

## Alumni Spotlight: Jamie Booth (MDiv '05)



**Current title:** Lead Pastor at Calvary Christian Church

**Family:** Wife: Rebecca, sons: Jack (17) & Lucas (12)

**Favorite professor:** Timothy Tennent, Scott Gibson, and Garth Rosell

**Favorite class:** Every missions course

**Favorite memory:** Outside of the classroom, my favorite memories all include living on campus and being a part of such an amazing community. I made lifelong friends while at Gordon-Conwell.

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

Calvary Christian Church is an Assemblies of God church. Before I became the Lead Pastor, it was pastored by Timothy Schmidt, who led the church from 1988 to 2024. During his time as pastor, Calvary grew from about 60 people to nearly 2,000 on an average Sunday.

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

I first attended Calvary Christian Church while I was a student at Gordon-Conwell. I completed Mentored Ministry here and even came on staff part-time as a custodian while I was still in school. After graduation, I stepped into a full-time role as the Children's Pastor, a position I held for seven years. Afterwards, I served as the Executive Pastor at the church for about twelve years before stepping into the Lead Pastor role this past May.

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

The people—I am part of such an amazing church filled with awesome people. In addition to the incredible congregation, we also have an astounding church staff. It is truly a blessing to get to pastor so many remarkable individuals.

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

Serving in a larger church certainly comes with its challenges, which I imagine nearly every pastor faces. One of those challenges is the sheer volume of requests and ministry needs that come in on a daily basis. It can be overwhelming to ensure that each one receives the timely response and pastoral care it needs. This is where delegation becomes crucial and why I am so thankful for the amazing team we have at Calvary. I rely heavily on our ministry team and leaders to take ownership of their specific areas of responsibility.

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

My education at Gordon-Conwell has been invaluable to my ministry in several ways. One of the greatest impacts was the way the seminary blended classroom education with practical ministry experience. The classroom equipped me with a deep theological understanding and ministry knowledge that I use daily. However, what made the experience truly impactful was the emphasis on transferring that knowledge into a real-world ministry setting through Mentored Ministry.



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

The advice I would give to young alumni just beginning in ministry is to never give up, even when it gets hard—and it will. Ministry can be incredibly rewarding, but it also comes with its challenges, setbacks, and difficult seasons. When things get tough, remember that every experience, even the bad ones, can be valuable learning opportunities. Whether it's a challenging relationship, a leadership obstacle, or a difficult season in the church, these experiences will shape you and strengthen you if you remain open to learning through them.

I'd also encourage you to keep learning. Just because you've graduated doesn't mean education stops. Continue to read, study, and seek out mentors who can guide you. Stay curious, keep growing, and don't lose heart in the difficult times—you are being shaped for greater things.

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

While I don't have any personal publications to share at the moment, I highly recommend Ruth Haley Barton's [\*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry\*](#). This book has had a profound impact on me recently, offering deep insights into how to seek God in the midst of the challenges and demands of ministry. It's a powerful resource for anyone looking to sustain their leadership with a strong spiritual foundation.