

A. J. Gordon 175th Birthday Celebration



UNCOMMON COURAGE
—
EVERYDAY FAITH

A Tribute to A. J. Gordon

Letter from President Carlberg

There was overspeculation, and then the bubble burst. Banks failed, markets plunged and unemployment surged, setting the stage for a record-breaking recession.

But only a few years had passed since founding the College that would later bear his name, and Adoniram Judson Gordon and his colleagues would not let the Panic of 1893 keep them from fulfilling their mission: to train young women and men for the works of God.

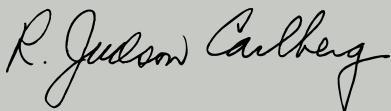
Uncommon courage enabled A. J. Gordon to move ahead despite the circumstances of his day. He was hopeful in his purpose and confident in God's provision, traits that have been evident at the College ever since.

Such faithfulness is a part of our founder's legacy, and we see it across campus today in our faculty, staff, administration and board. But his model of courage and faith is especially evident in our students. They are the reason we keep going. They inspire me every day.

As this year marks the 175th anniversary of A. J. Gordon's birth, I invite you to join us as we celebrate his legacy. We have many exciting things planned, but we're really acknowledging all God has done and continues to do through Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

I am honored to ask you to join me in praying that we would continue to build on our history, grow from our present challenges, and achieve for the future the same qualities our founders envisioned: equipping young men and women with uncommon courage and everyday faith to depend on God's grace in all they do.

Happy Birthday, Adoniram Judson Gordon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Judson Carlberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Judson Carlberg, President of Gordon College

The Seven Themes of A. J. Gordon

“My great-grandfather’s vision for training young people to bring Christ to the world is alive at Gordon. I know he’d be very proud to see his dream thriving 175 years after his birth, thanks to the leaders and professors who have worked year after year to make the College so distinguished.”

Jonathan E. Harrell, A. J. Gordon’s Great-Grandson

The themes A. J. Gordon himself stood for and promoted throughout his life—education, evangelism, global missions, servant leadership, social justice, theology and worship—will be themes we celebrate all year, themes worth supporting and reflecting on. We will focus on one each month from October through April.



October | Global Missions



November | Servant Leadership



December | Worship



January | Social Justice



February | Education



March | Evangelism



April | Theology

Schedule of Events

A. J. GORDON'S 175TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Rough and the Holy September 1, 2010

An engaging, honest and emotionally charged one-man play discovering the life of Jesus

Barrington Center for the Arts Cinema, Gordon College

Homecoming October 8-10, 2010

An opportunity for Gordon alumni, families and students to gather and visit the College

Gordon College

Christmas at Gordon December 1-4, 2010

An opportunity for North Shore neighbors to join us in our celebration of Christmas

Gordon College

Fezziwig's Ball December 11, 2010

An evening of dance and Christmas merriment from the era of A. J. Gordon

Old Town Hall, Salem, Massachusetts

Women in Leadership Lecture Series March 8, 2011

An event to encourage women in their leadership development

MacDonald Auditorium, KOSC, Gordon College

Tuition Freedom Day

March 21, 2011

An awareness day to show the impact of philanthropy to the College

A. J. Gordon Memorial Chapel, Gordon College

Origins and Originality: Keeping the Faith

April 14, 2011

A Student Symposium exploring various expressions of faith through Gordon's history

Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Uncommon Courage, Everyday Faith

April 15, 2011

A Leadership Symposium with leading scholars on the seven themes of A. J. Gordon's life

Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

A. J. Gordon's 175th Birthday

April 19, 2011

A campus-wide celebration of A. J. Gordon's birthday

Gordon College

A. J. Gordon Family Reunion

June 11, 2011

A celebration of A. J. Gordon's legacy for his descendants and the Gordon community

Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

About A. J. Gordon



Adoniram Judson Gordon 1836–1895

A. J. Gordon was born in New Hampton, New Hampshire, on April 19, 1836, to devout Christian parents. At about 15 years of age, Adoniram had a conversion experience and was baptized in his father’s millstream.

At age 20 he entered Brown University, where he met his future wife, Maria Hale. In 1860 he entered the Newton Theological Institution.

Upon graduation in 1863 he accepted a call to become pastor of the Jamaica Plain Baptist Church near Boston. After six successful years there, he accepted the pastorate of the Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston, the church where his ministry would have its broad impact.

Dr. Gordon remained pastor of Clarendon Street Church for more than a quarter of a century. He wrote many books, and saw the church completely transformed into one of the most spiritual and aggressive missionary churches in America.

