

Things to Remember while You Move out of School !

Given below is the Graduation Address by Mrs V.J. Mekwan, Nursing Superintendent, Methodist Hospital, Nadiad, to the 29th Graduating Class, on September 2, 1984.

The School of Nursing, Methodist Hospital, Nadiad, was founded by late Miss Thereza Lorenz in 1953, with the vision that it would help many young girls and boys to mould their lives to serve in the healing ministry of Christ. Since then, 327 graduates have graduated and are serving in different ways in many parts of the world. Vision always provides clear direction. God does not give a vision without the grace to see the vision accomplished. God has remained faithful in His promises to us. The vision through which the pioneering missionaries started this School of Nursing has come true, and we are indeed fortunate to see it bearing fruit. I can say proudly that the flame which was lit by the founder is burning with the spirit of faith. We move forward with His grace. We are what we are, because of the vision, persistent effort and sacrifices of many who went before us. I gratefully praise God and thank Him for all His blessings. He has sustained us through extremely difficult times. With our very limited resources he has helped us to grow to this day. His grace is sufficient for each one of us if we only Trust and Obey.

Ann Kiemel, in her book, describes what incredible things Jesus can do if we obey. His commandments and trust. His words given in the Bible. Ann Kiemel's own life has inspired many who have experienced God's love.

St. Paul has written to the Phillipians "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward

the goal" (Phil. 3: 13-17).

What is your Goal? Have you reached it? Each one must answer this himself and herself. I trust you graduates have reached your Goal. Have you reached your destination? Some may have, and some not yet. Each has worked hard, and not hardly (!) to achieve your goal of graduating from this School of Nursing. Of course, there is no end to a student life.

Achieving Desired Goal

Our Lord Jesus said on one occasion to His disciples, "where your treasure is, your heart will be also" (LK. 12 : 34). Those who are students, your treasure should be your books and studies, that you may complete your course successfully. Your heart should be in your work, that you can achieve the desired goal. Then you will be able to say, "I live to serve".

As our Lord Jesus said "I have not come to be served but to serve", so each one of us should clearly bear in our minds that we have to be servants and not the masters. Nurses must be humble and serve with love and kindness, and be ready to go a mile more when needed or expected. Well, it is not easy always, but if you give first preference to Christ Jesus in your life, you will surely be able to walk in His steps.

I remember how a young girl said at the time of her interview, "I want to serve people," when asked why she wanted to become a nurse. Many of you may have answered in the same fashion to please or impress the interviewer. But now where are you? Do you really live to serve? Has the School of Nursing motto become a reality, a vision, and a challenge in your life? You must answer this

sincerely to yourself. If the answer is 'yes' you will be blessed abundantly. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth". (Math. 5:5)

Nursing is a profession which demands humbleness. We all know that Jesus Christ humbled Himself, and though He is the son of God, He came down to earth and was born in a manger. No matter how many degrees one may collect, and reach the highest status of one's profession; there is no value if there is no place of humbleness in his/her life.

The Attribute of Love

Another attribute we must all possess is 'love'. Without love whatever you do to help your patients and the community has little meaning. Only when the love of God dwells in our hearts, can we conquer difficult situations. God's love tells us that He is friendly. His word assures us that He is our friend and wants us to be His friends. It will be easy to love others, if you love the Creator of love. He loves us all with a mighty love that has no beginning can have no end. As Christian nurses we should manifest this love and care for all patients, so that they can feel the presence of the Living God. While caring for the sick and needy if you provide physical comforts but there is no loving touch, then much of it may be useless.

St. Paul says, "So, faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is Love". So, my dear graduates and all other nurses, remember to give TLC tablets with everything you do while caring for the sick. Somebody has said love is only good "when you give it away".

All graduates of today have had different dreams. Has your dream

come true? I trust one of your dreams is of becoming a professional nurse, besides other dreams! To make your dream come true today you must have had different kinds of experiences, good and bad, sweet and bitter. At times you had to walk through thorns of difficulties, at other times, you had flowers of hope and love, and felt wanted. It takes great courage to reach into the depths of one's being, identify the vision of God and understand His calling and put it into practice in life, every day. It is easier to serve men without a "calling" but when you think seriously and sincerely, it becomes difficult to serve with a "calling". We must feel His presence while working in the wards and taking care of patients. You will not mind to go one mile more if you take up Nursing as a "calling" and not just a job. You will never repent the hour you had spent more on duty caring for a patient who was in need of your service.

Teacher's Importance

Many have toiled day and night in order to mould your lives. Your teachers are the happiest of all to see you graduate. Someone has said a teacher is happiest when everyone understands the lesson; saddest when there is a huge stack of smudgy tests to correct, slowest when the bell to go rings; fastest when no one is ready for the test yet; nicest when you have just decided to hate her, and the most long-winded when you are in a hurry.

Teaching is a job which only few will choose. It is a low paid, overloaded and thankless job. But I know you will agree with me and say that the love and services of teachers and others are incomparable. Those encouraging words that helped you when you were discouraged, the guiding hands that led you to cross bridges and rough roads, the soothing voice that comforted you when you were in despair and showed the light that helped you to go through the dark valley of confusion and ignorance. You lit that light on the day of your 'capping' which has shone to this day and has been

burning bright through these three years. Keep your lamp burning with the spirit of love and of sacrifice so that you will be faithful to your "calling" and service from you.

During your stay here you have learned many Nursing and science subjects—subjects which related to our profession. I trust that they will help you to provide good and efficient Nursing care to your patients, and will help you to teach community, to keep healthy, to prevent accidents, etc.

Need for Patience

A nurse must have a lot of patience so that she can help her patients to develop patience. She should also build up confidence in the doctors who treat her patients. She must provide Nursing care without being asked for, by her keen observations. This is not going to be an easy task but will be possible if you trust in His words and live a prayerful life.

He wants us to "run and not be weary", to "walk and not faint". At times things will go against you, but do not get disappointed. Just wait on Him and you will be able to ride easy, adapt and adjust without wrinkled lines and frayed emotions.

As a professional nurse it will be your duty to give 'hope' to those who come under your care.

The word 'hope' can be analysed like this:

H umility
O bjectives
P atience
E xpectation

With a humble heart you must set the objectives of your career, with much patience you have reached the expectation of your life. I sincerely congratulate each of you graduates and I know that God Almighty will guide and protect you wherever you go, help you to fulfil your desires and help you to accept responsibility efficiently and faithfully.

SNA Conference Memo

1. All delegates to XI SNA Biennial Conference arriving at any of the main Railway Stations in Delhi should report to special booths set up by the Reception Committee of XI Biennial SNA Conference.

2. Those arriving after 11 p.m. should wait in waiting rooms till 5 a.m. next day to be picked up by the representatives of the Reception Committee in the morning.

3. Those who have not paid accommodation and transport charges should pay these latest by October 10 to avoid confusion.

4. Those who wish to send money for return reservation should send the same by Money Order to Miss K. Bhatia, Sister Tutor, Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, New Delhi with details of reservation. (Her address was wrongly printed in the September issue of the Journal).