

BIOGRAPHY

Education:

1988 – Bachelor of Arts in Art History, James Madison University – Harrisonburg, Virginia
1986 – Associate Degree, Business Administration, Middlesex County College- Edison, N.J.

Career:

2017 – Present Independent Art History Educator, Pedal, Fredericksburg, Virginia
2016 Professional gap year. Employed by Fredericksburg City Schools and Roxbury Farm & Garden Ctr.
2007 – 2015 General Manager, Lake Country Marine, Spotsylvania, Virginia
1995-2007 General Manager, The Daily Planted, Spotsylvania, Virginia
1993-1995 Paraprofessional, Ernst & Young, LLP, Dallas, Texas
1991-1993 Bank Teller, Dallas, Texas
1988-1990 Public Relations Assistant, Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, N.J.

Ministry Experiences:

2009 – present Missions Committee Board Member, deaconess, Justice Committee, Sunday School teacher – youth and adults, Girls Direction leader for young women in the community, New City Fellowship

Hobbies:

Travel, reading, gardening, attending music concerts of all kinds, cooking, paddle boarding

Family:

I am single with seven nieces and nephews that live near and far. My parents and one my sibling are close to Fredericksburg allowing me to enjoy family gatherings and a kid's soccer game, swim meet or school function here and there throughout the year. When I can, I head down to Atlanta, Georgia to take long with family that lives there.

Testimony

Jill Gajarsky

When I was five or six years old, my mother desired for my sister and I to have religious education. She and my father were not Christians and we did not attend church as a family.

Around this time, a small church near our home invited the neighborhood children to attend Children's Sunday School. So on Sundays, my mother would drop my sister and I off at the front door of the church for Sunday School and swing by to pick up us when class ended. My teacher lead her class to memorize the Bible verse, "For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Those words impacted me and I wanted to know this God who loved me and had a hopeful plan for my life.

Meanwhile things were bleak at home. My parent's six-year marriage was falling apart and a divorce was looming but God was at work in my young heart and in my parent's marriage. It wasn't too long after this that my parents became Christians, recommitted to their marriage and the family began to attend that little neighborhood chapel. What an incredible turnaround from sadness and hopelessness God provided for my family! At the age of seven, I decided to follow God and his ways and understood Jesus Christ's death in my place because of my sin.

About five years ago I began to hear more clearly the sweetness of the Gospel and the additional freedom it offered. The Gospel is this – I'm far worse than I ever imagined and at the same time far more loved than I ever dare believe. I was working very hard to prove my value and worth as a successful businesswoman and I was exhausted by how elusive "success" was proving to be for me. The Gospel began to slowly sink in – I couldn't earn my true worth or value from my career. I would always come up short because of my and others sin and living in an imperfect world. But I could always rely on the complete and perfect work on the cross of Jesus Christ to guarantee my worth and value no matter my level of success in the world.

The struggle to prove my value and worth did not end there. Everyday I try to make other things more important than loving and obeying God's truth believing it will bring me satisfaction. Despite my continual attempts at self-confidence instead of Christ-confidence, doing what I desire to do instead of what God desires (Romans 7:15), God finds me when I lose my way, again and again, and never withdraws His love. I may never attain "success" according to our culture's standards, but I have all that I need for life and godliness through Christ Jesus (2 Peter 1:3) no matter my status. When I get a taste of His continuous merciful love, I'm reminded that I did nothing to earn it because Jesus Christ did it perfectly for me. Praise be to God!