

The Life Stories of **Arcadio & Ruthie Gomez**

The Lord Jesus has blessed us immensely with each other and a Church Family that promotes a relationship with God and the people around us. It is our honor to share our life stories with you.



Arcadio and Ruthie Gomez came to Liberty Church in 2001 and have served in several capacities, such as small group leaders, elders, discipleship facilitators, women's and men's ministries, marriage enrichment and worship ministry. In 2004, the Lord called them to step up from being elders to take on the role as Assistant Co-Pastors for the Saturday 5PM service. The Gomezes find it an honor to co-labor with our Co-Pastors Chuck and Katrina Campbell in serving God's people. Liberty church is truly a place one can call "home." In essence, they are thrilled to be part of a church that is one of the fastest growing churches in Atlanta and that is at the cutting edge of the twenty-first century.

I. Childhood

Arcadio's Story

Arcadio is the younger of two children. His parents were born in Puerto Rico. They met in New York City after relocating from Puerto Rico. When Arcadio was six years old, his dad separated himself from the family. Arcadio and his sister, Naida, were raised by their mother, Ana Celia Gomez, a prayer warrior, provider and peaceful woman of God. Mrs. Gomez committed herself to raising loving children, with respect for God and respect for people. She instilled biblical and moral values and always spoke to her children with positive and encouraging words. Mrs. Gomez went to be with the Lord on Oct 10, 2003. She was found resting in peace on her bed with the bible opened over her chest. When Arcadio was 12 years he experienced the power of forgiveness when his father returned, after 6 years of separation to start visitation with his children. Arcadio understood that although his father had faced some challenges which led him to leave

home, that he was still his father. Through the years, his father suffered five strokes in total which left him in a vegetative state. In 1995 and 1996, Arcadio visited his father at a nursing home in Long Island City NY. Although his father was in a vegetative state, he shed tears as Arcadio played the guitar and sang old church songs. The greatest impact was when he heard Arcadio say, "I forgave you a long time ago!" "You are released from any guilt or shame, you are still my father and I love you!" Arcadio prayed to the Lord and thanked Him for peace was prepared to see his dad go to be with the Lord. In Oct. 1997, Arcadio's dad went to be with the Lord.

Ruthie's Story

Ruthie is the eldest of two children. Her family was born in Puerto Rico and came to New York in search of better living and economic conditions. She grew up with her stepfather, mother and her precious brother. Her brother is eight years younger and is married with two beautiful children. Her parent's relationship was clouded by the misuse of Alcohol and irreconcilable differences and a little time later, they decided to make their separation permanent. The break-up was devastating to the children which was evident in their lack of interest in school work and on how they functioned socially.

However, Ruthie is living testimony that while children of divorce settings often suffer in silence, they can be helped if the proper support is given. As the head of the household, Ruthie's mom worked hard to meet their basic needs while the family lived in a modest subsidized apartment building. Also, the children were taught early on, how to keep house and were encouraged to study and make something valuable of their lives.

Nevertheless, in spite of their circumstances, her mom was determined to be a good loving provider. They also had the blessing of growing up with a godly grandmother, aunt and uncle who instilled in the children that everything begins with Jesus and ends with Him. During those formative years, it was truly God's grace that kept the family together.

II. Family Background

Arcadio and Ruthie met in February of 1986 at a Christian Valentine's social gathering and became instant friends. The friendship grew into a deep love for each other and they were married on July 7, 1987. In 2007, they will celebrate their twentieth anniversary! One dear friend once said to them, "If you want a great marriage, you have to fight daily for it." Both Arcadio and Ruthie are so grateful to Liberty Church for encouraging couples to desire to have great marriages. Arcadio and Ruthie believe that their marriage is richer today because God is the center of their union and their lives are living testimonies that children of divorced settings can still come to Jesus and have awesome marriages. Although Arcadio and Ruthie have no biological children, God continues to bring people into their lives for them to lead and mentor, which they consider to be their spiritual children.

III. Educational Background

Arcadio

Arcadio was born and raised in New York City and was educated within the American Public School System. After completing high school, he was balancing schedules between work during the day and school during the evenings in order to help financially at home. His educational focus was Business Administration with courses taken at City College of NY, Pace University and AIB – American Institute of Banking. Arcadio also studied theology at the Latin American Pentecostal Church of God, Inc. of NY. He earned a BA in Theology at the Spanish Eastern Theological Seminary of the Assemblies of God.

