

## **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming**

This morning I am going to share with you some thoughts about myself... When I was a young boy I was born and raised in Canada. I grew up on a farm in Alberta and there was no Christian school in our community, so when I was only 13 years old my parents sent me 150 km. away for ninth grade at an Adventist boarding school called CUC Academy. It was exciting for me because now I would not be left out of the activities like at home. I was getting old enough to want to do things with my friends after school and on weekends, and many of the secular school activities were on Friday evening or Sabbath... and my parents would never let me go to things on Sabbath... they were very strict with me about keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy.

The academy at CUC had high school age kids as well as college age kids on the same campus, much like at Col Pac where Gaby and Lulu are now. Attending a special Christian school is quite a bit different than what most of you are used to now here in Villa Juarez. And for me to be away from my home at 13 years old was a big change too. To live in a dormitory where there are lots of rules about when you must get up, when you must go to worship, when you must go to eat, when you must go to class, when you must go to work, when you must study, when you could play ball, etc. It seemed like almost the entire day was planned for me and it was pretty demanding. Most of you are going to be quite surprised at all the rules once you come to the new orphanage we are building and you start to go to school on the big campus at the University of Navojoa. One of the reasons I wanted to come to talk to you today is so that you start thinking about how you can get ready to make the transition as smoothly as possible. It would be much better when you come that you know more about what to expect and like it rather than hate it like some kids I know who came to the new campus and didn't want to stay.

One of the requirements at CUC academy where I attended was twice a week all the students had to meet in the chapel around 11:00 AM Tuesdays and Thursdays... all the college age students as well as all the high school age students assembled in the chapel. In my four years attending CUC I must have attended over 300 chapel services. How many do you think I can remember today? Not very many. Most of them have long ago been forgotten. But there was one chapel talk given by the president of the college that I have never forgotten. I often wish I could remember some of the illustrations President Henry T. Johnson used, but to this day I never forgot the title of his talk was **“What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.”**

This morning as the pencils and paper are being handed out, I want you to think about what you would like to do for a life work when you grow up. First on the paper I want you to write your name. Next write your age. Then, if money were no problem, and you could go to college anywhere, what would you like to become and what job would you like to do to provide for yourself and your future family.

In order to become someone important and have a successful future life, you must make the right choices and not do stupid things that you will later regret. It is common for kids to think that they can do anything they want as they are growing up and later stop and be good. Some kids think that they have to try smoking, or drinking or drugs... but some of these things can ruin your health forever. I've seen the terrible consequences that have happened to a friend of my son who went from smoking to drugs and got a bad batch that fried his brains. Now he is a vegetable. Do you think it is worth the risk to ruin your whole life for a few moments of temporary pleasure?

**What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.** I thought about that chapel talk quite a bit as a young boy growing up. I wanted to be successful... I didn't want to be poor. I wanted to have a nice Cadillac and new John Deere tractors and good farm equipment. I remember thinking as a boy that I would be so wealthy that I would have lots of hired men and I would pay my hired men on the farm enough so they could all drive a Cadillac's too. Since I grew up on a farm, all I ever thought I would do for my life work was to be like my father and be a farmer... working with cows and machinery. My favorite thing on the farm was harvest time... running the combine and threshing the wheat. I just loved to drive the combine and the tractor and I still do to this day.

When the college president talked to us many years ago about **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming**, I sat up and listened carefully. He told us about the importance of little things... the importance of every decision we make as a child and as a teenager. What we learn as a child becomes our modus operandi for life. That means what we learn as a child is how we will do things for the rest of our lives. At an early age I had decided that I did not want to be poor... I was going to make enough money so that I could have a big family, live in a big house with a winding stairway and live very comfortably. My parents were pretty strict with their children and we were taught never to smoke or drink or take drugs that would give you a short high, and then leave you with a fried brain. When I was a young boy TV was just invented and all my friends had TV's in their home long before we did. When my friends were watching cartoons on TV, I was practicing the piano. My mother made me take piano lessons as soon as I was old enough to go to school. I used to hate piano lessons, because I liked baseball and football, which were much more interesting to me than playing scales on the piano and other exercises. But now that I am older I am glad that I had the opportunity to learn piano. One of my favorite advertisements that I remember seeing had a picture of a piano on it and a headline that said, *"I decided not to learn to play the piano because it takes at least ten years to learn to play well. Ironically, I made that decision ten years ago."*

**What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

This morning I want to tell you how extremely fortunate all of you are. The fact that you are here where you have three square meals a day and a warm bed to sleep in gives you a tremendous advantage. You have family here who love you and care for you, who want to help you get a good education so you can have a good life. You get health care when you are sick. You have protection from abuse... this gives you an advantage over many

homeless children who wander the dangerous streets not knowing where they will sleep tonight or where they will find their next meal... they have no one to help them when they are sick, they are constantly abused and have no basis for hope for their future.

