For the Glory of God

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

GORDON CONWELL
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that you are currently reading the third edition of Gordon-Conwell’s Annual Report. It seems like just yesterday that we began putting the first edition together almost three years ago.

But much has changed since then. You’ll read about many of the changes in the pages that follow. For example,

• The Great Room on the Hamilton campus has been remodeled (many alumni audibly cheered as they read that last sentence).
• The Partnership Scholarship Program continues as a runaway success. For those who don’t know, the Partnership Program provides a full scholarship as well as stewardship training.
• At the JFK Library in Boston, our Boston campus held what will become an annual Signature Event honoring those who are making an impact in their community.
• The Jacksonville campus has a new home. First Presbyterian was a great place, but the needs of the growing campus necessitated a move. This summer, they relocated to a new facility that also houses a church, Christian radio station and a Christian counseling center.
• A new Lutheran Studies Program was inaugurated at the Charlotte campus.

Yet, for all that has changed, there is much that remains the same. And for that, we are thankful. Gordon-Conwell is still committed to Jesus Christ and his Church. If you haven’t recently, I would encourage you to visit our website and read our mission statement. It is available here:

www.gordonconwell.edu/mission-statement

As always, I covet any thoughts, comments or suggestions for this publication.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Colaneri
Director of Communications & Marketing
mcolaneri@gordonconwell.edu
IT IS SOMETIMES NOTED THAT, “AS GOES THE SEMINARY, SO GOES THE CHURCH.” Because seminaries train men and women for various ministries of the Church of Jesus Christ, they have a huge impact on what happens in the Church and in local churches around the globe.

Seminaries impact the theological/biblical thinking of students and thus, churches. They shape the spiritual lives and gifts for ministry of students and hence, the churches. Seminaries have a major role in how the Church conceives and carries out its mission in the world. As goes the seminary, so goes the Church.

For more than four decades, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary has remained committed to historic orthodoxy, spiritual vitality, a Christian presence in culture and fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord. We have sought to embody a thoughtful evangelicalism that provides leadership for the Church in all its ministries: pastorate, education, counseling, missions, para-church and lay ministries. We are grateful to God for his faithfulness this past year as we continue to carry out the mission and vision of the seminary.
Enrollment

A recently released study by the Auburn Institute shows that seminaries in North America have experienced declining enrollment over the past six years.

Even evangelical seminaries that had unparalleled growth through the 1990s and early 2000s have either leveled off or begun to decline. In contrast to these trends, Gordon-Conwell experienced increased enrollment in 2013, the third year in a row. The fall 2012 official registration on all campuses and programs was 2,033, making us the fourth largest seminary in North America according to Association of Theological Schools data.

Why is Gordon-Conwell growing when most seminaries are not?

When we ask students why they choose to study with us, the most frequent response we hear is, “It’s strong academics and its spiritual vitality.” Many prospective students want to study in a context that takes God’s Word seriously, engages the culture, fosters ministerial formation and enables students to grow in their relationship with God. Our spiritual formation is enhanced not only by the exceptional ministry of the Pierce Center for Disciple-Building, but by chapel, classes and small groups.

Campus Revitalization

A significant part of our comprehensive campaign has been campus revitalization at Hamilton and Charlotte.

The Hamilton campus is now graced with a beautiful new stone wall entrance and, for the first time, lighting from the main entrance into the campus. New signage, including street names in honor of our founders, is found throughout the campus. The Alumni Hall, finished more than a year ago, has been a catalyst for student forums, conferences and special dinners.

The recently completed Pierce Great Room is providing space for student gatherings, meetings with mentors, informal study and simply hanging out with friends. The Pierce Center also has new offices that facilitate its significant ministry on our campus.

Giving

We are thankful to God for one of the most successful years of giving in the seminary’s history.

Our Education Fund topped an all-time high of $2.9 million, and our overall giving, restricted and unrestricted, was $9.4 million. One of the major boosts to our Education Fund has been the unique Partnership Program in which students elicit donors for the seminary and receive not only a full-tuition scholarship, but training in finance and stewardship. Our comprehensive campaign, “Serving the Church with Faithfulness and Innovation,” went over the halfway mark towards the goal of $64.5 million. The campaign includes gifts for special projects, planned giving and our Education Fund over five years.
Strategic Partnerships

Gordon-Conwell exists to serve the Church. Thus, strategic partnerships with other like-minded organizations and denominations fit well with this commitment. Partnerships have long been a part of the seminary’s ethos.

At Charlotte, plans are underway for a new addition, the Hall of Missions, which will provide much needed classrooms, faculty/staff offices, a large gathering room and space for exhibits and artifacts. Fundraising for the project continues, and we hope to break ground in early spring.

Our Jacksonville campus has moved to a new location that provides excellent offices, classrooms and meeting space, and is easily accessible from the broad areas surrounding the city. The campus reflects good stewardship by sharing space with other significant Christian ministries in the Jacksonville area. The library has room to grow, and the campus is now positioned to accommodate growing numbers of students.

At Boston, our dean, Dr. Mark Harden, continues conversations with the city and other nearby organizations to explore potential parking venues that would enhance the neighborhood and be a significant help to our students and staff.

The Boston campus has partnerships with other urban centers and organizations such as the Black Ministerial Alliance and Emmanuel Gospel Center.

At Charlotte, we have developed a partnership with the newly formed North American Lutheran Church, which has established a Lutheran House of Studies on our campus. Charlotte has also developed a partnership with InterVarsity in that region, and is offering classes for their staff (and others) in Raleigh.