A. J. Gordon poured his heart and energy into the work of foreign missions. He traveled, preached, wrote and served with the passion of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide. In 1889 he founded Gordon College in Boston, Massachusetts, as a missionary training institute. In 1969 Gordon Divinity School, which emerged from the school A. J. Gordon founded, merged with the Conwell School of Theology to form Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

A. J. Gordon continued as minister of the Clarendon Street Church until his death—due to influenza and bronchitis—on the morning of February 2, 1895, with “Victory” as the last audible word on his lips.

About Maria Hale Gordon



Maria Hale Gordon 1842-1921

A. J. Gordon's appreciation for women's equality was obvious throughout his 30-year marriage to Maria Hale Gordon. This devoted mother of six children not only worked alongside her husband in his church and school but also labored tirelessly to advance her own causes, especially temperance. As a leader of Boston's Women's Christian Temperance Union for two decades,

Maria spoke, passed out leaflets, circulated petitions, and held temperance meetings under a large canopy at Boston Common. She presided over meetings with her youngest child on her lap.

Always careful never to neglect her children, Maria earned their deep admiration. Her home in Boston, where she lived for 50 years, was a refuge for anyone in need, and she multiplied that generosity by founding and leading the Society for the Fatherless and Widows. It is little wonder that Adoniram, while a student at Brown, ardently courted Maria and considered her "the most valued treasure [he] carried away from the University." When she was suddenly widowed at age 53, she carried on as a Bible teacher until her final illness and loss of eyesight prevented her.

From A Faithful Past, An Expectant Future: Celebrating a Century of Christian Higher Education, by Thomas and Jean Askew (1988)

Photo courtesy of the Gordon College Archives



GLOBAL MISSIONS

“Our task is not to bring all the world
to Christ, our task is unquestionably to
bring Christ to all the world.”

A. J. Gordon



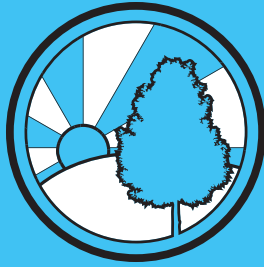


SERVANT LEADERSHIP

“Christian experience is the making real in ourselves, of what is already true for us in Christ.”

A. J. Gordon





WORSHIP

“For the worship of God, if it be genuine,
is the highest stimulant and preparation
for proclaiming the Word of God.”

A. J. Gordon





SOCIAL JUSTICE

“The nearest way to the heart of our
sorrowing humanity is through the
heart of the Man of Sorrows.”

A. J. Gordon





EDUCATION

“It is God’s prerogative alone to call out His workmen; but it is ours to recognize and encourage those whom He has called.”

A. J. Gordon





EVANGELISM

“We live in the lives of others
more than our own.”

A. J. Gordon





THEOLOGY

“If Christ had not died for our sins, faith could not justify us from our sins; for faith does not do anything, or change anything, or create anything: it simply assents and consents to what has been done.”

A. J. Gordon



A. J. Gordon's Vision

Adoniram Judson Gordon's vision was to raise up godly men and women, distinguished by intellectual and spiritual maturity and prepared for leadership roles around the world. Since the inception of the institution, this goal has remained unchanged at both Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, equipping leaders for a variety of fields in the church and the world.

About Gordon College

Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, is among the top Christian colleges in the nation and the only multid denominational Christian college in New England. Gordon is committed to excellence in liberal arts education, spiritual development and academic freedom informed by a framework of faith.

About Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary combines a rich tradition with cutting-edge educational innovation. Rooted in the gospel and God's Word, the Seminary seeks to develop Christian leaders who are thoughtful, globally aware, spiritually mature and ready for a broad array of ministries.

Acknowledgments

Katie Arnold	Patty Hanlon	Tim Ferguson Sauder
Tom and Jean Askew	Jon Harrell	Peter Stine
John Beauregard	Ashley Herron Shultz	Drew Straton
Russ Bishop	David Horn	Dan Tymann
Tom Brooks	Jo Kadlecsek	Heather Varela
Lisa Calmus	Nancy Mering	Dick and Carol Visser
Jud and Jan Carlberg	Jen Migonis	Joyce Wallace
Jeremy DePace	Jeff Miller	Dan White
Kelsey Eckert	Dick Pierard	Bob Whittet
Natalie Ferjulian	Rebecca Powell	Beth Wilcoxson
Scott Gibson	Dan Russ	



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