

Alumni Spotlight: David Palmer (MDiv '97, ThM '99)



Current title: Senior Pastor of Kenwood Baptist Church

Family: Wife: Christine, Children: Salome and Jonathan

Favorite professor: Dr. Greg Beale and Dr. Gary Pratico

Favorite class: Exegesis of Revelation

Favorite memory: Meeting my future wife as a seminary classmate, learning to read God's Word in the original languages, and making a number of lifelong friends.

Would you tell us about the church you are currently serving?

Kenwood is a thriving local church with twenty-four native languages spoken in the congregation. We prioritize disciple-making through intentional one-on-one relationships and believe that "disciples are committed followers of Jesus who learn to obey him over time and joyfully share him with others." Kenwood is a beautiful part of the bride of Christ.

How did you come to be doing your current work in ministry?

The Lord first brought us to Cincinnati for our doctoral studies in Old and New Testament at Hebrew Union College. God's sovereignty unfolded as I joined the pastoral staff at Kenwood through the influence of David Hansen, a Gordon-Conwell alumnus. Kenwood was planted 110 years ago, and I am now the seventh pastor. The church has a long history of faithful pastoral ministry as well as a deep connection to the seminary.

What do you love about the ministry work you are doing now?

I love serving Jesus Christ. He has rescued me from darkness and not counted my sins against me. He has clothed me in his righteousness and called me to offer myself back to him in worship. This still amazes me daily. I am blessed to serve alongside a gifted and humble team of gospel servants who want others to meet Jesus. I love seeing God's people equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share life together in Christ and to make disciples of all nations.

What are the particular challenges of serving in a large church in general, and in your specific context?

Jesus Christ shepherds a very large, global church that grows daily. I am small and depend on his greatness every day. Serving in a large church means that you must be

faithful to the unique responsibilities that Christ has entrusted to you. At the same time, you must practice shared leadership, constantly train others in ministry, and seek growth in Christ-likeness in the people that Jesus allows you to serve.

What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest impact/influence on your ministry or the way you engage in ministry?

Gordon-Conwell gave me three great gifts (in addition to my spouse!): 1) seeing the Lord as the central hero of Scripture; 2) understanding the single redemptive storyline of the Bible; and 3) reading God's Word in the original voice. My weekly rhythm of sermon preparation depends on what I learned in seminary. I look for the Lord, can see where we are in God's story, and hear his voice speaking to us today. Every week, I am led to moments of exegetical euphoria where the person and work of Christ are overwhelming.



What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are beginning in ministry?

Be loyal to Jesus Christ. Delight in him and his Word in private so that you can represent him well in public. Practice self-denial. Be patient in seeking transformation in the lives of the people you serve. Sin runs deep. The Devil is deceptive. The world makes many false promises that we are tempted to believe. Let God's Word do the work. Empower your people to share Christ. Give God all the glory in the church.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

I have been blessed to produce the New Testament portion for the [CASKET EMPTY Bible study series](#) together with a dear friend and Gordon-Conwell Old Testament faculty, Dr. Carol Kaminski. The Lord has enabled these resources to be translated into multiple languages and to be used by hundreds of churches in disciple making.