

Alumni Spotlight: Solomon Mwalili (DMin '21)



Current title: Senior Pastor at Embakasi Church

Family: Wife, three daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren

Favorite professor: Dana Allin and Jim Singleton

Favorite class: Leadership in a Changing Church Context

Favorite memory: This class gave me the opportunity to decide on the topic of my thesis project. My wife was able to attend one session of this class while I made this choice.

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

Free Pentecostal Fellowship in Kenya – Embakasi Church is located in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The church has over 1,000 adults and more than 600 children in attendance. It runs an educational complex comprising of a primary school, junior secondary school, and a technical training institute. The church also operates a water purification plant. These projects provide employment to fifty staff members.

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

I attended seminary after doing ministry work for more than thirty years. God has used my Gordon-Conwell education to strengthen my leadership skills to be effectively used for the church and its various projects.

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

I love seeing people come to Christ, nurturing them to maturity and developing/mentoring leaders for the work of ministry.

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

The work of ministry is generally quite involved. In particular, managing people from different cultural backgrounds, educational levels, and age groups poses many challenges.



Alumni

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How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in ministry?

My perspective in understanding the need for succession planning has been broadened in both the local and the national church. When I joined the seminary, I was sixty-one years old. The constitutional age requirement for retirement at that time was seventy years and I did not know how to prepare myself and other stake holders for this important eventuality. This gave me a lot of anxiety.

Through the guidance of my lecturers, I learned how to deal with my own anxiety, which benefited my family, the local church that I

pastor, as well as the national church organization. As a result of my studies at the seminary, I have now been appointed by the national board of the church organization to lead a team which is tasked with developing a succession plan policy for the entire organization.

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

One needs to understand that one is in transit right from the onset, which causes the need to identify, nurture, and mentor upcoming leaders for smooth transitions in the event of any unforeseen departures.