

# BELKIS LEHMANN

Belkis' passion for God and excitement for diversity are a result of her own spiritual journey. Belkis' family immigrated from Cuba to Colombia, where she spent the first seven years of her life. During those years and also as part of the Cuban exile community in Miami, her family were dedicated Jehovah's Witnesses. Through God's compassion and the witness of marketplace believers, her family came to faith in Christ, one by one. She graduated from Florida International University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1991. Her unique experiences in Miami stretched her love of people and caused her to confront her own biases and prejudices.

Belkis served as a Chi Alpha missionary at Eastern Michigan University for 14 years with her husband Steve, where she learned to think creatively about ministry structuring and gospel contextualization. She and Steve prayed and worked through a systematic approach for taking their ministry from a predominately white fellowship to one that was majority minority. While at EMU, she also earned her master's degree in TESOL.

She directed diversity and leadership development for the Great Lakes Area for her husband Steve during his tenure as the Area Director. In this role, Belkis helped the area increase its diversity at both the local and area level, especially at area events. She wrote planning and training materials and found innovative ways to plant ministries, train students, and organize events. She also pioneered the Great Lakes African American Leadership Conference as a way to contextualize the gospel for African American students and better serve their unique needs.

Since 2013, she has been leading the National Diversity Task Force and in February 2015 was appointed the National Diversity Specialist for Chi Alpha. She is driven by a passion for diversity based on the sacredness of humanity and the fullness of the kingdom of God. Her other passions include apologetics, discipleship, food, woodworking, and spending time with her husband and two kids: Sofia and Gabriel.

