



INSIDE COMMENCEMENT 2 / GENEROSITY 2 / JOSHUA TREE 3 / ALUMNI CONNECT 4

# *The* Western FRONT

*where the gospel meets the world*



## Grateful for Your Generosity... It Matters!

*By Charmaine Williams*

Thank you for all the ways you have supported Western Seminary in word, thought, prayer and deed. Some of you have given your time through volunteering and sharing our story with prospective students. Others of you have extended monetary gifts and other in-kind items or lavishly offered your expertise and talents.

### Year In Review

Gifts great and small helped sustain Western Seminary in tangible ways. Collectively, hundreds of individual gifts enabled us to provide much needed scholarships, financial aid, services, programs and facility supplies. Last year, gifts of \$100 or less at all campus locations contributed thousands of dollars each month to further gospel-centered ministry training.

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## Commencement 2011

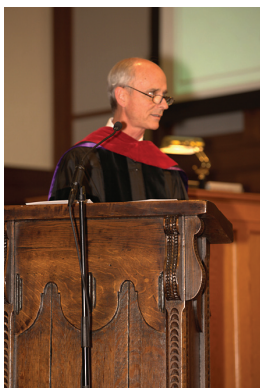
On June 26, Western Seminary honored and celebrated the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2011. This year's class consisted of 24 men and women, who received their degrees in the presence of friends, family, faculty, and alumni. An alumna and currently a chaplain, Margaret Ashforth, led the corporate singing of two poignant hymns. In his commencement address, Gary Tuck painted a

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### "Change Agent" Gets Hooded

Western professor, Dr. Steve Korch, received the Doctor of Ministry degree during the Commencement Service. He completed his dissertation entitled "Practicing a Theology of Change (A Study of How a Theology of Change Affects the Design of Ministry in the Local Church)." Dr. Korch rose to receive his degree to a standing ovation, led by the graduating class of 2011.





## Commencement

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biblical picture of “good shepherding,” a role not exclusive to pastors. He exhorted the graduates that effective shepherding depends on a passionate pursuit of the Great Shepherd, who is not the means to success or burgeoning ministries or even holiness. Rather, knowing Jesus is the end, while effective shepherding is its byproduct. Dr. Jeff Garner gave the final charge to the graduating class echoing the words of the Lord to make disciples. The ceremony concluded with the graduates kneeling as Professor Donna Rhodes led in prayer and Dr. Matthew Lea gave the benediction. Also participating in the service from the Portland Campus were Western President Randal Roberts, Dr. Rob Wiggins (Registrar), and Dr. Mark Cortez (Academic Dean).



## Generosity

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In May, quite a few of our students participated in “Meals in May.” Dining and spending their lunch money on campus while connecting with friends and faculty, filled our campus with warmth, comfort, and support for one another. We hope to continue to provide food in the future and raise money beyond our costs to meet some specific needs of Western students both inside and outside the classroom.

### Moving Ahead

June 30 marked the close to our operating budget for 2010-2011, which included our move to this beautiful campus in Santa Clara! With a new campus come new expenditures and financial needs. In the midst of our nation’s economic slowdown, Western students need additional financial help.

We want to keep seminary training at Western accessible to all God has called into ministry. Student tuition covers 80% of educational costs while the remaining 20% depends on each of us contributing as generously as God prompts us. Continual giving of your time, talent and treasure is essential to the progression of our strategic mission to serve our students and Bay Area churches. By providing graduate level training, we help equip our churches with gospel-centered spiritual leaders.

Western wants to support the ministry work of our graduates locally and throughout the world. Your gifts have a multiplying effect because your support of our students, whether pastors, lay leaders, missionaries, or counselors, eventually enables them to share what they have learned with a world hungry

for answers to life’s questions and challenges. Additionally, alumni and student giving is regarded as one of the ways to measure student satisfaction. Many institutions and foundations consider alumni gift participation when awarding grants for future student programming. Even modest donations can give a valuable boost to grant awards and our academic standings in the communities we serve.

If you have yet to take the opportunity to partner with Western Seminary financially, please consider a one-time donation or a gift pledged over a period of time to a designation of your choice. We are most grateful for your investment in this kingdom work and hope to soon share with each of you all the ways that God has sustained us through our new move to Santa Clara.

