

*Peter Parker's Guide to Life After*  
**CEDARVILLE**





**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

251 N. Main St. | 1-800-837-2566  
Cedarville, Ohio 45314 | [cedarville.edu/almuni](http://cedarville.edu/almuni)





Class of 2011,

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME! It is with the greatest pride and pleasure that I welcome you to a very elite and distinguished group: the Cedarville University Alumni Association. I know you have worked hard to get here and have a world of opportunity in front of you.

As the chairman of the Cedarville Alumni Council, I want to welcome you and suggest the connections you have made at Cedarville — and the memories you created here — are only just beginning. I encourage you to find the Alumni Association chapter in your new city and continue to strengthen those connections. Through your local Chapter, you will have opportunities to network and socialize with others who share the same connections to Cedarville, as well as learn about current events, local churches, activities, and a host of other topics.

As an initial introduction to what is waiting for you wherever you go, please accept this “Life After Cedarville” guide as a gift from your Alumni Association. In it, you will find helpful tips from some of the 27,000 Cedarville Alumni who came before you.

I wish you much success wherever the future takes you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF Atwell". The initials "JF" are written in a stylized, blocky font, and the name "Atwell" is written in a cursive script.

Jason F. Atwell '98  
Chairman, Cedarville University Alumni Council

# The Cedarville Alumni Association

**Our mission is to strengthen relationships between alumni, students, and the University to inspire them toward lifelong leadership and service for Christ and a continued commitment to the mission of Cedarville University.**

All alumni are automatic lifetime members of the Cedarville Alumni Association. There are no dues to join or membership papers to sign.

Use the many resources available to help you start your new life:

## **\*Cedarville Alumni Chapters\***

Get plugged into the Cedarville Chapter in your area — they're all across the country. Network with fellow Cedarville alumni, attend fun and educational events, and much more!

## **\*Alumni eNews\***

The top way our alumni stay current with Cedarville news. Sign up to receive monthly updates delivered right to your inbox.  
**[cedarville.edu/enews](http://cedarville.edu/enews)**

## **\*Facebook and Twitter\***

For all you social butterflies, follow us around online to stay connected and hear the latest news about Cedarville alumni.  
**[facebook.com/cedarvillealumni](https://facebook.com/cedarvillealumni)**  
**[twitter.com/cvillealumni](https://twitter.com/cvillealumni)**

## **\*Homecoming Weekend\***

On the first Saturday of each October, hundreds of alumni come back to the 'Ville to reconnect with friends, professors, and their alma mater. Whether you're coming for a class reunion or many of the other festivities, Homecoming Weekend is reserved for alumni! Mark your calendar and plan to join us from **September 30–October 1, 2011**.

Please contact us if we may ever be of assistance to you, and congratulations on your accomplishments!

*Your Cedarville Alumni Association*  
**[cedarville.edu/alumni](http://cedarville.edu/alumni)**  
1-800-837-2566

# Top Five Ways to Support Cedarville

1. **Pray** for the students, faculty, and staff.
2. **Represent** Cedarville in your community by being a person of character and telling the story of Cedarville's impact on your life.
3. **Participate** in the life of the University. Attend homecoming, Alumni Basketball Weekend, and regional events in your area; stay informed by reading Inspire.
4. **Support** the University financially. A gift of any size is a vote of confidence in what Cedarville stands for and demonstrates alumni support.
5. **Employ** Cedarville alumni or students when you learn of an internship or position available in your workplace, school, or church.



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Special thanks to Corwin Briscoe '11 for compiling and editing this book.

# Grad School

Cedarville prepares its students well for grad school. I'm currently pursuing a master's degree at a nationally recognized university in a program ranked in the top five in the country, and I have found my training from Cedarville to be a great asset to me.

*Anonymous '05*

If possible, attend grad school before you have children.

*Jeff Gates '81*

# Job Searching

Fourteen years ago there weren't local alumni chapters. I wish there had been because they are great for networking, whether you are going into ministry or business. Reach out to your local chapter, attend events, and become involved. As times are getting tougher on everybody, especially Christians, I encourage networking with Cedarville alumni. Also, never forget that God is in control of all aspects of life and that He opens doors and shuts them, no matter how many people you know. Keep your eyes on Him and strive to follow Him and His will for your life!

*Gordon Rogers '97*

Keep in touch with the career services office. They will be an invaluable resource and connection as you move and look for a job. Friends of friends of friends will get you the best jobs even ten years later.

*Anonymous '00*

Job searching is hard, but be patient! Know that God is faithful even when you can't see Him working. It can take a long time to find a first full-time job. Be willing to do whatever you can for your first job. Keep in mind that it isn't permanent! Chances are your first job will not be your last job. Even if the job you land isn't exactly what you want, you will learn from it, and God will use you there.

*Sarah (Niedermayer) Banks '08, Resident Director, Maddox Hall*

Remember that you're not guaranteed a job near home. I *never* thought I would be teaching in a different state! But God put all the pieces together so quickly and perfectly ... as if it had already been planned without my knowing.

*Anonymous '07*

Ask God to help you keep an open mind to whatever plans He has for your life. Just because He led you to choose the major that you did doesn't necessarily mean He wants you following the expected career course that goes along with that. Be willing to consider the possibility that He may have used your major to train and prepare you for something you never would have even imagined!

*Nikki (Overly) Bender '10*

"Every time you fail, you eliminate one way that won't work, therefore moving one step closer to a way that will." —Thomas Edison

*Anonymous '96*

Don't be anxious about not finding something in your field. Use the knowledge and gifts the Lord has given you and desire to be used in whatever state that you are, and He will bless it. He may not put you where you want, but He will put you where He wants you!

*Anonymous '96*

When I graduated from college, I wish I had known that whoever said "It's okay if you're doing something completely unrelated to your major" was right.

*Anonymous '00*

I graduated from college in 2000 with a communications degree, music minor, and many tears because I wanted to be an elementary school teacher rather than have anything to do with communications. So I went off to New Jersey and became a nanny for a year! It was the year that God really used to direct me where He wanted me to go, and that was off to China for a couple of years to teach drama and speech classes (which I used my communications degree for). I then knew I loved to teach, came back to the states, got my master's degree in early childhood, and the rest is history.

*Anonymous '02*

Decide if it is important to live in a particular geographic location before looking for a job.

Don't waste your time looking for a "dream job." There is no such thing.

*Jeff Gates '81*

I cried and cried during the months leading up to my graduation. I didn't know where to live, what to do, or what career I wanted, and I was uncertain how to make ends meet. I decided to move in with my mom until I had a steady job. I was also scared because every job I'd ever had was so boring! I hated working. I would have rather stayed in school. But now that I have an *actual* job and not an internship, I love it so much more! I actually enjoy my job and find fulfillment in what I do.

*Anonymous '08*

I wish I had known how bad the job market would be. Once you get over that, it makes looking for a job easier because your expectations are realistic.

*Anonymous '08*

Nobody steps out of college and lands the perfect job. You have to try some things first to figure out where you're gifted, where you're called, and where your passion lies. Trial and error, my friend. You'll learn as much or more from a wrong turn, so don't let the fear of a misstep keep you from taking a risk.

*Anonymous '96*

Don't beat yourself up if you can't find a job right away. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and it really is up to Him — really. If you are being diligent in searching and praying, then you are doing your part.

*Anonymous '07*

You think you have a plan. You've got it all figured out. Then the bottom drops out. And you know what? It's ok. Plans are great, but hold them loosely. God moves in ways more amazing than we can imagine, and He will take your foiled plan and craft something even more beautiful than you dreamed. As you search for jobs, whether as a brand new graduate or years down the road, just know God will weave a magnificent tapestry out of what may seem like bare threads. Dead ends lead to open doors. Open doors might eventually close. But keep moving forward, knowing what may feel futile or ugly is all just an incredible piece to your life's puzzle. He takes our missteps, our broken plans, and our right moves to His perfect place. It will all be okay.

*Jen Castellani '02, Associate Director, Cedarville Fund*

Finding it difficult to find a job that you *love*? Ask yourself, "Where do I find myself in my free time?" then find a way to get paid doing that and pursue that as your career. Most likely it will include doing something utilizing most of your God-given talents. Don't worry about what your degree was in or what future schooling may be necessary to pursue this avenue. There is no promise of tomorrow, so live life using your gifts to the fullest. You will find that you will be surprisingly happy waking up in the morning to go to work.

*Anonymous '06*

# Your First Job

Dress beyond the dress code.  
*Andrea (Patterson) Verwys '01*

Never forget that life is about serving others — even when you are tired. Get your co-worker a cup of coffee, be willing to talk to that student during your free period instead of grading the stack of papers next to you, go out of your way to bring your co-worker a meal when they are hurting, send the newly divorced mother flowers. Always look for opportunities to serve.

*Anonymous '01*

Starting a new job after college is a brand new experience. It won't be easy, and don't expect to start out on top. Work hard, pray for God's will, and always do your best no matter how small the task is. God will reward your hard work and servant's heart: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

*Alison (Kearney) Clemans '10*

Ask a lot of people how they got started in their careers or if they're doing now what they thought they'd be doing in college. Note patterns you hear in their stories. What stood out to me is how everyone's first response was laughter followed by, "I never thought this is what I'd be doing."

