Alumni
GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Robert MacEwen (MDiv ’00)

Current title: Academic Dean & Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Badhoevedorp (near Amsterdam), the Netherlands; missionary with Global Outreach International.

Family: Wife: Lisa, Child: Lydia

Favorite professor: Dr. Jack Davis & Dr. Doug Stuart

Favorite class: All my courses in Biblical exegesis, taken with Dr. Greg Beale, Dr. Aida Spencer, Dr. Moises Silva, and Dr. Doug Stuart

Favorite memory: Living in Graham Hall with my wife Lisa for our first two years of marriage. Another is seeing deer while walking on campus on a snowy day.

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

I teach courses in Greek and New Testament exegesis. My research focus is the Synoptic Gospels and the Synoptic problem.

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

I was in ministry, including outreach to university students in East Asia, for ten years before I felt the need to go to seminary. I chose Gordon-Conwell because 1) my youth pastor, Rob Bromhead, had gone there, 2) everyone I knew who went to seminary right after college seemed to have gone there, and 3) I had spent the first two years of my life in the Boston area, and was curious to see what it was like.

One of the greatest benefits I received from Gordon-Conwell was gaining a knowledge of and love for the biblical languages and exegesis. After graduation, my wife Lisa and I went back to living and ministering in East Asia. Seeing how I continued to study Greek and Hebrew, Lisa encouraged me to enter a PhD program. After getting my PhD in New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, we taught at East Asia School of Theology in Singapore for six years. We have now been at Tyndale Theological Seminary in the Netherlands for almost six years.

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

I love the multicultural environment of Tyndale, an international school with twelve different countries currently represented among the students—including nations in Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America. I love getting to know the students through

teaching and mentoring them and sharing meals with them. I love that I'm continually learning new things about my students' countries and cultures, and that I'm able to encourage them, pray with them, and help prepare them for their future ministries. I also love the warm and encouraging relationships that I enjoy with my faculty colleagues. As a researcher, I love that my published dissertation has opened doors for further opportunities to publish and participate in conferences.

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

Knowing that many seminaries are facing declining enrollments or even shutting down, I'm thankful for the privilege of being a seminary professor. One challenge at my school is that many of our students come to us unprepared for our western educational model, so we have to train them in things such as research methods, academic writing, and avoiding plagiarism. A personal challenge I have is juggling my various responsibilities: teaching, administration, research and writing, and communicating with our ministry supporters and our mission agency.

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

I continue to practice and teach the biblical languages and methods of biblical exegesis that I learned at Gordon-Conwell. More generally, Gordon-Conwell faculty modeled academic excellence and devotion to the Lord in ways that continue to inspire me.

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

- *Matthean Posteriority: An Exploration of Matthew's Use of Mark and Luke as a Solution to the Synoptic Problem,* (Library of New Testament Studies, edited by Chris Keith, vol. 501. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015)
- "The Centurion's Servant and the Synoptic Problem." In *The Synoptic Problem 2022: Proceedings of the Loyola University Conference*, (edited by Olegs Andrejevs, Simon J. Joseph, Edmondo Lupieri, and Joseph Verheyden. Biblical Tools and Studies, vol. 44. Leuven: Peeters, 2023)