

Rob Knowles - Biography

Born in Manchester in 1966 Rob Knowles originally trained as a Geologist, completing his BSc in Geology at Sheffield University in 1987 before going on to attain an MSc in Geophysics at Leeds University in 1988.

After briefly working in the oil industry as a "geophysicist", Rob felt called to work in ministry to students and young professionals in The Navigators, an international mission organisation. Working first in the City of London, where he also had a part-time job as a receptionist for London City YMCA, Rob's involvement in The Navigators later brought him to Swansea in 1992.

Whilst in Swansea, Rob also worked for a Geological Consultancy as a draughtsman. This became a full-time job from 1994 to 1996, when Rob again felt the call and moved to Cardiff to earn a Distinction in a second Masters, this time in Christian Doctrine, at University of Wales, Cardiff (now Cardiff University) in 1997.

At the end of 1997, Rob began systematising the hermeneutical theory of Professor Anthony C. Thiselton. Although this study initially took the form of a PhD, which Rob eventually attained in 2006 from Cardiff University, the study is in fact much bigger than a PhD and is looking like it may flower into a life-calling. Thus, Rob's tutor, Dr. Roy Kearsley, who is close to retirement, called Rob's PhD, "the best TWO PhD's I have ever supervised".

Professor Thiselton, the world-premier in the discipline of hermeneutics (biblical interpretation), has commended Rob as understanding hermeneutics "better than most", where the first part of Rob's study on hermeneutics is due to be published by Paternoster in 2012. Aside from this larger project, Rob has also written about a thousand pages of "Shorter Writings", including an essay on "The Church and Homosexuality", which was commended by Professor Thiselton to two Bishops.

Despite his excursions into Anglican theology, Rob is a committed Baptist, being convinced that good theology is not the property of any single denomination or movement. Indeed, one leader from the Navigators described Rob as "a Baptist with an Anglican spirituality". Rob is involved in Woodville Road Baptist Church, Cardiff, and is of evangelical stock, having a high view of Scripture.

Rob's other interests include hill-walking, landscape photography, developing a Christian perspective on the paranormal (which includes engaging with some strands in Catholic theology), film, and the music of German virtuoso classic rock guitarist, Michael Schenker, for whom he wrote a musical biography that was edited by Michael himself.