

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

"Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece". Galatians 6:9

EDIFIED TO EDIFY

Today we have come together to celebrate the most important day in the lives of 64 young women from many different States in India.

All who are gathered representing the Government, your loved ones and the whole of society, do so to congratulate you and to wish you well.

In addition we Nurses have come to publicly welcome each graduating Nurse into our profession as colleagues. From today wherever you are in this world you bear the title *NURSE*.

***God has honored you
we rejoice as we extend to you
the right hand of fellowship into Nursing.***

We stand, with more than twelve million Nurses in the world, authorized by the Governments to practice as Nurses. A privilege and responsibility no one can take from us, unless by law we are found guilty of malpractice.

Our fundamental rights have been sealed in the Constitution of India. Therefore it behooves us to understand and appropriate each 'right' with the wisdom God will grant when we come in faith to Him, to fulfill our Pledge.

Because India is a 'popular sovereignty' and people are the ultimate authority to decide things, then Nurses do have the ultimate authority to decide all Nursing matters within the framework of the Constitution.

You now have the privilege and responsibility to examine 'what is' and to see how you, with us, may appropriate our 'fundamental rights', the 'directive principles' and the 'fundamental duties', we owe to our Nation through Nursing.

Our Pledge is an intensely personal promise to God before man that has profound professional implications for the whole of the Health Services.

The Pledge expresses your commitment as a Nurse before the Almighty Sovereign God who created and called each one of us into Nursing.

***The Sovereign God stands with us today,
a silent witness, as we celebrate your entry into Nursing,
and your commitment through Nursing to God and man.***

Our Pledge is a reminder that we stand accountable in the practice of our profession to God, the government and the nation. May we never forget that He who called us into Nursing has a rich storehouse filled with everything we will ever need to fulfill our pledge and to walk worthy of our profession.

Never hesitate to draw deeply on this never failing reservoir of resources.

This Baccalaureate celebration is a significant, spontaneous act of thanks-giving as you enter a new phase of life. So let us celebrate with thanks-giving the different stages of your professional development to date

THANKSGIVING STAGE I

Thanksgiving

Is a process towards fulfillment of God's divine plan and purpose in your life.

Thanksgiving

Involves integrity and honest examination of what was, what is, and what is to come

To begin with, each graduate falls into one of three broad categories. Only the graduate herself truly knows the category in which she finds herself today.

CATEGORY I

Many of you graduating today never wanted to become a NURSE - you came in obedience to your parents wishes. Why? Because you would always have employment, a good salary, the opportunity to go abroad and earn much money, you would be more eligible in the marriage market and your salary would reduce dowry demands.

But your heart was never in Nursing. You battled the emotional struggles of revulsion in the more taxing difficult aspects of Nursing. You suffered mentally, physically and emotionally for four long years.

Your aim today is to celebrate freedom. As one said "I never want to return to the bedside – I will be a Tutor!"

Our hearts go out to you, and to all who have endeavored to edify you through the struggles of these years, sometimes succeeding, often seemingly to fail. I emphasize 'seemingly'.

Edification is the building up of one's faith.

Faith in your ability to Nurse with the wisdom and love of God flowing:

Through your eyes and your ears as you listen and hear the deep needs of people.

Through your attitudes and behaviors and your hands as you minister to each one with sensitivity and integrity.

Through your verbal and non verbal communication as well as through your feet as you turn to, not away from, each one in need.

JUNCTIONS IN THE PILGRIM JOURNEY

Having arrived thus far, may this auspicious occasion become a blessed turning point in each of your lives. May you go on your way edified, willing and ready to edify others in new and creative ways born out of your suffering.

CATEGORY II

A *great evil* has crept into Nursing in India as well as right here in ---- that begins with the selection process. I refer to the ungodly practice of failed entrants to the MBBS program being granted entry into Nursing as a second best. I deliberately use the term 'second best'.

Pride

Will not allow you to accept the fact that you entered Nursing disadvantaged –

You were a failure in your eyes, in the eyes of your family and your peers.

Your main defense finds expression in a superiority that in vain, attempts to cover an inferiority complex.