*Anonymous '96*

When I graduated from college, I wish that I knew — and I mean fully understood my deepest being — that God is our provider. I knew that He was, and He completely showed me He was through my whole life, but it didn't really hit until I found myself crying in bed thinking that I was going to have to work at Applebee's until I was 60 even though I have a degree and should have an easier time finding a job. It will blow your mind how God provides for you. I hope that you find yourself laughing at the ways you notice His handiwork. For example, after college I had no idea where I was going to go, and I figured that I would take the first job that cropped up. And I did ... in Alaska. I had no money, mind you. The only job I'd had in the past year was my two-month stint at Applebee's. But guess what He did! I got my plane ticket to Alaska by making bookmarks. Ridiculous, I know. God just cracks me up! He knows just how to delight us, and He is the ultimate provider!

*Anonymous '06*

Realize that everybody starts at the bottom right after college, so enjoy being the underdog and working hard to get where it is that you want to go. Network, network, network. It doesn't matter where you are — in church or in Starbucks or in Africa. Just make friends with anyone and everyone you can (but keep a cautious eye out for creepers).

*Anonymous '06*

When I was a receptionist, I learned a lot about how people can get noticed in a company and what to do to get a job. Also, when I graduated, I checked out the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's "Best Places to Work" list. I started with that list, and that is where I found my current company. Start big and go from there. Walk into companies and hand in your resume. Send cards to HR people telling them you are excited about the opportunity. Stop in with cookies. Also, be nice to the receptionist; he or she can have a *huge* influence on who gets an interview. Even at my company with 600 employees, I was able to influence the HR recruiters, and I told them things like "Don't bother interviewing this person" and "Definitely consider this one."

*Anonymous '97*

The world is watching everything you do. Abstain from sinful desires that war against your soul. By doing so, you honor God and represent Him well.

*Anonymous '98*

Don't ignore a job because it doesn't seem to be related to your major. Those jobs will actually prepare you better to get your ideal job in the future. You will have a broader understanding of what it means to work hard and well.

*Nate Verwys '00*

Don't take yourself too seriously. Find something that pays the bills but do what you love. Always say with confidence when people ask you where you went to school, "I went to Cedarville. It's a Christian liberal arts university in the middle of Ohio."

*Anonymous '06*

Always be willing to do your best no matter how far down the ladder you or the task may be. Work hard, and you'll be rewarded for it in the end.

*Bill Bigham, Vice President for Advancement*

Listen more than talk. Try to learn from everyone and everything.

*Jeff Gates '81*

“My times are in His hands” — the whole Alistair Begg series was phenomenal. God knows what we need more than we do. By all means, aim high for what you really want and what you really think God designed you to do, but if that doesn't seem to be happening, think of it as a stepping stone. Take what you can get and use that experience to build upon so you are even more useful later. Maybe it's not the perfect job, but you'll meet the perfect people to help you get where you want to be or to help you become the person God wants you to be. It's not about money; it's about “blooming where God plants you” and being the unique person He has designed you to be.

*Anonymous '98*

Expect to feel stressed even if you have your dream job. Learning your responsibilities and all the other new things involved can contribute to stress and exhaustion. Also, there is no perfect job! You're unhappy? It's you and not the job!

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

I wish I knew how unprepared I really was for the teaching field. Just because I graduated doesn't mean I know it all! Find an older, wiser mentor that will give you good advice when asked. Then, use his or her advice. No one is too big for a different way to do things.

*Anonymous '84*

When I graduated from college, it was very hard to not doubt that God would place me where I was supposed to be and provide for me. I waited three very long months to find a job, but once it happened everything sort of fell into place. It all worked out how it was supposed to because it happened in God's timing. That is one thing to always remind yourself of and try to never doubt. A verse that has always helped me is Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Just remember that you are not in control; God is. But you are in control of your reactions, so pray daily for patience and peace.

*Anonymous '08*

Sometimes we can have really high or unreasonable expectations for our first job out of college. We think it should be completely fulfilling or our dream job or that we should know right away what we are doing with life. Patience is key. It may take time to get into the groove of things and really enjoy your job. I suggest you give it a full year before jumping into something different. Plus, having at least a year's experience looks better on your resume. Also, don't think because you are working at a certain place that you'll be there forever. We live in a very fluid work society. Nothing is permanent, so if you are unhappy, just give it time and see what other possibilities may open up. Seek the Lord!

When I was looking for another job purely because of my own selfish desires, nothing seemed to be working. But when I was content with where I was and allowed God to work, He brought along a wonderful job that I love and that was perfect for me. Remember that whatever you do, do your best and do it to the glory of God!

*Lynsey Fabian '04, Resident Director, McKinney and Johnson Halls*

Never be embarrassed to ask questions for fear of looking ignorant. Every single person who has started a new job has faced the unknown.

*Carla (Womack) LeMaster '84, Director, Advancement Services*

If you are not excited with your job, put more effort into it to the point that you excel in it. You will soon be promoted out of it.

*Anonymous '86*

I wish that I had known that God can use humility to bring me to where He wants me to be. I was willing to work a cleaning job (*not* my favorite thing), and in the midst of that job God dropped an amazing job into my lap!

*Anonymous '99*

Don't expect to land your dream job right out of college and be very happy you have found gainful employment. God will teach you much even in jobs you really don't like. (Just wait. When you look back in years to come, you'll see it.) Sometimes you will have to look at a job as simply a way to finance a ministry opportunity you are passionate about. So, especially if you have employment that is lacking in fulfillment, find a ministry you can jump into fully. It will really help to balance things out in your life.

*Jon Purple, Dean, Student Life Programs*

I wish I had known what a big transition it would be to move into adulthood after being in school for most of my life — and that I didn't have to have all of the answers right away. The months following graduation, I felt overwhelmed as I tried to navigate living on my own, finding a job and then working full-time, and deciding the things I wanted to get involved with. I had never had so much free time, and I wasn't sure what to do with myself! I wish I had known that *most* recent graduates go through this same time of uncertainty and that it's okay. It's more than okay because it is an amazing opportunity to walk with God and allow Him to direct your steps.

*Anonymous '06*

Don't be above any type of work. It may seem menial, beneath a college education, but what people want to see is that you are willing to do what needs to be done and that you do it without complaining.

*Anonymous '97*

Keep your mouth shut at work. Don't participate in gossip. Be positive! There is too much negativity at work, and when your bosses see your optimism, they will be impressed. Tell yourself you love your job — even if you don't. Attitude is 90 percent of what makes your day good or bad.

*Anonymous '02*

# Money/Finances

Take the Dave Ramsey class. Cash is good. Stay out of debt. *Give, give, give.*  
*Nate '00 and Andrea (Patterson) '01 Verwys*

This is some of the best advice we've taken, and we have been so blessed by it. If you end up getting married, make all your necessary purchases (like rent/mortgage, loan payments, and utilities) from one income. Use the second income for the extras — to increase savings, make extra payments on things, go on a fun vacation, etc. This way, down the road when you're holding a little bundle of joy in your arms, it is your choice whether to go back to work outside the home or to stay at home rather than allowing the finances to make that choice for you.  
*Geneva (Roberts) Hall '00*

Tithe no matter what you have earned or been given and no matter how large or small; be faithful with 10 percent and trust the Lord for the rest. Then, for one week every year, live on 10 percent and tithe 90 percent.  
*Anonymous '69*

Live within your means. Don't get caught into thinking that you have to have everything now. Enjoy the simple things that you already have.  
*Anonymous '97*

One of the best decisions my wife and I made a few years after graduating was to take our student loans (and other loans) seriously. If you have an opportunity to pay off or make a huge dent in your student loans, do it! Free up your income so you can do so much more for the Lord.  
*Joshua Hynes '03*

Some good financial advice I was given was to keep living as cheaply as you can for as long as you can.  
*Anonymous '06*

Living debt free can happen. Keep the crate furniture and save up for the real thing. No interest, no payments!  
*Anonymous '98*

Minister to others — it keeps your eyes off yourself and brings overwhelming rewards. No one has ever regretted giving! Make sure that you take part of your salary and give to others. Tithe!  
*Anonymous '05*

*Save money!* Live at home (no more than a year) or find a way to save as much of your paycheck as possible. Create an ING account. Then *move out* of your parents' house after a year at most. Experience independence; live with a friend or travel. Expand your wings if you are not married yet. Don't waste your first few paychecks on a brand new car, as tempting as it may be. Realize that used is better. Cars depreciate the moment they are driven off the lot.

*Anonymous '06*

Be faithful in updating your expense records.

*Anonymous '08*

Trust. God always provides in amazing ways.

*Alastair '89 and Kathy (Lippert) '89 Wright*

It's okay to live with mom and dad for awhile until you get a job and get on your feet. I don't know why so many think they have to move out right away. Save your money so you can buy a house!

*Anonymous '01*

If you are planning to get married, I have a piece of advice regarding finances. If you are both working, try to live on one income and save the other. That way if you have children, a parent can have the wonderful opportunity of staying home during the formative years. Also, if one spouse becomes disabled, you don't need to worry about living on one income. God bless you as you leave Cedarville!

