"The Perfect Fit"

That's how John Teupel, chairman of the pastoral search committee for Faith Bible Church in Spearfish, South Dakota, described their new pastor. That pastor, Gregg Dennison (M.Div.'04), is among the first group of Grace Advance Academy graduates. He and the small but faithful flock in Spearfish represent the goal of Grace Advance—to provide leadership for developing churches. The following excerpt from Mr. Teupel illustrates how God is using Grace Advance a graduate and TMS to build and strengthen His church.

"In April of 2011, elders from Grace Community Church paid a visit to our fledgling group in Spearfish. We were much encouraged by the visit and committed to proceeding with a candidate enrolled in the Grace Advance program. In June, Gregg and Kari Dennison came to Spearfish to candidate; by the end of the weekend, we were convinced that the Dennisons were the perfect fit for our group. The Dennisons arrived in Spearfish at the end of August and within two weeks, our church had outgrown the home we were meeting in and we moved to a
vacant building belonging to one of our members for our weekly worship service.

In September, we began having leadership meetings with GCC leadership using Skype. The love and commitment of these two men shown to our group cannot be overstated. We will be eternally grateful for the generosity of John MacArthur and Grace Community Church in helping us to launch Faith Bible Church. We could not have done this without your assistance. What a privilege and joy to see God orchestrate the church start-up in Spearfish! It began with a committed group of 20 believers (now close to 50), including a core of six men, who shared a deep hunger for expository preaching of the Word of God. By coming alongside that group and Gregg Dennison, the TMS graduate clearly called by God to be their pastor/teacher, we have seen God form the beginnings of Faith Bible Church of Spearfish.”

Similar blessings could be shared by eight other Grace Advance graduates and their respective churches. Four men who were ordained to pastoral ministry by Grace Community Church are Brian Swillum (M.Div.’10, Calvary Baptist Church, Escanaba, MI), Geoff Kirkland (M.Div.’08, Th.M.’09, Christ Fellowship Bible Church, St. Louis, MO), Jason Gillespie (B.Th.’11, Grace Community Bible Church, Columbia, SC), and Gregg Dennison.

For more information on these churches or Grace Advance, visit www.graceadvance.org.

Yours for the Master,

Bob White
Vice President for Development and Operations