My desire for you this morning is to provide a small spark that might start a fire within each one of you to realize that you are special. God loves you. You have family here that loves you. You have friends both here and in Canada and the United States that love you and will do anything to help you to become the best that you can be. Do you know that God has a plan for each one of us? All we need to do is spend enough time talking to God every day and He will show us His plan for each one of us. God has many ways to help us find out His will for our life. Sometimes He uses people that we can look up to and learn by their example how to live. Another way to learn to know God's will is to read good books about successful people. Do you like to read and learn? The more you read the more you will learn and see new possibilities that God will show you. I remember reading several exciting books as a child about great men like Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln and David Livingstone. I read stories that inspired good habits and noble character... stories that reinforce living by principle and not by feeling.

But the very best book to read is the Bible. It is full of many good stories about people... and I discovered that these stories can basically be put into two groups... either they are warnings or examples. In the stories that are warnings we learn about people who did wrong... like the children of Israel on their way home from Egypt to Canaan when they were murmuring and complaining. Or the story about Jonah, who ran away from doing what God told him to do and ended up being thrown into the sea and swallowed by a whale. Then there are stories in the Bible about people who are good examples... like Joseph or Daniel who was thrown into the lions den... and like Noah who built an ark according to God's design. The more you read the Bible the more you will come to love the stories that have been from ages old and have been saved for us to learn today the best way to live. You will find stories of people that God is telling us, "I want to live like Daniel... pray to me often like Daniel. Eat good wholesome food like Daniel." He was a great example. Then there are stories like Adam and Eve, who disobeyed when God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil... and God had to send them out of the Garden of Eden. These stories are warnings that remind us to always do what you hear God tell you to do, or there will be serious problems and trouble. **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

This morning I want to share a story with you about Ben Carson. Ben's father was an alcoholic who abandoned his wife and two children when Ben was very young. It looked pretty dismal for Ben's mother, who had no education or career... she had to work hard cleaning other peoples houses to earn enough money to have to raise her two Black boys in Boston, Massachusetts, in USA. When Ben started school, he hated it and often got into trouble for fooling around. He soon developed a reputation in school of being the class clown. Often when the teacher asked Ben Carson a question, he would come up with a smart answer that would make all the class burst out in laughter. The teacher told

his mother about how young Ben was heading down the wrong road and was not reading very well. So, one day his mother sat down with young Ben and told him that she wanted him to become somebody special. She told him that she wanted to help him to become someone important, and not have to live the same hard life like was living. She told him to become someone important he needed to love to learn and to love to read. Do you love to read? Do you love to learn? Mrs. Carson said to Ben that instead of watching TV after school, he was to go to the library and get two books to read every week. And just so that she knew that he was really reading them, he had to write a half a page book review about he had just read. And he was not to be reading junk books about detectives or fairy tales or comic books or any common story book. He was to read about important people who had invented things or discovered things, or traveled to far away places like missionaries do. People who were leaders in science and industry and medicine.

So young Ben Carson started to read, at first begrudgingly... but soon, he loved it. After about a year he had read 100 books. Soon he discovered that he knew many things that most other children his age didn't know anything about. He remembers the very day things turned around for him in school. The teacher asked Ben a question and all the class turned to see what smart answer he was going to come up with, but Ben knew the right answer and that class was stunned! How would Ben know that answer? It was because he was reading so many books! Soon, Ben Carson's reputation in class changed from being the class clown to being the class intellectual. Often when no one else knew the answer to the teacher's questions, they turned to Ben, who would come up with the right answer. He was amazing... it was wonderful! He felt good about how reading had opened up his world to so many things he previously never knew existed.

The thing Ben Carson gained from his mother's strict rule to read two books a week, was that soon Ben learned to love reading and he would rather read and learn than anything else. The boy who hated school and couldn't read very well soon loved school and could read better than most of the other children. Then one day he discovered that his mother never knew how to read. All the time that he was writing book reviews for his mother, she could never read them. She just pretended to read them and would put check marks on the papers, but she had never learned to read. She didn't want her son to be like she was. She wanted a better life for her son. She wanted him to be someone special.