*Cathy (Lombard) Aviles '87, Staff Nurse, University Medical Services*

Be very wise with your money, especially if you move into an apartment and all the bills come in. I didn't realize what a challenge monthly bills would be — money doesn't really grow on trees. While in college, it seems like no big deal to go out for fast food and a movie on the weekend, but it really does add up. Also, keep a ledger of what you spend, no matter what it is, so you can see just where your money goes. I've seen God provide for my financial needs in miraculous ways. He is so faithful! However, being a good steward is so important.

*Anonymous '08*

It is God's money. Ask Him how He wants you to spend it.

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

Be captivated by Christ. Money doesn't matter, and the American Dream, getting married, having kids, a house, cars, watching TV—it is all vanity. Knowing Christ and falling in love with Him is why we were created. Take the time to truly get to know the Lord, through His Word, through prayer. Nothing else satisfies.

*Anonymous '07*

Pay *cash* for everything. Save up for vacations, cars, etc. Attitude is a choice, so choose to be positive, even when you don't feel like it.

*Anonymous '97*

Don't snub lowly positions. My receptionist position in a marketing technology company landed me a position as an executive assistant to the chief marketing officer six months later. After being in that position for a year, the CMO placed me on the partner marketing team as an associate.

*Anonymous '08*

Pay off as much debt as you can. You really don't want it hanging over your head. Take time for adventures while you can. Get any extra education that you need to accomplish for your career as soon as you can. And trust that God will provide for your needs. He will. Pray over the things you believe are in accordance to His will, and watch how He answers those prayers. It's amazing.

*Anonymous '01*

No doubt money is an important factor in decision-making, but we've found that decisions driven primarily by financial considerations have been among our worst. Seek God first. Trust Him. He is faithful.

*Janice (Warren) Supplee '86, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing*

Pay over and above any monthly loans you may have needed to graduate *before* you find a man to spend your life with. You have a six-month grace period, so make a payment with every spare amount before it's over. After the six months is over, you will then have a monthly payment for years to come. If you get married, you will have *his* monthly payment, too! For ten years (and two children later!) we paid \$200 a month to cover our student loans alone. At times we didn't have food to eat out because we made so little, and all our "extra" money was spent on loans.

*Anonymous '96*

My first week out of Cedarville, I slept on a friend's couch, then I slept on another friend's floor for a few months. I've moved eight or more times since 2006 and held a half-dozen jobs, each one leading me to amazing ministry opportunities. There are reasons to be frightened of the future. It's scary! *But* we believe in our Jehovah-jireh, the God who *does* provide! Bills do get paid, somehow, and prayers do get answered. They just do.

*Anonymous '06*

*Do not* put things on credit cards that you know you can't pay off *in full* by the next bill. I know several girls my age that have just "charged it" and are now in stress. The only debt I have is student loans (which will never go away!).

*Anonymous '05*

Don't spend money that you don't have. Be wise with your finances now so you don't have to deal with issues later.

*Anonymous '98*

Don't start off your career going into debt. *Do not* use credit cards; they make life more confusing. It's biblical to stay out of debt (Proverbs 22:7). Learn to manage what you have *now*, and later you will be *far, far* ahead of those your age.

*Karl Bernhard '05*

Set a strict budget and stick to it. Buy what you need, not what you want. Live within your means. Save for the future. Don't charge things you can't afford.

*Anonymous '06*

Your parents are smart even when you don't want to hear what they have to say. They just might be giving you some golden nuggets of knowledge that you can hold onto. Balance your checkbook every month. It saves a lot of headache and hassle later on. Pay your bills on time even if it is not the full amount. Companies like to see you are trying. You will get ahead at some point.

*Anonymous '96*

Only borrow if you absolutely have to. Saving up to buy items is much less expensive than borrowing to buy them.

*Jeff Gates '81*

Like Dave Ramsey says, “Debt is dumb.” Also, “If you live like no one else now [live simply], later you can live like no one else [nice car, big house, debt free!]”

*Anonymous '98*

Live really cheaply the first year or so. Get a roommate for your apartment or move back in with your parents. Use your extra money to pay off school debt, save up for a down payment on a house, or go to graduate school.

*C. Aaron Briggs '07*

Live within your means. It is really important to look at your bills and loans and income and establish a budget. Even if you don't have a job yet, get an idea of what bills you have or may have. Dave Ramsey is a great resource, and he can help you learn how to budget and manage your money. Also, if you have school loans, look at the interest rates. Pay off any higher interest rate loans quicker. Typically private loans are higher in interest than government loans. However, still keep things in balance when paying off debt. If you are going above your minimum payment to get it paid off right away but have no money to spend here and there on things you enjoy, you'll really resent having loans. Work hard to pay them off, but enjoy life in the meantime as well. Budgeting and money takes hard work and consistent monitoring. It's not usually fun, but it's worth it. Make it a habit to keep track of your finances early on and you'll be happy you did.

*Lynsey Fabian '04, Resident Director, McKinney and Johnson Halls*

Always follow these five keys to finance:

1. Give first.
2. Save for the future *now*.
3. Spend less than you make (a lot less).
4. Get out of debt as quick as you can.
5. Get wisdom about finances from trusted resources (like the Bible, Crown Financial, and Dave Ramsey).

*Drew Flamm '05, Director, Cedarville Fund and Scholarship Services*

Make a budget. Join a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class at a church in the area. It's great to have practical tools in how to manage your money, and FPU helps with that!

*Becky Stowers '01, Resident Director, Faith Hall*

Just because everyone else is buying/leasing a new car, don't think that you have to follow suit! In my early years after college, a friend started driving a new Mercedes. Being a car guy, I was impressed and envious. I reasoned that if he could afford a new Mercedes, I certainly could afford a new Honda Accord. After signing on the dotted line for a payment that really strained my budget, I found that he had leased, not purchased, the Mercedes *and* that his company was paying most of the lease payment!  
*Jon Purple, Dean, Student Life Programs*

Someone once said, "That man is admired above all men who is not influenced by money." I believe it was Cicero who said this, but it may have been someone in our University business department. Either way, the advice is full of wisdom. Money can be a wonderful tool or a cruel master. As wise stewards of the resources that God has placed in our hands (no matter how much or how little), may we all glorify God through its use and be content with what is enough.  
*Robert Rohm '68, Vice President, Christian Ministries*

Put together a budget and then stick to it! It may look like you are bringing in a lot of money, but when the school bills start, you need a new car, or have a car repair, it can take that extra money down pretty quickly. Always set aside a little extra "fun" money to treat yourself.  
*Carol Bliss '87, Administrative Assistant, Missions Involvement Services*

Check with area churches and find a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class and *attend!* Having a budget gives real freedom and the ability to give more abundantly to the Lord's work.  
*Anonymous '83*

Live for tomorrow, not today. Also, if you're married, look to live on one income.  
*Rob Barnum '94*

Honor the Lord with your first fruits, save some, and live on less than what remains.  
*Bill Bigham, Vice President for Advancement*

Use cash to make all purchases for the entire first year following graduation.  
*Steve Gruber '74, Chair, Department of Education*

Pay your credit card bills in full every month. This may seem like a small, very obvious piece of advice, but it is the main rule that has kept us out of debt for the last thirty years. Don't spend money you do not have.

*Jim Cato '83, Executive Director, Heartsong Ministries*

Spend less than you earn. The whole concept of budgeting is that simple. You may think you know how much you spend, but you probably don't. So for three months, write down every penny that goes out, whether it's for a parking meter or the car payment. You may be surprised to see where your hard-earned money goes. This exercise will help you cut back on the stuff you want to make sure you get the things you actually need. Also, deal with your debt as soon as possible. The first step is to stop charging stuff (that makes the problem exponentially worse). The second is to come up with a repayment plan that cuts your debt down faster than it grows. The Bible is packed with deep truths about money. Meditate on them as you seek God's wisdom for financial decisions.

*Stephanie (Hueni) Flamm '06*

Luke 12:15 says "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'" Carefully consider what is driving your decision making regarding money and finances. May Jesus be your reward and the pursuit of His kingdom your delight!

*Rachel (Batchelder) Parrill '97, Assistant Professor of Nursing*

# Finding a Place to Live

Ask the alumni office which grads live where. These grads might be able to help you locate a great neighborhood.

*Bill Bigham, Vice President for Advancement*

When moving into an area you've never been before (for a job, usually), it is often a good idea to rent for a while before purchasing a house. This allows you to get familiar with the area, determine which neighborhoods are the best to live in, and take your time in finding a good place to live. It also allows you an out in case you find out that your perfect job isn't so perfect after all, and you want to move on in a year or two. Local realtors usually have listings for rentals and can help you find a house to rent instead of just an apartment if you prefer. They also have some ideas of which are the best or most affordable places to live. Check out realtor.com to find a local agent in your area.

Note: it is often considered rude to have more than one realtor employed in helping you, so be sure to know what the realtor expects, and if you have more than one, let them know that. They often call each other to get leads on possible options, so they'll usually find out if you don't tell.

