

# Year-In-Review



2025 Faith in Business Leadership Retreat, Cambridge, UK

## Praising God for a year of flourishing and connection at the Mockler Center.

In 2024 and 2025 the Mockler Center focused its research on the topic of Sabbath, culminating in our first collaborative book titled *Sabbath as Resilience: Spiritual Refreshment for a Stressed-Out World* (Wipf & Stock, 2025).

The book explores Sabbath as an ancient practice that is far more than a religious observance – it is a prism through which to experience God in the everyday, see Him in everyone, and quiet our minds so we can hear Him amidst the cacophony of modern life.

In addition to the book, we hosted a unique live symposium titled: “The Future of AI and the Future of the Church”; and we expanded our global partnerships with the Octet Collaborative (MIT), The Love Project (RPC Oxford) and Faith in Business (Cambridge).

As I prepare for a long-awaited Sabbatical starting this summer, I am pleased to announce that thanks to the continued generosity of Mrs. Mockler, the Mockler Center is in a very strong position going forward.

Our distinguished Fellows (11 in all) and our global partners in the US, UK and Australia, continue to research, write, teach and minister to the faithful on the most pressing issues of faith and ethics in the public square.

Finally, our work relies on the generosity of supporters like you. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please reach out to us.

Peace,

Ken Barnes



Mockler Center  
Partners



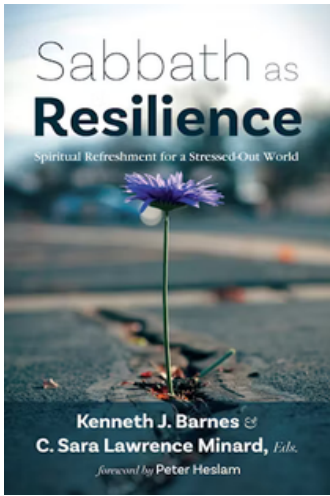
FAITH  
BUSINESS



Regent's  
Park College  
OXFORD

# A New Book by Mockler Center Fellows and Directors

## **Sabbath As Resilience:** *Spiritual Refreshment for a Stressed-Out World*



Visit our website to access the study guide and videos:  
<https://www.gcts.edu/center-for-faith-and-ethics/sabbath-as-resilience/>

As Senior Mockler Fellow Peter Heslam writes in the Foreword of *Sabbath as Resilience* (Wipf & Stock), “The Sabbath was a gift that allowed people to be spiritually, emotionally, and relationally reequipped to reenter every sphere of life (not just the sphere of organized religion) as transformative agents...In the midst of a culture of stress, distraction, and overwork, it is time to heed the call of this book for the rediscovery of the Sabbath as resilience, reprioritization, resistance, re-imagination, renewal, and redemption...This gift, freely available in this life, can deliver humans from the oppressive culture of overwork they have created...and offered to them as their eternal treasure in the life to come. This book offers a key to unlocking that potential.” Through multidisciplinary perspectives from economics, philosophy, law, business, and theology, and drawing from sources like Hannah Arendt, John Ruskin, Abraham Kuyper, J.R.R. Tolkien and Walter Brueggemann, the authors show how in a world that never stops, Sabbath is an act of faithful resistance; that we are more than what we produce; that time is a gift not just a resource; and that in rest we remember who *and whose* we are, as children of God.

### Book Chapters

- Foreword by Peter Heslam
- The Yoke of Mammon by Ken Barnes
- Prometheus Ascending: From the Atom Bomb to AI by Ken Barnes
- Homo Obsessus: Humans Under Siege by Ken Barnes
- Sabbath as Resilience by Ken Barnes and Sara Minard
- Sabbath as Reprioritization, by Autumn Ridenour
- Sabbath as Resistance, by Natt Gantt
- Sabbath as Reimagination, by Kara Martin
- Sabbath as Renewal, by Sara Minard
- Sabbath as Redemption, by Jeff Hanson
- View from the Pew, by Jim Longhurst and Ken Barnes



The book is dedicated to our Founder, Joanna Mockler



Octet Collaborative, MIT



Massachusetts Council of Churches Leadership Event



Sabbath as Resilience Book Launch GCTS Board of Trustees Dinner

# Collaborating, Educating, Serving

**Summer '24** - Managing Change course with Kara Martin and Ken Barnes; OCTET Collaborative Event

**September '24** - Ockenga Fellows Event on Human Sexuality; Redeeming Capitalism course; Ken speaks at Pilgrim's Pint at FCCH

**October '24** - Faith in Business Monthly; GCTS Global Summit

**November '24** - Faith in Business Monthly on Just Grace in People Management; Ockenga Fellows Criminal Justice; Tom Phillips Breakfast

**December '25** - Faith in Business Monthly on Just Grace in Innovation; MA Council of Churches

**January '25** - Practical Apologetics class; OCTET Collaborative; ASA Winter Symposium; Faith in Business Monthly on Just Grace in Case Studies

