

**Curriculum Vita**  
**Jeffrey D. Arthurs**  
**Robinson Professor of Preaching and Communication**  
**Chair, Division of Practical Theology**  
**Director, Robinson Center for Preaching**  
**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

**EDUCATION**

**Ph. D., 1992, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.**

*Major:* Communication (Rhetoric)

*Minors:* Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, English Literature and Criticism

*Dissertation:* "Biblical Interpretation Through Rhetorical Criticism: Augmenting the Grammatical-Historical Approach."

**M. A., 1987, Western Seminary, Portland, OR.**

*Major:* Exegetical Theology

*Minor:* Biblical Literature

*Thesis:* "The Implications of the Plot Structure of Biblical Narrative for Homiletics."

**M. A., 1981, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC.**

*Major:* Platform Arts (a combination of public speaking and oral interpretation).

*Recital:* "Servant of Iron," (a one-man show of the life of David Livingstone).

**B. A., 1979, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC.**

*Majors:* Bible and Oral Interpretation.

*Recital:* "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court."

**TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**2019-2021    Interim Dean, Hamilton Campus, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

**2002-2019, 2021-present, Professor of Preaching and Communication; Chair, Division of Practical Theology; Director of the Center for Preaching, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.**

**Courses Taught:**

Principles and Practices of Preaching.

Preaching to Modern Listeners.

Pulpit Speech.

Preaching, Persuasion, and Leadership.

Preaching and Postmodernism.

Narrative Preaching.

Preaching With Variety.

From Text to Sermon, NT.

From Text to Sermon, OT.

Communication for Ministry and Career

Great Contemporary Preachers.

Mentor for D. Min. track: From Study to Pulpit.

Co-Mentor for D. Min. track: Preaching the Literary Forms of the Bible.

Numerous independent studies such as rhetorical analysis of media, sermon delivery, Christ-centered preaching, literary analysis of biblical literature, and the use of speech-act theory for preaching.

**2011-present, Supervisor, Ph. D. in Homiletics, London School of Theology** (GCTS is an extension site).

- "Cynosure: A Theoretical Grounding for Pictorial Language that Grasps Attention," Michael Roth. Successful defense, 2019.
- "The Theories of Nicholas Woltersdorff: A Hermeneutics for Homiletics," Andrew Thompson. Successful defense, 2020.

**1992-2002, Professor, Multnomah Bible College.**

Courses Taught:

Homiletics

Advanced Homiletics

Public Speaking

Persuasion

Oral Interpretation

Interpersonal Communication

World View

Other Responsibilities:

Chair, Division of Arts and Sciences.

Director, Destiny Drama Team.

Chair, Speech Communication Department.

Chair, Christian Life Conference.

**1989-present, Adjunct** at various institutions such as Univ. of Portland, OR; Evangelical Theological Seminary, PA; Grace Seminary, IN; Conservative Baptist Seminary of Asia (Philippines); Gordon College, MA; Reformed Theological Seminary of Asia (Indonesia); Singapore Bible College (Singapore); Malaysia Bible Seminary (Kuala Lumpur); Dallas Theological Seminary, TX; New England Bible College and Seminary (ME).

### **AREAS OF ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

Homiletics

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

Speech Performance

Literature and Literary Criticism

Biblical Literature and Exegesis

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books:**

*Preaching With Variety: How to Recreate the Dynamics of Biblical Genres* (Kregel, 2007).

*Devote Yourself to the Public Reading of Scripture: The Power of the Well Spoken Word* (Kregel, 2012).

*Preaching as Reminding: Stirring Memory in an Age of Forgetfulness* (IVP, 2017).

*Ephesians: A Commentary for Preaching and Teaching*, Kerux Commentary Series (Kregel, 2021). Co-authored with Gregory S. MaGee.

*Colossians-Philemon in Kerux: An Integrative Commentary for Preachers* (Kregel, 2022). Co-authored with Adam Copenhaver.

*How to Preach Narrative* (Fontes, 2022).

*The Preacher's Greek Companion to James* (Hendrickson, 2023). Second author with Angus Courtney as first author.

### **Research Articles and Chapters**

"The Ego Function of Conscientization as Employed by Small Groups of the Liberation Theology Movement," *Journal of Communication and Religion* 15/2 (1992): 1-14.

"Doctrinal themes In C. S. Lewis' 'Broadcast Talks': Mere Christianity or Merely Lewis?" *Michigan Theological Journal* 4/1 (1993): 18-38.

"The Term *Rhetor* in Fifth and Fourth-Century B.C.E. Greek Texts," *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 23 (1994): 1-10.

"Proverbs in Inspirational Literature: Sanctioning the American Dream," *Journal of Communication and Religion* 17/2 (1994): 1-16. Rpt. in *Cognition, Comprehension and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverbs Studies (1900-2000)*, (Schneider-Verlag, Hohengehren, Germany: 2003), 37-52.

"Theological and Rhetorical Perspectives on Self-Disclosure in Preaching." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 157/626 (April-June 2000): 215-26. Co-authored with Andrew Gurevich.

