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Nyack Heritage

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A Nyack Heritage Reflection: Joining in on Nyack's Legacy

When I first visited the Nyack College Rockland Campus as a Junior in High School, I had no knowledge of the great history and legacy the school possessed. During my time attending Nyack College, and through the Nyack Heritage course, I have learned there is much more to Nyack than I first perceived. As a senior in their last semester, I look back on the last three and a half years of attending Nyack fondly. I am filled with a great sense of pride to be a part of the legacy and heritage which includes generations of men and women who lived on mission, in pursuit of the Lord's heart. In all of the classes I have taken throughout my college education with the inclusion of Nyack Heritage, I have gained an abundance of wisdom and information I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Through the teachings of A.B. Simpson in his Fourfold Gospel, and learning of key figures in Nyack's legacy, I have developed a deeper understanding of my own purpose and mission and how the Lord is leading me to join in on Nyack's great heritage.

While taking this Nyack Heritage course, I was greatly inspired by many key figures and individuals who are a part of the legacy of Nyack. The first person being George Pardington. While learning about his life and work serving at Nyack College, I was moved by his

perseverance, not allowing his physical impairments to keep him from serving the Lord as a professor. We as believers have not been promised a perfect life, we all will face many trials in this lifetime, but we have the promise we will never go through life's storms alone. Pardington's optimism and joy even in the midst of hardship was so infectious and is something that is truly inspiring. He was and still is the perfect example of what it means to be an overcomer.

Another key figure that stood out to me in this course was Robert Jaffray. His story really resonated with me because in many ways I have experienced some of what he did. In his younger years he felt the calling to become a missionary and decided his calling was to be a missionary in China. Unfortunately, his father opposed this and threatened to not pay for any of his travel to Asia. I felt the calling to become a missionary when I was a young girl as well. When I felt I was being called to serve in Uganda two summers ago, I faced opposition from most of my family and they as well refused to help me financially. Thankfully, the Lord intervened and truly transformed their hearts and in the end my family supported me and even helped financially.

While learning about Jaffray, I felt I could really connect with him and his story and have a deeper understanding of what he may have experienced or felt in his ministry because in ways I have experienced those very emotions as well.

Nyack College's founder and author of *The fourfold Gospel*, A.B. Simpson is one of the many individuals who have left an incredible mark in this world. He was a true disciple and reflection of Christ. Simpson lived a life fulfilling the verse Matthew 19:20, passionate about sharing the gospel, training leaders and evangelists. Learning about his life and ministry has inspired me greatly. While reading his *Fourfold Gospel*, I gained such a deeper understanding of who Christ truly is. I have been challenged in my beliefs, many of which were lies the enemy has tried to

convince me of during my journey with the Lord. An example of a lie that has since been destroyed and uprooted through the teachings of Simpson, is a lie connected to Healing through Christ. One of the topics Simpson touched on in his fourfold gospel is “Christ our Healer” I learned that healing comes from the Holy Spirit according to his will. Healing comes to us by faith, but ultimately it is not faith that heals us, it is God who heals. I held onto the belief for a long time that it was my fault someone in my life was not healed because I did not have enough faith. After reading this passage on healing, I have found great freedom from this lie that I was believing. Along with experiencing freedom and breakthrough through these readings, I have a deeper understanding of the Lord’s love for his children and his goodness. This has ultimately made an impact on my spiritual life and relationship with him. It is easier to approach him knowing his deep love for me as my heavenly father. The wisdom I have gained from Simpson’s Fourfold Gospel has greatly influenced my spiritual journey and daily life. I truly will carry this knowledge with me I now possess for the rest of my days.

Reflecting on my time and experience at Nyack College, I am so incredibly grateful for this chapter of my life. I have been able to see the intricate hand of the Lord over every season of my life, and this season of my time at Nyack is one that I believe will be a foundation for the rest of my time here in this world. I believe the Lord called me to Nyack for a great purpose and has called me to join in it’s amazing heritage. One of the major ways I feel the Lord is leading me is to simply follow him and be obedient to him in the big decisions and the small. As I’ve stated previously, the Lord has called me to be a missionary like many individuals who are a part of this legacy. Although I do not know where exactly I will be and what it is I will be doing, I know that I have chosen to live my life for the Lord and follow wherever he leads. I also know that

being on mission is so much more than moving to another country, I can be on mission and serving the Lord right where I am at. In this season of my life, the Lord has really been challenging me in the belief that I have to be somewhere else to “be a missionary.” Whether I end up serving overseas or not, this season of my life is essentially training ground and I am learning how to be present and embrace this season the Lord has me in. I am also learning to be focused on those around me and finding ways that I can be pouring into them and sharing the love of Christ. I don’t have to be a commissioned missionary or pastor to share the gospel and be a disciple. I believe the Lord is calling me to be a light to others, someone who reflects his love. God has placed such a deep desire to love, help, and lead others and I believe that is my mission here on this earth. I may not have all of the details of what, when, and where, and that’s okay, they will come as the Lord leads and reveals. What I do know is that I have dedicated my life to this mission and calling of serving the Lord and it truly has been the greatest decision of my life next to accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior. I believe this is my way of joining into Nyack’s Heritage, a heritage of individuals simply on fire for the Lord and his people, saying “yes” to the call, sharing the gospel to those they encounter, and living lives dedicated to their Heavenly Father.