The Jacksonville campus is partnering with Salem Communications, a leading Christian radio broadcaster, Internet content provider and magazine and book publisher, through its rented facility.

At Hamilton, we have partnerships with the Anglican Church of North America, InterVarsity and World Vision (for student internships). Our Hispanic Ministries program has a vital partnership with the Church of God of Prophecy and institutionally we have partnerships with the Advent Christian Church and the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

In addition to these and other organizations are informal partnerships with countless churches, denominations and mission organizations, where our alumni serve and where current students are doing Mentored Ministries. These all reflect our deep commitment to serve the Church of Jesus Christ around the world.

We are encouraged by what God is doing in and through Gordon-Conwell. Our faculty members are deeply committed to an education and formation process that makes a salient difference in the lives of our students. Our administrators and staff work diligently and faithfully to ensure that our vision is carried out. Our students and alumni reflect that vision of Gordon-Conwell: “To advance Christ’s Kingdom in every sphere of life by equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically.”

We are thankful to our many friends who work with us to make this possible.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

1. Matthew Brayshaw, MAME
   Hamilton Campus
   P. 13

2. Carole Anne Hallyburton, MAR
   Charlotte Campus
   P. 15

3. Catherine Miller, M.Div.
   Boston Campus
   P. 17

   Jacksonville Campus
   P. 19

5. Linda Leon, D.Min.
   Emerging Generations Track
   P. 21

6. Benjamin Feliz, MAR
   Hispanic Ministries Program
   P. 23
A Year of Growth for the Hamilton Campus
HEATHER KORPI & RICHARD LINTS, PH.D., DEAN OF THE HAMILTON CAMPUS

Gordon-Conwell’s main campus in Hamilton, MA, welcomed a steady influx of new students this year. Enrollment numbers were on par with last year, with 939 total students in the fall.

Completed and dedicated just over a year ago, Alumni Hall has become an integral part of campus life and has proven to be an extraordinary space for conferences and forums. We have recently hosted events featuring renowned sociologist Dr. Peter Berger, Representative Frank Wolf (VA-10), and former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts Scott Brown. We extend a special thanks to the many generous alumni whose donations made this important renovation project possible.

After the completion of Alumni Hall, remodeling plans and construction began on the Great Room, which has been repurposed into a student study center and event venue. We are grateful for the incredibly generous donor who funded the renovations and beautiful new furnishings in the Great Room and the lobby between Alumni Hall and the Great Room. In addition, this particular gift allowed for a complete renovation and refurbishing of the Pierce Center for Disciple-Building offices, which are now housed on the fourth floor of Kerr, next to the Pierce Center Sacred Space. A ribbon-cutting ceremony in September marked the completion of the renovations in each of these spaces as well as the renaming of the Great Room to the Pierce Great Hall.

We hosted a summer retreat for faculty at the Wylie Center at Endicott College, near the Hamilton campus, offered by house—and quite a number of people came to the Lord, even some formerly involved in witchcraft. People were also regularly healed from diseases and afflictions.

Dr. Scott Shuh, economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Judith Dean, Professor of International Economics at Brandeis University; and Greg Forster, Program Director for Faith, Work and Economics at the Kern Family Foundation.

In October, we were honored to host a national conference titled “God With Us,” focusing on the theme of God’s presence among his people throughout Scripture and all of human history. The conference was held in honor of Dr. Gary Pratico, Senior Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew Language.

The fall semester marked the first of what we anticipate will be many exchange partnerships with Giessen Theological Seminary. Six German students in the M.Div. program at Giessen took courses on the Hamilton campus for the fall semester, and are participating in a two-month internship at a local church before returning home in February. We were pleased to welcome them along with our new and returning students this year.

When South African Geologist Matthew Brayshaw had finally completed the long slog through his bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. in geology, he landed a job in northwest Tanzania at the largest gold deposit in the country.

“The 20 kilometer stretch between the company housing compound, where Matthew lived, and Lake Victoria was riddled with rural villages in extreme poverty.”

“…wanted to get out into a rural village to do ministry,” Matthew says. “So, we started cycling there on our mountain bikes. The village leaders were very open and let us go into households to share the gospel and pray for the sick. Over the span of about two years, we went through the entire village—house by house—and quite a number of people came to the Lord, even some formerly involved in witchcraft. People were also regularly healed from diseases and afflictions.

Matthew and Albert, his Tanzanian ministry partner from the compound, then bought a plot of land, built a home and started a weekly church services for the next two and a half years.

“Those years were like the modern-day version of Acts for me…Throughout that time, I saw a huge need for teaching and training the elders and leaders in the church.” Tanzanian churches, Matthew explains, face a number of spiritual battles, from legalism to superstition, and are in great need of grounded, godly leaders.

While ministering in rural Tanzania, Matthew was simultaneously working 11- to 12-hour days at the gold mine and leading a Bible study on the compound.

After seminary, Matthew plans to return to the rolling hills, valleys, cattle tracks and mud huts of Africa. Having grown up near the Zulu tribal area in South Africa, Matthew says, “I’ve had a desire to teach and preach in the Zulu language. I plan to go back to South Africa and implement the same model as the one in Tanzania in another rural area at home. I also hope to minister in East Africa once or twice a year.

“It’s not to say I’m a pioneer, because there are certainly other people doing this—but there aren’t enough. It’s about taking the gospel to the people, as well as equipping local pastors, elders and leaders from the area who have very little theological education or resources.”
Charlotte Campus Highlights

Missions, Celebrates New Partnerships and Continued Growth of Cooley Center

TIMOTHY S. LANIAK, TH. D., DEAN OF THE CHARLOTTE CAMPUS

Over the past year, the Charlotte campus has advanced Gordon-Conwell’s vision of teaching students to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically through missions-focused events, growing partnerships and the continued success of the Robert C. Cooley Center for the Study of Early Christianity.

