



Sheila and I are honored to share our lives with you.
We are truly blessed by the Lord Jesus and we are eternally grateful to Him.

We have a passion to serve the Lord with all our heart. In this biography we will share:

- 1. Childhood events that helped to shape each of us.**
- 2. How we each came to Jesus.**
- 3. How we met, dated, and married.**
- 4. About our family.**
- 5. About our church family.**

1. Childhood events that helped to shape each of us.

Martin

My childhood was shaped by three main influences.

1. Wonderful childhood

I was blessed with an amazing childhood, being the youngest of four (two older brothers and a sister), we were all very close. Acts of love and kindness were predominant in our home: my parents set wonderful examples for each of us.

2. Change

My father was career military so our family had the opportunity to move multiple times during my childhood. Attending many different schools in the states and abroad was a very enriching experience for me. The experience has enabled me to be able to adapt and change much easier.

3. Challenges

My father served two different tours of duty in Vietnam which were twelve months each. As a child those times when my father was away were very challenging; however, it made me stronger. My mother did an amazing job of managing our home during those times.

Sheila

My childhood was shaped by two main influences.

1. My mother's love.

I had a very good childhood. I was the middle child with an older brother and a younger sister. Although my parents were temporarily separated during my childhood, my mother taught us to have a positive attitude and to believe God would always take care of us. That helped us to develop a thankful attitude and helped me to see my life as happy and positive.

2. Focus toward my goal.

Education was stressed heavily during my childhood. We knew that we would all attend and graduate from college from an early age. I was very focused on attaining that goal. My mother instilled in me drive and determination very early in life, which enabled me to obtain my undergraduate and masters degree within four years.

2. How we each came to Jesus.

Martin

I was raised in a Christian home; we consistently attended military chapels as well as various Methodist churches. I accepted Jesus as my savior during a summer church camp when I was in the fourth grade. When I went to college I rededicated myself to Christ after my junior year and was baptized in the YMCA swimming pool, it was an amazing experience.

Sheila

I was raised Pentecostal so we attended church regularly. I accepted Christ in high school during one of our church revival services. I got saved, baptized, and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit all in the same week.

3. How we met, dated, and married.

Sheila and I met in college at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Sheila was good friends with my sister Marian, who was also in school with us; they lived in the same dorm. My sister introduced us and we became friends. Sheila was in graduate school and very focused on her studies, spending many hours a day in the library. Our first six months all of our dates were via phone or in the library. We dated three years before we became engaged. Our goal was for each of us to graduate from college and get established in our jobs before we married. We were married in Tuscaloosa in 1983 and lived in Birmingham, AL for the first six years of marriage.

4. About our family.

In 1988 our son Murray was born. Murray is currently a senior at Lee University studying Business Administration. He is enjoying his time in college and looking forward toward graduation.

In 1991 our daughter Renai was born. Renai is a freshman at the University of Georgia. She is pursuing a degree in speech pathology.

In 1994 our youngest daughter Rachel was born. Rachel is a sophomore at Lassiter High School. Rachel is very active in cheerleading and looking forward to getting her drivers license.

We are thankful that all of our children have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have a very blessed family.

5. About our church family at Liberty Church.

We have been attending Liberty Church for 13 years. We originally served as Deacons and small group leaders. We then served as Elders then became ordained as Pastors. We currently pastor the Saturday 7pm church. Sheila also serves as Worship Pastor, Church Administrator, and oversees the Liberty Thrift Store. John & Beth Fichtner are some of our dearest friends and we are blessed and honored to serve them. We also have awesome and amazing team members that serve with us on Pastoral staff as well as incredible volunteers that serve our congregation as Elders, Small Group Leaders, Ushers, and many other ministries of helps. We are honored to serve and lead the Liberty Saturday 7pm church with our exciting and amazing congregation!