

VITA

Ryan Krauss was born on March 17, 1974 in Grand Rapids, MI. He grew up in a home where he knew he was loved and his parents were working hard to provide for his needs. He grew up going to church and to a religious school, but not really knowing God. He chased after academic success and an engineering career with reckless abandon. He expected to find fulfillment in doing challenging work that would allow him to contribute to society. His pursuit of an engineering career eventually led him to Michigan Technological University. That was a very strange time for him. He arrived as an idealist who thought he knew everything and who was convinced that an engineering career would fulfill him. He left realizing that he knew much less than he thought and feeling emptier than ever. By the Grace of God, he spent three summers working in the automotive industry. He had the best job a person could hope for, but he was still empty inside. Engineering had failed to fulfill him. Starting the job he had always hoped for now looked like a death sentence. He decided to go to graduate school to put off getting a job. Looking back, it is obvious that God had been orchestrating things in his life to bring him to Blacksburg. His arrival at Virginia Tech in the fall of 1996 was the beginning of many changes in his life. He met many people who were very different from anyone he had ever met. They got him to read the Bible for himself. Somehow, reading the Bible for himself had not entered into his idea of religion. He began to read a chapter of the Bible and pray about it everyday. In the process, he came to know Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior and his life began to be transformed. Praise God! He was born again sometime in the fall of 1996. He is now determined to spend his life growing in his relationship to God and helping others do the same. To that end, he is returning home for a semester to spend some much needed time with his family and hopefully grow in humility and wisdom as he tries to teach statics at Grand Valley State University.