The years went by quickly and soon Ben Carson was old enough to go to college. Ben prayed that God would lead him to decide what he should do for his life work. He felt God was telling him to become a doctor, but how could this poor boy with a mother who could barely put food on the table ever get to go to college. His mother was still cleaning houses, but she told Ben to apply to go to college and the Lord would provide a way... and He did. She took on more jobs to clean more houses. Then he wanted to specialize in brain surgery. Only the very brightest medical students are given the opportunity to become brain surgeons. All the while Ben Carson was praying that God would lead him to find the right wife and right place to work. He got married and soon after he got an invitation to go to Australia to work in a big hospital there to do brain surgery. He felt

God was leading him to go there, so he went there and he was given more responsibility and opportunity while there. Then a year or so later, because word of his accomplishments got back to the United States, he received an invitation to come back and be the head of Pediatrics and brain surgery at John Hopkins University Hospital. He was the youngest ever to be asked to chair that department... he was only 33 years old.

Isn't that a wonderful story? A young Black boy, with no support from his father, and only the help of a mother who did house cleaning, who had every reason to end up as a poor nobody, but because of the inspiration of his mother, he learned to love reading and learning and studied to become one of the most highly sought after brain surgeons in the world. Not long ago he was asked to help separated twins who had been born joined at their heads. Some of the most difficult brain surgeries he is asked to do, because he has the skill and experience. **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

Isn't the Ben Carson story a wonderful story? Do you think there might be someone here in this remote orphanage at Villa Juarez who could accomplish something similar? I believe it is possible. I believe that everyone here has the potential to accomplish their most far out dreams, if you really want to and allow God to give you a teachable spirit.

Each one of you has a Heavenly Father who wants nothing more than to see His children learn to love Him and appreciate Him. He will help you learn as much as you want to learn... but you have to seek to know Him and learn His will for your life. The highest honor on earth any one of us can have is to make life a little better for someone else in need. That is why I wanted to come and talk to you today. I want nothing more than to see each one of you become someone who has a good life and learns to love doing things to help other people. I guarantee that if you pray to God and ask Him to help you become a doctor or a school teacher or a minister or a missionary, He will open the windows of heaven and make it possible for you to find a way to realize your most far out dreams. **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

But the key is you have to prepare to become great. You cannot keep living as you always have and suddenly wake up by some miracle and be great. It takes preparation to become great. You must first become a quality person of honesty and integrity and noble character. You cannot tell lies, you cannot cheat, you cannot steal and expect God will help you achieve some noble purpose. There is a broad and windy way that the people of the world think will bring them happiness... and there is a straight and narrow way that the children of God know will bring them eternal life and happiness with Jesus. You have to make a choice today. You will not become an intelligent doctor or a successful teacher in 10 or 15 years from now unless you make the right choices today. You will not learn to play the piano unless you make a decision and take action.

**What you someday hope to be you are now becoming.** I believe that there are children listening to me today who could some day be doing laser eye surgery like Dr. Juan Manuel in Obregon, who is a friend of this orphanage. I believe that there are children

here today who may become dentists and doctors and surgeons... others may become ministers, teachers, educators or business people. God has a plan for every person here to serve in some part of His vineyard, doing something where you can help others and be a blessing to Him. The first step toward realizing your wildest dreams is to realize that you have to start today. Don't put it off. Start reading every day. If you do not have a habit of talking to God and reading His word every day, don't wait another day. Start reading the Bible a little every day and ask God to lead you in your most important life decisions.

You can claim my favorite Bible promise found in Proverbs 3:5, 6 where we read, ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.”*** You can not go wrong when you trust in God and acknowledge that He is leading you every day. I love the book of Proverbs. I call it the businessman's book of the Bible... but it is not just for businessman, it is for everyone who wants to learn the best way to live in harmony with God and our fellow men.

A famous inspirational leader once told me, ***“You are what you are and you are where you are because of what you put in your mind. You can change what you are and can change where you are when you change what you put into your mind.”*** The author of that quote is Zig Ziglar... and the words he spoke have been a real inspiration to me.

House mothers and volunteers here today, I ask you to look at how you can help these wonderful children to realize their dreams. How can you encourage and inspire these children to want to make something meaningful out of their lives? Will watching cartoons, game shows, reality TV and murder mysteries help these precious kids? We know it won't, right? In fact most TV programs work against the Christian values that we need to be giving our children today. ***“We are what we are and we are where we are because of what we put into our mind. We can change what we are and we can change where we are when we change what we put into our mind.”***

Do you want a better life for yourself? Are you ready to change what you are putting into your mind? Do you want to become someone important and live a meaningful life doing good things for others? God has promised to help each one of us if we just ask Him. In Philippians 4:13 we are told, ***“I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me.”***

**What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.** You cannot live as you always have and expect to get any different results. If you keep living as you always have, you will keep getting what you always have. If you want to have a different life you have to start to live a different life. Do you want to have a different life? If you want it now, it is yours for the taking. You can have a different life today. But you may have to make a few changes to get it. Is it worth it? I believe it absolutely is. I can tell you story after story of people who have had an influence in my life and how God has made miracles happen. You can be a part of this same miracle. I can tell you that the building of the new orphanage is a miracle... and the miracles continue day by day as we continue

building. But as nice and wonderful as the new orphanage is going to be, the most wonderful thing to me is the changes that I believe will come as you kids start to realize how good God is and how He wants you be someone special for Him. If you are going to become an eye doctor who does laser surgery, the cartoons won't help you... most TV won't help you. Reading stories about successful people will help you. Reading the Bible will help you. Doing good things to help other people will help you.

Look for ways in which you can be a blessing to someone else. Stop looking for what you can get from everyone you see, and look for some way to give something to everyone you can. When you have visitors from Canada or the USA, don't go to them begging for gifts. Go to them when they visit and give them gifts. I don't mean you buy gifts to give people who already have almost everything. I mean make things that you can give them. Draw a picture, write a poem, make something that you can give that they will remember you by. You will receive much, much more if you don't go begging for money or gifts from your guests. Prepare ahead of time for your guests and have things ready to give them when they come to visit. You will soon see that people will open their hearts to you when you show them you love them by giving them something that they cannot buy in the store. Parents love to get gifts made by their children...things that they bring home from school. They put those pictures you draw on their refrigerator doors or frame them and put them on the wall. If you want people to be generous to you, show them that you are generous first.

Many of you have sponsors who send money to the orphanage so this place can provide for you. How often do you write to these special people and thank them? How often do you send them you picture or a picture that you just drew? Or a poem you wrote, or something else that you have made? Many of your sponsors cannot come often, or sometimes never to visit you, but you can write to them, and have someone interpret your words so that they know what you are telling them. This is very important and needs to happen much more often than it has been. This is like planting seeds.

You will not all of a sudden become a generous, kind loving doctor, or school teacher, or nurse, or airplane pilot... **What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.** If you want to someday be generous, kind and loving... look for ways to become generous, kind and loving today.

And something else I want to tell you today. Plan now to be able to help other orphans in the future. Just as you have been cared for and educated thus far, even more when you move to the University of Navojoa and live in the new orphanage Hacienda Navojoa, it will cost a great deal to see you educated to become a doctor or dentist or teacher or pilot. Once you are making a decent living plan to say thank you by giving back and helping others in the same way that people are helping you. This is God's plan. This is the way that God uses people to help other people. When you have been helped, look for every opportunity to help someone else. But don't wait forever to start... start now, as soon as possible. Giving to help others is the best way to show God you love Him... and God

has a thousand ways to help you help others. You don't need money to help others... you just need to change your attitude. Don't try to reap a harvest when you haven't sown anything. The Bible tells us that we reap what we sow. Ask Him to show you how you can help someone else, and He will amaze you with many wonderful opportunities.

In review always remember:

**What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

Learn from Ben Carson that you can become someone special if you start today to read and explore the world of opportunities in books. House parents, volunteers, pastor and friends of these children, reach out and help these children by reading to them every day and encouraging them to read as well. It will pay huge dividends if you eliminate the TV and replace it with quality time reading meaningful books.

Remember, *you are what you are and you are where you are because of what you put into your mind. You can change what you are and you can change where you are when you change what goes into your mind.*

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not upon your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.***

Read and pray that you can know what God wants you to do with your life. Don't be afraid to dream big dreams. "***You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.***" Philippians 4:13

Plan ahead to be generous with others. Think of ways that you can give something to your guests or sponsors and don't ask them for money or gifts. Gifts and money come without asking when you are a kind and generous person. And you don't have to have money to give a meaningful gift. If you would someday like to be a generous person, you have be a generous person today.

So decide what you someday want to be like, and start today to make it a reality..

**Always remember, What You Someday Hope to Be You Are Now Becoming.**

*Opening Prayer:*

*Dear Lord, I ask today not for wisdom or kindness or truth... today I ask only for You. I really do need You today. I know that if I have You, I won't have to worry about the wisdom, kindness or truth I need for today. May You be as close to me as the shirt on my back. May the words I speak be Your words and may the Holy Spirit fill this place so that we will sense Your presence with us. Give us open hearts and willing minds that we might be inspired to live our lives to bring glory to Your name, I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.*