On May 20, 2012, family and friends gathered in the new Fine Arts Center at Brentwood Christian School to celebrate as twelve students received their diplomas from Dr. Stan Reid, President of Austin Graduate School of Theology. Dr. David Garland, Dean of Truett Seminary at Baylor University, delivered the commencement address.

The degrees conferred in 2012 are:

**Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Christian Studies**
Christopher L. Bennett

**Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies**
Robert William Sharp

**Master of Arts in Theological Studies**
Robert Bryan Allen  
BS, Texas A&M University, May 1979
Dagne Tulu Balcha  
BA, Global University, Addis Ababa College, Spring 1999
Aaron Giles Brown  
BA, Harding University, December 2006
Cedric Demiko Goodman  
BS, University of Georgia, December 2008
Alfandre Joseph  
BA, Austin Graduate School of Theology, May 2011

Gregory Marshall Neil  
BBA, Stephen F. Austin State University, May 1984
Dorothy Hoyt Perkins  
BA, Austin Graduate School of Theology, May 2009
Matthew Keith Porter  
BA, Austin Graduate School of Theology, December 2009
Jonathan Lloyd Richey  
BA, Sam Houston State University, June 2003
Ron Douglas Slockett  
BA, Austin Graduate School of Theology, May 2005

The faculty and staff of Austin Grad wish these graduates all the best as they serve God and the church.
Just So Far and No More

This article is an abridged version of the commencement address written and delivered by Dr. David Garland on May 20, 2012. Dr. Garland is Dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University.

In Luke 22:21-39, Jesus gathered his disciples for a last meal and last words. In this passage we learn that the disciples still have a long way to go. We also learn of their ultimate hope. There will be failure, but just so far and no more.

After the words related to the cup, Jesus stops in mid-sentence and ominously says, "But look the hand of the betrayer is on the table."

At this announcement, the disciples become defensive and contentious. They try to ferret out the culprit. And then, believe it or not, they begin to quarrel about which one of them will be the greatest. One cannot think of a more inappropriate place or time for the disciples to squabble about who is the greatest. Their dispute sullies this holy moment and causes us to blush for them.

After three years with Jesus, these disciples still crave fame. Jesus talks about pouring out his blood for others, and they are wondering who will have his name on the biggest cathedral. This competitive spirit continues to infect the church and theology graduates. It is embarrassing.

Years ago, I had just started graduate school and I had just started as a rookie preacher at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. On most days, the graduate students gathered for lunch in the library lounge. A fellow graduate student was a veteran pastor serving at First Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

On Mondays, I hated to see this other pastor. He would always ask, "How many did you have yesterday?" I fell for it every time. In response to his question, I would say, "We had 60." He would then reply, "Yeah, well, we were over 600. We had so many people, we couldn't even teach the Sunday School lesson."

I would hear about it at our church, as well. "Boy, Brother Garland, they are really taking off down there at First Baptist Church. I hear that preacher is really great. Don't get me wrong, we think you are okay too." Okay, just okay?

"How many did you have yesterday?" I realized that when he asked me that question, he wanted to make it very clear that he was greater than I was—that he was the greatest pastor in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Then the news broke. This pastor was exposed for sexually abusing a student in the youth group. The scandal destroyed the pastor's family, that church, and his ministry. His conduct was despicable. It was disgraceful.

And I thought, "Hal! Now who is the greatest?" The Germans have a word for this kind of reaction—Schadenfreude—joy, over the shame of another. My reaction was no less disgraceful. I have heard it many times. People in churches say, "We are not doing all that well, but at least they are doing worse." This competitive spirit can infect all of us.

What is our reaction when we learn that our friend, who goofed off all the way through school, was hired by the church we really wanted? What happens when a colleague is praised for sermons that we feel are no better than ours? That jealousy can tear up churches.

Jesus says look. Look at all the grandees in the world, the potentates, the Lord High Poobahs, who pass themselves off as benefactors. They mask tyranny with a flourish of public works, all for the purpose of being acclaimed as a benefactor.

Jesus says let the greatest become like the youngest; let the leader become the servant. He asks, "Who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves?" The world and the disciples may think it is the one at the table, but Jesus says, "I am among you as one who serves."