*We are here to assist you with your questions. You can also go online to [www.westernseminary.edu](http://www.westernseminary.edu) (Make A Gift) or feel free to call Charmaine Williams at 408.356.6889 x412 or email [cwilliams@westernseminary.edu](mailto:cwilliams@westernseminary.edu).*



# Journey to Joshua Tree

By Brent Jones, MDiv in General Ministry, Class of 2007

*Brent chronicled his recent journey to scenes captured in Anton Corbijn photos of the prolific rock band U2. He visited the Joshua Tree, made famous by the U2 album of the same name, and shares his reflections.*



From the 190 junction at Olancha, I go on memory alone to find the venerable, old (and deceased, since 2000) tree.

The quiet serenity that greeted me the morning of my first visit to the tree in late '09 contrasted sharply with the gale force winds that swept the high desert this time. They were the heralds of the storm that would bring a stunning blanket of snow to the Sierras that night, but they were quite the nuisance for an Anton Corbijn wanna-be trying to look the cool, unconcerned subject while his tripod and only camera were threatening to take flight.

The wind aside, I enjoyed this trip to the tree. Much different from the first visit, during which the hunt was half the fun. Gone was the U-Tube, replaced by a much sturdier, green, plastic, weather-proof storage crate. All of the previously-scattered mementos had been gathered into the box, along with the guest books, for safe keeping. The only addition was a brass plaque a few feet from the tree reading "Thank you, lads!" Indeed!

I found the same notebook Pat and I signed on the way to the Rose Bowl and registered my attendance once again. I spent about an hour there, getting a few shots, but also enjoying some sweet, sweet solitude and some awesome time with the Father. I love that this place is here. I love it that the GPS coordinates aren't readily available, and that it hasn't been turned into a tourist trap. I hope it'll remain for generations of fans to enjoy.

The Joshua (Hebrew: *Yeshua*) Tree: The singular tree for U2 fans that alludes so cleverly to that other "tree" so special for all believers... U2 fans or not.



## WESTERN ALUMNI GOING TO SJ 'QUAKES GAME

**JULY 30 AT 7:30 PM**

**BUCK SHAW STADIUM, SANTA CLARA UNIV  
TICKETS ONLY \$15**

Join other Western alumni, students, staff and faculty and "feel the noise." Reserve your space by emailing Carrie Priest at [carriepriest@westernseminary.edu](mailto:carriepriest@westernseminary.edu) and leave your name and phone number. RSVP by July 22. You can pay on game day by check.



## Alumni Connect

One thing was clear at the *Connect* alumni gathering on campus this past spring, once you are Dr. Tuck's student, you will always be his student.

As 40 Western friends gathered for dinner, Dr. Gary Tuck spoke to us the way he did when we were in his class, with a contagious passion for Christ to be central in all things. Leaning over the podium with that familiar tone of urgency, he bemoaned the loss of Jesus in many of today's sermons and reaffirmed that real change happens when Christ is central in our message. With the same concern he had for us when we were students, Dr. Tuck exhorted us to be His faithful messengers, whether as pastors, counselors or whatever our ministry direction.

We experienced inspiring fellowship at "Connect," the dinner event for alumni, faculty and soon-to-be graduates on March 31 at the new campus location in Santa Clara.

Professor Donna Rhodes shared her story of following God's call. MFT alumni gathered in groups to speak with Dr. Judith Needham-Penrose. Alumnus Travis Marsh and Dr. Steve Korch led another group discussion about life and opportunities after Western.



## Alumni Stay Engaged

### Grow

- **Leadership Summit Special Rate.** All Western alumni can attend the Leadership Summit at Church on the Hill in San Jose for a substantial discount. When you register online (<http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership>), enter priority code "SUMHK" for a \$79 rate (that's \$190 off the regular rate). We will be hosting an alumni lunch at the Summit on Aug 11 with Western President Randy Roberts. You will need to RSVP for the lunch by replying to **Greg Moon**.
- **Free Alumni Audit.** Western graduates can audit one course per academic year for free! Certain courses do not apply, and there may be limitations due to class size. Registration is required. Contact **Carrie Priest** for more info.

### Give

- **Host an Alumni Gathering.** They take place throughout the year in different regions, where alumni network and catch up. Usually, a Western professor joins us while we share a meal together. If you would like to host an Alumni Gathering in your home or church, please contact **Jeff Mammen**.
- **Proofread** a first year student's paper.
- **Mentor** recent graduates just starting out in their ministry field.
- **Donate** needed items such as computer software, hardware, server components, a coffee maker, framed artwork or snacks for students.
- **Give** financially, including pledged gifts over a period of time, stocks or matching gifts to further the mission of Western Seminary here in the Bay Area.

### Tell

- Give us **updates** from your life and ministry via email or meet with **Charmaine Williams** in person.
- Send digital **photos** of you.
- **Notify** us of any changes to your address and contact info.

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