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A Walk with Pepsi

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A walk with Pepsi

I've lived in a variety of places throughout my short life - a dorm, an apartment, a basement, and a rooftop room in India. Probably the most interesting place I've lived is where I currently call home. My house is across the street from a cemetery. It's somewhat normal now, but initially it was awkward. I would look out the window on a Sunday morning to see a memorial service going on while I'm trying to eat my toast. I step outside for a walk and pass a new widow grieving her loss beside a fresh pile of dirt. Previously the last thing on my mind was death, but that's changed. We've all heard something like "the world is your oyster" or "you can do anything," which leads us to think more about life than death. But Solomon cautions us in Ecclesiastes 7 with this, "*Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies— so the living should take this to heart... **A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.***"

A wise person thinks a lot about death? It's a little odd, but I took his advice and started to walk through the cemetery regularly. As I would walk I would read: "Imelda - *Beloved Wife and Mother* (age 106), Ella - *She lived for others* (age 51), Jack - *We have a play date in heaven* (7 days old)." One girl died three years ago at age 27, but there's only a temporary sign there waiting for a tombstone that was never purchased.

You can imagine the emotions and questions that come over me as I read these tombstones. Anger- why does our planet have to be so painful? Grief- for those they left behind. Hope- that this is not the end of the story. I think mostly it just makes me more serious about life. After all, these people were all like me in one way or another. Some attended church where I do, many of them lived during days I've lived, and others went to or worked at Southern. Now they're gone. One day, if Jesus doesn't come first, I'll join them regardless of my wealth, credentials, or achievements. For the past seven years Pepsi has run an ad campaign called, "Live for Now." I'd like to take Pepsi for a walk through the cemetery.

I hope by this point I haven't ruined your Monday. I know you have emails to read and tests to take, but take a breath from the busyness of life, pause for a moment, and evaluate things. Are you living for now, or living for a Life to come? Paul said in Acts 20, "my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus." Your life is the most precious gift you'll ever get; you're too valuable to waste it on Pepsi.

This week is Student Missions Emphasis Week. If the way God is calling you to live like you're dying is to serve a community in need around the world, Student Missions can take you there. [Watch this video featuring Lucia Hudgins in Bolivia \(currently serving for a third consecutive year\)](#) and dream about how God could use you to change lives around the world.

-Christian Bunch, Chaplain's Office