Missions Theme

Engaging Globally

The importance of engaging globally has been emphasized this year through a seminar series led by participants in meaningful reflection upon themes that affect ministry and mission. The theme of the seminar in August was “The Culture of Poverty.” January 2014’s seminar theme is “Global Missions,” preceded by a special conference hosted by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Day of Prayer and Fasting

This year, we held our fifth annual Day of Prayer and Fasting at JAARS, an organization dedicated to supporting the work of Bible translation worldwide. The main speaker, Dr. Rollin Grams, Associate Professor of New Testament, encouraged participants to expand their vision of ministry by painting a powerful biblical picture of God’s mission.

Engaging Locally

This year’s chapels guide students through the three movements of mission found in Acts 1:8 – Jerusalem (local context), Judea/Samaria (regional/national/culturally different context) and the uttermost parts of the earth (global context). Students are encouraged and inspired to reach out to their local community and to the world.

Integrative Seminars

We are also continuing our biannual Integrative Seminars which are designed to engage students in meaningful conversation. The seminars are open to students not only from Gordon-Conwell, but also from other seminaries in the Charlotte region. The seminars are designed to provide a unique opportunity for students to engage in meaningful dialogue with their peers and to share their own experiences and insights.

New and Growing Partnerships

Lutheran House of Study

We have partnered with the Carolinas Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church to establish a Lutheran House of Study. This twice-weekly day program is designed to support and encourage Lutheran students as they engage in their seminar studies.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

We are also pleased to announce the launch of a new partnership with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. This day program occurs once a month with about 25 students. It gives staff with IVCF the unique opportunity to benefit from Gordon-Conwell’s renowned faculty, academically challenging classes and faithfulness to the gospel by taking a certain number of seminar classes for degree credit. We are hopeful that the partnership will equip staff members to more effectively advance God’s Kingdom in their IVCF ministries.

Forest Hill Church

On September 25, we launched a three-course, non-credit certificate program in Biblical Leadership at Forest Hill Church. The 10 weeks of Bible, theology and ministry courses will prepare students to practice effective biblical leadership in their churches and ministries. Taught by Dr. Donald Fairbairn, Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity; Dr. Rodney Cooper, Kenneth and Jean Hansen Professor of Discipleship and Leadership Development; and me, this program combines faculty lectures and breakout groups led by Gordon-Conwell graduates who are on the staff of Forest Hill Church.

Robert C. Cooley Center for the Study of Early Christianity

Current Programs

Finally, our Cooley Center has shown steady progress in its current programs and offerings. Highlights include the graduation of the first group of BibleJourney students. This innovative program continues to mature into a strong program for providing practical biblical knowledge and instruction for lay people. The Green Scholar Initiative is also continuing to offer talented and promising students the opportunity to examine valuable unpublished ancient texts. This work of our professors and students will be published in a prestigious series by Brill Academic Publishers.

Cooley Lecture

Our Cooley lecture this year featured noted Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay. Dr. Barkay teaches at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel. He received the 1996 Jerusalem Prize for Archaeological Research, and is known for his extensive experience exploring archaeological sites near Jerusalem. He was also involved in the discovery of the archaeologically significant Silver Scrolls and provided the first translation of the famous Berlin Hebrew Seal.

Chapels

This year’s chapels guide students through the three movements of mission found in Acts 1:8 – Jerusalem (local context), Judea/Samaria (regional/national/culturally different context) and the uttermost parts of the earth (global context). Students are encouraged and inspired to reach out to their local community and to the world.

We are pleased with the vibrancy and growth of our campus’ programs this year. Our students continue to benefit not only from strong academic classes, but also innovative programs and impactful events designed to equip them as future Church leaders. We look forward to continuing these programs and events throughout the current year.
A Year of New Initiatives, New Partnerships and Spiritual Renewal

MARK G. HARDEN, PH.D., DEAN OF THE BOSTON CAMPUS

Central to this year’s progress report for the Gordon-Conwell Boston campus is the positive communication we have received from our students about their seminary experience.

One student told us, “The Holy Spirit lives inside of [our] facility and inside of our staff.” Another said, “I was truly inspired by the service, worship and communal fellowship.” The Integrative Seminar sessions I participated in were truly orchestrated by God. “We think these encouraging words are the result of great strides we have made toward our goal of improving theological seminary education in urban communities. We believe that greater efficiency will help us better serve the Church and our students, and our efforts this year have included developing a cost effective approach to how we offer courses. We now have an efficient course scheduling process that empowers students to complete their degree program in a reasonable time, and expect this to increase accessibility to theological programs, we expect to increase our ability to meet new practitioners have joined forces with us in creating meaningful faculty-student relationships and ongoing, meaningful faculty-student relationships and ongoing, in-person student advising.

As we continue to revise and develop new degree programs, we expect to increase our ability to meet new demands for in-ministry and church leadership. This year, we have strengthened our programs in content and focus to better serve the needs of the Church, and expect this to increase accessibility to theological education. Progress can be seen in the Mentored Ministry course, now called Field-Based Mentored Ministry. Churches and para-church ministry practitioners have joined forces with us in creating and launching an action-learning course environment for a transformative experience in learning how to do ministry in a “real-life” setting.

