

Alumni Spotlight: Armondo Jackson (MDiv '14)



Current Title & Military Branch: Chaplain, Captain, US Air Force

Family: Wife: Dione, Children: Elijah, Jaidah, Janiyah, and Jeremiah

Favorite professors: Too many to name!

Favorite class: All of the church history and exegesis courses!

Favorite memory: Taking breaks to sing worship songs in Greek class.

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and what are you doing now?

Primarily, I serve in the areas of teaching, training new ministers, preaching, and outreach. As an IMA (Individual Mobility Augmentee) Air Force Reserve chaplain, I serve a minimum of 30 days a year as a chaplain. I also recently joined Wycliffe as a Bible Translation Consultant, and I serve as an elder at my local church.

What do you love about your work as a military chaplain?

Military chaplaincy is very hands-on. The military culture is unique. I enjoy meeting people from different parts of the country and the world. I enjoy hearing their stories and being available in their times of need.

What are the particular challenges of serving as a military chaplain in general and/or in your specific context?

Military chaplaincy takes place in the context of religious pluralism. You have to be able to work with people of different denominations and completely different faiths. For example, you may be asked to counsel someone of a different religion or no religion at all. For some, this can be very challenging. The military environment is very stressful; you will be called upon to counsel service members and their families.

How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to



bring you to where you are now? How did you come to be doing your current work?

My Gordon-Conwell education has been foundational in the areas where God has me now. I am thankful for the challenging course work that has given me confidence and a solid foundation for lifelong continual study. The course I took on pastoral counseling has been very helpful in my work as a military chaplain. In addition, I would never have had the confidence to join Wycliffe Bible Translators without the exegesis and language courses.

What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest impact/influence on the work you do now or the way you do your work?

My Gordon-Conwell education has had a big impact on the way I serve and do my ministry. For example, I became interested in the field of apologetics while attending Gordon-Conwell. I have met military members who sincerely ask difficult questions about the Christian faith. Other chaplains often refer these military members to me. The education I received at Gordon-Conwell has better positioned me to discuss these issues with them.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering serving as a military chaplain?

Two things: (1) Speak to some chaplains to get a feel for what the ministry is like. It is different than civilian ministry. It is a pluralistic environment. Sometimes you are leading a worship service according to your faith tradition, other times you are working with other faith groups on various tasks. (2) There are several options in serving. You can serve part-time as a reservist, or if you feel that God is calling you to it, you can join full-time active duty. It is a rewarding ministry.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

I recently published a book, [*The Sermon on the Mount: A Twenty-One-Day Devotional Study*](#).