

Alumni Spotlight: Priscilla H. Lee (MATS '92)



Program: MATS—it took me 10 years to complete this two-year degree. During this period, I gave birth to two children; applied what I learned from GCTS to minister at Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston as a pastor's wife; co-planted a Cambodian mission church in Lowell, MA; and co-led Oasis Development Enterprises as its co-CEO.

Current Title: Co-CEO, Oasis Development Enterprises

Family: Spouse: Rev. Raymond C. Lee, three children and three grandchildren

Favorite Professors: Dr. Doug Hall, who taught me the most effective way to practice incarnational ministry among the poor, and Dr. Christy Wilson, who impressed upon both my husband and me the utmost importance of Prayer

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

After I left GCTS, I did a number of things that I never thought I'd be doing while I was at the seminary. But as I look back, I found that the seminary had prepared me remarkably well for all these undertakings. For the past twenty-seven years, I have been the co-CEO of a mission-based property development and investment management company that my husband and I co-founded. Our vision began in 1995 with a desire to bring renewal to the inner city of Lynn and has now broadened to other parts of the Boston area and Hong Kong, where I had spent much of my childhood and youth.

Together with my husband Raymond, I have also started a mission that serves the Cambodian troubled youth in the City of Lowell. I planted a church for these youth and their families. Among our various entrepreneurial ventures was starting a low-cost long-haul airline in Hong Kong, flying to London and Vancouver.



What are the joys and challenges of serving in the business world?

In all the business ventures that I have been involved with, I found that the final results are never totally up to our own human effort and control. Some businesses that we didn't fully expect to prosper so well, ended up being splendidly successful. And some ventures that we had planned and expected to profit big time ended up losing money.

Being in business always keeps one humble before God, and that is a truly wonderful and blessed thing. No one can brag about today or tomorrow because no one can fully predict when the next downturn or setback will come. Amid all the business challenges, I find that God's plan is forever PERFECT. My God is Sovereign. He always manages to accomplish His Will and bring us to higher ground – if, and only if we are willing to submit to His Word and never give up or give in.

What do you love about your work?

I love the opportunities I have to mentor and challenge my staff to serve others with utmost excellence and to achieve the goals set out for us; to listen and pray for my team and our clients; to be a “little” Christ in tough situations; and to watch God perform His work through the thick and thin of it all!

I remember when I prostrated myself before God and prayed in the middle of a huge empty space that our company was unable to lease out for over ten years, saying *“Dear Heavenly Father, everyone thinks this task is impossible, but I know it is ‘piece of cake’ to You for I am sure that You take care of zillions of these challenges before breakfast! Lord, I know nothing is too difficult for you. I trust fully in YOU and give You all glory and honor.”*

Within a week, God sent a strong credit tenant to see the space! They immediately decided to lease it. The amazing thing was that this space would have required lots of renovation and huge build-out costs from us as the landlord. And yet this tenant took our space “as is,” with no questions asked. My staff was stunned when they heard about this incredible turnaround. One of them came to me and asked, “Mrs. Lee, how did you do it?” Now that's a wonderful opportunity to share my story! Tears came down her face as she heard the amazing work of God, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Currently, our Senior Team meeting begins every Wednesday morning by studying "Doing Business by the Good Book" by David L. Steward, CEO of World Wide Technology. Together, our team discusses and reflects on how to live out biblical principles and wisdom in all our business activities. It is so joyful to have God's never-changing truth as our guiding light and anchor.

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

It was actually during one of my courses at CUME in 1985 that I discovered the desperate needs of Cambodian refugees. At that time, they were the poorest among all

the refugees, emerging out of the horrifying Khmer Rouge. It was very clear to me that the Lord wanted us to minister to them. Raymond and I then embarked on our ten-year ministry journey among the Cambodians in Lowell, MA. We started a non-profit Christian mission called Urban Missionary Prayer Fellowship to pray for our ministries among the urban poor.

I also felt God wanted us to recruit 300 prayer warriors to pray BEFORE starting this ministry. In a very short time, God gave us the 300. The Lord prospered our work, and many young people came to accept Christ and got baptized. And yet, some were unable to leave their gang lives because they couldn't find any other ways to support themselves. The Spirit of God then moved us to start a "for-profit" company to train and employ our young people in the area of property renovation, while at the same time disciplining them in the Lord. Since then, we have invested, developed, and managed many commercial and residential properties in the Boston area and Hong Kong.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering serving in the business world?

Be well-equipped to exercise strong financial leadership. Management is key.

Be truly passionate about helping others – this will drive you to create the best product, give of your best service, and bring about success in your business.