Luke says nothing about what Jesus does to serve the disciples at table. His service must refer to pouring out his life's blood for others. By giving his life, he bestows salvation on all humankind. While the disciples are thinking of crowns; he is heeded for a cross. Do you want to be great? Pour out your life for others.

After this shameful exhibition of competitiveness...
by the disciples, Jesus does something that is utterly shocking to me. He focuses on the positive: these disciples have been with him through thick and thin, so as his father has given him a kingdom, Jesus gives one to them. Even with all of this petty bickering, the kingdom comes to them as a gift.

If I were in charge of this group, I would have said, "Father, we have to postpone this deal until I can round up a better crew to carry on. These boneheads will never make it." But Jesus does not do that. He sticks with the ones he picked, the ones he called. And God is going to give them a kingdom.

But before that happens, there will be more failures. Jesus says, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat." In the Greek, the "you" is plural. It can only be translated correctly as "you all." All the disciples will be sifted, but Simon will have the starring role in this drama.

Unaware, Simon replies, "I am ready to go to prison with you. I am ready to die with you."

But, he is not. He is going to take a nosedive. The one in the greatest danger of falling is the one who says, "That will never happen to me."

We all will go through rocky times. We all will fail. The only way to avoid failure is never to try; then you really have failed. Failure is not bad. It is unpleasant, but not bad. Failure does not have to be terminal. Sifting is not the end; sifting can purify. Jesus tells Peter, "I have pled for you…. When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Notice the order: Jesus gives Peter the good news before he tells him about the denial.

It is going to get tough out there. It won't be like it was when he sent them out the first time. Before they went out with nothing; now, they need to be prepared.

A crusty, veteran pastor was being given a tour of another preacher's beautiful new church building. The minister pointed out the mahogany pews, the exquisite stained glass windows, and the magnificent organ. When they were outside, he pointed out the gold-plated cross, shining on top of a soaring steeple, and proudly noted the cross cost a bundle. "Really?" replied the visiting preacher, "I can remember when Christians used to get crosses for nothing."

"Sell your cloak and buy a sword," Jesus tells his disciples. The point of the saying is lost on them. They still do not comprehend talk of giving one's life for others. But they know about taking life and they say, "Look, we already have two!"

Jesus replies, "That's enough!" If he means that is sufficient, then they may have been dismayed that Jesus was keeping defense spending down to two swords. But he really means "drop it, forget it." Yet, on the Mount of Olives, when the temple swat team arrives, they ask, "Shall we strike with the sword?"

Before Jesus answers, somebody takes a swipe with the sword and whacks off an ear. Then Jesus says, "No more," and he undoes the damage of their violence. The failure will go only so far and no more.

Back in my little church in Shepherdsville, I was doing pre-marital counseling with a couple. The young lady was a member of our church; her groom-to-be was not. I was surprised and gratified by their commitment to faith. I was asking about his faith, and the man said, "You know that pastor down at First Baptist? He led me to the Lord. I know he done wrong, but he led me to the Lord."

The reign of God does not depend on you, your failure, or your success. It depends entirely on God. When all seems lost, then God steps in. We are those who go when sent, obey when commanded, and give our lives in service to others, as our Lord gave his life for us.
Graduation at Austin Grad: A Memoir

With graduation exercises taking place in the new Iva Lea Worley Barton Theater on the campus of Brentwood Christian School, Austin Grad commencement exercises have entered an exciting new phase. Of course, it has been quite a journey. Our school traces its beginnings to the Bible Chair days when students who took Bible courses participated in regular graduation at the University of Texas. When I began my teaching at the school in 1972, I would often be invited by various colleges at the University to say a prayer at their separate services. One day about a decade later, I received a memo from the University. Henceforth, all prayers at the University commencement must follow certain neutral guidelines among which the officiant should not pray in Jesus' name. I responded courteously that some of these rules overstepped what I, as a Christian minister, was prepared to do. I never received another invitation.

