

Response-Ability Orientation 2005 Opening Service

GET ON YOUR FEET

Sure You Can: Learning to Walk Adapted from <http://www.motivateus.com/stories/sureyoucan.htm>

Liz Eager, Program Director; Summer Staff Members Sarah Weir, Michelle Marabotti (PH Staff) and Mary Rankel (PH Alum)

Gathering Song: "Servant Song" David Haas

Please join us in singing the refrain.

*Be fair and just, be merciful and true.
These are the things I am asking of you.
Walk humbly with your God with everything you do,
This is the way that will lead you to the truth.*



Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading: Washing of the Feet

John 13:1, 3-9, 12-17

RA Volunteers

Welcome and Staff Introductions

Liz Eager, Program Director

Get on Your Feet Reflection:

Mary Rankel, Sarah Weir & Michelle Marabotti

GET ON YOUR FEET
GET ON YOUR FEET IN THE CLASSROOM
GET ON YOUR FEET IN COMMUNITY

Theme Song: "Get on Your Feet" Gloria Estefan

Closing Prayer: RA Mission Prayer

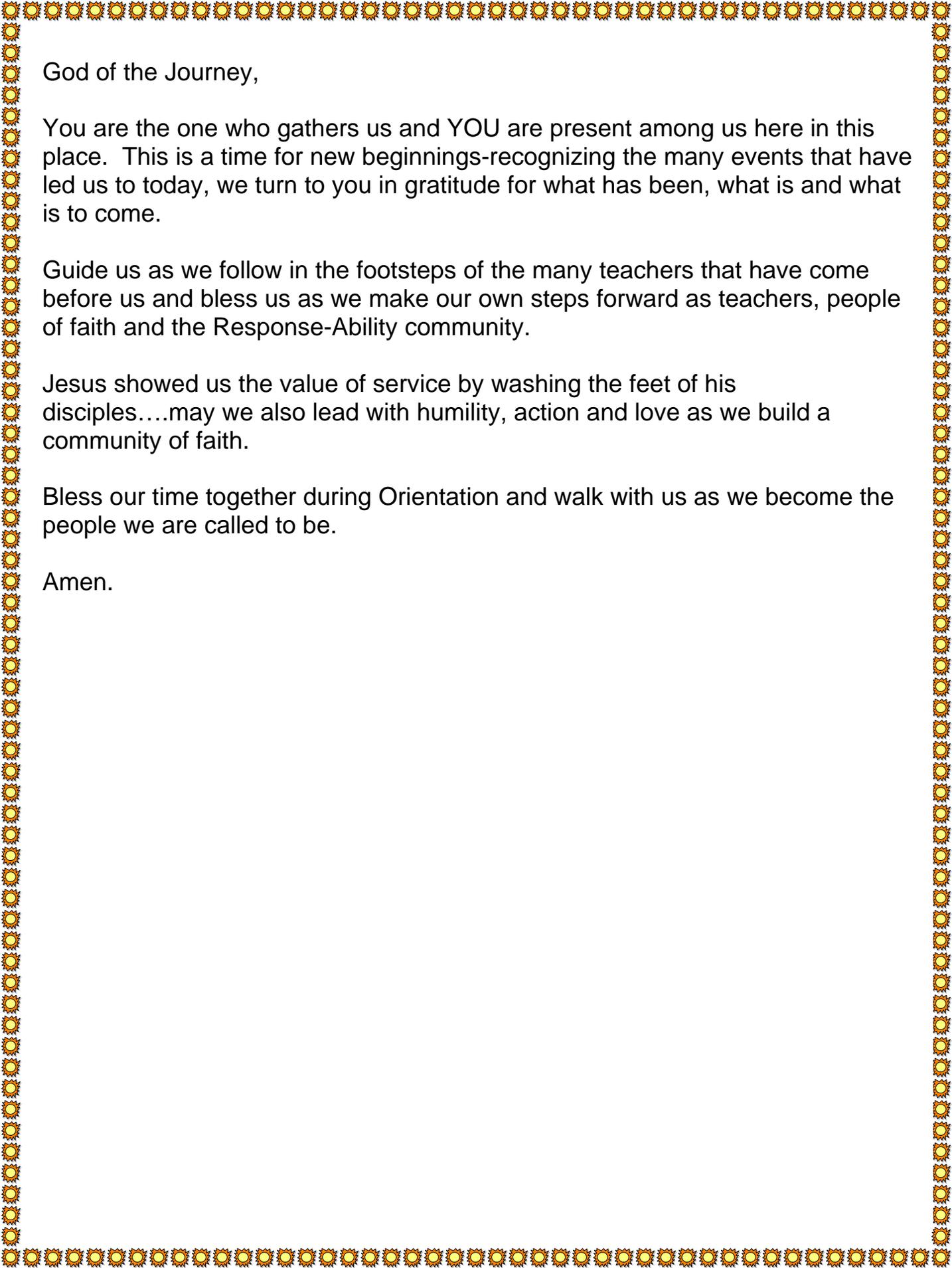
Please join us in praying together.