In May, more than 200 participants joined us at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum as 11 individuals received recognition awards during our new Signature Event, “Making a Difference in Christian Service.” This annual awards event honors individuals for exemplary service in their respective churches and communities. Four recipients were presented with the “Dr. Eldin Villafañe Award for High Distinction in Christian Service.” Edward Davidson and Marcus Youksee for their extensive involvement in homeless ministry, Erica Forkner for her anti-human trafficking advocacy efforts and Jasmine Myers for her commitment to performing arts ministry. The award’s namesake, Dr. Eldin Villafañe, Founding Director of the Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME), was also recognized for his numerous contributions to urban ministry and theological education in the city of Boston.

In June, we hosted 96 prospective students for our first exploreSeminary event, many of whom indicated that they had attended because of the Signature Event. We believe that by recognizing emerging Christian leaders in Greater Boston, we can encourage and inspire others for Christian service while promoting opportunities to get equipped for ministry at the Boston campus.

Effectively communicating our legacy and vision has brought about a sense of spiritual renewal. The climate at the Boston campus is one of excitement. This became evident in our new fall and spring all-day-Saturday events, which drew 280 students, staff and faculty for orientation sessions, convocation, fellowship luncheon and an integrative seminar series on spiritual formation.
A New Home for the Jacksonville Campus

Ryan Reeves, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of the Jacksonville Campus

Recently the Jacksonville campus underwent an exciting transition. In the fall, Gordon-Conwell students at our campus in northern Florida started attending classes in a brand new, spacious and convenient facility.

Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville previously resided at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Jacksonville. Having existed there since our beginnings in 2006, the Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville community has been blessed to grow friendships, build memories, teach, learn and prepare in a beautiful, comfortable, historic space. There, we expanded and worked through the growing pains that any new campus or organization faces. Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville is eternally grateful for the time, contributions and support of First Presbyterian Church during our fledgling years.

In September, Jacksonville students began attending classes at the campus’s new home inside the Salem Centre, located at 7235 Bonneval Road, right in the center of the city. The Jacksonville campus occupies nearly 8,000-square-feet of the shared building that is also home to Paramount Church, a nondenominational evangelical congregation. The Promise, a local Christian radio station; and various other counseling practices, businesses and organizations operated by Christian leaders. Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville is incredibly blessed to be a part of such an active hub for spreading the gospel both in the Church and the marketplace.

Our new classrooms and offices center around one main focal point: the library. Located in the exact center of campus, the library invites students, staff and faculty to connect and collaborate. Not only is it fully stocked with an ever-growing catalog and impressive reference volumes, but it also provides ample study areas for students and area pastors.

This exciting move comes on the heels of graduating our third class, and is already ushering in a record number of students. We expect this trend to continue, and will soon launch Doctor of Ministry and Master of Arts in Christian Thought degrees to provide more opportunities for students preparing for ministry.

Additionally, the new Jacksonville campus will be the site of Gordon-Conwell’s next Board of Trustees meeting in February 2014. The Jacksonville campus is also privileged to host Bob Doll, CFA, Chief Equity Strategist and Senior Portfolio Manager at Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, for the “Christ in Business: An Encouragement for Christians in the Marketplace” event on February 13. Mr. Doll is a renowned analyst, and appears regularly on CNBC, Bloomberg TV and Fox Business News to discuss the economy and markets.

The Jacksonville campus is excited to celebrate the move. We are thankful to the Lord for his many provisions, and confident that from the foundation he has laid at Gordon-Conwell—Jacksonville will grow a legacy of equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically.
The track builds upon a long-established tradition of Pentecostal scholars at Gordon-Conwell such as Dr. Eldon Villafane, Professor of Christian Social Ethics, and Dr. Pablo Polischuk, Professor of Pastoral Counseling and Psychology, and a growing connection with the Church of God of Prophecy nurtured through the partnership of Dr. Padilla and Bishop Ortiz in the seminary’s Hispanic Ministry Program (HMP). Some of the first master’s graduates of the HMP will be continuing their studies at Gordon-Conwell through the new D.Min. track.

Several new tracks are in development for the coming years:

- As part of the seminary’s ongoing China Initiative, Dr. Yao is working closely with Rev. David Ro, Director of the J. Christy Wilson, Jr. Center for World Missions, to develop our first track in Chinese. A generous contribution will help make this track available to underground church pastors from Mainland China.

- D.Min. alum and retired Navy Chaplain Admiral Alan Baker (’97) and Dr. Jim Critchlow, retired Army major and Ranked Adjunct Assistant Professor of Old Testament, have begun discussions about a military chaplains track.

- Dr. Steve Kang, Professor of Educational Ministries and Interdisciplinary Studies, is exploring how he might craft a track for staff pastors, emphasizing congregational life.

- Dr. Jim Singleton has sketched out ideas for a Transformational Leadership track.

- Also in the planning stage is an online D.Min. Writing Support Seminar.

The Gordon-Conwell D.Min. program was honored to be featured as the first to be evaluated in a quality assessment process by scholars from Denver Theological Seminary as part of their study of D.Min. education nationwide.

As the Doctor of Ministry Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary enters its fourth decade, God continues to guide students, faculty and staff in creating new, innovative strategies for nurturing passionate, reflective practitioners.

Several existing tracks are being offered with new twists to better fit changing ministry needs. Dr. Rodney Cooper, Kenneth and Jean Hansen Professor of Discipleship and Leadership Development, has reworked his long-standing and highly effective Redemptive Leadership track with a multi-ethnic emphasis, bringing in as a new co-mentor Dr. Mark DeNyz, pastor of the Mosaic Church in Central Arkansas.