In the meanwhile, our upper-division undergraduate program was developing strength and through Abilene Christian University we were able to offer a degree. Already we were coming to view ourselves as a seminary, so it was important that we credential our graduates. But in what sense? As a free church-related school we could not ordain. That is the province of the local church. So we developed a formal graduation service that frankly was a bit of a hybrid. It had many of the trappings of a traditional graduation but was liberally interwoven with the prayers, scriptures, and songs of a regular service of the Word. This service began early in the 1980’s and the basic format, including the same hymns, continues to this day.

Services were held at University Church of Christ (the mother congregation of Churches of Christ in Austin). Each graduation is memorable for those who are awarded degrees. Two are especially notable to me. In 1983 we graduated Ira Jolivet and Bob Gomes, two outstanding men who came to the school because of the initiative of the Fifth Ward Church in Houston. Arriving at University church on the evening of graduation we were astonished to see two chartered buses packed with members of Fifth Ward who were there to encourage their protégés. The singing and excitement of hundreds of African-American believers was of great encouragement to the school. In later years, both Jolivet and Gomes went on to receive many honors in higher education.

Depending on ones’ leanings in higher education, the second event may or may not be reckoned a highlight — although it certainly was memorable. For several years we had a steady stream of admirable young members of the Texas A&M college group come among us to take theological courses in preparation for mainly overseas missions. At graduation time, one of these prospective graduates arrived with a bevy of fellow Aggie students who, when his name was called, demonstrated the total spectrum of hoots and yells for which that institution is famous. I think it was about that time that we added a word in our program to the effect that all graduates are worthy of applause, but please withhold any demonstration until all names are announced!

With its unique mixture of pomp, solemnity, and excitement graduation is always a highlight of the year at Austin Graduate School of Theology. It continues to be a rallying point when we celebrate the end of the school year and join graduates old and new to honor what is most noble and precious about our faith and what we seek to accomplish. As we enter this new phase in the life of the School may these memories increase.

—Allan J. McNicol
Alumnus Profile
Meet Dr. Norman Horn

Norman Horn spent his early years in Austin. With his parents, he moved to St. Louis in 1995 and subsequently completed a BS in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the University of Missouri (Rolla). In 2005, Norman returned to Austin to pursue a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Texas. He was accompanied by his wife, Katelyn, who enrolled in the music department at UT.

When Norman became acquainted with Austin Graduate School of Theology he elected to enter the MATS Program in addition to his doctoral work at the university. He earned the Masters of Arts in Theological Studies with the class of 2011. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering in May, 2012. His very ambitious program in science and theology was a challenge, but both degrees were completed with high academic marks.

Dr. Horn's research in chemical engineering was in the field of polymer transport properties and the title of his dissertation is *Carbon Dioxide Sorption and Plasticization of Thin Glassy Polymer Films Monitored by Gas Permeability and Optical Properties.* He is currently employed by Frontier Nanosystems in Austin.

Norman and Katelyn, along with his grandmother, Francis Horn, and aunt, Sheryl Horn, are members at University Avenue Church of Christ. In addition to his secular job, Norman serves University Avenue as the director of music. University Avenue Church of Christ established the University of Texas Bible Chair which eventually became Austin Grad.

—Jack Wright, Senior Trustee

Sermon Seminar 2012

Once again Austin Grad's annual Sermon Seminar lived up to its reputation as a practical, hands-on seminar for ministers, Bible class teachers, and church leaders.

Our thanks to the presenters: Jim Reynolds, Brent Isbell, David Garland, Allan McNicol, David Worley, and Mark Shipp for making the 31st Sermon Seminar a success.

Held May 21-23, attendees had this to say about this year's seminar:

- "Each session was a nugget of gold to complement my teaching."
- "The presentations provide great background information that leads me to new, fresh approaches to the text."
- "Very biblical, instructive, and encouraging. What more could we ask?"
Keepers of the Flame

Non-Monthly Donors

Bill and Cynthia (M.A. '08) Agnell
Max and Peggy Annis
Barry and Lisa Arndt
Lynn Atkinson
Iva Lea Barton
Barbara JoAllan Bates
Roland and Jean Beasley
Edwin and Joan Biggers
Mary Birdwell
Mike and Susan Blevins
Bill and Carole Bradley
Darwin and Carolyn Britt
Robert Cairns
Don and Sue Conder
Seth Cowan
Dorothy Crecel
John and Kory Cummings
Steve and Sandra Durr
Cari East
Al and Carolyn Endsley
Donald Ericksen
Quinton and Shirley Everest
Melissa Gay
B. C. Girley
Wyatt and Helen Givens
Calvin and Rebecca Groen
Rita Hall
Robert and Nedra Hance
Thomas Hicks
Judy Hocott
Ed and Peggy Holley
Darrell and Pam Horn
Sheryl Horn
Charles and Clare Hudson
John and Frances Hunter
George and Dixie Hurst
Ann Hyson
Scott Ingalls
Gerald and Marjorie Kendrick
Bill and Leslie Kjelstrand
Terry Koonce
Shawn and Jessica Lawson
Chris and Cindy Lippe
Joel and Debbie Martin
Tim and Terri McGraw
Tim and Judith McKee
Jon and Melinda McLain
Jack and Karen Milikan
Henry Mitchell
James Moore
Hugh and Marianne Morgan
Leta Nicholas
Bob and Carol Ann Paddock
Bill and Gene Perkins
Theodore Perry (Cert. '05)
Bobbie Petty
Joe and Ann Ritchie
Andy and Jonna Rosas
Lois Ruff
Ike and Margaret Sawyer
Joe Shaver
Becky Stewart
Lewis Stewart
George and Annette Stillwagon
Fred and Sondra Strietemeier
Chuck and Angie (B.A. '02) Thier
Gary and Nancy Thompson
Gerry Timmerman
Terry and Sue Tottenham
James and Frances Uzelli
John Vander Weide
Norbert (M.A. '07) and Helen Vazquez
Anonymous
Newton Ward
Paul and Virginia Watson
William and Lois Watson
Earl and Tommie Ann West
John Wiegand
Aubrey Wilson
David and Sandra Wims
Harold Winslow
Will Ed and Cynthia Winters
Robert and Sandra Woodrow
Anonymous
Jack and Ruth Wright
Ramona Wright
M. Todd Hall (B.A. '00, M.A. '02)
Neil and Marsha Haney
Traci Hawkins (M.A. '08)
Frances Horn
Marshall and Margie Jennings
Miles Kaltenbaugh
Joe and Renee Kennell
Rodney and Lawanna Lloyd
Brooks and Mary Ann Loveless
Alian and Patricia McNicol
Rob and Mica McNicol
Jenny and Bill Millican
Arthur and Marilou Moseley
Ottie and Fran Olson
Wanda Primrose
Stan and Laynne Reid
Mark and Sheree Shipp
Dan and Lynn Snow
Matt (B.S. '89) and Angela Soper
Michael (B.A. '01, M.A. '03) and Valerie Sutton
Lonnie and Debbie Vickers
Dan Watson
Fred and Joan Weaver
Karen Weber
Robert and Sara Jane White
Robert and Lynne Williams
Mickey and Barbara Wireman

Memorial Gifts

Eddie Adams
Don and Gerene Raney
Darline Allen
Gwen White
Ella Beasley
Neil and Marsha Haney
Stan and Laynne Reid
Gwen White
Jim Beyer
Lori Bellows
Louise Beyer
Susan Brewer
Brandon and Allison Bains
Ray Burnett
Jenny and Bill Millican
Bill Claborn
Gwen White
Michael Cummings
Hubert and Joyce Dutton
Avis Jane Davis
Donald G. Davis, Jr.
Morgan Deaver  
Bob and Laurie Diehl  

