

Alumni Spotlight: Jake Corn (MDiv '16)



Current Title & Military Branch: Battalion Chaplain, 224th MI BN, US Army

Family: Wife: Gennifer, Children: Lydia, Ezra

Favorite professors: Dr. Ryan Reeves and Dr. David Palmer

Favorite class: Interpretation of the New Testament

Favorite memory: Sitting next to classmates from different denominational backgrounds and comparing our understanding of the class materials. Watching all of us grow over the course of three years.

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

I have always been on a path toward Army Chaplaincy. I completed my pastoral work experience in Jacksonville, Florida, and I came onto active duty in 2020. I have served in South Korea, Germany, and Georgia since then.

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

My favorite part about chaplaincy is taking care of soldiers. I often surprise my soldiers of other religions (or no religion) that I am happy to take care of them. I get to show them the light of Christ by loving them the same way I love my Christian soldiers.

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

The biggest challenge is the strain on family when deployment orders come down. We have grown closer through these experiences, but multiple deployments cause a real strain. Knowing this helps me to better care for soldiers going through a similar experience.

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?

Gordon-Conwell's MDiv program was more than information, it was truly spiritual formation. My professors were from many denominations and gave us more than just PowerPoints; they also gave us spiritual practices and devotional insights that have become a deep well from which I can draw in times of need.

How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your past and current work?

I love that I get to take care of soldiers from all different backgrounds. Gordon-Conwell prepared me for that because it was multi-denominational and never allowed me to exist in an echo chamber. Gordon-Conwell's focus on exegetical science, rather than myopic systematics, has given me the tools to build bridges with all sorts of soldiers.

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

Chaplaincy is not the pastorate. Understanding that difference is what makes a successful chaplain. I recommend spending time fully integrating your theological imperatives with your life's path so when you arrive in the chaplaincy, you are a whole, helpful person ready to engage with people who may never share your beliefs.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

I wrote the article, "[For I Needed a Place to Vote, And You Invited Me In](#)" for Christianity Today to share how churches that are polling places can be spaces of hospitality.