



May 14, 2010

Dear Friends:

TO GEOFFREY

Geoffrey, it is time to celebrate!

Graduating from college is a big deal and in just a few hours you will have that glorious experience.

In 1988, you arrived on this planet with a big smile and even though you didn't sleep very much those first few years, God placed in you the always optimistic "glass is half full" demeanor along with a love of laughter.

Since that April day, we have done our best to encourage you, point you and pray you to this moment we celebrate. And today, we could not be more proud.

However, your journey has not been all smiles and, knowing what we know now, we know that what God put in the original Geoffrey package played an important part in getting you to this point today.

It is true, not too many rambunctious young boys joyfully embrace the school experience and you were no different but soon in, we found that you had to fight some extra battles.

You had to fight quite a bit harder and because of those struggles, you faced some tough times and even ridicule during those growing years. But you pressed on.

At times, it seemed that the process was slow but, without fanfare, you did your lessons and you pressed on.

You also walked through the disappointments of tragedy and loss. But whether from a destructive hurricane or the disappointments from mentors, "friends" or those who exhibited unkindness because of other issues out of your control, you pressed on.

All the while, in your Press On journey, you stayed diligent and you never lost your love for God and His House. We watched as you found your own faith and foundation in God's Word and, in the process, you became an important partner in our ministry walk.

In the subsequent years, it has been fun watching you develop in the direction you are now taking. Knowing how you always loved the history of our Nation, we should have picked up the hints when, as a nine year old boy, you were wide eyed as you toured Washington DC for the first time and, with that big smile, jumped into the Congressman's office chair.

For the last four years, you have been diligent in your studies along with your work opportunities and have gone the extra miles to make sure you were doing more than well.



You remained focused and have spent most of the last four years on the President's List. You have driven a no longer new Toyota over 110,000 miles without accident, incident or stuck accelerator. You have walked in diverse environments and have stayed true to who you are. It has not gone unnoticed.

As a role model big brother, you are an example of love and fun to a 15 year old young man who thinks you hung the moon.

As a son, you are a delight as numerous "Geoffreyisms" generously dot the landscape of our family lexicon. From the late night conversations and even our, "Hey, what were you thinking?" and, "Have you looked at that room?" questions along with the "When I say whoa!" episode, our Geoffrey Experience occupies the special place in our hearts.



Now, as you move into a new chapter, some things will change but some things will not; that is our love and our prayers for God's protective hedge and continued best in your life. It is the same prayer we prayed when you were given to Jesus and it is the same prayer we have prayed every day for 22 years. And, from this vantage point we all can say, God has been faithful and we don't expect anything to change.

A long time ago, your Bible was underlined at the Jeremiah 29:11 promise of God's plan to bless you, to give you a hope and a great future, cling to it.

Today, Mr. Cum Laude Graduate, (25 A's and 14 B's) . . . we are proud, gratified, thankful and just a bit tearful as we cheer you on. As we like to sing, "Your latter will be greater than your past". Congratulations on a job well done.

Love God, pray hard, stay diligent, go forward, do great things and don't lose your laugh!

Love,

Dad, Mom and Tyler