Also, don't let anyone talk you into buying a house sooner than you really can afford. I'd recommend that you wait a few years after graduation at least just to make sure you've got your feet under you and that you've got a handle on what your budget is going to be, since you're going to have a ton more expenses than you've been used to.

Also, be sure to get either homeowner's or renter's insurance and insure your personal property, not just the building. That covers you in case of a fire, burglary, etc.

*Hannah (Ballou) Sheldon '04*

If you are moving to a new place, pray that God will send you a godly friend! (This sounds dumb, I know, but I have prayed this prayer at a few specific times in my life, and God has always answered)

*Anonymous '05*

Consider city living. It is much harder to live in a city once you have a family.

*Andrea (Patterson) Verwys '01*

Some advice I received from one of my profs when looking for apartments was to find an apartment with a washer and dryer. Not having to go to a laundromat was *wonderful!*

*Becky Stowers '01, Resident Director, Faith Hall*

Do your research before you move so you know where you're ending up!  
Also, sometimes you have to work hard to keep in touch with friends.  
Don't neglect that even though your life will get crazy sometimes!  
*Anonymous '06*

If you ever end up living by yourself in an apartment, try to get the top floor. Yes, it will be a pain moving in and carrying up groceries, but you will feel much safer and get a great leg workout every single day.  
*Anonymous '07*

Contact local churches to see if anyone in the church owns apartments, rents houses, or has rooms to rent out. They also have local knowledge that may help you.  
*Andi (MacDermaid) Mounts '78, Assistant Circulation Services Manager*

Being a real estate agent, if you are going to a new area, my advice would be to rent first. That will give you some time to get to know the area, where you will go to church, where you will shop, etc. Don't buy the first house you like, even if the agent tells you there is not another one like it, it will go fast, and you *must* submit an offer today! Take your time. Buying a house is a huge investment, and you want to make sure you are getting the right one at the right price. Don't max yourself out. Telling yourself you won't eat out for thirty years will not last.  
*Carol Bliss '87, Administrative Assistant, Missions Involvement Services*

Unless you thoroughly enjoy spending lots of time alone or are moving back with your parents in a rural area, live in or near a city where there are universities. They tend to be centers of culture. And churches and activities are closer by. If you're having a hard time finding a job, look at the job listings at the universities. And if you're single (or even if you're married) consider moving to a place with a group of friends. If you're moving to a city, all sorts of jobs are available. Then you can live in community or very close to your friends. Yes, you must branch out and meet others — but then you're not alone. It is also helpful to move close to your church. So perhaps you could decide on where you'll live according to the church you attend or seek to attend. And if you're having trouble finding a place to live, call churches and ask if their parishioners have rental property. That's what my husband, Shawn, and I did after we first got married and were in grad school. That's how we found our first place.  
*Marlena (Proper) Graves '00, Resident Director, Murphy Hall*

Remember, you don't have to have your *whole* life planned out. It was okay for me to say that I didn't know what I wanted to do or to spend some more time in prayer until the right doors opened up.

*Anonymous '04*

# Around the House

Thank Chuck. It's tough taking care of yourself. Meal planning, grocery shopping, cooking, and cleaning up the dishes and kitchen aren't easy. Oh, there were many days after college I longed for the "convenience" of changing out of my jeans into my dress and making the little trek to Chuck's!

*Melanie (Knauff) Scheerschmidt '00, Administrative Assistant, Planned Giving*

Make sure you keep up your fitness routine. The pounds will pack on quickly if you don't work out. You are not a teenager anymore!

*Anonymous '00*

Cooking for one is such a pain, so learn the art of leftovers quickly.

*Anonymous '07*

Don't forget how important your family is, even now that you have graduated. Modern American society downplays the role of the family in a person's life, but I strongly believe that God puts us all into a family for our protection and edification — for life. You will be doing this as an adult now; that is the only difference. Caring for and sharing our experiences with our families, I believe, is one of the greatest ministries God gives us. Start planning now how you will care for your parents when they are old (yes, I am serious). Make the principle taught in verses such as I Timothy 5:4 a part of your life now!

*Anonymous '08*

Keep Pringles on hand. Most tough times get a little better if you have a can of Pringles to keep you company.

*Anonymous '99*

To those of you who will be getting married soon: My wife and I made the habit of doing the following. At home, if one is up working, the other is up working. Whether it may be her in the kitchen or you in the yard, if one is up, you both are up. Guys, girls dig it when you help clean up the kitchen.

*Butch Davis '92*

Rinse your dishes right away; it is easier to wash them later because a film or crust won't form on them.

*Michael Clutz '05*

If you're the spouse who earns the majority of the household income, don't think for a moment that you get a free pass with work around the house or that it is now your spouse's responsibility to serve you. Split the housework and childcare. If someone cooks, the other should clean up; or better yet, both can share in common household tasks together. Changing diapers isn't just a mom's responsibility. Woe to the dad who is too lazy to serve his wife and children in such simple and significant ways.

*Chris Miller, Chair, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies*

Eat well. Food is a good investment because it affects your overall health. So, definitely deal with the "extra" expense and buy fresh, varied, healthy foods.

*Anonymous '08*

Never go to bed with a dirty kitchen. You wake up facing yesterday's work, and today creates more of the same. There is so much truth to the statement "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

*Carla (Womack) LeMaster '84, Director, Advancement Services*

Keep the extra trash bags in the bottom of the trash can.

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

Housecleaning not your favorite job? Pick up and put things away each night before you go to bed. It's amazing how much neater your house looks in the morning. To keep the dust from getting too thick, plan to do a thorough cleaning of half your house one week and the other half the next week. Of course, kitchens and baths should be cleaned thoroughly and regularly. Once kids come along and you get them to "help" with the cleaning, rotate the rooms they clean each week. If they clean the upstairs this week, have them clean the downstairs next week, while you do a thorough cleaning of the opposite space. This way you know your house will be cleaned well at least every other week.

*Esther (Greenwood) Lanham '75, Administrative Assistant, Department of Social Work, Criminal Justice, and Sociology*

Touch Once Rule: When changing clothes, hang them up or fold them and put them away immediately. Touching once will save you time in the long run and keep your room clean.

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

Furnish your first apartment buy purchasing secondhand items. It will give you a chance to get settled and see what you really like. It will also give you time to save some money to purchase new items.

*Anonymous '83*

White vinegar is great on salads but has multiple household uses:

- 1) Add a cup to laundry to remove strong odors.
- 2) Place a bowl on the bottom rack of your dishwasher and add two cups white vinegar. Add dishwasher soap as directed. Your dishes will come out cleaner and shinier.
- 3) Dilute one part vinegar to one part warm water to mop floors.

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

Men, learn how to cook! Don't be one of these guys who says, "All I can make is reservations." It doesn't take much effort to become proficient in the kitchen. Take a class ... or practice on your own. Find a few recipes that you can master and amaze your friends. If you are single, you have to eat somehow, plus cooking is a great way to impress a lady friend. If you are married, you can take your turn in the kitchen or work side by side with your wife. She will love it. If your wife works outside the home and you can occasionally treat her to a meal already on the table at the end of the day, you will earn significant points.

*David Bartlett, Associate Vice President for Planned Giving*

Decide that you cannot live without scented candles in various fall-like colors and scents that smell so good you want to get a spoon and eat them.

*Anonymous '95*

Sleep! You are out of school! No kids! You can sleep now, so do it!

*Anonymous '09*

# Recipes

## **Taco Soup**

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

Each year I have my voice students over for dinner, and each year the menu is the same: Taco Soup. They ask for it year to year, and many ask for the recipe when they graduate. Enjoy!

1½–2 lbs. ground beef  
1 onion, chopped  
4 cloves garlic  
2 packages taco seasoning mix  
1–2 cans diced Ro\*Tel® tomatoes \*  
1–2 cans chopped green chilis  
4 cans hot chili beans  
2 packages Hidden Valley® ranch dressing seasoning mix  
2 tbsp. chili powder  
1 can cream corn  
1 can whole kernel corn  
1–3 16-oz. can(s) stewed tomatoes  
1 10-oz. can chicken broth

Brown the ground beef. Drain excess fat. Add onions until they are soft. Add the rest of the ingredients and heat thoroughly. Top with grated cheese and sour cream.

\* If you would like a less spicy soup, leave out the Ro\*Tel® tomatoes, and in their place add 2 cans stewed tomatoes.

## **Broccoli Soup**

*Rachel (Batchelder) Parrill '97, Assistant Professor of Nursing*

2 10-oz. bags frozen chopped broccoli  
1 pt. half and half  
2 10-oz. cans cream of celery soup  
8 oz. cubed Velveeta®

Combine all ingredients in a crockpot. Cook on low 6 hours. Easy and delicious!

## **Curried Chicken Salad**

*Carol Lee '96, Senior Communications Specialist*

6 boneless chicken breast halves, skin removed, cooked and diced, about 3 c.  
1 c. chopped celery  
½ c diced red apple, unpeeled  
2–3 tbsp. raisins  
¼ c. coarsely chopped pecans  
1 tsp. curry powder  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cider vinegar  
½ tsp. fresh ground black pepper  
⅛ tsp. ground cayenne pepper  
1 c. mayonnaise, or to moisten to taste  
1 c. whole berry cranberry sauce

Combine the diced chicken with remaining ingredients in a large bowl, adding more or less mayonnaise to moisten according to your taste. Cover and refrigerate. Before serving, top with whole berry cranberry sauce.

