



# FCC Membership Biography

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## *Elizabeth Reeves*

I grew up in a broken home full of abuse. Fostered at a young age (4-7yrs), sent back to my birth parents, where the abuse got worse until the age of 12. Adopted at the age of 12 into a family of twelve, where I was deemed "the good girl" and "the responsible one", always watching my younger siblings and helping take care-of the household. Neither household were Christian households, but with my adoptive family, we went to church during the major Holidays: Christmas and Easter. I was confirmed & Baptized in the Lutheran church at the age of 13, but I didn't know what that really meant, it was just what we did at our church.

My "fall" was when I became wrapped up in the Special Needs community. I had lost my adoptive family when I was disowned by them at the young age of 18. They wanted certain goals for my life that I did not agree with, such as, same race husband and one that was in the military as well. So, I made the decision to move out after I graduated high school (hence, being disowned by them, they didn't like that I moved out and was dating someone they didn't care for the color of his skin at that time). I started going out every night with friends dancing, having adult beverages etc. Then, started making poor choices early in my relationship that didn't honor God.

My redemption came at a critical point in my life. Despite having the longest running name in the FL foster care system and despite wanting to be done with my life after the ultimatums and everything I had gone through, I still had hope. I knew something was different for my life after a song came on the radio at a very crucial point in my fall. The song "East is to the West" by Casting Crowns came on at that very specific moment when I felt hopeless and renewed my hope for my life. After this moment, I felt led to join a church with my boyfriend (now husband), at the age of 18. I got baptized a few months later when a sermon was preached that convicted me and reminded me that God had been with me through everything and that He still loved me even though I really didn't know Him. He led Chris and I to multiple marriage conferences and classes. We got married a few years later despite being told that I would never get married and was essentially going to be useless in life.

My restoration came from Jesus and realizing that even though I didn't have a choice in my past, I do have a choice in my future. A choice to provide a stable, loving, and safe, Christ centered home for my kids Maia (6), Chris Jr. (4), Phebe (2) & Chloe (1). I have the choice to forgive my biological parents and start a new relationship with my mother and essentially help lead her to Christ. The choice to be a God fearing, loving wife to my husband Christopher a prayer warrior daily.