

Meet the Member Mike and Sarah Martin

Mike and Sarah first met in the fall of 2008 at a church volunteer meeting being led by Sarah who was on staff. Little did they know, they were both slated for the same short-term mission trip to Senegal Africa in the Spring of 2009. Their love for missions and one another grew. Upon return from the mission trip to Senegal, Mike proposed to Sarah at Anne Springs Close Greenway. Even after their marriage in July of 2009, they took part in six more short-term mission trips to west Africa and the Caribbean. It is this passion for overseas ministries that has fueled their drive to change careers. More about that later.



Mike was born in Charlotte and grew up in Greenville, SC. He graduated from Winthrop University in 1999 and has worked his entire adult life in and around Charlotte. For the most part the building industry has been home for Mike working for various companies: Velux, Lowe's Commercial, Pella and presently at All Seasons Window and Door in Charlotte. He has been in sales as a distributor, contractor, and manufacturer's rep creating strong relationships within a network of local businesses.

Sarah was born in Raleigh and grew up in Asheboro, NC. She graduated with a business degree in human resource management from UNC Greensboro and recently completed her Level Five CIPD Certification in Human Resources. Early on Sarah worked for the Carolina Panthers and managed their Point-of-Sale System. After her faith encounter, Sarah worked as a church administrator & in pastoral care for Forest Hill Church and then Transformation Church near where they live in Indian Land. Sarah now serves as the human resources director and office manager for Morrison Millwork.

Mike came to faith in church during Vacation Bible School at the age of ten. He responded to an alter call, prayed with his mom and the pastor, and was baptized soon after. But as a grade schooler Mike was not clear on the relationship with Christ and the role of grace. He grew up learning to behave well in public but lived a different life personally. "As long as everyone else thought I was okay...I was okay." That contradiction came to a head in high school when he won the Armstrong Award scholarship for integrity. Mike knew he lived a double standard and now it became public. Despite that he continued living the duplicitous lifestyle through college and into his early 20s. Mike's relationship with his older brother, a church pastor, became the main demonstration of grace in his life. Mike's brother not only talked about the grace of God, but he lived it out in a truly loving and forgiving way. That convicted him so much that on a rainy day traveling for business he pulled his car to the side of the road and prayed the "selfer's" prayer; *Lord help to prune away the me and make it about you. I can't do it on my own, I'm tired of striving for acceptance and worth.* Grace gave him the freedom to love God and live a godly life without the double standard.

Sarah's spiritual journey started as a young adult. Sarah had friends who were faithful believers, but she thought that this religious stuff was "bananas" or "just silly". What did God have to do with my personal life or my job with the Panthers? To her it was just not relevant. However, a faithful Christian friend persisted and invited her to church. Sarah attended one Sunday and felt the Spirit tug her to come back. Several weeks later after a service sitting all alone in the sanctuary, she quietly prayed to receive Christ into her life. It was transformational and eventually she came on staff with the church where she professed her faith in Christ. This is where Mike and Sarah's lives cross paths.

Since marrying in 2009, they have had two daughters, Ida Virginia (10) and Samantha Joyce (8). The girls love to play futbol (soccer of course), Roblox (the ultimate virtual universe), Minecraft (another virtual adventure), making new friends, playing hard, and traveling.

The call to cross-cultural ministry over the years has remained, but in the last 18 months the entry to world missions has been clearly opened. They are planning a career change to church planting in the UK, specifically with Mosaic Multicultural Church in the London area. In February 2023, they took a trip to London to visit with the pastor and the congregation to confirm the call to ministry for their family. They plan on relocating their family to the UK in August 2023, as full-time missionaries in church planting. They will be in partnership with United World Mission (UWM) and Mosaic with Eternal as their sending church, to help equip church-planters. The stats of the lost are staggering in London. The US is on a similar trajectory. Mike & Sarah have an assignment to help, knowing at the end of it, Jesus is enough. [Mike and Sarah Martin - United World Mission \(uwm.org\)](https://www.uwm.org)

Mike's hobbies include traveling, reading, writing, hiking, and cooking, especially learning to cook new cuisines. Sarah loves painting pottery, reading, journaling, and teaching English as a second language (ESL). They have two awesome Australian Shepherds named Max and Bestie.

One of Mike's favorite verses is Hebrews 4:16; *"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

One of Sarah's favorites is Isaiah 58:11; *"The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."*

Mike and Sarah became members of Eternal in June 2022. *"We are grateful to serve alongside a wonderful collection of believers, with great lay leadership, elders, deacons and pastors. We have absolutely loved getting to know members of our community through our community groups."*

Written by Paul Veerman