Serves 7–8.

## **Easy Sweet BBQ Meatballs**

*Carla (Womack) LeMaster '84, Director, Advancement Services*

2 lbs. premade meatballs, frozen or thawed \*  
1 can jellied cranberry sauce  
1 jar Heinz® chili sauce  
2 tbsp. lemon juice  
2 tbsp. brown sugar

Place meatballs in a crockpot. Mix together sauce ingredients with a whisk. Pour over meatballs. Cook on low.

\* Note: If meatballs are frozen, cook for 6 hours. If meatballs are thawed, cook for 4.

## **Mocha Punch**

*Carol Lee '96, Senior Communications Specialist*

6 c. water  
½ c. instant chocolate drink mix (like Nesquik®)  
½ c. sugar (optional)  
¼ c. instant coffee granules  
½ gal. vanilla ice cream  
½ gal. chocolate ice cream  
Whipped cream (as garnish)  
Chocolate curls (as garnish)

In a large saucepan, bring water to a boil. Remove from the heat. Add drink mix, sugar, and coffee, and stir until dissolved. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

About 1 hour before serving, pour mixture into a large punch bowl. Add ice cream by scoops. Stir until partially melted.

## **Monkey Bread**

*Carol Lee '96, Senior Communications Specialist*

⅓ c. sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 can refrigerator biscuits cut in quarters  
¼ c. butter  
⅓ c. brown sugar  
½ tsp. vanilla

Mix sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Toss biscuit pieces in mixture until completely covered. Place in a greased loaf pan. Melt butter, then mix in brown sugar and vanilla. Pour over biscuits.

Bake at 350° degrees for 30 minutes.

### **Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cookies**

*Becky Stowers '01, Resident Director, Faith Hall*

1 box chocolate cake mix  
1/3 c. oil  
2 eggs  
Chocolate chips

Combine ingredients. Drop by rounded spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 9–11 minutes.

### **Blueberry and Pineapple Dump Cake**

*Beth (Cram) Porter, Chair, Department of Music and Worship*

2 c. fresh/frozen blueberries, or berries of choice  
1 large can crushed pineapple with juice  
3/4 c. sugar  
1 box yellow cake mix  
1 c. chopped pecans or walnuts  
1/4 c. sugar  
1 stick melted butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with non-stick spray. Layer blueberries, then pineapple, then sprinkle with 3/4 c. sugar. Spread dry cake mix on top, then top with nuts and remaining 1/4 c. sugar. Drizzle melted butter evenly over all.

Bake for 25 minutes. After 25 minutes, slice through to allow fruit juices to come through cake mix. (I slice it like I am slicing it into 12 pieces.) Return to the oven for another 25 minutes. It should be nice and brown on the top when done.



# Finding a Church

The strength of a church isn't measured in how many people "look like you" or seem to be your age. When my wife and I started attending our church, people our age were non-existent. But now, many years later, we are invested in the same strong church and have many friends there.

*Nate Verwys '00*

Don't be afraid to go back to the church you grew up in. Get plugged in to ministry immediately. I worked with the high school group immediately after getting out of college and thought the students were so much younger. They weren't. Many of them are my friends now, and the age gap seems so small.

*Andrea (Patterson) Verwys '01*

Get plugged in to a church right away. You will need the support and connection of a small group in your local church. It will be very easy to not attend church as there is no one requiring it anymore. If you go to a large church and are not involved anymore, it is easy to get lost and you may not feel like you belong. This is the time to find the church that is best for you, and it may not be your parents' church. That will be a big step but one that will profit you the most. You need to be a follower of Christ where your faith is your own, not your school's or your parents'.

*Marianne (Palmer) Schuck '97*

Find a church right away! And even if you can't find the "right church" quickly, start trying out twentysomething groups at churches in your area and commit to going to one that feels like a good fit. I go to a twentysomethings group at one church and Sunday service at another. The point is, get plugged in. Find where you fit and where you can serve. Connect with other Christians your age as well as Christians older than you who will invest in your life. This is *huge* — bug someone from your new church to go to coffee if you have to! It's such an encouragement to have older women in my life who will ask me on a regular basis how I'm doing and how my walk with the Lord is. In college, you have a built-in community. You have to be a lot more intentional about creating community after college — but it's very much worth the effort.

*Anonymous '08*

Wherever you are, find a church or group to plug into ASAP! That's been my biggest help since moving to South Carolina.

*Anonymous '05*

Get plugged in to a church. That's your new source of friends. Once you leave campus, you don't just have this pool of people sitting around. And depending on where you work, your pool of potential friends may lack Christians. Not that this is a bad thing, but you have to have the balance. I love the people I work with. Some are Christians, and some just don't seem to believe in anything. But having a good core group of Christians in my life has been huge.

*Anonymous '04*

Find a church with a large twentysomethings class. I got plugged in to a church that has hundreds of kids in their twenties who are in the same boat as I am, and I developed close friendships there. This has made all the difference for me.

*Anonymous '07*

When finding a church, you may end up going to a lot of them until you have peace about one. It will be easy and sometimes even tempting to just stay home and take a break from your search. Don't be discouraged. You just never know how God will use a church in your life ... even if it doesn't turn out to be your choice.

*Ryan Gathard, Advancement Officer*

One of the absolute *hardest* things is not being with your friends and being somewhere where you don't know anyone. Hang in there! It simply takes more time to find and make friends after college (since you're not living with them). It took me a good year to get settled and form solid friendships. Sometimes it takes more time, sometimes less. But determine not to get discouraged. God is just waiting to bring a bunch of special new people into your life in unexpected ways. It just may not be in your ideal timing.

*Anonymous '07*

Finding a church in a new place can seem intimidating. Where do you start? How long do you look? My primary advice would be not to look forever. While I know some people spend six months trying to find a church and there is some room for finding a good fit, the truth is that if you agree on the major doctrines, the important thing is to get involved. It's always easy to wonder what else is out there, but to serve is the best way to meet people and to bless the church as a whole.

*Mike Webster '05*

I wish that I had known how important it was to be in fellowship with believers and to be connected into a church. For the first year out of college I mainly kept to myself and didn't make the effort to get to know anyone at church or really get involved in ministries at church. But my life and spiritual walk are completely different now that I am really connected with other believers.

*Anonymous '07*

The first thing to concern yourself with finding is the church community you are going to invest in after graduation. When you have a family behind you, everything else falls into place. Trust me.

*Anonymous '06*

Make sure you find a church that teaches the Word of God! Look for a place that you can minister in, not a place where you will just be ministered to. Remember, the most dynamic programs don't always produce the most dynamic people. Find a church that teaches and lives according to God's Word and invest in it and you'll be ministered to as well as encouraged above and beyond your expectations. Find a place and stay with it through thick and thin. There is great reward to being in the same place for a while around the same people and watching God work in their lives as well as yours over time.

*Butch Davis '92*

We all need support, encouragement, and accountability. God intended the local church to provide for such needs. Find a church where you can serve with good conscience and be faithful.

*Anonymous '60*

If you move to an area that's new, make it a priority to find a good church and to get involved in serving there. My small group at my church has become like a family to me, and God has used them in my life in many ways!

*Anonymous '07*

Try to meet people your own age wherever you are. It took me awhile to get out there and meet people (I ended up visiting young adults groups at churches) but once I did, I started feeling a lot better about being out of college.

*Anonymous '07*

One of the key goals after graduation is to find a church and become a vital part of that ministry. You may not be serving God vocationally, but all of us must always be serving Him volitionally through the local church. When looking for that first job after graduation, a key factor needs to be what church to join if you take the job. You may not know which specific church, but you should have options available, so once you get settled in you can join in with a local body of believers and serve Christ there.

*Paul E. Smith '77*

Most importantly, find a solid Christian community as soon as possible. Don't give up on this one! It may be hard to find at first because you have to go looking for it! But God supplies all our needs, and this is a need, so keep praying for it.

*Anonymous '06*

I had a great experience at Cedarville, and I even found that I enjoyed chapel (much to my surprise!). However, listening to speakers in chapel and professors in class really has made it challenging at times to find a church where the pastor is as gifted a speaker as those we were so blessed to learn from during our time at Cedarville. My advice or encouragement would be to take some time after moving away to that new city or state and try out a number of churches and just realize that you're likely going to be a tough audience. Try not to be so critical that the real message from the Word can't get through — I'm telling myself this even after graduating in 1984.

*Marcia Wiinamaki '84*

Don't expect a new church to be just like your old church. Don't waste your time looking for a perfect church. If there was such a thing, you would ruin it if you joined it.

*Jeff Gates '81*

No church will be perfect, but find one that teaches the Word and then get involved! You've been trained well, and you have a minor in Bible. Use that training to help serve and teach others in a local Bible-preaching church. Now is no time to become a pew-sitter!

