me into the world with your message, your scorching words and your flaming love.” (*Earthy Mysticism: Contemplation and the Life of Passionate Presence*, 55, 58).

As you follow God’s call, here is a scripture that has become my personal life’s promise. It was God’s blessing to Moses as well:

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

Exodus 33:14

 Terry Lambright 



May He who has called you,
gifted you,
grace you in all your tomorrows.

May your greatest success be your obedience
to be all He dreamed you to become.

May His peace abide in you
in each storm,
in each struggle,
in each challenge.

And may, at the end of your journey,
you be found safe in His Presence,
blameless,
faithful,
full of His everlasting joy.



May the grace of God . . .
that enfolded you from the beginning
that beckoned you into His presence
that birthed you into His family
that is changing you into His likeness
that summoned you into His service
that led you to this college
and undergirded your time here

May that same grace . . .
guide your every moment
shape your every prayer
mold your every word
empower your every deed
illumine your every challenge
enlarge your every dream
and keep your every care

Until the day of Christ's appearing
and until we meet again.

Amen.



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 me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Mark 9:37; Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

---and you will be blessed.

 Janyne McConnaughey 



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 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

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 Janyne McConnaughey, 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.

As you leave this special place called NBC, I would like to remind you of the instructions that Peter gave to his readers in his second letter.

cont.



2 Peter 1:5-11

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you, and may you become Christ incarnate to a lost and dying world.



It has been our privilege to share your time at NBC
with you and your classmates.

It is our hope that more than instruct,
we have modeled our love for Christ and for you
and that we have been an encouragement
to you along the way.

And now, as you take your charge. . .

**May the God who gives endurance and
encouragement give you a spirit of unity
among yourselves as you follow Christ
Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth
you may glorify the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)



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. 

