

## Alumni Spotlight: Stephanie Clark (MACS '21)



**Current Title:** Director of Development at World Relief

**Family:** Husband: Dave, Children: Mathia and Nevaeh

**Favorite professors:** Garth Rosell (aka the Last Puritan), Gordon Isaac, and Gwenfair Adams

**Favorite class:** All church history and theology courses, courses I took through the BTI at Harvard Divinity School and Boston College Divinity School. If I had to pick one, it would have to be Dr. Adams' class on C.S. Lewis.

**Favorite memory:** I stopped and started my degree three times while figuring out what I was doing with my career/vocation. The first time I did, I remember having

a meeting with Dr. Adams to discuss some deeply personal things that were stirring. I remember the care she took with the conversation and how well she listened and felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit's guidance.

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

I spent a few years as an associate pastor in Lynnfield, MA. Then I moved on to be the Executive Director for Amirah, Inc based in Massachusetts. I am now the Director of Development for World Relief Chicagoland, living out in the suburbs of Chicago with my family.



### What do you love about your work?

Connecting individuals with what is driving their hearts and faith to the heartbeat of God.

### What are the particular challenges of non-profit work in general and/or in your specific context?

While non-profit work is certainly challenging, I find that the challenges have been strengthening my faith. For example, are you behind in raising funds for your budget? You pray more earnestly. Are there more crises than can be managed? You lean into the wise council of those around you and seek out wisdom from your heavenly Father. Each day, I do my best with the time I am given, and then I pray, asking God to do more than I can ever imagine. It's been amazing to see these prayers answered.

**How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?**

How did someone with a love for church history, particularly the Puritans and 20th century theologians end up as a fundraiser? I think that Dr. Rosell would agree with me that, much like the Puritans, I want to live out my faith. Everything I do is a reflection of God and is meant to honor Him. In the pursuit of this practical theology, God has guided my steps to where I am today.

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

The richness of what I learned at Gordon-Conwell has only served to strengthen my work each day. At World Relief, we often speak of "welcoming the stranger," and building communities of welcome. When I think back to my studies and think of the life of the Puritans, living in full community together, reading *Life Together* by Bonhoeffer, studying Lewis and his life with the Inklings—building a community where the stranger is welcomed, empowered, and a thriving part of our lives, this is exactly what was taught to me.

**What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering working in the non-profit sector?**

Find one in the area that has a mission that aligns with your heart and volunteer. Give your time now.

**Do you have any publications or links to share?**

During my time at Amirah, I wrote the book [\*Letters to an Activist: Discovering Hope in the Pursuit of Social Change.\*](#)