"The Place of Pathos in Preaching," *Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 1/1 (Dec. 2001): 1-10.

"The Postmodern Mind and Preaching," in *Preaching to a Shifting Culture* (Baker, 2004), 177-197, Gibson, ed.

"Short Sentences Long Remembered: Preaching Genre Sensitive Sermons from Proverbs," *J of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 5/1 (2005): 4-19.

"Preaching the Old Testament Narratives," in *Preaching the Old Testament* (Baker, 2006), 73-85, Gibson, ed.

"Robert Schuler's Use of Scripture," *J of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 10/1 (March, 2010): 64-78.

"*Perpetually Connected?: The Effects and Implications of Ambient Technology on Christian Worshipers*," *Africanus Journal* 3/1 (2011): 5-14; co-authored with Jared Alcántara. Also published in *J of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 11/1 (March, 2011): 50-65

"The Lord's Remembrancers," *J of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 14/1 (Spring 2014).

## **Publications: Reviews and Professional Articles**

Numerous book reviews for the *Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society*, *Homiletic*, *Preaching Today online*, *Leadership*.

Numerous articles in professional journals such as *Preaching Today*, *Preaching*, *Influence*, *Ministry*. A sample is below.

- "Proclamation Through Conversation: Dialogue as a Form for Preaching," *J of the American Academy of Ministry* 5 (Winter/Spring 1997): 35-45. Co-authored with Andrew Gurevich.
- "Expository Reading of Scripture," *Contact* 34/1 (January, 2004): 13-14.
- Seven articles for *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching: A Comprehensive Resource for Today's Communicators* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).
- "Proverbs," *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching* (Abingdon, 2008), 103-4. Wilson, ed.
- "Cover or Be Covered" (sermon), in *Messages from Today's Most Outstanding Christian Leaders* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011), 21-28.
- "Five Hammer Strokes for Creating Expository Sermon Outlines," in *Sermon Preparation* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2012), 3-22, Craig Brian Larson, ed. Rpt. in PreachingToday.com.
- "The Fundamentals of Sermon Application, Parts 1 and 2," in *Interpretation and Application* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2012), 67-96, Craig Brian Larson, ed. Rpt. in PreachingToday.com.
- Contributor (five articles) to *Preaching Points*, ed. Scott M. Gibson (Lexham, 2015).
- "The Worlds of the Listeners," chapter in *The Worlds of the Preacher*, ed. Scott M. Gibson (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017).
- "Make Space in Your Preaching for Space," PreachingToday.com, May 2022.
- "How to Include Imagination in Sermon Prep," *Preaching*, Spring 2022.

## **Conference Papers**

- "Order As Mortmain," invited paper for the national convention of the Kenneth Burke Society, New Harmony, IN, 1990.
- "The Ego-Function of the Rhetoric of Conscientization as Employed by Small Groups of the Liberation Theology Movement," Speech Communication Association, Chicago, 1990.
- "Adjacent-Agents: A Burkean Analysis of Autobiographical Accounts of Religious Conversion," Central States Communication Association, Chicago, 1991.
- "Good Versus Evil: A Cluster-Agon Analysis of Russell Means' Speech at Pine Ridge," Central States Communication Association, Chicago, 1991.
- "Doctrinal Themes in C. S. Lewis' 'Broadcast Talks': Mere Christianity or Merely Lewis?" Midwest Evangelical Theological Society, Chicago, 1991; also at Speech Communication Association, Atlanta, 1991.
- "Biblical Interpretation Through Rhetorical Criticism: A Summary and Evaluation," Midwest Evangelical Theological Society, Chicago, 1991.
- "*Dispositio* As An Available Means of Persuasion: Form and Numerology in the 'Christmas-Day Sermon' by Lancelot Andrewes," Speech Communication Association, Atlanta, 1991.
- "Proclaiming the Kingdom with Relevance: Kenneth Burke's Theory of 'Form' Applied to Homiletics," Evangelical Theological Society, Kansas City, 1991.
- "The Term *Rhetor* in Fifth and Fourth-Century Greek Literature," Rhetoric Society of America, St. Paul, 1992.
- "Words Fitly Spoken: Some Rhetorical Characteristics of Proverbs," Speech Communication Association, Miami, 1993.
- "Unpacking the Form of the Content: Burke's Theory of 'Form' as a Tool for Biblical Exegesis," Speech Communication Association, Miami, 1993.
- "Preaching the Epistles," Speech Communication Association, New Orleans, 1994; also at Evangelical Theological Society, NW Region, Portland, 1995.
- "Performing the Story: How to Preach First Person Narrative Sermons," Academy of Homiletics, Atlanta,

