

Dana Preusch: Today, we oversee the ritual of hanging the graduation portrait on this wall as a testament of God's empowerment and your dedication and hard work toward the completion of your degree. But in many ways, your journey is just beginning. Accept this Charge.

Scott hands Randy Beckum the class photo which he hangs on the wall.

Alumni, Staff, Faculty and Guests: We urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Brent Peterson: Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Class of 2009: In the name of Christ and by the power of the Spirit, we endeavor to live a life worthy of the calling that we have received.

Alumni, Staff, Faculty and Guests: We will be praying for you.

Randy Beckum: And this is our prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

ALL: Amen.

ALL Sing: The Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

Liturgy written by Brent D. Peterson, NTSAA Member-at-Large
(Eph 4.1-5, Phil 1.3-11, Hebrews 12;1-3)

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Induction of the NTS Class of 2009 into the NTS Alumni Association

Alumni, faculty, staff and guests line both sides of the upstairs hall (so that graduates will "pass through" them as they later walk down the hall).

Alumni President Randy Beckum, and Alumni Vice President Dana Preusch, will stand facing the class of graduates, who will begin at the south end of the hall (outside the chapel balcony). Ryan Scott, SLT President will stand at the front of the class of graduates, holding the class photo.

Randy Beckum: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Randy Beckum: Let us pray: Almighty God, it is with thanks and praise that we celebrate with these graduates the culmination of their time at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

ALL: We give you thanks and praise.

Dana Preusch: Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Nazarene Theological Seminary, which as an extension of the Church catholic, has served you as an instrument for your Kingdom these many years.

ALL: We give you thanks and praise.

Randy Beckum: We thank you for the alumni of Nazarene Theological Seminary, many of whom have been found worthy of the calling which they have received.

ALL: We give you thanks and praise.

Dana Preusch: As the graduating class of 2009 is inducted into the NTS Alumni Association, may they too be found worthy by the power of the Spirit, of the calling which they have received.

Class of 2009: By the power of the Spirit, may we be found worthy.

Randy Beckum: May they know that they do not walk alone.

Class of 2009: We are not alone.

ALL: Amen.

ALL Sing: The Servant Song (Stanzas 1,2 & repeat 1)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
We're together on this road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

Repeat stanza 1

Richard Gillard. Copyright © 1977 Scripture in Song. CCLI #1235476

As the hymn is sung, students (led by Beckum, Preusch and Scott) walk through the hallway, moving toward the north end. Students will be literally "surrounded" by alumni, staff, faculty, and guests, as well as the photos of all NTS alumni. The group will be spread out through the entire hall with alumni, faculty, staff and guests surrounding them.

Christa Klosterman: The pictures which hang on these walls are a testament to the faithfulness of God in caring for His flock. They serve as a witness of women and men who have gone before you to carry out the calling God has placed on their lives. With joy and thanksgiving we remember those who have been faithful to the calling they have received. And we pray for those who have fallen away, that they too may be brought back into God's Church.

Now we invite you to wander this hall, and in a few moments of mediation and silence, truly consider the great cloud of witnesses that surround you and pray for those who have fallen away.

2 minutes of silence and prayers

Brent Peterson: May you, the NTS graduating class of 2009, accept this charge as your picture will now hang on these walls serving as a testament to future generations.

Alumni, Staff, Faculty and Guests: You are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses; throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and run with perseverance the race marked out for you.

Dean Blevins: Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Class of 2009: By the grace of God we will throw off everything that hinders and the sin that entangles. By the power of the Spirit we will run the race with perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Alumni, Staff, Faculty and Guests: We will pray for you with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Class of 2009: Thanks be to God for the Church, our community of faith, and the saints, our great cloud of witnesses.

ALL: Amen.

ALL Sing: Be Thou My Vision (stanzas 1 & 4)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

As the hymn is sung, Beckum, Preusch and Scott lead the group down the stairs. The group will gather around the area of the 2 class photos on the wall outside the Dean's Office.