Alumni

GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Erin Curtinsmith (MANT ’22, MACT ’23)

Current title: Co-Founder of TEACH Foundation

Family: Husband: David; Children: Jade, Paige, Mia, and Luca.

Favorite professor: Dr. Gerry Wheaton, Dr. Adonis Vidu

Favorite class: Apocalypticism in the New Testament and its Jewish Environment, and Attributes of the Trinitarian God.

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and what work are you doing now?

Apart from enjoying some extra free time with my family, I have continued working for TEACH Foundation. Following graduation, I taught two semesters of Greek at the seminary in Haiti and have continued to work in an administration role to support the existing program.

Where did the idea for the TEACH Foundation originate, and what was the path from idea to reality like for you?

TEACH Foundation was formed to support an existing work that was undergoing changes. Shannon Miller (MACC ’17, MATS ’23), Ann Maouyo (MACT '22, ThM '25), and I started an independent seminary in Haiti in 2021. The seminary start-up arose from a conversation that Shannon and I had with a local Haitian pastor, who asked if we could somehow help encourage Haitian pastors to learn the biblical languages and develop exegetical skills. After doing much research, we identified a gap that we could fill, which was to offer a master’s degree in biblical studies. In 2021, we started a pilot program with Dr. McDowell teaching a Hebrew class. As a result of student demand, we continued to offer courses in all the key areas of a biblical studies degree. During this time, an opportunity arose for us to create a partnership with an existing accredited University in Haiti (Emmaus University). We formed TEACH Foundation to resource the degree program that we now oversee at Emmaus University. In June 2025, we had our first cohort of students graduate with a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. The journey from beginning up until when we merged with Emmaus

University has been full of uncertainty and risk but has been full of God's mercy and grace. It has been a deep journey of faith and trust in the Lord.

What do you love about your work?

I love the relationships that are formed through this work, whether it is with our students, the staff at Emmaus, or even our U.S. partners.

What are some of the particular challenges that you face in your work?

We face many challenges working in Haiti. Haiti has ongoing challenges with gangs and violence. Thankfully the region we work in is not at the center of the violence and is reasonably peaceful in comparison to other parts of the nation. The unrest and travel warnings mean visiting Haiti comes with risk and as a result, most of our work is done remotely. In the past we have had more opportunity to travel to Haiti and be in person with our students. The most challenging thing at present is the lack of infrastructure with power and internet access.

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

My experience at Gordon-Conwell played a formative role in shaping my sense of calling. The education I received at Gordon-Conwell fostered a desire to see others, especially those in Haiti, have access to the same quality of education. Dr. Wheaton was especially influential in this process, creating intentional spaces for conversation and imagination around what theological education could look like in developing contexts. Gordon-Conwell also provided the relational foundation for this work, as it was where Ann, Shannon, and I first met.

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

The education I received from Gordon-Conwell and my experience as a student in the Gordon-Conwell program was the foundation from which we developed the Master of Arts program in Haiti that we currently offer.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

Teach Foundation: https://www.teachfoundation.org/