*Tonya (Stretch) Fawcett '83, Director, Library Public Services*

Don't church-hop too much once you get out. Find a good one and get involved. You'll have a good support system quicker, and you'll have an easier time making good friends.

*Anonymous '06*

When it comes to actually trying to get a list of other churches, check out the newspaper (often they have a list of churches and service times in the paper on Thursdays or Fridays). Also check the yellow pages and search the internet. Cedarville also has a church listing, though it may not be up-to-date. I narrowed down the list of churches to try by calling each one on my list first and asking a few questions to get an idea of the type of church it was. So make a list of the things you are looking for in a church and prioritize them. Put non-negotiable things first, then preferences. That will help you objectively tell whether the church you find meets your needs.

Some preference things to think about: Do you prefer a large or small congregation? Do you prefer contemporary or traditional style of service? Do you have a preferred Bible version? Many things that you might have taken for granted because they were what you always had in your own church may not be the case in other people's churches.

Also, don't rule out nondenominational or other denominational churches just because you've always been a Baptist or Methodist or Presbyterian. Some other denominations may believe the same things you do. This is especially important if you relocate to an area that doesn't have many or any of the denominations that you're used to.

Also, be sure to check out the church's statement of faith and/or constitution before deciding to stay. Read it well to be sure there aren't major doctrinal differences.

Remember that you may end up with children before too long, and keep in mind what sort of children and infant ministries the church has.

Some indicators that the church you are looking at is alive and growing are the number and type of ministries that they have, both in the local community and in farther areas, and how many of the people are involved in them.

No matter what church you find, once you've made your decision, join and become active!

*Hannah (Ballou) Sheldon '04*

# Your Spiritual Walk

Often after you graduate, you have dreams to make a difference and not live a “normal” quiet life. The best difference that you can make in this world is to simply obey the Lord. Obey in all aspects in your life, and you will make a difference in your co-workers’, family’s, friends’, and church family’s lives. Your life will make a difference if you follow the command of our Lord: “trust and obey.” It seems like an easy and simple command, but many times it will be difficult when all the plans you make don’t seem to be coming to fruition, but our Lord has greater ones, and you will be richly blessed when you simply trust and obey.

*Rachel (Mahl) Kimmell '04*

Take the time to keep in touch with someone as a spiritual mentor. It is important to be growing in Christ, and having someone that is further along in his or her faith keeps you accountable in your growth. Spend time in the word and in prayer every day. Life will only get busier and busier, so guard that time with the Lord.

*Anonymous '07*

“Each life holds a *unique* purpose, designed by God, fulfilled through Him, guided by His word.” —Bonnie Jensen

*Anonymous '98*

The best thing I learned in college was to fall deeply in love with Jesus. You probably won’t do what is on your degree, so make your relationship with God the biggest priority.

*Michael Clutz '05*

I have no idea who wrote this, and I admit it sounds clichéd, but it happens to be so true in my life: “I admit, I was deceived into believing that because I was a Christian and strive to do ‘good’ that I would in return receive a ‘good’ life, full of blessings. *False*. A + B does *not* equal C in this world.” (Read John Piper’s book, *When I Don’t Desire God: How to Fight for Joy*.)

*Anonymous '06*

I would say the biggest thing that I struggle with is priorities. Because it is so easy to get bogged down with work, making friends, and adjusting to a new life, you can lose sight of what’s important. Without daily chapels I found myself forgetting to start my day with God.

*Anonymous '08*

God is in charge of you — not men, not circumstances, and not the economy. He is faithful. I trust Him, and forty years later, He is still moving me around!

*Anonymous '69*

I am a work in progress. Sometimes I love the process, and sometimes I can't stand it.

*Anonymous '97*

Maintain and protect your time with the Lord no matter what comes your way.

*Andrea (Patterson) Verwys '01*

I wish that I had known that it was okay that I didn't have a plan. I didn't know that my peers, the ones who had a plan were just as terrified as I was. Their constant rehearsing of their plan ("I graduate this day," "I'm getting married this day," "I'm moving here on this day," "I'm starting this job on this day") was, I think, for their own assurance. "I'm okay, see? I have a plan. Something is better than nothing when you need something to cling to, right?" It's more honest to say, "I have no idea what I'm doing." Ask anyone, most people feel like this all the time.

*Anonymous '96*

Waiting on God isn't about the suspension of meaning and purpose. It's part of the meaning and purpose that God has brought into my life. Waiting on God isn't to be viewed as an obstruction in the way of the plan. Waiting is an essential part of the plan. For the child of God, waiting isn't simply about what I'll receive at the end of my wait. No, waiting is much more purposeful, efficient, and practical than that. Waiting is fundamentally about what I'll *become* as I wait. God is using the wait to do in and through me exactly what He's promised. Through the wait He's changing me. By means of the wait He's altering the fabric of my thoughts and desires. Through the wait He's causing me to see and experience new things about Him and His kingdom. And all of this sharpens me, enabling me to be a more useful tool in His redemptive hands.

*Anonymous '08*

I may not know what lies ahead, but I am holding the hand of the One who knows each step.

*Anonymous '05*

I was definitely apprehensive when I was graduating! I had no clue what I was doing; all I could do was pray and trust God to lead me where He wanted me. And He totally did! He provided a great job out of nowhere in the exact place my husband and I wanted to be. It was miraculous! I really like Zephaniah 3:17, and I read that a lot when I'm feeling down or worried and need a reminder of God's love and care. I also like to just flip through the Psalms when I need comforting and pick out some that speak to me. A quote I just heard recently that I really liked is, "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." It's so great to know that God will fit you to His plan and work through you. You don't have to try to live life by your own strength; you have to lean on Him and just obey and love Him.  
*Anonymous '05*

Bad things can and do happen to everyone. You are not invincible. Plan accordingly.  
*Anonymous '03*

"'Wait on the Lord' is a constant refrain in the Psalms, and it is a necessary word, for God often keeps us waiting. He is not in such a hurry as we are, and it is not His way to give more light on the future than we need for action in the present, or to guide us more than one step at a time. When in doubt, do nothing, but continue to wait on God. When action is needed, light will come." — J.I. Packer  
*Anonymous '07*

Sin is sin. There is no excuse for excusing sin.  
*Anonymous '69*

I constantly find myself saying, "It doesn't say in Scripture that the enemy came to snack; it says he came to devour!" When you feel most afraid, overwhelmed, stressed out, or exhausted, it's because you must be posing quite a threat to the devil, and he wants to consume you. In some ways that is a good thing! At every stage of life, the more we battle with or for God, the more the devil wants to destroy us! *Pray fiercely* for God to intercede for you, and He will!  
*Anonymous '04*

"Life is not always lived on the mountain tops; it's often lived in the valleys."  
*Anonymous '07*

Leaving Cedarville is hard because you enter a world without godly peers living right down the hall, teaching every day in your classroom, or presenting from God's Word every day. When you leave, work hard to stay in touch with a spiritual mentor at Cedarville or get to know someone else wherever you end up, someone who loves Christ and will encourage you in your walk with Him.

*John Cooper '10*

Start making friendships with godly believers who are older than you and who can be a source of encouragement and wisdom when the Cedarville bubble has popped.

*Anonymous '98*

Make it a priority to spend time with the Lord daily. Take your Bible everywhere so you can read a little throughout the day at appointments, during your lunch hour, at your desk, or while waiting for the doctor. It is difficult after college to stay in the Word because your routine changes. If you don't start it now, it is hard to start later! Be disciplined now and reap the rewards later.

*Michelle (Rigel) McCune '04*

The key to the spiritual walk is found in two phrases in the Old Testament. Like Abraham in Genesis 17:1, we must walk before God. This means literally to walk in the eyes of God, to live a circumspect life in which we are always consciously aware that God sees and evaluates all that we do, say, and even think. Like Enoch (Genesis 5:22, 24) and Noah (Genesis 6:9), we must also walk with God. Too often we are tempted to rush ahead of God or to drag our heels behind Him. Or we get distracted by something to the right or to the left of the path God has for us. To walk with God means to stay in step with Him, and let Him take us on the path of His choosing for us. May the Lord bless you as you walk before Him and with Him.

*Dan Estes '74, Dean, School of Biblical and Theological Studies*

Happy Moments, Praise God  
Difficult Moments, Seek God  
Quiet Moments, Worship God  
Painful Moments, Trust God  
Every Moment, Thank God

*Anonymous '07*

Mentors are so valuable! No matter where God directs you after graduation, make sure you seek out older brothers and sisters in the faith. They offer so much encouragement, insight, and wisdom.

*Anonymous '06*

Okay, I'm not really a graduate, but I feel I graduate every year. We all need to reboot our lives every day because past commitments can get lost in the urgencies of today. His mercies are new every morning. Make up your mind today what kind of person you want to become. It is among the most important decisions you make. If you don't make that decision positively, you are making a decision that puts the trajectory of your life in the hands of others or circumstances. Decide now, give it to the Lord, and affirm it daily. Watch what He does as a result. You will never be sorry. Blessings always!

*Bill Brown, President*

Don't expect to have everything worked out or figured out right away. I was pressuring myself to know exactly what I wanted to do, where I wanted to live, etc. Just like any big change, it's a process. And you don't have to feel bad about yourself, no matter how long it takes to adjust. Just trust that God is directing your steps — that's what He does.

