

## Alumni Spotlight: Britton Price (MDiv '08)



**Current Title & Military Branch:** Division Chaplain, 2nd Infantry Division, US Army

**Family:** Wife: Sarah (MAR '08), Children: Madeline, Bethany, Dominic, & Ethan

**Favorite professors:** Dr. Jim Critchlow and Dr. Gary Parrett

**Favorite class:** Exegesis of Jeremiah

**Favorite memory:** Well, I got married and had my first child during my time at Gordon-Conwell, so that's at the top of the list. Apart from that, I would say living in Pilgrim Hall: that was a fun experience!

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

After graduation, I was ordained in the PCA later that summer and immediately reported for active duty. We've been stationed in Germany, both Carolinas, Texas (twice), Washington, and now in the Republic of Korea about an hour south of Seoul. In my current position, I'm the senior chaplain for the spiritual care of 11,000 soldiers and their families. I'm also the senior mentor, coach, and trainer for twenty-five subordinate unit ministry teams comprised of twenty-five chaplains and thirty-three religious affairs specialists.

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

I love the people, and soldiers are some of my favorites. The highest honor a nation can give is the command of its sons and daughters in military service. To advise those commanders on how best to care for their troops is an honor. Furthermore, I love when a soldier lets you into their life and you can help them sort out their problems and remind them who God is and that He is able to see them through their current difficulties.

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

In general, it's challenging when you reach the limit of what you can do to help a soldier. This happens for various reasons but oftentimes I only get one time to engage with them, so it feels a little like playing home run derby. Prayer is so necessary because only God knows what is truly going on at the heart level. I can only know what they tell me. Specific to Korea, it's been difficult to fill chaplain vacancies, so I've had some units

go six months without a chaplain. That is hard because most of the soldier population here are in their first term and are away from home for the first time.

**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?**

I did ROTC in college and served in the Army before seminary. I had great chaplains as a young lieutenant and captain, but there is always a need for more. The way I interacted with soldiers, and the way they interacted with me, pointed towards the call to be a chaplain. One of my mentors recommended Gordon-Conwell to me when it came time to transition. At Gordon-Conwell I received a strong foundation for a lifetime of ministry, so I felt prepared to come back to active duty as a unit chaplain, but also to serve in different settings, like hospitals and prisons.

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

I took Exegesis of John with Dr. McDonough, and when we got to the testimony of the man born blind in chapter 9, he began to tear up. That memory stays with me because it taught me that no matter how learned we are in the Word of God, we are never beyond the touch of that same Word. Therefore, when I go to the text for sermon prep it's not to pull out the latest fad or hot-button issue. It is to declare the Word of the Lord; first to myself and then to the congregation. Service members face many challenges, they shouldn't have to face spiritual malnourishment. Gordon-Conwell prepared me well to ensure they don't.

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

Military chaplaincy is an exciting but demanding ministry. Therefore, those considering it should seek the Lord's face to see if they are called to this ministry field. Being called doesn't take away the hard times, but it does help you weather the storms that come your and your family's way. The military can be very consuming and impact the family, so make sure that they are on board as well.