Dr. Peter Kuzmič, Eva B. and Paul E. Toms Distinguished Professor of World Missions and European Studies, has partnered with new Associate Professor of World Christianity and Asian Studies Dr. Nyi (Kevin) Yao to offer Missions & Cross-Cultural Studies again, with a new East Asia emphasis and third residency location in China.

Another newer faculty member, Dr. Jim M. Singleton, Jr., Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism, gave the Advancing the Church track a makeover, relaunching it as Transforming Congregations, with Dr. Paul Detterman, Executive Director of Presbyterians for Renewal, as co-mentor. Recent D.Min. graduate Dr. Randy Quackenbush will join me as co-mentor of the renamed Formational Worship, carrying on the vision of founding faculty mentor Dr. Gary Parrett.

A new track, Global Pentecostalism, will begin in 2015, led by co-mentors Dr. Alvin Padilla, Dean of Hispanic Ministries and Professor of New Testament, and Dr. Hector Ortiz, Bishop and Director of the Center for Biblical Leadership for the Church of God of Prophecy.
Hispanic Ministries Program Continues to Redefine Hispanic Theological Education

ALVIN PADILLA, PH.D., DEAN OF HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The April 15, 2013, issue of TIME magazine highlighted for its reader how the Hispanic American church is transforming religion in America. Though the majority of U.S. Hispanics are Roman Catholics, Hispanic evangelicals are one of the fastest growing segments of America’s churchgoing millions.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, more than two-thirds of the 53-million-plus Hispanics in the U.S. are Catholic; by 2050, that portion could be closer to half, as many are joining evangelical Protestant ranks. It is difficult to track the numbers of the groundswell of these new Protestants. They often meet in storefronts or living rooms, and language barriers complicate the census process. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founder and former President of Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH) and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

Gordon-Conwell Seminary, with the Hispanic Ministries Program (HMP), seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and in Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.

A Gordon-Conwell degree program would not be truly a Gordon-Conwell degree without the active involvement of our esteemed faculty. Thus, a significant number of these courses are taught by our own faculty, with adjunct faculty from throughout the country also teaching courses in each location. Among these are Dr. Justo González, founding member and former President of AETH, and one of the most influential leaders in Hispanic theological education.

The HMP seeks to redefine how theological education is delivered by offering intensive courses, both in English and Spanish, in these locations. At the same time, the program partners with the seminary’s Semlink+ program, affording HMP students the opportunity for online learning. Students enrolled in this program, on average, take four courses per year, leading to a Master of Arts in Religion. In the fall semester, we had 220 students enrolled, and we expect 150 additional students for the spring semester. The conclusion of the 2012–13 academic year yielded a total of 378 students enrolled in these non-traditional initiatives.
The Ockenga Institute provides seminary resources to learners worldwide.

Dimensions of the Faith, a free 10-course online program, continues to be an important resource for students of all kinds around the globe. We have translated and now offer the entire Dimensions of the Faith 10-course canon in Mandarin Chinese, thanks to our long-lasting partnership with a terrific Chinese organization.

In addition, the Ockenga Institute offers a six-course diploma program for those who may not be able to fulfill the obligations of an entire degree. Designed mostly for lay leaders and bi-vocational pastors, the Life and Ministry Diploma program consists of six courses at a for-credit level that can be transferred into a degree program upon completion. To further train couples in ministry, a special Life and Ministry Diploma is offered for spouses of current students at the seminary.

Starting in January, we have the opportunity to expand the Ockenga diploma program in service to InterVarsity staff in New England. As a key element of their training, all new staff are now being asked to participate in six intensive courses taught by Gordon-Conwell faculty every January and June.

The 40+ Semlink courses developed by the Ockenga Institute are available for students of many kinds. For those who would like to reconnect with biblical languages, we designed the Greek and Hebrew courses to be used as tutorials. The non-credit option offers a full overview of church history, theology, biblical studies and practical theology. Approximately 30 Semlink courses are now also offered in Mandarin Chinese.

We are pleased to announce that Rev. David Ro (M.Div. ‘96) was appointed the new Director of the Rev. Christy Wilson, Jr. Center for World Missions. Rev. Ro is a long-term missionary with OM International and serves as the Lausanne International Deputy Director/East Asia. He will continue in his roles with OM International and Lausanne, serving as a significant liaison between the two organizations and Gordon-Conwell.

The Wilson Center hosted its annual Missions Emphasis Week in October. This year’s theme of “People on the Move” focused on the dynamics of missions to the diaspora, featuring keynote speakers Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R., Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Denver Seminary, and Dr. Todd M. Johnson, Associate Professor of Global Christianity & Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity. The Wilson Center continues to explore this theme with six additional lunch forums that began last fall and will continue into the spring.

For more than 25 years, the Ockenga Institute has broadened the student body beyond our traditional degree-seeking students to students of all circumstances, ages and locations. On the drawing board is a vision for expanding the horizons of theological education even more through new and creative delivery systems as we move into the future.

As hundreds of worshippers exited the historic All Saint’s Church and filed onto the lawn for lunch, a pair of suicide bombers walked into the crowd. In place of church bells, the sound of explosions ripped through the air in Peshawar, Pakistan, that Sunday morning, September 22, 2013. Eighty-five people lost their lives and countless others were injured in the deadliest attack on Christians in the country’s history.

“After the bombing, there was pressure to close the school, but we didn’t close. That’s what the terrorists wanted us to do,” explains Dr. James Tebbe, Rector (President) of Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan, approximately 320 miles southwest of Peshawar. “Instead, we held a prayer service. Our auditorium, which seats about 750, was packed full, and about 500 people were Muslim. What an opportunity to talk about the love and forgiveness of God.”

