

Meet the Member

Steven and Jamie Rungaitis

Both Steven and Jamie were born in Texas, Steven in The Colony (Dallas suburb) and Jamie in San Antonio. At eight years old Jamie's family moved to Loveland, CO, where she grew up through her high school years. Steven stayed in Texas and graduated from high school. So how did they meet? They met at the Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Carrollton, TX in 2003, but were just friends and thus went their separate ways.



Steven attended Texas Tech University and Jamie went to a small Christian school in Wyoming called Frontier School of the Bible. While at Texas Tech, Steven made a renewal of his faith during a Mark Cahill retreat and was called to evangelism and missions. After college, Jamie went back to work with the high school youth at Prince of Peace where Steven and Jamie remained "just friends." Jamie got the opportunity to work at a SIM coffee shop outreach for high school and college students in Ecuador for two years in 2008 and 2009. Part way through her time, Jamie and Steven reconnected via Gmail and Steven expressed his desire to do ministry. Steven decided to apply with SIM and was sent to the same Ecuadorian community as Jamie in 2009. Their relationship matured and when they both returned home, they were married in 2010 at the ages of 28/29, seven years after their first introduction...sort of a Jacob and Rachel moment in Genesis 29.

Steven has a degree in business management from Texas Tech and a Masters in Cross-cultural Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. Early in his career he managed a team at a small tech firm that fell on tough times during the economic downturn in 2008. After that, he sold high end appliances and other odd jobs to stay afloat until he eventually purchased a business franchise with his brother-in-law that dealt with global and logistics in the trucking industry. However, Steven felt more and more a call to ministry and eventually sold the franchise in 2015 to go into full-time ministry with SIM.

Jamie has a degree from Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, WY which she admitted is in the middle of nowhere with cold winters. After college, she served as a senior high youth minister before traveling to Ecuador to work with SIM. Today she is a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling their two children and working part-time for SIM.

They have two children, Andrew (8), and Joy (4) who have very different personalities. Andrew loves to read, is constantly creating science experiments that go boom and loves to draw, build Legos or anything that is an outlet for his creative juices. Joy enjoys playing princess, painting her nails, and talking with her friends. She is very good at it. They are a delight to their parents.

Jamie's hobby is coffee. She loves coffee and talking with people so don't be surprised when you visit with her, it will be over a fresh cup of the best coffee in Rock Hill. Steven loves all sports, but especially soccer and he likes working with his hands, especially wood products. Steven built their current table and bench seat when the one they tried to bring from Dallas didn't survive the move.

When you sit down with Steven and Jamie, it is evident that they have a heart for the Lord and for evangelism. For example, while living in Dallas, they were able to help their neighbors through a domestic dispute and then befriended them. During the next two years of friendship and mentoring, their neighbors came to faith and today live Godly lives and are active in a local church. Stay tuned as Steven and Jamie pray and actively pursue their Rock Hill neighbors for the Lord.

There were two times in their lives that were particularly challenging. When Andrew was born, he had severe colic. That meant he had intense and prolonged times of crying. This was, of course, a very stressful time for Jamie. One of Steven's most challenging moments was when he decided the Lord had called him

into mission work and he had to sell his business and then raise their support to become missionaries. During both of those times, the Lord brought them closer to each other and strengthened their faith as they witnessed firsthand God sovereignty in their lives. They thought they were called as missionaries to China and Japan, but God closed those doors, and Steven now works as a full-time missionary for SIM helping those going into long-term missions as they see how the Lord is leading them and Jamie helps with short-term teams.

Steven and Jamie started attending Eternal shortly after moving to Rock Hill in 2018 . They love Pastor Don's teaching and are active in the youth group helping Pastor Josh. Also, Jamie has led the announcements in worship. Their kids feel right at home with the other children in Sunday school and they love the age diversity in the church, the mixture of young and old.

Jamie's favorite verse is 2 Corinthians 5:14 – *“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

Steven's favorite verses are 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 – *“Be on your guard: stand firm in the faith; Be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.”*

Eternal is fortunate to have this young, energetic and Spirit filled family. When you meet them, invite yourself over for a conversation and a cup of coffee. They love to entertain and will treat you to South Carolina's best coffee.

Written by Paul Veerman