Eloise Diehl  
Bob and Laurie Diehl  

Jo Ann Hampton Hackett  
Allan and Patricia McNicol  

Charles E. Heflin, Sr.  
Stan and Faith Rumph  

R. J. and Margaret Henderson  
Rodney and Lawanna Lloyd  

Bill Hughes  
Robert and Laurie Diehl  

John Robert “Buzz” Kennedy  
Rodney and Lawanna Lloyd  

Gene King  
Don and Gerene Raney  

Edith Lentz  
Gwen White  

Alfred Lindsay  
Gwen White  

Kenneth Lloyd  
Neil and Marsha Haney  

Bill and Eleanor Kennedy  
Rodney and Lawanna Lloyd  

Richard Mathews  
Frances Horn  

Tom McMichael  
Hugh and Elaine Gainey  

Jo McDavid  
Ray and Kay McGlothlin  

Allan and Patricia McNicol  

Mack Mead  
Dorothy Jim Plemens  

Stan and Laynne Reid  
Dan and Lynn Snow  

Charles Morin  
Myrtle Morin  

Sandra “Sam” Morris  
Hugh and Elaine Gainey  

Joyce Nix  
Bob and Laurie Diehl  

Tom Payne  
Roy and Jane Bullock  

Margaret Porter  
Dan and Lynn Snow  

Doniece Ramsey  
Jo McDavid  

Allan and Patricia McNicol  

John and Becki Ramsey  

Elaine Selfert  
Brandon and Molly Brydson  

Stan and Laynne Reid  

William A. Sloan  
Willa Patterson  

Olona Sloan  

Gene A. Snow  
Dan and Lynn Snow  

John and Billie Thompson  
Twylla Tranfaglia  

O. J. and Ann Weber  
Karen Weber  

Mike White  
Gwen White  

Joan B. Wilson  
Aubrey Wilson  

Living Honors  
Dana Blesing  
Bill and Karen Quiigley  

Bill Bradley  
Anonymous  

John Cummings  
Leland and Kaye Hodges  

Tommy and Mamie Downing  
Keith and Renee Porter  

Faculty and Staff of Austin Grad  
John and Cheryl (M.A. ’06) Halton  

Chad Fillmore  
John Cummings  

Charles and Ruth Fish  
Mary Payne (M.S. ’98)  

Rev. Katie Hayes  
Bobbie Huebner  

Rodney and Lawanna Lloyd  
Ed and Laura Mohar  

Norma Milligan  
Toye Bengston  

Jeff Peterson  
B. C. Girdley  

Stan Reid  
B. C. Girdley  

Stan and Laynne Reid  
Brandon and Allison Bains  

Bruce Shilcutt  
Mary Shilcutt  

Mary Shilcutt  
Bruce Shilcutt  

Bryan and Tracy Shilcutt  
Doug and Karen Vance  

Isaiah and Kim Vance  
Justin and Alisha Ward  

Brandon and Allison Bains  

Eugene Waters  
Jim and Dorothy McCall  

Michael Weed  
Dave Arthur  

James Branum (B.A. ’00)  
Neil Haney  

Renee Kennell  
Debbie Koehn  

Allan McNicol  
Jeff Peterson  
Stan Reid  

Hal Runkel (B.A. ’94)  
Celeste Scarborough  

Mark Shipp  
Jonathan and Amber Weed  

Jack Wright  
Michael and Libby Weed  

Otie and Fran Olson  
Dr. Michael R. Weed Scholarship Fund  
Bill and Cynthia (M.A. ’08) Agnell  

Victoria Beynon (B.S. ’80)  
Frankie Fowler (M.A. ’08)  

Norbert (M.A. ’07) and Helen Vazquez  
Gloria Weisenberger  

Toye Bengston  
Gwen White  

Toye Bengston  
Reba Bonner  

Hubert Williams  
Dorothy Williams  

Jack and Ruth Wright  
Michael and Libby Weed  

Gloria Weisenberger  

Corporations/Foundations  
AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign  
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program  
Community Foundation of North Texas  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
Fidelity Charitable  
Greater Houston Community Foundation  
Justin Paul Foundation  
Koonce Family Foundation  
Lubrizol Foundation  
Snow Oil & Gas, Inc.  
Sunset Ridge Church Foundation  
WaterStone  

Churches  
Andrews Church of Christ  
Bering Drive Church of Christ, Houston  
Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ, Austin  
Daugherty Street Church of Christ, Eastland  
Gail Church of Christ  
Gatesville Church of Christ  
Georgetown Church of Christ  
Hillcrest Church of Christ, Arlington  
La Vernia Church of Christ  
Lockhart Church of Christ  
Pond Springs Church of Christ, Austin  
Smithwick Church of Christ, Marble Falls  
Sunset Ridge Church of Christ, San Antonio  
University Avenue Church of Christ, Austin  
Western Hills Church of Christ, Austin  

This list represents gifts received October 2011 to May 31, 2012
Because They Loved Her

"Men did not love Rome because she was great. She was great because they loved her" (G. K. Chesterton). The stature of the church, a nation, or a school is proportionate to the devotion shown by those attending to its purpose and mission.

