

BIRD and KEY NEWS

a publication of kirk irwin and sarah kennedy irwin in ministry with Cru and partnering with Friday Arts Project

JANUARY 2026

A Time / part 3*

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"

—Ecclesiastes 3



Reading material for my first year at Gordon Conwell.

I (Kirk) have always wished to keep active in my own growth as someone who does ministry in the art world—especially related to formal education. It's why I did some seminary study while in Orlando, and have taught from time to time—whether in our church or otherwise. So when the start of this new Doctoral of Ministry program started locally here over a year ago it was a "no-brainer" for me to apply.

There were multiple reasons why.

- First, it was structured for distance learning with a few weeks of residency work at the end of each year. So I could do it in the midst of my work and also have "face time" with the other candidates and the director each year.
- Second, though there are no classes, there is a lot of reading and writing—both of which I enjoy.
- Third, the program is run out of the local Gordon Conwell Seminary here in Charlotte where the

director lives. Cultivating a partnership with a good local seminary as well as with the director who lives locally broadens and deepens our own work here locally in Rock Hill. We've already partnered on several events and attended conferences and forums at Gordon Conwell. In fact, "The Art of the Psalms" Conference is happening in February.

- Lastly, though I am fast approaching my 60th year—a mere two years away—I still believe God has more in store for me and our community here in Rock Hill, and I want to be prepared as best I can.

This "new chapter" in my life (though you would find the chapter in the late part of the book) is an exciting moment for me. But I am most excited about offering this program to God in service to what He has done through me and my wife and our community for decades.

We would covet your prayers—for wisdom in particular—as both Sarah and I walk through these chapters that God has inspired. We so appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Blessings—

Sarah and Kirk

Please Pray

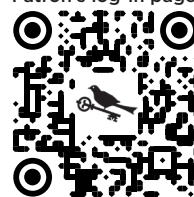
- » Pray for wisdom for us as we explore finding space to serve and impact artists for Jesus. We have had several meetings with our local church to search for space we both could use. Pray for favor in this search.
- » The staff couple we work with will be setting up a table on campus at Winthrop University in order to engage students in spiritual conversation. Pray for their success as they use the "Perspective Cards" which were incidentally designed by Sarah.
- » Please pray that God would continue to provide for our financial support. We dearly love this worthwhile ministry. If you know someone who would appreciate what we do, please share our info with them or contact us.

Updates

- » Kirk has started his second year of the Doctor of Ministry from Gordon Conwell Seminary. Lots of reading and writing.
- » He has also been asked to be a discipler/mentor for two residency candidates for Arts Fellowship Orlando. Pray for wisdom for him and good connection with the artists.
- » Sarah continues to paint on her "Artifacts" series. Recently she has been working on refreshing her website. Pray as we seek to "market" her series to galleries throughout the region.

If you would like to partner with us in ministry, visit our giving page on Cru's website: www.cru.org/0402593

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Patron's log-in page



password: John 4:36

* part 3 (and last) of a series on this topic

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