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# The Grass Withers

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"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8

## **CHANGE**

My coworker Melissa Moore, Director of Short Term Missions by day and supermom by every minute of the hour, loves change. She loves the idea of change so much that she seeks it out - rearranging the furniture in her office at least once a month, trying out this new thing or that, searching for a new, strategic location to organize a short term mission trip. I on the other hand, value consistency, predictability, routine. It's not to say I don't appreciate change, I just like to be prepared for it, ease into it, you know?

Here we are entering a new school year - change waiting around each bend in the road! Each of us is experiencing some sort of change or a whole lot of it at the same time. Coming to a new school, moving into a new dorm room, starting new classes with new strangers. And faculty and staff are experiencing this change right along with you - many are brand new to our campus family, some are teaching new classes or settling in to new departments.

My husband Euwayne and I are currently a week away from moving into a new home and we couldn't be more thrilled! But with this massive change in our lives comes so much preparation, responsibility and dependence on our community. Students you've made preparations to be here at Southern and we couldn't be more excited that you've chosen to make this your home away from home. You're digging in and taking responsibility for learning well and gaining an education that will propel you towards the calling God has for your life. And we pray, during your time here, you'll develop a rich community of friends and mentors who you can lean on during the tough days and the greatest moments of celebration.

Maybe you embrace change, enjoy the adventure of hunting it down. Perhaps you'd rather avoid it. Either way, just remember there's a God who loves you more than anything or anyone and He's unchanging.

- "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8
- "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new each morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23
- "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:26
- "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." Zephaniah 3:17

No matter what changes you may be experiencing right now, whether positively exciting or absolutely frightening or anywhere in between, He's the anchor you can hold on to.

As we start a new school year and all that comes with it, let's make Jesus the Main Thing in each of our lives and here on our campus.

## Reflection & Upcoming Events:

- What positive and negative changes are you experiencing right now? Have you told God how you feel about it all? Take some time to breath deeply, to spend a moment in prayer or even journal about these things in order to feel more at peace.
- Students, find a mentor on campus to talk to about these changes. Ask for their advice and prayers as you navigate this new season.
- Faculty and staff, reach out to a coworker in your office or walk across campus to a sister department to share with and pray for one another.
- Don't miss out on the first Smart Start **vespers this Friday night at 7:30pm** in the University Church to hear Pastor Dave Ferguson's inspiring message and to worship together as a campus family.
- And, make plans now to visit **The Experience Sabbath School Saturday at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall of the University Church - breakfast is provided!

-Anna Bennett