Austin Grad is what it is today because Christian women and men loved her. From the beginning those devoted to our school dreamed of it doing great kingdom work. They believed that Christian faith is lived more fully and more fruitfully when it is well informed and firmly grounded.

From its years as a Bible Chair at the University of Texas to its present role as a seminary, the focus of the curriculum at Austin Grad has been serious and careful study of the Bible. Key moments in the church’s history and the development of Christian theology are also considered in order to gain perspective on the Bible. The aim of such knowledge and understanding is the careful practice of the Christian faith.

This commitment to the Bible arises from a love for God, a desire to worship him, and willingness to participate in God’s purposes for all creation. There is something lovely about that being lived out in the context of Austin Grad.

The heart and soul of any school is found in its faculty. The academic credentials and accomplishments of the Austin Grad faculty are exceptional. More importantly, their scholarship is for the church. Through its mission Austin Grad does great things because our professors love the Lord, love the church, and love to teach the faith.

That love is reflected in the students attending Austin Grad. On a recent Saturday, four of them addressed a group of people who are committed to the school and its kingdom work. They briefly spoke about their backgrounds, their experience at Austin Grad, and their goals for Christian service.

These students represent a cross section of the Austin Grad student body. One is a star athlete from the University of Georgia. Another is a native Texan who spent time on a Sioux Indian reservation. The other two hail from Italy and Haiti respectively. Each of their stories is unique. However, a common thread is heard in all of them.

I invite you to view their inspiring presentations by visiting the Austin Grad website (www.austingrad.edu). Click on the names (Cedric Goodman, Andrea Hendrick, Pasquale Luongo, and Alphonse Joseph) to the left of the video camera icon.

Austin Grad could not hope to do the wonderful kingdom work it does without our friends and partners. Your prayers, service, and support are appreciated. Thank you for joining us in this labor of love done in the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of God. May God continue to do great things through Austin Grad.

—Stan Reid, President
New Program Being Implemented

"SET PHASERS TO EXEGETE!"
QEP
FROM TEXT TO WORD
DEVELOPING EXEGETICAL MESSAGES

If you visited the Austin Grad campus during the spring semester, you may have noticed several unique and humorous posters featuring members of the faculty and administration. The posters promote Austin Grad’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) entitled *From Text to Word: Developing Exegetical Messages*. A Quality Enhancement Plan is part of the process for re-accreditation of the school.

The goal of this QEP is to equip students to prepare messages that are faithful to the text of scripture and to deliver those messages in a pastoral way for the benefit of the church. Developing the plan was a joint effort of faculty, alumni, students, area preachers, and church members. Each group offered suggestions on how Austin Grad could best use its resources to bless the church spiritually.

It will require time to fully implement all the major components of the plan. These include adding new course requirements to the MATS program, as well as developing additional resources for student use.

Todd Hall, chair of the QEP development committee, had this to say, “With the addition of the QEP we believe students will be better equipped to teach a class or preach a sermon that encourages the listeners to live out the message of the text in various aspects of their lives. Austin Grad aims to provide scholarship that benefits the church. The QEP moves us closer to the ideal fulfillment of our mission to promote knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Christian faith by equipping Christians and churches for service in the Kingdom of God.”
Student Profile

Jeff Matteson

Jeff Matteson comes to Austin Grad via Russia and Montana. Born in Washington, D.C. to a university professor and a piano teacher, Jeff inherited a love of knowledge from his father and a passion for music from his mother and paternal grandparents. Both interests were instrumental in bringing him to Austin Grad.