**February '25** - Workplace Theology class; Principles of Leadership course; RPC Love in Business; Faith in Business Monthly on Just Grace in Workplace Culture

**March '25** - Live Symposium on "The Future of AI and the Future of the Church"; Faith in Business Monthly on Just Grace in Overcoming Obstacles; RPC Love in Business

**April '25** - Dialogos; RPC Love in Business; Faith in Business Leadership Retreat and Soft Launch of *Sabbath as Resilience*

**May '25** - Sabbath as Resilience Launch at GCTS Board of Trustees Dinner; RPC Love in Business

**Summer '25** - OCTET Collaborative; DMin program; OSSA program

## The Future of AI and The Church



On March 13<sup>th</sup> the Mockler Center hosted an in-person event with distinguished scholars on artificial intelligence and the role of the church to a standing-room only crowd in Alumni Hall. We heard from renowned international entrepreneur and academic **Dr. Sebastian Vaduva**, professor at the Griffiths School of Management at the Emanuel University in Oradea, Romania, in discussion with professors Dr. Sean McDonough and Dr. Ken Barnes, moderated by Dr. Adonis Vidu, Andrew Mutch Distinguished Professor of Theology and Director of the PhD Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

A recording of this important discussion can be found on our website and on Gordon-Conwell's Youtube channel: <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/center-for-faith-and-ethics/resources/events/>

### Mockler Center 2024-25 Course Offerings:

Fall '24 - SE630 Redeeming Capitalism (Digital Live)  
 J-Term (1) '25 - AP/MC612 Practical Apologetics (Digital Live)  
 Spring '25 - CL503 Foundations of Leadership (Digital Live)  
 Spring '25 - ET/TH648 Workplace Theology (Asynchronous)



### Full List of 2024/2025 Publications:

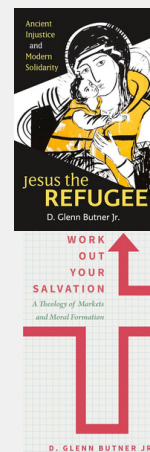
<https://www.gordonconwell.edu/center-for-faith-and-ethics/resources/books-articles>

# FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT



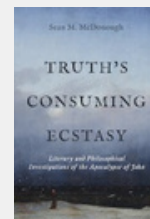
## Glenn Butner

D. Glenn Butner, Jr. is Associate Professor of Theology and came to Gordon-Conwell in 2024 after nine years at universities in Kansas and Wisconsin. His two most recent books are *Jesus the Refugee: Ancient Injustice and Modern Solidarity* (Fortress Press, 2023) and *Work Out Your Salvation: A Theology of Markets and Moral Formation* (Fortress Press, 2024). *Jesus the Refugee* asks what might happen if the holy family's flight from Herod in Matthew 2 occurred within today's international refugee regime and the difficulty Jesus, Mary, and Joseph would have in securing protection. *Work Out Your Salvation* explores how markets play a role in influencing Christian moral formation, drawing on theory, experimental economics and theological analysis of doctrines like common grace, social sin, justification, and sanctification. Dr. Butner argues that markets can be built in many different ways, some more theologically coherent than others.



## Sean McDonough

Dr. Sean McDonough is the Mary French Rockefeller Distinguished Professor of New Testament and came to Gordon-Conwell in 2000 from Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, where he had served as the Chair of the Biblical Studies Department and as a lecturer in New Testament. His newest book title is *Truth's Consuming Ecstasy: Literary and Philosophical Investigations of the Apocalypse of John* (Baylor Press). The book addresses the question of why the book of Revelation is the strange sort of thing it is. To that end, he put the Apocalypse in dialogue with two philosophers (Plato and Ludwig Wittgenstein), two literary icons (WB Yeats and JRR Tolkien), and two theologians (Sergius Bulgakov and Hans Urs von Balthasar). He concludes that the imaginative, visionary discourse of Revelation offers us the reach, but not the grasp, of the depths of reality. We learn about the purposes of God for the world, but in a certain puzzling way that is meant to check our hubris.



## Talk To Us!

### C. Sara Minard, PhD.

Associate Director  
sminard@gordonconwell.edu  
mockler@gcts.edu

### Kenneth J. Barnes, FRSA

Director and the Mockler-Phillips  
Professor of Workplace Theology  
and Business Ethics  
KBarnes@gordonconwell.edu

## Looking Ahead:

Check our website for upcoming **Livestream Events this Fall and Spring** with Mockler Fellows, and other Gordon-Conwell faculty and special guests from the business, science, technology, and social sectors.

## Mockler Center to Co-Sponsor the 2026 Faith in Business Leadership Retreat

to be held in Cambridge, UK, in  
April next year (*exact dates to be  
confirmed*)