



*Blessings*  
*for the Graduate*

from the  
President and Faculty  
of  
Nazarene Bible College



Graduate Sending Chapel  
May 20, 2009



## 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.





**GRADUATE SENDING CHAPEL**  
**May 20, 2009**

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. ~



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. ~





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.  
Go forth with joy to serve.



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 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.

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.



## 2 Peter 1:5-11

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup>and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup>For 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. <sup>9</sup>But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, <sup>11</sup>and 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)

 Jim Russom 





When you leave this place, you have the blessed privilege to stand among God's people as one who has been prepared to minister in some special way. Remember that it is a privilege of God's calling that you will have a people among whom you will proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. By your office, 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



## Let Your Heart Be Broken

Let your heart be broken for a world in need—  
Feed the mouths that hunger, soothe the wounds that bleed,  
Give the cup of water and the loaf of bread—  
Be the hands of Jesus, serving in His stead

Here on earth applying principles of Love—  
Visible expression God still rules above,  
Living illustration of the Living Word  
To the minds of all who've never seen and heard.

Blest to be a blessing, privileged to care,  
Challenged by the need apparent ev'rywhere,  
Where mankind is wanting fill the vacant place,  
Be the means thru which the Lord reveals His grace.

Add to your believing deeds that prove it true—  
Knowing Christ as Savior, make Him Master too:  
Follow in His footsteps, go where He has trod,  
In the world's great trouble risk yourself for God.

Let your heart be tender and your vision clear—  
See mankind as God sees, serve Him far and near;  
Let your heart be broken by a brother's pain,  
Share your rich resources, give and give again.

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 Tom Umbel 



**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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