Jeff became a Christian through the campus ministry at the University of Maryland and the efforts of a young woman, now his wife, who invited him to attend church with her. In the early 1990s Jeff was fasting and praying, seeking a way he could minister. At the same time, the North Atlanta Church of Christ was looking for a family to mentor a congregation in Barnaul, Russia. Jeff and Jill were recommended for that ministry and in 1995 the family departed for a two year mission assignment. They stayed seven years.

During their time in Barnaul, Jeff and Jill hosted Friday night “singings” in their home. Those gatherings were an opportunity for the members of the congregation to learn various songs and hymns. One of the participants was Konstantin Zhigulin. Jeff encouraged him to compose hymns specifically for the church in Russia. As a result, Konstantin formed Psalom, a Christian ensemble that has performed extensively in the United States and Russia. While Jeff toured with the group, he met several Austin Grad alumni. Eventually, Psalom came to Austin and visited the school. The faculty and the school impressed Jeff.

When Jeff and his family returned to the United States he resumed his occupation as a stone mason and settled in Montana. Fueled by his love of knowledge and his experience with the school Jeff wanted to complete his undergraduate degree at Austin Grad. Only one thing stood in his way—he needed a job. Enter the Luling Church of Christ where he now serves as pulpit minister.

According to Jeff, his work at Austin Grad enables him to present in-depth sermons that focus on biblical truths. He says, “In classes, I am constantly reminded of the mission of the church: to bring the gospel to a dark world.”

Because of his studies, Jeff is more aware of the breadth of knowledge one needs to be a good minister. While technology makes a vast amount of theological information readily available, at Austin Grad, Jeff is learning how to evaluate that information and to be discerning about what he embraces.

Jeff is grateful for the opportunity God has given him at Austin Grad and for the financial scholarship he received. He would like for the friends and supporters of the school to know what a blessing it is to study under professors who provide such personal attention to the students. He hopes that each supporter will actively seek to promote the school to potential students.

After graduation, Jeff plans to complete a Master of Divinity degree and a doctorate. Eventually, he wants to serve in China.
Looking Beyond

The thought of reaching beyond our lives to influence future generations is both sobering and exciting. Faith and Christian values are sustaining forces just as Jesus promised.

The mission of Austin Grad is to equip men and women and churches for service in God's Kingdom. This is accomplished through high quality theological education. Perhaps you have contributed to this worthy mission with your personal gifts.

With a gift in your will, your faith and your Christian values can influence others at Austin Grad far beyond your earthly life. Please consider including Austin Grad in your will or your other estate plans.

Below is suggested wording that may be of help to your advisers in preparing your will.

Suggested wording for including Austin Grad in your will:

• I give, devise and bequeath to the Institute for Christian Studies, dba Austin Graduate School of Theology, a not-for-profit, (501)(c) (3) seminary located in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the sum of $________.(*) to be used by its Board of Trustees to support the mission of the school

(*) or, “_____% of my residuary estate…”

(*) or, “my entire estate including property, both real and personal…”

• For other specific bequests, contact Austin Grad for suggested wording.

Looking Beyond is available in a brochure that you may wish to share with your advisers or others. We will be happy to send you as many as you need without obligation.

—Neil Haney
Director of Development
Welcome...

Daniel Napier and Keith Stanglin are using the summer months to settle in at Austin Grad. Both will teach a full complement of classes in the fall. Consider enrolling in a class and get to know these new faculty members.

**Undergraduate Courses:**

Dr. Stanglin will teach *Interpreting the Bible* (Monday, 2-4:40 PM), *History of the Church* (Tuesday/Thursday, 9-10:15 AM), and *Story of Israel* (Tuesday, 7-9:40 PM).

Dr. Napier will teach *Christian Spiritual Formation* (Monday/Wednesday, 3-4:45 PM).

**Graduate Courses:**

Dr. Napier will teach *Introduction to Theology* (Tuesday, 1-3:40) and *Christian Mission* (Thursday, 7-9:40 PM).

Go to http://www.austingrad.edu/admission_schedule.html for a full listing of all fall courses.

www.austingrad.edu