That is, unless

You have allowed God to work a transforming process in your life,

And you know with certainty that Jesus came to give us all Life, and Life abundantly

How dare we view God's appointment to a rigorous life in Nursing as a gamble?

Nursing is not Medicine Doctors, with us, have a different and unique role that is complementary, not inferior or superior. This is God's wonderful way of ensuring that each person is cared for with the best from each discipline including the para medical sciences and non-professional health workers.

Wrong Thinking The most pernicious element of this selection practice is that it is derived from society's erroneous ideas of Nursing. It denies recognition of God's specific call to each of you into Nursing; of the sovereignty of His grace and mercy, truth and justice, love and compassion in and through Nursing.

Deep within, you know that your offering to God in Nursing has not been as you desired, "*The very best*".

Purpose True

*The most wonderful thing is that you are now in a position,
with us,
to change such destructive practices directed at Nurses and Nursing .*

CATEGORY III

Numerically this is the smallest category. You are the privileged few who felt, if not fully understood God's plan, purpose and call to enter Nursing.

You knew the blessing of parents, family and friends, who understood the importance of young women finding God's clear direction in every detail of life.

You had an inner sense of peace and purpose even as you struggled with the theories and practices of Nursing that often did not add up.

The Taste of Joy

You have tasted the joy of Nursing that encouraged you to weather the adverse experiences essential to the process of learning and growing, to become a Nurse.

The Price of Joy

This joy is not without a price
The LORD requires you now,
To give more to your sisters in
The first two categories whose
suffering you have never known.

THANKSGIVING STAGE II

We can share and sing to one another with melody in our heart to the LORD Ephesians 5:19 but it is not so easy to 'give thanks always for all things, to God the Father in the Name of our LORD Jesus Christ.'

He hears our cry 'We are supposed to give thanks for all things but I don't feel like giving thanks in this situation.'

The Lord Jesus Christ will never fail you.

Why? He tells us Himself in John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask in My name, He may give you."

Having chosen each of you to be a Nurse, we know by faith and experience that His Word is true and that you are precious in His sight.

Will you accept His Word? Listen carefully:

**"Since you are precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you."
Therefore... fear not for I am with you."**

JOY TO THE WORLD

It is our joy to join with you in a true spirit of thanksgiving for:

1. Your parents, home and family who have given you their best to help you prepare yourself to become a professional Nurse.
2. This Hospital and College of Nursing – now your Alma Mater. In which every category of staff contributed in some way to your professional development.
3. The Government of India whose recognition of this institution and your achievements to date is proven, plus the provision of a wide variety of institutions with remuneration for the future.
4. The assurance of God’s unfailing love and provision and by whose grace you and this institution have developed.

THANKSGIVING STAGE III

The third stage of thanksgiving finds you *standing on the brink of the largely ‘unknown’*.

As you launch out in your professional boat, will you heed the voice of the Master Navigator and invite Him into your boat, for in the midst of life’s tempests, Jesus alone has the power to say “Peace, be still” and ensure that you come through the storm a stronger, more skilful Nurse.

You have commenced an exciting professional climb with the expectation of deep satisfaction, inner peace and joy that cannot be explained or fully understood by those who are not privileged to see the relief in the eyes of grief stricken parents, the silent thank you written deep in the lines of suffering. The intrinsic values from ‘being with’ those in their hour of need.

Each day will be either a day of rich experience, or ‘just another day of grind’, another duty to be suffered through.

The concept of duty and work as a rich satisfying experience that opens ever increasing vistas of learning and opportunity have been significantly replaced by the unwarranted spirit of pride and shame that causes Nurses to avoid patient contact and ongoing professional development.

May you all find that the rewards and blessings of being a Nurse far exceed the difficulties.

OPENING OF NEW VISTAS

What of your future?

For a significant number of you it may be a two year bond to smaller Christian Hospitals, while others are entering a time of uncertainty, qualified but jobless.

First and foremost give thanks for the opportunity to serve with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. You are privileged to bring fresh heart and hope into some very tired and sick institutions.