God Among Us,
May we use this day to grow in faith,
Learn in community and teach as service.

Inspired by Cornelia Connelly's example,
Help us to live out our mission by
Embracing the Response-Ability values of:
God among us,
Commitment to community and
Reverence of the individual.

Thank you for bringing us together as the
Response-Ability community.
Bless us as we are and encourage us as we grow.
Amen.

Please join us for a light dinner following the Opening Service.



God of the Journey,

You are the one who gathers us and YOU are present among us here in this place. This is a time for new beginnings-recognizing the many events that have led us to today, we turn to you in gratitude for what has been, what is and what is to come.

Guide us as we follow in the footsteps of the many teachers that have come before us and bless us as we make our own steps forward as teachers, people of faith and the Response-Ability community.

Jesus showed us the value of service by washing the feet of his disciples....may we also lead with humility, action and love as we build a community of faith.

Bless our time together during Orientation and walk with us as we become the people we are called to be.

Amen.

Remember when you were a little child trying to learn to walk?

First you had to learn to stand: a process involving constantly falling down, then getting back up. You laughed sometimes and cried at other times. Somehow there was a determination and conviction that you would succeed, no matter what.

After much practice you finally figured out how to balance yourself, a necessary requirement. You enjoyed this new feeling of power - you'd stand everywhere you could - in your crib, by the couch, on someone's lap. It was a joyous time - you did it! You were in control of you.

Now - the next step - walking. You'd seen others do it - it didn't look that hard - just move your legs while you were standing, right? Wrong - more complexity than you ever imagined. More frustration than anyone should have to deal with. But you tried, again and again and again until you figured this out, too.

If people caught you walking, they applauded, they laughed, they said "Look at what he or she's doing". This encouragement fueled you on; it raised your self-confidence. But how many times did you attempt when no one was watching, when no one was cheering? Every chance you got. You had places to go, things to see, knowledge to learn. You couldn't always wait for someone to encourage you to take the next steps. You learned how to encourage yourself.

If we could only remember this about ourselves in today's day.

Remember that we can do anything we set our minds to if we are willing to go through the process, just like when we learned to walk. We need to realize that learning can be challenging-learning can be rewarding-but learning takes time—each little baby step is an accomplishment, a success. While enjoying the affirmation of others, we also need to encourage ourselves along the way.

If you've forgotten how to do this, or feel like you need a boost, take a short journey back through the your life - look at your accomplishments, no matter if they were large or small - you met the challenge and figured out a way to succeed. Focus on all the things you thought you could never do, initially, and did. While going back over the events of your life, think of yourself as the little child you once were learning to walk and then later continuing to take each new step along your life's journey with courage and determination.

Now it's time for you to take your next steps. Believe in yourself. We believe in you.