*Anonymous '05*

Find a Bible-teaching church that fits you and get busy serving the Lord and building godly friendships. And don't be a self-absorbed whiner; instead, support the leaders with prayer and encouragement.

*Mike DiCuirci '71, Professor of Instrumental Music*

At church, when you and your spouse choose to get involved in a ministry, do it together. Try to avoid the ministries that separate your time and efforts because soon you will be “ships passing in the wind” and spending a lot of time serving but not serving together! While your wife may want to work with little kids and guys may not be able to stand little kids, do it together and grow in it. It is so rewarding to minister together. We have kept this practice even as God has blessed us with children, and we now include our children, when possible, in ministering alongside of us.

*Butch Davis '92*

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23). Our hearts make up the center of our spiritual lives. Our spiritual nutrition is so important. Let me suggest a great exercise program. Be sure to have a daily intake of the Word of God. Second, keep exercising with prayer. Third, live every day with the expectation that Jesus Christ could return at any moment. Finally, trust God no matter what and without reservation.

I guess I should add one more thing: the Book of Revelation is an exciting book! Look for the majesty and glory of God throughout its chapters. Our God is an awesome God!

*Robert Rohm '68, Vice President, Christian Ministries*



# Goals and Life Lessons

You have heard this practically every day for the past four years in chapel, in class, in Bible study, in hall meetings, *everywhere!* But seriously, strive after Christ in *all* of your decisions. Do not worry about getting the greatest job with the highest pay, best benefits, and amazing opportunities for growth. Simply concern yourself with living a life that is glorifying to your Lord and Savior. When things are great, *praise Him*. When things are down, *praise Him*. Live your life for *Him*, and no matter what you are doing, you will be a success!

*Brett Buckingham '02*

It is great to graduate with the feeling that you are ready to “conquer the world.” After all, there are causes worth dying for. You just spent four years learning to think biblically. You have the tools you need. Be sure along the way you ask God to do a work inside of you. Discover where you need to grow, and allow God, through His Word and the body of believers, to shape your character. It is very empty to reach your forties and still not be self-aware. You need to always be a student of God’s Word, of the ever-changing culture, and of your own heart. Never stop growing. Your teachers poured their lives into you. Now, as you continue to grow, find someone else into whose life you can pour yours. I define discipleship as reproducing your life in someone else in a close personal relationship. It is risky, messy, and sometimes dangerous, but it’s rewarding.

Finally, do not be too hasty to measure what you have achieved. God keeps better score than man does. Always work for His “well done, good and faithful servant.” I only spent four years at Cedarville, but those years changed me forever. I also met my wife there, which in and of itself was worth it all.

*Stephen Holman '77*

When I graduated from college and didn’t know what the future held, I wish I would have known that instead of focusing on what I’m waiting to receive, I should turn my gaze to God and ask Him to make me “a more useful tool in His redemptive hands.”

*Anonymous '03*

Make God your #1. There is no other. Also, soak up every minute of chapel. Believe it or not, you’ll miss it. To this day, I can still recall some of the messages I heard!

*Sherri (Wilson) Patterson '84*

Let the Lord lead your steps. We may have our idea or plan of what we want to accomplish, but He has another plan for our lives. Being obedient to the Lord in all things is a great place to be!

*Heidi (Ryan) Lindley '87*

Enjoy discovering how small the world really can be. There are Cedarville grads everywhere!

*Anonymous '97*

Know what your favorites are (favorite food, restaurant, movie, song, store, flower, color, etc.).

*Anonymous '06*

Continue to pursue your life goals and dreams with an open mind, and always be prepared to walk through an unexpected door. Plans change and so do expectations. Stay flexible.

*Cameron Arch '06*

Life will get busy, and you and your close friends from college will go through different transitions. It will take work to stay in touch and keep up with what's going on in each other's lives, but it is well worth it! I have made great friends since graduating, but the friendships I formed while a student at Cedarville are priceless. Six years later we are scattered across the country, but I would still count them as my closest friends.

*Anonymous '04*

Do not take your friends for granted. Let them love you, love them well, and get over the small things. Appreciate people and all they have to offer.

*Anonymous '07*

Exercise! You have no homework! Plenty of time to stretch, cool down, and get going! Take advantage!

*Anonymous '09*

Don't go to bed angry. *Ever.*

*Anonymous '06*

Keep in touch with friends from college. Those are the relationships that last.

*Anonymous '69*

There is so much I didn't know when I graduated. I didn't have a job, didn't have a boyfriend, didn't have a clue where I was going to live or what I was going to do. I really didn't know anything about what was ahead of me. The thing is, I don't wish I had known the answers to all of those things when I graduated. I remember seeing so many of my friends getting married right after graduation or having their jobs lined up and ready for them. It wasn't until I left Cedarville and got a job that God provided in His time that I realized that I wasn't unusual. And that the "real" world is full of a lot more people like me than like the friends I graduated with. I felt like no one was walking the same path as I was. Turns out, not knowing where I was going or what I was going to do when I got there is actually more "real life" than I thought. And even now, married and with a job, I realize more than ever that I still don't know what is ahead of me. I realize now that while the "real life" part really stays the same, the future is unknown. Always. That's what's so great about God. He always provides, He always protects, and He is always faithful to lead in the right paths at the right times, even if that's not the cookie cutter life I thought I wanted. I wish I knew then just how faithful God would be and how He would continue to prove Himself each and every step of the way. And what a great story it is to tell how God orchestrated something into existence because you know it's 100 percent true.

*Anonymous '01*

When I graduated, I didn't realize how much I still had yet to learn — about life, working, being a godly woman, and what it means to live out my faith in everything I do — and I didn't realize that that's okay!

*Anonymous '03*

Build your relationship with God by seeking Him daily with prayer and reading His Word. Go out into the world with confidence and courage knowing that God will guide you, protect you, and provide for you. Any job that you end up doing, whether you work as an executive or a janitor, do your best, give your all, and work as if the Lord is your boss and you are seeking to please Him. Life is an adventure. Sit back and enjoy the ride.

*Anonymous '96*

Always live below your means. Don't waste too much time on the internet.

*Anonymous '01*

I *knew* that God would take care of me, but I don't know that I really *believed* it. Now I feel silly looking back on all the times I stressed about this, that, or the other thing. Not everyone's path goes according to plan, and I was stressed about life and was frustrated that God wasn't providing a quicker solution. But the biggest thing I've learned since graduating is not to just know that God will take care of me but to really let that sink in and believe it. Wow, that's hard. Especially after college when you are taught to take life by the horns and Career Services has told you about all the engineers working at Rolls-Royce and all the interns at the White House. You feel like you are supposed to get something of that stature, and when you don't, it's a letdown. But God's there. He's got a plan. He may not bring it about as quickly as the kid who grabs a big job and a signing bonus right after shaking Bill Brown's hand ... but something's coming.

*Anonymous '06*

If you're not already planning to get married, wait. Getting married makes your life really complicated — a good complicated, but don't rush it. Also, pay double on your loans if you have them (and you can afford to); it's nice to be ahead of the game if you miss a payment or your car breaks down. Also, don't sell yourself short because you went to Cedarville. I know kids who went to Dartmouth and Yale, and they've got nothing on you. If your major doesn't give you an obvious outlet for employment and you have to work a job to make money (this is what happened to me) volunteer to do something you love (on weekends and in the evening) and see if that volunteer network will lead to a different job. Stay accountable. When I left Cedarville, I made sure to establish a connection with a mentor in my new church. Christ created us to live in community, and while at Cedarville it's really easy to find community, but if you're like me, after school you have to work for it.

*Anonymous '05*

College is not the end all. There is so much more to do and learn. Once you leave campus, yes, there are adjustments to make, but life only takes off from graduation.

*Anonymous '04*

“Don't seek an opportunity to be offended.” Or, in more contemporary terms, “Let things roll.”

*Anonymous '03*

If you feel God is telling you to do something, listen and *do it* no matter how radical or crazy or awkward it may seem.

*Anonymous '06*

Be involved in the city you live in. Overseas missions are vital — but don't neglect your neighborhood! Tutor inner-city kids, feed the homeless, and get to know your nail lady, hair lady, mailman, neighbors, and the gas station attendants. Bring them a meal on Thanksgiving, get them a Christmas present, serve them!

*Anonymous '99*

Find the small things that make you happy. For example, I got new windshield wiper blades today, and I was excited. I haven't had functional wiper blades in a year and a half. Today was the first day I've successfully seen out of my windshield.