Study Daniel and Nehemiah and show yourselves approved. A Nurse worthy of being called a ‘Nurse’, and worthy of her hire, no matter how minimal that may be.

For those with time on your hands waiting for your appointment, do not sit and pass time. Prepare yourself to enter an entirely different work environment to this very fine institution.

Challenges Galore

***There will be many challenges.
Resolve, by God's grace and power, not to conform to
the prevailing unprofessional practices.
Stand tall and true to all that is good in Nursing without
wavering***

Some in temporary positions may well find yourself facing unjust practices of other health workers, e.g., the large amounts often illegally deducted from each salary. Remember, your only true Advocate is the Lord Jesus Christ whose power of justice and mercy far exceeds that of any union.

Employment in private hospitals is exacting, demanding a close walk with God if you are to be strong enough to resist being involved in wrong practices.

Some have Experienced Failure

Encourage yourself by reading the Word of God, the Bible.

If you see yourself as a grasshopper, so will everyone else.

Take each failure as a stepping stone to professional maturity and you will have more to offer Nursing than those who ceased learning on graduation.

SUCCESS ASSURED

To be a Nurse of integrity it will be necessary at times to do things differently; to do things differently we have to see things differently. When Nurses draw together, the process of change begins. By uniting together at the Throne of Grace in prayer, we cement the process.

The Spirit of Truth and the means used, determines success in achieving our goal. Each stone becomes a stepping stone, each obstacle a challenge to your ingenuity and creativity. You will surely be a Nurse with a Difference.

You came to this Institution with your parents blessing to get the 'best possible training'; having been encouraged to pray and work, you are now about to leave

What are you taking with you? Memories that grow dearer with each passing year linking you with all who nostalgically miss the atmosphere here?

**You can never take the best with you
unless you are prepared to take the source of the best,
Jesus Christ, as your very own personal giver of the best.**

Success requires courage. Have you, or are you prepared to place your hand by faith in His? Is the genuineness of your faith, much more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire? If so, your personal and professional walk will bring praise, glory and honor in that great and glorious day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns to receive us?

You will indeed go forth and bear fruit, much fruit, good fruit, abundant and everlasting fruit. How do we know?

Each one of you has the potential for administering good quality Nursing care

**Tender loving
Care is not jargon**

It is the manifestation of God's love flowing through you into the life of that wee babe and his parents, into that cerebrally damaged young man, into the burned carcass-like body of that young woman.

The Nurse who genuinely seeks to see each patient as God sees him or her, demonstrates the reality of the words "the love of Christ constrains us". 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Having come to bud, with the struggles of student life behind, and the wonderful resources available to you in Christ and in Nursing, you can now look forward to the process of professional maturation.

Taking a mental leap forward as you explore and expand your horizons in Nursing is exciting, as is finding within yourself a dignity and purpose that expresses itself in effective Nursing Services.

Rejoice

In the truth of God's Word that makes you "Confident that, He who has begun a good work in you will complete it ... as you approve the things that are excellent in Nursing and are sincere and without offence, He will present you faultless before our Heavenly Father" Philipians 1: 6-11

COMPLETE AND REFINED

To become complete, a refined polished instrument in the health services of India or in any nation, all self pity, regrets and recriminations, including for some, the abhorrence of Nursing, must be laid at the foot of the Cross.

There is only one remedy – the healing balm that Jesus gives as He teaches us to use with skill, the sword of the Spirit, that sharp two-edged sword that cuts away all the necrotic sloughing tissue in our lives and *heals completely* – the Word of God.

THANKSGIVING STAGE IV

It is impossible to “Speak the Truth in Love” without claiming the wisdom of God to search out the truth in all knowledge and to appropriate it with His love.

Theories in Nursing

Abound, but have you asked the Lord to shine His light in to each theory and to reveal the truth or absence of the truth in it?

Nursing Theories

Are one of the tools Satan uses to create confusion, burnout, and brokenness in Nursing

Therefore, Christ-like scholarship in Nursing is serious business if the pressing issues in Nursing are to be redressed.