Ruthie

Ruthie was born and raised in New York City and is very proud of being a native New Yorker. She was educated within the American Public School System. After completing high school, she entered King's College, a liberal Christian college for two years, and then decided to pursue full-time employment. After working several years, Ruthie decided to return to school to complete a four year college degree. In 1992, Ruthie earned a BA from the College of New Rochelle where she majored in Sociology and minored in Elementary Education. Several years later, the Lord granted Ruthie the opportunity of receiving her MA in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University. She graduated in 2001. Currently, Ruthie is a member of the Georgia Association of Educators and serves on various committees that promote education for underprivileged families and people from all walks of life.

IV. Work Experiences

Arcadio

Arcadio is currently employed with Kodak Dental Systems, subsidiary of Eastman Kodak as a Team Leader for the Inside Eservices Sales Team. He has been with the company for just over 10 years going on 11. Arcadio has worn many hats with this company, from field technical services, to management, to project management and the last 5 years in sales management. Kodak Dental Systems develops Practice Management Systems for the Dental, Oral Surgery and Orthodontic industry. Arcadio has had great favor from the Lord in keeping him there throughout all the mergers and acquisitions that the company has experienced. Arcadio started working for this company in Miami FL In 1996. In 1998, Arcadio and Ruth were relocated to Atlanta GA by the corporate office. In New York City, Arcadio worked in the international banking industry for about 10 years.

Ruthie

Ruthie currently is employed with the Cobb County School District as a teacher of English to Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). She is certified by the state of Georgia to teach grades K-12. She has worked as a professional educator for over twelve years in both private and public settings. Ruthie enjoys teaching and sharing nuggets with the children that can promote awareness and hopefully mold them into productive citizens. In addition to her daily duties, Ruthie provides educational consulting services throughout Cobb County in many diverse settings. In fact, these services have served as a strong podium to promote the achievement of English Language Learners (ELL). Prior to education, Ruthie enjoyed a successful position in hospital administration. She worked for the biggest health and hospital corporation in the New York which serves a vast multicultural population.

V. Spiritual Background

Arcadio

Arcadio was raised in a Hispanic Pentecostal church in New York City. He participated in the Royal Rangers (Christian Boy's Club). Arcadio won his first bible in a Sunday school class by quoting the books of the bible in order by memory. Arcadio has great memories from his childhood while serving in youth and Sunday school ministries.

Ruthie

Ruthie was raised in a Pentecostal storefront church which is located in the heart of New York City. As a member, Ruthie participated in the Missionettes (Christian Girl's Club), youth group, taught Sunday school (from the age of 16), worship ministry, served as an activities coordinator and Youth Pastor. In retrospect, Ruthie has fond memories of her early years as a Christian in her church because it was a loving haven she had when her parents separated. Ruthie believes it was her source of strength and means of escaping. As she became of age, she longed to know the Lord beyond the cultural and religious traditions she had grown up believing. In order to walk in freedom from her childhood experiences and man-made traditions, she underwent a time of inner healing and today walks confidently in a deep loving relationship with the Father, pursuing everything God has for her to do. The Bible declares in Daniel 11:32, "the people that know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." In essence, Ruthie believes that as God's child she is to live a purpose-driven life and to know the Father's heart.

VII. Ministry History

Arcadio

From a very young age, he sensed the call of God on his heart to communicate the Good News to others. At the age of 17, he was leading a youth evangelistic ministry that took the gospel and music throughout the streets in New York City. From 1979 until 1986, he

served as the general president for a National Youth Association affiliated to the Latin American Pentecostal Church of God. He presided over youth conventions in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Together with Ruth, they have served as youth pastors, Sunday school teachers and overseers, Music ministers and Associate Pastors.

Ruthie

The Lord has done a great work in Ruthie and continues to open doors for her to be an encourager within in the body of Christ and in the workplace. She has had the opportunity of traveling and ministering in Mexico, and God is graciously opening doors for her to minister in different settings in the coming year. One of her passions is to draw people to the feet of Jesus and to help God's people find their place in the body Christ and to find their God-given destiny. Ruthie believes wholeheartedly in "Servant Leadership." A true leader serves by example and does whatever it takes to uplift the name of Jesus, draw others to the Lord, and have a big smile in the process. When it comes to spiritual giftings, Ruthie believes that God has gifted her with administration, teaching, serving, discernment and encouragement as she seeks to mentor people to be all that God has called them to be. Her life-long desire is write a book and to always have an ever-growing and ever-lasting desire to love and serve God with every fiber of her being.

In a nutshell, Arcadio's and Ruthie's deepest desire is to be in the center of God's will, fulfilling all that God has called them to do for the Kingdom of God. Thank you for reading our story and we look forward to meeting and serving with you in the near future. So, be blessed and remember that Liberty Church is a place you can call "Home."

Blessings,
Arcadio and Ruthie Gomez