

Dear NU Family,

This week, while I was in a meeting with senior leadership, I was encouraged to learn that 74% of our traditional students are enrolled in programs offering a missional experience. In other words, it is likely that three-quarters of our traditional undergraduate students will engage with cultures other than their own to study and sow seeds of the gospel while they attend NU. This does not include the 250 students who displayed their Christian witness this year through the ministry of Choralons, nor the 60 students going on missions trips this summer.

In [Luke 1:1-18 \(NIV\)](#), Jesus shows how he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God wherever he went (vs. 1). We have the same calling as him, and our lives are often simply about sowing seeds to lead others to the kingdom of God. Sometimes, that involves traveling on a missions trip. Other times, it means gathering people together in the spheres we already live in, as Jesus did in verse four. Jesus did not sow the seeds of the gospel alone; he had a team of men and women who engaged in that work alongside him (vs. 2). And, he entrusted the outcome of that work to God. While you are sowing seeds in the lives of people, do not be disappointed if people do not all respond the same way. Some will be hard-hearted and won't believe (vs. 12). Some will be faint-hearted and will respond enthusiastically, but fade over time because they have no roots (vs. 13). Some will be half-hearted and respond initially, but drop out due to the 'thorns of life' (vs. 14). And some will commit wholeheartedly to the kingdom of God and will begin to bear steady fruit (vs. 15).

This passage encourages me in two ways. First, it reminds me that my primary job is to be a seed-planter. I am called to plant seeds of hope in the lives of people who are lost and have no hope. From there, the Holy Spirit takes over and does inner work that I am not capable of doing. Second, it reminds me to make sure that my own heart has good soil in it, so that the seeds planted in me are able to produce great fruit in my own life.

As many of you are preparing to do missional work in the coming months, I pray that the seeds that have been planted in you will also find good soil in someone else, so that you can share the gospel of Christ in all cultures to all people.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, April 3 | Chapel: Kendra Phillips | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, April 3 | Pursuit: Choralons | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, April 5 | Chapel: Megan Reese | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, April 7 | Chapel: Senior Speakers – Joy Quack (COE) and Kaylee Carter (COB) | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Sun, April 9 | Chic Chat and FellaShip | Butterfield Chapel and HSC 104, respectively, 7pm

Come on out for the last Chic Chat (for women) and FellaShip (for men) of the semester! It'll be a great, refreshing time together.



Easter Pursuit is next Monday! We will be having water baptisms. If you're interested in being baptized, text the prayer number: 206.486.4656



In Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Harvest,

Phil Rasmussen, M.A.

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