Alumni

GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Gerry Wheaton (MAOT & MANT ’03)

Title: Academic Dean and Associate Professor of NT

Family: Wife: Jessica; Children: Gerald, Nathan, Andrew, William, Wesley

Favorite professor: Rick Lints, Doug Stuart

Favorite class: Every exegesis course

Favorite memory: I really enjoyed the camaraderie in Intermediate Hebrew and Aramaic classes as we were all struggling to translate difficult texts and really understand the nuances of the text. I was working full-time at a Biotech company, and those classes were a breath of fresh air each week.

Please tell us about your area(s) of expertise and what courses you teach at Gordon-Conwell.

I teach NT courses (Greek, Survey, Exegesis). I started out teaching Gospel exegesis courses for many years and have moved into Paul’s letters in more recent years.

How did God weave together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you back to Gordon-Conwell as a faculty member?

After my seminary studies, the Lord called my family into missions overseas. We spent many years abroad, during which the Lord really solidified my calling to work in theological education training people from all ministry backgrounds to study God’s Word fruitfully. At the end of that season, we spent 5 years in Costa Rica where I taught at Seminario ESEPA and worked with a Bible translator. The experiences of Bible translation work with an indigenous group in the region, combined with the interaction with many regional church leaders in Central and South America, prepared me wonderfully for many aspects of the work I would eventually be doing at Gordon-Conwell.

What are some things you love about your role as a faculty member?

Working with students on the study of God’s Word is sheer glory! I love working through a rich, technical portion of one of Paul’s letters during class and then going out for lunch with students afterwards and hearing about what’s going on in their ministries. There’s no more exciting work in the world!

What's unique about teaching at Gordon-Conwell?

I think the uniqueness of Gordon-Conwell is the twin commitments to the supreme authority of Scripture in all aspects of life and the partnership with believers across the denominational spectrum in the work of the Kingdom. The 'unity in diversity' that flows from these commitments fosters generative learning experiences for students as they debate and reflect upon Scripture and theology from their diverse backgrounds. This makes for a wonderful classroom environment.

How has teaching in a multidenominational setting shaped your own faith, ministry, or view of the Church as a whole?

The experience of teaching in a multidenominational setting has really impressed upon me the tremendous value of working collaboratively across denominational lines in educational and ministry contexts. Throughout my years at Gordon-Conwell, I have maintained involvement with seminaries outside the west and this work has flourished through partnerships with schools and churches from a wide array of evangelical traditions. Much of the work I've been involved with would have been impoverished if I had insisted on confining the scope of my work and partnerships to institutions that align strictly with my own tradition.