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# Endings and Beginnings: Two Sides of the Coin

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# ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS: TWO SIDES OF THE COIN

May 1, 1998, is one of those milestone dates that stands out in my memory. I remember trekking across the East Beltline in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Sunshine Church where friends and families were gathering to witness their student cross the threshold to become a college graduate. But what is most memorable about that day was signing my first letter of employment at Wedgwood Christian Services, marking the start of 10 years of service with at-risk youth and families in the city of Grand Rapids.



My emotions were swinging from one extreme to another. Relief that I had secured a full-time job. Fear about whether I could be successful at it. A

sense of accomplishment that I had completed my degree. Concern about whether I had actually learned enough to be successful. Excitement to receive my diploma. Sadness to leave my friends.

I was beginning to understand something I would grow to understand more fully over time. New beginnings can only come about when something else ends. The birth of a child comes as pregnancy concludes. Spring begins as winter comes to a close. My first job at Wedgwood ended as doors opened for a new position at a church across the city.

Both sides of the coin of change are necessary and wonderful. Pregnancy is beautiful; a newborn baby is a precious miracle. College years were so formative; my first job was an incredible experience of learning to pour out God's grace on broken and hurting people. I wouldn't want to trade either one.

When I participated in the DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative in Grand Rapids, I came across this quote by author Marilyn Ferguson: "It's not so much that we are afraid of change or so in love with the old ways, but it's that place in between that we fear ... it's like being between trapezes. There's nothing to hold on to."

As our 352 graduates said goodbye to Dordt College and begin their careers and lives, many of them are experiencing this same truth. Endings are difficult, but necessary. New beginnings are exciting, yet scary. But there *is* something to hold on to—God's abiding presence, guiding us through.

AMY WESTRA



## ROOM REUNION

In March, five former Dordt College roommates met in Phoenix, Arizona, and went to church together 27 years later. Bottom: Rob Louters (Minnesota), Jonathan Gross (Arizona), Troy Broers (Iowa), Tom VanderWall (Michigan), and Richard Brouwer (California).

25-YEAR REUNION | FOOTBALL GAME

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SAVE THE DATE SOCCER

DEFENDER

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OCTOBER 13-14, 2017

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BUSINESS CONNECTIONS BREAKFAST THURSDAY, TOO, IF YOU WANT