Born and raised as a missionary kid in Pakistan, Jim developed an interest in Pakistan and Pakistani Islam at a young age—but was not always sure that he would return to the country of his youth. “By the time I was in college at Indiana University, I was very active in InterVarsity and knew I was interested in ministry. I thought it would probably be in the U.S., but as it turned out, God led us elsewhere.”

Knowing that he would enter ministry, Jim sought seminary training. He learned of Gordon-Conwell through his father’s friendship and former co-worker, the late Dr. Addison Leitch, professor of theology at Gordon-Conwell. “I admired him so much that when I heard he had gone to Gordon-Conwell, that settled it for me,” he says.

Shortly after graduating from Gordon-Conwell with a Master of Divinity in 1976, Jim and his wife, Beth, returned to Pakistan as missionaries with Interserve. For the next 25 years, he faithfully served with Interserve—as a pastor in Pakistan and Bangladesh; as a lecturer, writer and researcher in the Christ University Centre in Pakistan; as Area Director West in Cyprus; and eventually as International Director, overseeing operations around the world. From 2002–2010, Jim and Beth returned to the U.S., where Jim served as Vice President of InterVarsity, Director of the triennial Urbana Missions Convention, and North American Inter-national Deputy Director for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. During this time, Jim says, “I really hadn’t thought we would go overseas again. I had traveled quite a lot in my previous jobs and thought, ‘I’d be glad if I never got on a plane again!’”

Then, the Tebbes learned that Forman Christian College was searching for a new president. Thanks to Beth’s encouragement, Jim, who also holds a M.A. in Near Eastern Studies/Islamics from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from St. John’s Fleming/University, inquired about the position. Shortly after, Jim and Beth were on a plane to Pakistan, returning to serve once again.

Forman Christian College, a chartered university, is home to 6,400 students. “Founded by missionaries, FCC was kept as a Christian college even though the majority of faculty and students would be Muslim,” explains Jim. “It’s an umbrella, rather than systemic; Christian organization…There is nothing like it in the world—it’s opportunity and place are unique, its influence in Pakistan is enormous, its visibility is high, and it is utterly and openly Christian.”

“Pakistan is becoming increasingly intolerant. You read every-day of sectarian violence. Everyday. Without exception. Being able to model harmony, how to work with other people, and the dignity of every person in the eyes of God as a Christian value is really prized.”

“It’s not just Christians that suffer; it’s mostly other Muslims that suffer. One of our students wrote in a blog post about FCC: ‘I have concluded that if God is anywhere in Pakistan, he is with the Christians here. We are filled with hate and violence for each other, and here they are reaching out to us. The most important lesson I learned is one of love.’

“How do we get along with each other when violence and intol-erance are so prevalent in the society?” Jim says, “We provide an umbrella of grace that shows love and forgiveness.”
Alumni Services: working to communicate
Alumni impact and keep alumni connected

Gordon-Conwell has 8,948 graduates living in 82 countries, including every state in the US. The Alumni Services office exists to communicate the impact that Gordon-Conwell alumni have in their ministries, and their support of the seminary through recruitment of prospective student and giving. In addition, the Alumni Services office strives to help graduates from all campuses remain connected with the seminary, faculty and their classmates.

Alumni Impact

Ministry
While the majority of graduates serve in pastoral ministry, counseling, missions, chaplaincy and para-church settings, we are grateful for the impact of all our alumni who serve in myriad vocations around the globe. We trust that the education our alumni received and the resources we currently offer are helping arm them to make an impact wherever they serve.

Our annual alumni survey enables us to see what we are doing well, and how we can improve resources. We are grateful to the alumni who completed this year’s survey of class years ending in “3” and “5.” Graduates from a year that ends in “4” or “6” will have opportunity to provide feedback in June 2014.

Recruitment
Based on incoming student surveys and casual conversations, we know that many students find their way to Gordon-Conwell through personal contacts with our alumni. Through formal initiatives, some students ultimately enroll because an alumnus recommended them (see chart on page 27). We greatly appreciate the efforts of our alumni to send students our way.

Giving
Alumni also have an important impact through their giving to Gordon-Conwell. Since 2009, the percentage of alumni who give has increased each year to its current level of 31.2%. Their financial contributions are valuable in helping fund our services to students. In addition, alumni donations in any amount have significant impact in helping the seminary secure additional funding through foundation grants, as some are contingent on alumni participation in giving.

Alumni Connect

Alumni Services continues to keep alumni informed about their fellow graduates and the seminary through Alumni News and Notes online, social media, Contact magazine and the monthly e-newsletter InCommunity. Alumni can find Gordon-Conwell Facebook pages for Hamilton, Boston, Charlotte and Korean alumni; follow Alumni Services @GCCTSAlumni; or join the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary LinkedIn group (now with nearly 900 members) to stay up to date on the latest news and events.

During the past year, Alumni Services embarked on a project to collect publications from alumni authors and Gordon-Conwell faculty. The Alumni Library is part of the President’s Dining Room, adjacent to Alumni Hall. It contains a collection of more than 350 books written by nearly 300 alumni and faculty. Alumni authors wishing to participate in this initiative can send their book(s) to Alumni Services, 150 Essex Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982.

8,948 Graduates in 82 Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceana</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Raiser’s Edge database
In our annual reports, we highlight the building blocks of the advancement efforts at Gordon-Conwell. Our three primary building blocks are our Founder’s Society, the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund and the Our Legacy – Our Future Comprehensive Campaign. We are stewards of all the resources that have been entrusted to us, and it is our pleasure to provide this article as a progress report on our initiatives. We are thankful and grateful to God for the resources he has provided to us this past year, and we hope you’ll be encouraged by what, with God’s help, we’ve accomplished. As we look forward to what comes next for Gordon-Conwell, we again trust in and wait expectantly on our great God.

**The Founder’s Society**

Gordon-Conwell was founded in 1969 through the efforts of evangelist Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, Park Street Church pastor Dr. Harold John Ockenga and philanthropist J. Howard Pew. Their desire and goal was to establish an interdenominational, evangelical seminary dedicated to equipping students for “all facets of gospel outreach.”

At Gordon-Conwell, we are still pursuing that vision to this day, combining educational innovation with a high priority on academics and faithfulness to the gospel, as we seek to train students to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically.

One of the biggest barriers for student enrollment at Gordon-Conwell is the cost of tuition and other expenses. To stay ahead of this challenge, we are delighted to share that 88 percent of the money we are raising in planned gifts will go directly to endowing student scholarships. The remaining 12 percent will cover building endowments, which help reduce the burden on annual operations. We would be honored to extend membership in the Founders’ Society to those friends who would be interested in making a planned gift of any amount to Gordon-Conwell. As a community, we are deeply grateful for the long-term investments that friends of the seminary have made through their planned gifts.

**The Gordon-Conwell Education Fund**

Our annual fund for operations is referred to as the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund. It is vital to the seminary’s ability to equip the next generation of church leaders to handle opportunities presented to the Church. This fund supports the distinguished faculty, programs and centers that draw students from around the world to one of our four campuses or our programs. It also supports the operations required for an efficient, student-focused learning environment. The Education Fund enables us to:

- **Keep Tuition Within Reach** – Our longstanding goal is to ensure that educational debt will not prevent called men and women from entering ministry. Without the valuable support of the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund, many students could not even afford to attend Gordon-Conwell.

- **Attract and Retain Gifted Faculty and Staff** – This fund is critical to our success in attracting and retaining gifted personnel through competitive salaries, resources for research and continuing education.

- **Maintain an Environment Conducive to Learning** – Gifts to this fund help us provide the academic resources crucial for graduate-level education and facilities that enhance learning and contribute to vibrant community life.
Words alone cannot express our gratitude for the thousands of people who gave faithfully and generously to the Gordon-Conwell Education Fund this past year. Our original goal was $2.5 million, a 9 percent increase over the previous year goal. We are so happy to report that this year more than 3,600 partners gave a total of $2.9 million, an all-time high, exceeding our goal by $400,000. That represents 815 more donors than the previous year—a 34 percent increase. Reaching and exceeding our Education Fund goals are fundamental to a successful long-term advancement strategy. Please know that we are incredibly grateful to our friends of the seminary, and to our great God, who is using these faithful stewardships to advance the Kingdom and serve the Church.

Our Legacy — Our Future Comprehensive Campaign: Serving the Church with Excellence and Innovation

Through our present campaign, we have set out to revitalize and expand our campuses, reach more students and resource future leaders.

Revitalizing and expanding our campuses — We are seeking through our comprehensive campaign to enrich the South Hamilton campus as a place for reflection, research and renewal. We’re accomplishing these goals by improving the functional capacity of dormitories, apartments and classrooms, and by renewing our buildings and grounds to enhance student recruitment. This initiative turns some of our older facilities into family-friendly, community enhancing facilities in excellent condition and in harmony with our extraordinary surroundings. These improvements will enable us to increase the seminary’s residential student body on the South Hamilton campus.

We have also made significant progress on our revitalization priority by repurposing three spaces, which have already enabled the Gordon-Conwell community, area churches and local community organizations to utilize our facilities.

Alumni Hall
• Our newly opened Alumni Hall is named in honor of our graduates and features a library showcasing our alumni’s published works. This project has produced first-class space for church retreats, conferences, campus and community events, weddings and many other gatherings. The theme verse for this hall is: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrews 12:1).

Pierce Great Hall
• Next door to Alumni Hall is our transformed Pierce Great Hall. The main campus in Hamilton is nestled on a picturesque New England hillside and the environment is inviting to religious reflection, fellowship and discipleship.

fellowship, enjoy a cup of coffee, meet informally with faculty or pray and study together. This lack of dedicated space has been a barrier to our values of disciple-building, fellowship and community.

At the top of this hall stands the campus’ most used building, the Kerr Building. A very large wing of this building, the Great Room, has long held much potential both functionally and aesthetically, but has gone largely underutilized over the years. It was a goal of our campaign to create an environment for disciple-building and spiritual formation by renovating and transforming the Great Room. That goal has come to fruition with the completion of the Pierce Great Hall, named after John and Lois Pierce, founders of the Pierce Center for Disciple-Building. John was a long-time, faithful and generous trustee of Gordon-Conwell from 1976-2003. During his lifetime, he was deeply committed to stewarding his resources to further the cause of Christ.

The transformation of the hall has created an inviting space for discipleship, Bible study, mentoring or informal gatherings. All of these values are key ingredients for the relational growth and spiritual formation of our students.

Relocation for Greater Effectiveness
• To create even better traffic flow between spaces, both our architect and independent consultants recommended that the Pierce Center for Disciple-Building offices be relocated more strategically for the mission of the Pierce Center, while providing a quieter location away from the very busy front door. Placing these offices behind the Pierce Great Hall (adjacent to the Wilson Prayer Chapel and Pierce Great Hall) also creates more natural flow. It would likewise allow The Pierce Center to be at the heart of campus, while creating a more hospitable welcome to new students and visitors at our main entrance. Many of these changes have been made, and are indeed achieving their intended results.

Renamed Streets
• Working closely with the town of Hamilton, we have renamed all the streets on the South Hamilton campus, providing an even higher level of public safety for our student community, which is served by the local police and fire department.

Out of a deep respect for our founders and their impact on the seminary and broader community, these streets have been named Billy Graham Way, Harold John Ockenga Lane, J. Howard Pew Lane, A.J. Gordon Court and Russell Conwell Court.

The Charlotte campus is currently fundraising to build an expanded facility to accommodate its growing student population and its partnerships with churches and missions organizations.

• Understanding that the environment provided by the Charleston campus influences the experiences and opportunities of its students, we made the decision to expand the Charlotte campus. The goal of this expansion is to enable Gordon-Conwell—Charleston to cultivate leaders of the Church for every generation, culture and calling, and to encourage God’s people to continue in vital, lifelong learning.

• The architectural motif for the expanding building is an abbey—a classic form of community space where learning, worship and collaboration come together in a blend of library collections, interactive classrooms, outdoor/indoor courtyards, walkways and trails, sacred art and spaces designed for intimate fellowship, reflection and collaboration.

Our Boston campus inaugurated a major annual event this past spring for young urban leaders in the Boston region. This event is an opportunity to celebrate the work that is going on in the city and to network with young urban leadership. We remain committed to aggressively eliminating the $1.3 million mortgage on our Boston campus. Some significant results of paying of this debt will be:

• More funds toward student scholarships in Boston
• Reduced annual operating costs
• Keeping tuition at an affordable rate.

As we aim to partner well with our local community, we have begun conversations with our neighbors in Roxbury about parking challenges and the opportunities we might have in developing additional parking spaces on our property adjacent to the Boston campus.

This past year was transformational for our Jacksonville, Florida, campus, which experienced its largest enrollment ever. This campus has been growing steadily, prompting a move to a new location, and an open house in October 2013 to celebrate this milestone. We are grateful for the opportunity to prepare more and more students to serve the Church in Florida, the Southeast and beyond.

It is our prayer and our priority that all our campuses will continue to be used to develop community and church partnerships to serve the Church, and to be good Christian neighbors to those in our respective communities. We believe God is leading us and using us to be good stewards of the campuses he has provided, and to care for them as we serve our current students, future students and the churches and communities around us.
Resourcing future leaders – It’s very common for students to enter seminary with debt from their undergraduate education. While in seminary, many students incur further debt that hinders some from becoming missionaries and saddles others with a significant financial burden in pastoral ministry. We are always working to establish scholarships to help students limit additional educational debt, and also ensure that prospective students without adequate financial means can enroll in Gordon-Conwell, a seminary with strong evangelical, biblical and theological convictions.

Here is just a sampling of the new scholarships established since the launch of the comprehensive campaign:

- Pastors for Africa Scholarship
- Kern Pastors-Scholars Program
- Presidential Scholarship for Future Christian Leaders
- Church Planting Scholarship
- CentriHall Student Scholarship
- International Student Scholarship
- Christopher Brown Scholarship
- Military Chaplaincy Scholarship
- Partnership Program Full-tuition Scholarship
- George and Helen Bennett Scholarship for Pastor-Leaders
- Doctor of Ministry scholarship for Chinese Pastors

Gordon-Conwell has a rich legacy of serving the Church. For God’s glory and with the help of God and the people of God, we will continue to carry on this tradition with excellence and innovation. We simply cannot do this work alone and invite you to prayerfully consider your partnership with our seminary as we steward the resources entrusted to us. To God be the glory for the great things he has done, and will continue to do in and through the work of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Investing in the Kingdom is our goal as we seek to live out Christ’s mandate to “make disciples of all the nations” (Mt. 28:19).

For further information about partnering with us as we prepare future leaders for the Church, please contact Kurt Drescher, Vice President of Advancement, at 978.646.4070 or kdrescher@gordonconwell.edu.
Billy Graham is one of the best-known evangelists in modern history. Born November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, N.C., he came to faith in Christ in 1934 during a revival meeting led by evangelist Mordecai Fowler Ham. In 1940, he graduated from the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity College). In 1943, he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL, and married his wife, Ruth.

Over the next several years, Graham held a pastorate, began a radio program and started a traveling ministry that expanded rapidly. By 1949, he had gained worldwide fame for his evangelistic rallies. Until his retirement in 2005, he conducted more than 400 of these campaigns, reaching numerous states and dozens of countries. Out of his ministry came the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a popular radio and television program, "Hour of Decision." Both have also been instrumental in reaching millions of people for Jesus Christ.

Along with philanthropist J. Howard Pew, Graham initiated the establishment of Conwell School of Theology out of Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. However, Graham had a broader vision, one that included combining Conwell School of Theology and Gordon Divinity School in Boston into a single, powerfully effective evangelical school on the East Coast.

In 1969, Graham, Pew and renowned pastor, Dr. Harold John Ockenga, made this merger a reality with the formation of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Ockenga became the president of the new school, and Graham served on the board continuously until 2011, when he was given the title of Co-Founder and Trustee Emeritus for the school. In 1974, because of his outstanding service and personal witness to Jesus Christ, Graham was awarded an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology degree by Gordon-Conwell.

Over the years, Gordon-Conwell has remained faithful to Billy Graham’s vision for a faithful, influential and dedicated evangelical school. Through our renowned faculty, academically challenging classes and faithfulness to the gospel, we continue to equip Church leaders for powerful, effective ministry.
Then & Now

FROM THE TOP