Michael Butler is just finishing his first month of training as a TMS Student. He shared his experience of attending a TMS Alumni Regional banquet in 2011. It was "the deciding factor" in his choice of the seminary he would attend.

"The Master's Seminary Alumni dinner was a life changing experience for me. The evening included great food, fellowship, songs of worship, and even expository teaching. The banquet formed a unified system of thought; as though everything that took place served to make one voice, making one succinct point: God's promises are yes, and in Him Amen (2 Cor. 1:20).

God is sovereign throughout history, over all creation, and He molds the lives of each man on a very personal level (Psalm 33). Coming to terms with this aspect of God’s character has been difficult for me. Since I was a young boy I have understood the calling of God upon my life for ministry. However, after experiencing many disappointments, I had lost all hope of ever attending seminary. But God’s faithfulness abounded despite my faithlessness. At the opportune time, a loving and gracious church was placed in my path, and after several petitions from the members I agreed to attend the TMS dinner.
I was overwhelmed with timidity as the night of the event drew near. God graciously provided a brother who accompanied and encouraged me. I hate to admit that I was afraid. It was just that I didn’t want to suffer another rejecting blow to my heart. But God’s grace abounded all the more. He began to use each person at my table to chisel away at its hard exterior and melt me with their deep love for Him. As the evening progressed, I heard the preaching of God’s word in a clear and authoritative manner. My sorrow suddenly turned to joy and I understood that God had orchestrated the entire event to direct me to TMS. In that moment the words of Scripture came flooding back into my mind,

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you  (John 15:16)"

In response, I quietly bowed my head and lifting up my request to the Father I prayed, “In the name of Jesus Christ, oh God, please send me.”

If you are interested in attending one of the three TMS Alumni Regional Banquets this Fall in either Boston, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., or Greensboro, North Carolina, visit www.tms.edu and register between now and October 1st, 2012.

Yours for the Master,

Bob White
Vice President for
Development and Operations

We Train Men as if Lives Depended on It!

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