



Going the Distance!

By Dr. Mark Taylor, Christian School and College/University Representative

Years ago, I read the book *Finishing Strong – Going the Distance for Your Family* by Steve Farrar. As I read this book, I was challenged to reflect on finishing the race as mentioned in Acts 20:24 (NIV): “...My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task Jesus has given me...”

I am reminded of my long-distance running days. I would run in a 12.4-mile race every year. I would start out strong, feeling like I could conquer anything. However, at the last monumental hill (nicknamed “gut break”), about two miles from the finish, I sometimes would really struggle to finish the race. However, with determination and commitment, I completed the race.

The Race toward the End of School

I am also reminded of the school year for students, staff, and administrators. We start the year strong with wonderful plans and ideas. We may even put lots of extra time into our preparations. However, toward the end of the school year, there is a tendency to tire and slack off from our duties and responsibilities.

What about the students who have made commitments to Christ through our Nazarene Christian schools’ outreach? Five, ten, twenty, fifty years from now, will those students still be living for God? Will they finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given them? Have we equipped the students in every way possible to finish the race?

The Greatest Accomplishment

High school graduation represents the completion of thirteen years of schooling. What a tremendous accomplishment! However, the greatest accomplishment in life is not graduation from school. It is completing the task(s) the Lord has given each person in his or her life.

Keep in mind that everything we do is for the glory of God. We should be steadfast and finish for Him everything He asks us to do. As the final months and days of the school year approach, do not give in to the temptation to become weary, quit, or fail to finish your task. Seek to finish the race and task as strong as you started.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”
(Galatians 6:9, NIV).

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Resources:

Steve Farrar, *Finishing Strong: Going the Distance for Your Family*, published by Multnomah Books, 1995.