Language is a constant challenge. Continue to refine your language ability. Ask the Holy Spirit, He will help you gain increasing facility with Hindi, and English as the national and international languages for Nursing in this nation.

The joy of helping reverse the compounding undesirable characteristics in Nursing due to language limitations can be yours.

Language is a God given gift that we have to grasp and develop, if we are to effectively avoid and overcome, the snares Satan constantly uses to ruin Nurses and Nursing.

Cleansed to be kept Clean While no Nurse can be proud of being part of Health Services reliably reputed to be the most corrupt service in the nation with the greasiest palms; each Nurse present can have the joy of claiming God’s power to keep her or his life clean and to use each of us to rid our profession of all corrupt practices.

A Professor in a large medical college in Punjab, married to a nurse stated:

“We need what you are doing for Nurses more than they do – we know what we are doing is wrong but we still do it”.

My reply to him is my plea to you today ‘Let us clean up our own Profession and then we will be in a position to help others’.
The question is How?

AN ACCEPTABLE OFFERING

As you offer your skills to the health services of India or to any other nation, will you allow the ‘Light of the world, Jesus Christ’, to shine into your life and into Nursing to expose and excise every sin and iniquity?

Then, will you ask Him to show us all how to receive His great love and purity of thought in the activities of Nursing?

You will be a true instrument of peace in Nursing and by your commitment to truth, justice and mercy, a powerful influence for good in the Health Services.

Transformation must begin within each of us before it becomes evident in our profession; it is always exciting and edifying to see how God has used women of integrity down through the ages to control national disaster situations.

In conclusion let us take a glimpse into the profile of four such women and consider their relevance to our role and function as Nurses, male and female.

Shiphrah and Puah two Hebrew Midwives courteously received the King's command to destroy all the male babies at birth. They proceeded to practice Midwifery with integrity. The death rate of male babies did not increase. When summoned to the Kings presence they answered with wisdom focusing on facts. The reward for their 'fear of God' not man, and their professional integrity was an increase in a healthy population and households for themselves.

Reference to India in the first verse of the Book of Esther indicates certain social mores. Queen Vashti has often been criticized and condemned by the same social mores that are prevalent in our society of which the Church is part.

Queen Vashti in response to the Kings command refused to obey and go. What sacrilege her husband was not only the King but was privy to god-like status!

Vashti recognized that it was not her husband in his right mind wanting her to be with him as Queen. No he was commanding her to come and display her beauty.

Just imagine all those alcohol soaked, red nosed, bleary eyed officials, all the King's wise men who *understood the times but not God's Laws*, with all the other men who had been drinking for seven days, waiting to ogle and mentally rape the Queen to satisfy their unsatisfied lust.

Queen Vashti acted with quiet dignity, refused to go, incurred the wrath of the King and all his henchmen, but *set an example for all women*, by honoring and protecting her God given purity of sexuality and womanhood.

Vashti was banished. The king got over his drunken orgy, as his wrath subsided and he came to his senses 'He remembered Vashti, what she had done and what had been decreed against her.' *But it was too late*. He had to live with his guilty conscience for ever. Godly quietness and confidence was Vasht's strength.

God chose to give the King Esther, the star of the East. An equally, if not stronger woman than Vashti who took time to do some careful, prayerful, strategic planning before openly defying Court Protocol. *Esther saved a Nation*.

A NATION IN CRISIS

Nurses our Nation is in Crisis, you have been commissioned today to be salt and light in the Health Services. The heavy responsibility you now carry is well balanced by your grand heritage, rich and unfailing resources.

Recall Nurse Greenfield and her sister an educationalist, who established this hospital with no Doctor and then graciously gifted it to the Medical College during its inauguration ceremony.

Go forth encouraged and strengthened to stand. to withstand and having stood to stand again with ever increasing joy as the fragrance of Christ to a Holy God and to the broken bleeding peoples of India.

Let this well known song ring in your heart with fresh meaning and power.

*“Let the Beauty of Jesus be seen in me;
All His wondrous compassion and purity;
Oh! Thou Spirit Divine, all my nature refine,
Till the beauty of Jesus is seen in me.*