*Anonymous '98*

No one tells you the first year out of college is going to be possibly the hardest year yet. Nothing is familiar. If you move home, it's all different than when you left for college. If you're still friends with your old friends, they might not come back, so you're home but friendless. You have to learn to relate to everyone from home as who you are now, and you might not even be totally sure, but you're definitely not who you were four years ago. It's life, not academia anymore, and you have work and responsibilities. And if you move away, it's obviously unfamiliar, too. You don't even know where to find the fast food places. You have to Mapquest getting to work. What happens when your car dies? Where do you go, who do you trust? I have to cook? And what do I cook!? And clean, and where's all my money? And who's this company sending me a bill every month? Who do they think they are?! Can't I just defer payments until I gradu— Oh wait... But don't worry; you'll settle in. Get involved, get plugged in, and create a niche. Also, don't abandon your first love like the church of Ephesus. They had a lot going for them, Jesus commends them, then He lays the hammer down on them. The church was doing, doing, doing, and it looked great, but it really had no love for Christ. Keep your eyes on Christ and your heart in tune with Him. Seek Him first. Get plugged in and serve as a response of gratefulness and an act of worship. Do it because you love, not because you're obligated. Always stay away from religion and stay in a relationship with our Creator and Redeemer!

*Anonymous '07*

Be kind to yourself. You are your own worst critic. But don't let yourself off too easily and overlook things that you can do better or ways you can go deeper.

*Anonymous '09*

Don't follow a man that you're not married to yet! If God wants you together, He will make it happen long distance and then it will be worth the wait!

*Anonymous '69*

Marriage and being in love is not the ultimate goal in this world. If married, realize that for the rest of your life the other person will be put before you and your needs in every circumstance. And this is what love is.

*Anonymous '07*

There is life beyond Cedarville. I had so many great friends and wonderful times at college, but there are many blessed moments ahead of you.

*Anonymous '01*

After graduation, get involved in as many things as possible. Volunteer with a local nonprofit, join a civic group, get involved with a church, create personal and professional relationships. These will be the people that stay with you, and they will become the friends and peers that you will turn to for encouragement and guidance.

*Anonymous '98*

Don't let anyone else's plans or attitudes steal your joy. God will bring along the perfect husband, friend, job, home, etc., in His perfect time. Be content and thankful and watch God bless and provide.

*Anonymous '09*

Even if you don't have plans for after college, that doesn't mean that you don't have a great future. You don't need to be connected to someone; you don't need to have a job lined up. The more you need, the more you learn to depend on God, and the more you develop your relationship with Him. Take time to discover who you are! Don't rely on others to tell you who you are, make you who you are, or force you to be someone you are not. Discover who you are in God and be comfortable with that.

*Anonymous '97*

It's not about what you do, and it's not about where you go. It's all about doing what you do and going where you go with Jesus and watching Him work in and through your life. I'm not where I thought or hoped I would be when I graduated from college, but I'm where *God* wants me to be, and He is growing His kingdom and giving me *great* opportunities where I am now. All I strive to do is live my life faithfully for Him and enjoy watching Him work.

*Anonymous '07*

I wish I had realized that God already knew my future and that I just had to wait for him to reveal it to me. No need to stress over it. Now I remind myself of this almost daily. Seek Him through reading His word and worship, and He will direct you.

*Anonymous '98*

I know that a lot of times especially girls from Cedarville feel like they have no future if they are not with a guy. So sad. It seems like we females just try to find our identity in other people instead of who we are in Christ. So, being able to be independent of others and know who we are in Christ is so important, more than even a degree.

*Anonymous '97*

In all areas of life, "people will give you exactly what you are willing to accept," no matter if it's between employees, family members, or friends.

*Chuck McKinney, Supervisor of Pioneer Food Services*

I don't think I really understood that a daily, consistent walk with the Lord was all that I needed to know His will for my life. I think I spent a lot of time questioning what I should do instead of going out and doing something.

*Anonymous '07*

Stay disciplined. It is easy to fall off track and eat junk food, not exercise, not do your devotions, etc., when no one is watching! Honor God in all things!

*Anonymous '00*

Don't overkill on taking life too seriously. Take time to laugh — at everything! It may not be at the same time as others, but laugh anyway!

*Anonymous '69*

God's timing is absolutely perfect, and He'll put you where He wants you when He wants you to be there. You likely won't agree with His timing, but He *always* comes through. Our faith just needs to be exercised every once in a while.

*Anonymous '98*

Life after graduation has a steep learning curve if you don't have a good plan in place before commencement. Planning helps make the transition from college to the rest of your life smoother (but not necessarily easier). Have backup plans and be flexible. God doesn't always lead you where *you* plan on going. Flexibility helps when you are led down a path you don't expect. If you had asked me during my sophomore, junior, and senior years whether I saw myself spending time in either Iraq or Afghanistan, I would have laughed at you. Now having spent two deployments in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, I can attest to the usefulness of planning and flexibility in life. I can also say this with certainty: don't resist if you find your life being taken in an unplanned direction. God knows what's best for you and He'll take you where you need to go even if you initially resist.

*Chris Kelleher '03*

Go to every wedding, funeral, shower, birthday party, and graduation that you're invited to. It's important to witness the lives of those you love.

*Anonymous '06*

Don't be afraid to only plan one step ahead at a time in life. Many times God will lead you to a job or home to simply prepare you for the next step. If you plan ten years in advance, you'll only get frustrated when God shuts a door you hoped would open.

*Trevor Schuh '06*

Is there life after Cedarville? I loved Cedarville so much, I wasn't sure how I'd feel moving on, but post-college life has been wonderful. There are so many more adventures to come, whether that's getting married, living overseas, raising children, or serving faithfully in full-time ministry. God may have something completely different in mind for your life than what you're imagining, but it will be good!

*Anonymous '05*

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

*Bill Bigham, Vice President for Advancement*

You will find throughout life that everything you studied in college is useful in some way. It is important to use the training you received at Cedarville to show love and compassion to the people around you. It also is important to maintain life-long friendships with your college friends and professors, even if it is just a Christmas letter or birthday card every year. It is so important to have long-term friends with whom to share burdens and prayer requests as well as milestones and the joys of life.

*Sheila (Solomon) Beers '69*

Remember this: God works *all things* together for good. While choices you make may not bring an immediate “reward” or even positive results, that is the direction God led you in. So look for what God is teaching you and growing you in even through the difficulties that may arise. Read Genesis 12 and God’s call on Abram and realize that God’s calling may be to a place that takes time to cultivate and that it may take time to realize God’s rewards.

*Butch Davis '92*

When you travel, always take an extra pair of underwear with you.

*David Pensworth '91*

My advice would be to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” Ephesians 4:1 indicates we are called to a vocation and that we should take seriously in our walk as professionals. It is not about what we accomplish but about who we are in Christ. If we keep our focus on Him and try to please Him in all we do (Ephesians 10:5), God will use us to impact those around us. Stay close to Him, persist in all circumstances, and think more highly of others than yourself and all will go well. Blessings!

*John Gredy, Provost*

If you graduate from Cedarville and you’re not engaged or married (or even dating anyone), it’s okay! God will guide your life in that direction in His right time. And while you wait, make the most of your life.

*Andrea (Burnett) Dewhurst '06*

Remember that life is short and no one — no human — has it all figured out. However, we have been given a perfect guide, God’s Word, to help us along our way.

*Anonymous '05*

Best advice I ever got at Cedarville: Mrs. Wheeler, a comm arts prof, saw me in the parking lot by the ENS just weeks before graduation. She asked how I was doing. I was freaking out. She asked why. Well, everyone else knew what they were doing, had their lives planned, but I didn't. I thought maybe I should be further along than that after four years of college, and at that point I only had days to figure it out. I will never forget her wise words: "Oh, honey. You've got time." No one at Cedarville had said anything like this to me before. All anyone asks when you're a senior is "What are your plans?" But she said, "You're going to need a job, so get a job. Try something that sounds interesting. Maybe you'll love it, maybe you'll hate it. That's okay. If you hate it, get a different one. By the time you're to your thirties, you'll need to think about things like insurance and a 401(k), but that's a ways off. You've got all kinds of time." I've since told her how much that moment meant to me. And as long as I've worked in a college setting, it's been my joy to share this advice with students: Please don't peak at 21! It's too early to "have it all together." If your intent is to live the plan that you made at this point in your life, you close yourself off to whatever doesn't fit in your plan. There's so much more in the world that you haven't even heard of yet. Live with the intent to keep learning. Live open to the knowledge, experiences, friendships, and environments that will come.

*Carol Lee '96, Senior Communications Specialist*

Having graduated from college, many of you will have the opportunity to be wildly successful in life. But always keep in mind that the only thing worse than failure is succeeding at something that doesn't matter in light of eternity. Live your life "on mission" in the world, investing in what is eternal rather than temporal. A mentor of mine once told me that there are really only two things that God is going to take off this planet, two things that are eternal: God's Word and people. The secret to a life of significance is to wrap it around these two things. Immerse yourself regularly in the Word of God and take every opportunity to intentionally invest it into the lives of people around you.

My prayer for you as you graduate is that you won't just go where you can make the biggest paycheck but that you'll go where you can make the biggest dent for the kingdom of God! Never lose sight of the fact that this life is merely the prelude to something far greater! Live by faith, and don't get too comfortable here (Hebrews 11)!

*Mark Irving '94, Director, Discipleship Ministries*

Know the Heimlich maneuver, but take small bites and chew thoroughly  
so as not to find it necessary.

*John Mortensen, Professor of Piano*

The debilitating effects of fear can cripple you. Don't let them.

*Anonymous '05*

