



We are grateful for this opportunity to share with you a little bit about who we are and how God has greatly enriched and blessed our lives by His love and direction. As are our Senior Pastors, we are passionately in love with the Lord, with each other, with our daughter, Kari and her husband Charlie, and with our Liberty family. In this biography we will share:

- 1. Events that shaped each of us**
 - 2. How we each came to Jesus**
 - 3. How we ended up with each other**
 - 4. About our daughter**
 - 5. Our jobs**
 - 6. About Liberty**
- 1. Events that shaped each of us.**

Jose

I have had 3 stages in my life: During the ghettos, after the ghettos and in USA

My Family in the ghettos. Happy but not successful

I am the oldest of 4 kids, my sister Flor is one year younger, my brother Marco is 5 years younger and my brother Gregorio is 9 years younger. I grew up in the ghettos of Caracas Venezuela till age 11.

My mom was always at home with us, I was a happy boy and so were my siblings. We ate well, we used to make all our games with cardboard, I used to spend all the afternoons watching television at one of my Buddies house next door, since we did not have a television. I did not do well in school. However my Dad would let me know he was not happy about my grades. He

would tell me how he would like for me to study harder, so that I could do better in school. He emphasized to us how important it was to do well in life. My Father and mother did not have a chance to get an education; they just worked during their childhood. I did not know how to improve my grades, I studied but I did not do well, it may have been I did not spend enough time studying, it could have been I was really more interested in watching television, may be it was that we did not have a quiet place to study, we had one bedroom with two beds. In that bedroom, my mom used to share a bed with my sister and younger brother, on the other bed we shared a bed with my Dad and one of my brothers, however my 3 cousins and grandma used to live with us also, so they slept in the living room, I also had an uncle living with us, he had his own bedroom.

After the Ghettos very successful life

At age 11 the government decided to get rid of the ghettos and built houses for the people in that area. We moved out of the ghettos to a real house with a toilet and shower in the mountains in a great community. I started playing soccer, baseball and ping-pong for the first time instead of watching television. I also had my own bed. As a result of the new environment, I became an excellent student from grade 6th all the way through high School. Because of my excellent grades I received a Scholarship to come to the United States of America.

My Father and Mother great example then the USA

My Father was a great protector, a teacher and provider; I was never in any trouble, because he was always around looking after me, he taught me to do the same with my younger brothers and my sister. He also taught me the following: you do not steal from anybody, you do not hurt

women, you do not make women pregnant, and you do not let another man put you down. I

have never seen my Dad and mom in an argument much less a fight, they really got along great.

My Dad died in March 2005. My mom still mourning for him.

Even though my mom was at home, she worked hard at providing for us also, by sewing for a factory from our home and baking and cooking goodies that I would sell in the community.

I started working when I was 13 selling my mom's cooking, but I was also was going to school.

My Dad always found me a job, even after high school. He even found the scholarship program that I applied for that brought me to USA.

Dana

I had a great childhood, surrounded by a mother and father, one sister and three brothers who loved each other as loudly as we fought with each other. Two factors greatly impacted my life as I was growing up and they remain very much a part of who I am today.

1. Military Brat

My Dad was in the Air Force, which meant frequent moves as I was growing up.

We were never in one place for more than three years. I really enjoyed all the moving, and I think it made us tighter as a family, knowing that we were the only constants in our lives. From an early age I was exposed to different countries and different cultures, and I still enjoy learning about others. Now that we've been settled in Marietta for almost twenty years, José has to put up with frequent room rearrangements and garage sales. I also jump at the chance to help others move, because I love the excitement of new beginnings. I've got to have that change.

2. My parents' divorce when I was 16

My parents divorced when I was 16. The most permanent thing in my life came to an end and all I knew of my world disintegrated. I had a strong commitment and a close walk with God at the time and I know it saved my sanity and possibly my life. My mom moved out with my baby brothers, my dad was devastated and wasn't around, my older sister was already out of the house, and my older brother dropped out of life. Basically I was left alone in the house until I graduated from high school. The deep desire I have for actively pursuing a strong, happy, and committed marriage is a product of this difficult and painful time in my life.

2. How we each came to Jesus.

Jose

I came to USA to get an engineering degree, however God had in mind more than my degree.

I met Dana my wife and it was love at first sight, Dana brought me to Jesus in 1976 the day of our wedding. She really saw the difference in the way I treated her before and after the wedding. After the wedding the love of Christ really manifested itself in all areas in my life.

I was baptized in 1980 and after the baptism I became active in reaching to people through Bible studies, at home, at work, in people's houses and at the church. All my brothers, my sister, father and mother are Christians because of Dana's ministry in our lives.

Dana

As long as I can remember, I had a heart for Jesus. I loved him and I knew he loved me.

My brother, Junior, walked down the aisle and got saved one Sunday when I was nine. The next Sunday I did the same. From that time on, I knew I didn't have to fear sin, it could be

conquered with Christ the Conqueror living in me. Some months later it was warm enough to be baptized, so at ten years old I was. I went under and came up a tangibly new creature.

I felt incredibly clean, pure, and accepted. I was flooded with the indescribable love and joy of the Lord. It was my first experience of the glory of his presence. Through the years I have experienced highs and lows in my walk with Christ. Today I mostly walk on level ground reveling in the joy of His presence daily.

3 . How we ended up with each other .

José and I met in college when he was 18 and I was 17. He saw me and fell in love, and came to a party we were having. We danced together all night and basically we've been partners ever since. We had planned to get married when we graduated from college, but then José had to cut short his vacation because he missed me so much. Upon his return we speedily planned a wedding in a month. He was 20, I was 19 and we've been married since 1976.

4. About our family.

In addition to the two of us, our family consists of our incredible daughter, Kari, and her super husband Charlie.

Kari is, the gentlest person I have ever known. There is no unkindness or meanness in her, and it hurts her to see it in others. I admire her generosity, her wisdom and sound judgment. She's also bright, artistic, and athletic. And of course, she has that great smile. She recently married Charlie, a wonderful, godly man, and an answer to our prayers. The two of them are ministers for Campus Crusade for Christ at University of Louisville in Kentucky. We are rich in happiness.

Our jobs

Dana

I graduated from college in 1979, I was trained to teach English as a second language when we lived in Venezuela. It truly was a job that fit my soul and so I pursued that when we returned to the States. I've been teaching English to internationals at Cobb County Adult Education since 1992, and in the past seven years I've served as the program coordinator. I love the contact with the students and I love learning about their countries and cultures as I teach about ours.

José

I graduated from college as an engineer in 1980 and have only worked for one company, HP; I was hired right after college. God has really blessed me in my job with great managers and plenty of opportunities to bring the message of Jesus Christ. It was even through a Bible study at HP that allowed me to have the multicultural experience that eventually lead me to Liberty Church.

About Liberty

We began coming to Liberty at the end of 1998. We were attracted to the church for its multicultural emphasis. From the first day, we felt like anyone we should ever invite to church with us would be genuinely and sincerely received with open arms. Additionally, the teaching is challenging and stimulating, the praise and worship are real and empowering and the prayer is fervent and effective. God has placed us among family here and has grown us amazingly through the many ministries and opportunities here. For example, we are now taking Bible college classes at Liberty. We desire to do whatever we can to share with and develop in others the same things God has given us since coming here.