

A Word From the Publisher

It's graduation time again! Just want to congratulate all of the graduates from West Nassau and Hilliard High Schools and Lighthouse Christian and Sonshine Christian Academies for their great achievement of graduating from high school. What an awesome milestone! Now comes the really difficult part for some of you...what happens now?

I know many seniors that have already have their course planned: college, career, trade school, etc. For others the big question mark is still there, what am I going to do? Let me just shed a little light on you. The graduates of today have so many more options than when I graduated some 40 years ago. It seems at that time, for girls (because I am a girl) you could be a secretary, teacher, nurse or get married. Being a nurse back then (70s) was a nurse...you worked anywhere in the hospital from the emergency room to the operating room to the nursery. Now you can train to work the specific area you want to work in: respiratory therapist, sonogram tech, CNA, RN, x-ray tech, etc. Our young men also have some great options in the nursing field along with trade schools for plumbing, electrical, welding, etc.

The key factor is to do something you enjoy and do it with all your heart! Just remember, chances are you are going to be doing that particular job for 20 to 30 years or more, so it needs to be something you love. Go into a field that you can continue to learn from it. Just don't give up on life and decide to sit home and 'think' about it for two or three years! I challenge

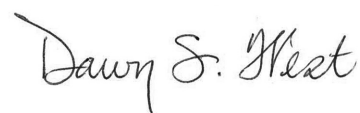
each of you to set a goal for yourself following graduation and achieve it! It can be done, you just have to believe in yourself and make it happen.

If you feel like you are floundering, the best place to turn is to the Lord. Spend some time in prayer about these important decisions you are making that concerns the beginning of your adult

life. Yes...I said adult. Now is the time to be responsible for you! Mom and Dad have done their part now it's your turn. No more summer vacations and sleeping until noon. Read your Bible as God has the perfect plan and direction for your life. The most important thing to NOT do is to continue

to study your phone and see what everyone else is doing. Focus on you and what kind of person you want to be. Find a career that suits you and dive into it. It seems that everyone is so focused on what everyone else is doing that sometimes we try to do what they are doing and be who they are. This can cause you to start comparing yourself to others and that is not the way to go! Not only do you get off track of God's plan for your life but you can also become depressed and feel insecure. Concentrate on your goals for your life...it's the only life you have. I pray God's protection and direction for each of your lives as you strive to move into the world of adulthood. Grasp it and run with it! Congratulations!

Have a blessed week!



Dawn S. West

