

Alumni Spotlight: Barbara Peacock (DMin '13)



Current Title: Founder, Barbara L. Peacock Ministries and Peacock Soul Care

Family: Husband: Gilbert, Child: Vernee & her husband and children

Favorite professors: David Currie & Stephen Macchia

Favorite class: Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders

Favorite memory: The day I entered the DMin Program at Gordon-Conwell, I knew I was in the right place at the right time. The presence of the Lord was evident, and His love exuded from the professors and my colleagues.

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

As a teenager, I fondly remember the joy I found in writing poetry. Upon entering high school, I was blessed to respond to the written concerns of my peers, following a format reminiscent of Dear Abby. Throughout my educational journey, I also enjoyed writing assignments. However, I never anticipated that my writing would evolve to the level it has reached today. Yet, it became clear that God had a plan for my writing beyond what I imagined.

When I wrote my thesis at Gordon-Conwell, deep down, I sensed there was more. Having no idea what that looked like, I determined to be satisfied with the successful completion of my thesis. It wasn't until four years after graduation that I sensed God nudging me to publish a book based upon my thesis topic: *Prayer, Spiritual Direction and Soul Care from an African American Perspective*.

I am so thankful and humbled that God led me to an amazing editor and publishing company. It was a divine connection, for they were delighted to find an author who wrote about the formative journey from an African American perspective. Likewise, I was grateful for our connection. The award-winning book *Soul Care in African American Practice* and its accompanying workbook were birthed out of this publishing union. They provide an Afrocentric and Christocentric perspective on the disciplines of soul care and spiritual direction. In it, I identify ten African American heroes and sheroes who lived spiritually transformative and contemplative lives. My most recent book, *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith*, includes 40 spiritual practices designed to deepen one's faith and spiritual journey with Yahweh. Both of my books are used for individual reading as well as for groups, churches, universities, seminaries, and institutes.

Most recently, God called me to assemble a “dream team” and establish Peacock Soul Care (PSC), a non-profit institute that educates, equips, and empowers believers. PSC nurtures souls, educates minds, and cultivates spirituality in the next generation of

formative leaders to serve the soul care needs of faith communities. At PSC, we provide a comprehensive two-year certification program in Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation, complemented by courses in spiritual leadership.

I am thankful for my professors Dr. David Currie, Dr. Steven Macchia, and colleagues for their prayers and support. Because of them, I embarked upon a journey beyond my wildest imagination. To God be the glory for the great things He has done and for what He continues to do through vessels who simply say "yes."



What do you love about your work?

Serving God and serving His people through Peacock Soul Care, an institute that offers Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation. It also offers a two-year certification program in Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation.

What are the particular challenges of non-profit work in general and/or in your specific context?

One of the greatest challenges is financial support. In addition, marketing, recruitment, and staffing continue to require much prayer and support.

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

Gordon-Conwell is and has been instrumental every step of the way. My relationships with my professors and colleagues continue. I am delighted to have their ongoing prayers and support.

How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your past and current work?

One of the major blessings I received at Gordon-Conwell was encountering authentic community. That alone is to be highly commended. Unfortunately, a multitude of believers have lost their way on the spiritual journey as a result of the influence of the secular word. Therefore, to be part of a loving and authentic community is a tremendous experience.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering working in the non-profit sector?

Non-profit is not for the faint at heart, but every moment and every result from it outweighs the daily challenges. Truly, obedience is better than sacrifice. It is better to obey God than to pursue anything else in the world.