



## **Biography – Steve and Ileana Harrell**

**Steve** – Born in Germany, I spent the first several years of life traveling as my father was in the Army. We spent time in Hawaii and Kentucky prior to my dad leaving the Army and my mother. They divorced when I was 5. At that point we moved to Baxley, GA where I remained and graduated from High School.

It was in Baxley where my foundation was set for life. My mother raised my sister and me alone. My mother's gentle instruction taught me to be respectful, self-motivated, and responsible. Though I often joked that I raised myself, it was my mother who helped form my character.

**Ileana** – Born and raised in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, I spent memorable days with my mom, dad and two sisters.

### **How we met?**

When Ileana first laid eyes on Steve there was no turning back! Without question it was love at first sight. Okay, not really. In fact, several months after Steve had initially met Ileana in college, Northwood University, West Palm Beach, FL, he did it. He wrote

the most important note a man can write: “I love you, do you love me? Check One: Yes, No, Maybe.”

She checked no. Broke Steve’s heart. But not his spirit. He continued to peel away the layers of her hardened heart to locate that spot that he could forever reside. We married in 1991. She later told Steve that before their relationship began she knew that I would be the man she would marry.

We are blessed with 4 perfect children, Harry, Franky, Andy (girl), and Freddy. We grow deeper in love with each other daily, both as a couple and a family.

### **Our BIGGEST decision of all!!**

**Steve** - I was raised in the church but did not make my personal decision to accept Christ into my life until was 19 years hold. Finding myself skipping classes at Morehouse College in order to stay home and drink Mad Dog 20/20 while watching Young and the Restless, I decided there had to be more to life. I saw “more to life” in a friend and co-worker, Darryl Miller. Darryl explained that what was in his life that made his a much different life than mine was Jesus. I accepted Christ that very night in 1987.

**Ileana** – I was raised outside the Church, but fell in love with a man who had the peace and tranquility that I always desired. Anger and negative thoughts were consuming me. Steve gave me Jesus! I said “yes” to Jesus when I was 21; and later said “yes” to Steve.

### **Liberty Church**

After moving back to Georgia from Memphis, our hunt for a church included a last minute search in the yellow pages. During our first visits in 2000 we were captivated by the worship,

teaching, and family environment. Liberty's commitment to train up our kids in righteousness was a huge factor in our decision to make Liberty our church of choice.

### **Friday "Alpha" congregation is wonderful to us because . . .**

They are our friends. The service has accepted us as we are and allowed us to plug in and serve in areas that fit our giftings. As assistant pastors to Sal and Tammy DeSantiago, Ileana is allowed to co-ordinate events and Steve is allowed to get a little microphone time. Ileana loves serving behind the scenes and Steve loves to hear himself talk!

We have thoroughly enjoyed serving the wonderful men, women, boys, and girls of Friday Night. They are a wonderful, fun-loving group who loves the Lord and show it by loving each other. We feel most blessed to serve John and Beth Fichtner and Sal and Tammy DeSantiago. They are such great examples. We have learned so much about so many things, but are most grateful to be learning to lead through love with a fair measure of truth and trades.