Alumni

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Alumni Spotlight: Carmen Joy Imes (MABS ’11)

Current title: Associate Professor of Old Testament, Talbot School of Theology

Family: Husband: Daniel, Children: Three children

Favorite professor: Dr. Rollin Grams was a wonderful mentor for my MA thesis, and I learned so much from him working as his Byington Fellow research assistant.

Favorite class: I loved my exegesis classes (John, Isaiah, Matthew, Jacob Narratives, Hebrew Poetry) and Biblical Theology with Dr. Tim Laniak.

Favorite memory: Sitting in the library working on my MA thesis for hours at a time. It was a quiet place with all the books I needed!

Please tell us about your area of expertise and what courses you teach.

My research focuses on the books of Exodus and Psalms. I teach an elective on the Psalms for undergraduate students and a Theology of Exodus class for graduate students. Most of my teaching load is devoted to “Old Testament History and Literature” for undergrads. I also teach Biblical Backgrounds and Biblical Theology Seminar for Bible majors.

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

Gordon-Conwell prepared me for PhD studies and gave me experience researching and writing that make up a significant portion of every week. I’m in a long-term project writing a commentary on Exodus for Baker Academic, the seeds of which come from my MA thesis at Gordon-Conwell.

What are some things you love about your roles as a faculty member, professor, and/or researcher?

I love talking with students and helping them navigate the discernment process for career and calling. I love writing for a wide range of audiences, from academic to popular. In a given week I might write a blog post, an article for *Christianity Today*, a couple thousand words of my Exodus commentary, and part of a conference paper.

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What are the current challenges of teaching in higher education, being a faculty member in general, and in your context specifically?

The decline in the number of 18-year-olds and the reticence of families to invest in a Christian liberal arts education has caused ripples in higher education throughout the nation. It's sad to see schools or departments shuttered. At the same time the students we do have are less and less familiar with the content of the Scriptures. Thankfully, in my context students are eager to learn and committed to following Jesus. Teaching them is a joy!

How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your academic work?

I learned how to research and write at Gordon-Conwell. I'm so grateful for the opportunities I had to be mentored in these skills!

Do you have any publications or links you would like to share?

- *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019)
- *Bearing YHWH's Name at Sinai: A Reexamination of the Name Command of the Decalogue* (BBRSup 19, University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2018)
- *Becoming God's Family: Why the Church Still Matters* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2025)
- *Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023)
- *Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends* (Vol. 1 of *Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics*. Wichita, KS: The Urban Ministry Institute and Samuel Morris, 2021)

Social platforms: YouTube, Blogspot, Facebook, X, @carmenjoyimes.bsky.social