(This letter was sent to the 2014 RTS graduates on June 9, 2014)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:2), and warm congratulations to you on the occasion of the completion of your studies here at Reformed Theological Seminary. All of our campuses have now concluded their commencement exercises for the 2013-2014 school year (and this also marks the end of my first academic year as Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary), so I want to take this opportunity to write you a word of encouragement and exhortation.

I know that the completion of your degree required hard work, perseverance and sacrifice. The board, faculty and staff of RTS all join me in expressing their commendations to you on this significant achievement. It has been our aspiration to help equip you for life and ministry.

No matter what the Lord is calling you to do after seminary, we are all called to be disciples: followers of Jesus. That is a dynamic and ongoing calling. We will never be done with it in this life. We will never have “arrived.” We are pilgrims here. This world is not our home. I hope this is an important part of your own self-understanding and that you will deliberately pursue life and ministry as a disciple, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit.

I recently heard Geoff Sacket, Dean of Students at RTS Washington, define discipleship as “an enacted commitment to follow Christ in terms of devotion, service and holiness.” At RTS you have already learned that Christian discipleship requires strong Christian friendship, mutual accountability, and the means of grace (the ministry of the word, sacraments and prayer in the context of the church). Continue to avail yourself of these things in the days ahead.

It has been our privilege to serve you in this season of your studies at RTS, and we want you to continue to feel a part of the RTS family. We desire to continue serving our graduates in a variety of ways and we want to continue to foster our ongoing fellowship in the years ahead.

In particular, I would remind you that we are still here for you. So visit us, call or write us, and keep us posted on what is happening in your life and ministry. When you move, send us your new address so we can keep up with you. We want to stay in touch and follow your ministry.

We want to do a number of tangible things to serve you as an RTS graduate and to help you in your ministry.

- Provide special RTS lectures and events, on and off campus, free of cost to you
- Provide free, fresh course material via RTS on iTunesU for your ongoing edification
• Sponsor denominational gatherings for our alumni to encourage ongoing friendships
• Continue to mail (or email) you the Ministry & Leadership magazine (hardcopy or digital)
• Continue to provide you a discount on purchases at the RTS bookstores
• Continue to grant you borrowing privileges from the library to facilitate your personal study
• Provide you access to the RTS Alumni Portal, a social website to update your ministry and family information and to connect with other RTS alumni.
• Pray for you, your family and ministry (please send us your prayer requests!)
• Call you, write you and/or visit you, just to check on you and encourage you
• Send you the RTS E-Newsletter

We'll also ask you to pray for us and to support the ministry of RTS in various ways. One of the most important is in your counsel and encouragement to prospective students. We hope that you will want to recommend RTS to those who are considering seminary. Your influence is often key in a person's decision about where to study and prepare for ministry.

Keep on trusting in Christ, studying the word and living for God’s glory, and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you (2 Corinthians 13:14), now and always.

Your friend and fellow servant,

Ligon Duncan, PhD
Chancellor and CEO
John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology