



MENTOR E-CONNECTION

February 2020

Greetings GCTS Mentors – Happy New Year! We are excited for the Spring semester which began last week. We hope and pray that your winter break was restful and rejuvenating - and that those of you mentoring students this term will both bless and be blessed by your students in your ministries.



Updates from the Mentored Ministry Department:

A friend of Gordon-Conwell, John Koessler, a long-time pastoral studies professor at Moody Bible Institute, recently wrote a book called *Practicing the Present: The Neglected Art of Living in the Now* published by Moody Publishers in 2019 (image above). In this book, he suggests that many people live their lives in the past by remembering the glory days or living in the future being preoccupied with what life holds for them later on. He writes: “What gets lost in all of this is the present.”

When I (Matt) look back on my time in pastoral ministry (serving as a youth pastor, college pastor, and senior pastor) prior to joining the faculty at Gordon-Conwell, I typically lived for the future—dreaming about the next 2-5 years. I have always been a planner, planning my steps, and wondering what I will be doing next. As a result, I sometimes forgot to live in the present, in the moment, where God has placed me today. It’s easy to succumb to the “grass is greener” feeling and being dissatisfied. It’s difficult to stop the “how do I move up the ladder” syndrome that has often plagued Christian ministers. In the process, I was hurting the people whom God called me to love. I was even hurting myself in not fully investing in the ministry and in the people God called me to serve today, not in the past or in the future, but now.

In these next few months of 2020, my prayer for you is that you’ll take Koessler’s advice to heart and live in the present. Make the best use of your time, talent, and resources today. Invest in your MM student(s) today. Invest in your staff and leadership today. Invest in your congregants today. Invest in your community today. And when we do these things, perhaps God will allow us to see some ripe spiritual fruit in some future season. We are praying for you and we thank you for your love for God, for his Church, and for our students. Let’s live in the present!

New Mentor Orientation and Recertification: Our most recent ***New Mentor Orientation*** took place this last Tuesday. We had a wonderful group of ministry leaders from both church and parachurch organizations, from both near and far in New England. It is a great joy and privilege to work alongside with you and these leaders for the Kingdom! Our next New Mentor Orientation will take place on a TBD date in early September and we will announce the date to you as soon as it is confirmed.

Our next ***Mentor Recertification*** takes place on **Tuesday, March 3rd from 11:30-2:30pm** and is required for all mentors every five years. Please reserve your place soon (by just RSVPing to this e-mail)!

Thank you for serving as mentors. We can’t thank you enough.

Please let us know how we can serve you better.

Sincerely in Christ,

Matt & Katherine

Matthew D. Kim, Ph.D. & Katherine Horvath, D.Min.

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