- 1996.
- “Robert Schuller’s Use of Scripture,” Speech Communication Association, San Diego, 1996.
  - “Proclamation Through Conversation: Dialogue as a Form for Preaching,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Boston (Gordon-Conwell Seminary), 1997.
  - “Theological and Rhetorical Perspectives on Self-Disclosure in Preaching,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Dallas (Dallas Theological Seminary), 1998.
  - “An Appraisal of Robert Schuller’s ‘Theology of Self-Esteem,’” National Communication Association, New York, 1998.
  - “The Place of Pathos in Preaching,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Orlando (Reformed Theological Seminary), 2000.
  - “Adjacent Agents: Rhetorical Strategy in Autobiographical Accounts of Christian Conversion,” National Communication Association, Seattle, 2000.
  - “Preaching in the Electronic Age,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, New Orleans (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary), 2001.
  - “Short Sentences Long Remembered: Preaching Genre-Sensitive Sermons From Proverbs,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Wake Forest (Southeastern Baptist Seminary), 2004.
  - “Genre-Sensitive Preaching of Parables,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, St. Louis (Covenant Seminary), 2005.
  - “Preaching the Speeches and Sermons of the Bible,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, La Mirada, CA (Talbot Seminary), 2007.
  - “*Perpetually Connected?* The Effects and Implications of Ambient Technology on Christian Worshippers,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Deerfield, IL (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), 2010.
  - “Devote Yourself to the Public Reading: Enhancing the Role of Scripture Reading in Worship,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Deerfield, IL (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), 2010.
  - “The Lord’s Remembrancers,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, La Mirada, CA (Talbot Seminary), 2013.
  - “Stirring Memory,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Chicago, IL (Moody Bible Institute), 2014.
  - “Remembered by God, Remembering God,” Known by God conference, Ridley College, Melbourne, 2015.
  - “The Rewards and Challenges of Teaching Robinson’s Big Idea Method,” Evangelical Homiletics Society, Fort Worth, TX (Southwestern Seminary), 2016.
  - “Response to Abraham Kuruvilla,” Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, 2019.

## **CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

2018-2022: Interim Pastor (part time), Cross Bridge, Lexington, MA.

2010-2018: Teaching Elder, Chair of the Elder Board, North Shore Community Baptist Church, Beverly Farms, MA. Head of Alpha (evangelism).

2007-2009: Teaching Pastor (part time) St. Paul’s Collegiate Church, Storrs, CT.

2006: Interim Pastor (part time), Hope Alliance Church, Melrose, MA.

2003-2005: Elder, North Shore Community Baptist Church, Beverly Farms, MA.

2001-2002: Community Bible Fellowship, Portland, OR.

- Preaching team (preaching as a regular part of a rotating team).
- Drama team.
- Consultant (training other preachers and teachers in the church).

1992-2000: Northridge Community Church, Portland, OR.

- Church planter.

- Teaching pastor (oversaw the preaching ministries of the church, preached approximately 50% of the messages, developed sermon series, trained novice preachers).
- Program director (oversaw evangelistic services).
- Elder (regular pastoral duties in counseling, praying, strategic planning, evaluation of staff and programs, etc.).
- Drama team.
- Music team.

1992-present: Pulpit supply, retreats, conferences, consultant.

1988: Agoos Christian Fellowship, Philippines (short-term missionary).

- Preaching team.
- Trained preachers.
- Oversaw and wrote curriculum for the church's Lay Bible Institute.
- Trained teachers for the Lay Bible Institute.
- Trained worship leaders.
- Evangelistic Bible studies.
- Pastoral duties (visitation, counseling, discipling, strategic planning, prayer, etc.)

1983-85: The Salina Church, Salina, PA.

- Pastoral intern. Duties included teaching, preaching, visitation, counseling, attending board meetings. Also volunteered as worship leader, choir, drama team, etc.

Previous: Youth pastor, worship leader, teacher, evangelist.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

"House and Home," published by Drama Ministry, June 2002.

"Tenacious Faith," "Prayer for Patience in Fathering," (two poems)  
<http://www.thinkingpoetry.com/community/showcase>, July 2009.

### **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Religious Communication Association

Evangelical Homiletics Society

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- General Editor (2008-2014), *Kerux: A Commentary for Biblical Preaching and Teaching* (Kregel).
- Editor, book reviews, *JEHS*, 2003-2009.
- President, Evangelical Homiletics Society, 1999-2000; Vice President, 1998-99; Treasurer, 1997-98.
- Chair, Public Address Division, Religious Speech Communication Association, 1996-98.
- Communication consultant, 1996-present.

- Judge, high school and college forensics tournaments, 1979 - present.
- Director of numerous recitals, plays, and programs, 1981 - present.
- Workshops on Scripture reading, sketch writing, etc., 2002 - present.
- Consultation with pastoral search committees to help them evaluate sermons from candidates (2015 - present).

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

David Ross Grant, Purdue University, summer, 1991.

Monroe Scholarship Award, Purdue University, 1992.

Article of the Year Award, 1992, Religious Speech Communication Association, for "The Ego-Function of Conscientization."

Willhite Award, 2004 EHS (best paper at conference) for "Short Sentences Long Remembered: Preaching Genre-Sensitive Sermons From Proverbs."

Willhite Award, 2013 EHS (best paper at conference) for "The Lord's Remembrancers."

Willhite Award, 2016 EHS (best paper at conference) for "The Rewards and Challenges of Teaching Robinson's Big Idea Method."

*Preaching as Reminding*. Winner of *Christianity Today's* book of the year award for pastoral ministry.