

So my name is ShaCha Geronimo. I am a Christian. I am a wife, a mom to be and an ambassador of reconciliation. My parents, they were very instrumental, I think, in helping to nurture my passion, because a couple of things that they really instilled in us, and I have two brothers and one sister was a passion for charity... for giving back to the community that was around us, not even just in our neighborhood, but also outside of our neighborhood. They were also intentional about exposing us to other people and other culture outside of our neighborhood. So now I am leading a ministry called *Facing Race* and we meet weekly and have some dialog about some of the racial tensions that we're experiencing in our city as well as in our culture. How do we respond to that? As Christians, as believers, but also, how do we deal with some of the internalized prejudices that we have on the inside too?

At this moment, I'm five months pregnant. Me and my husband are expecting our first child. My husband is Dominican and I'm African American. And so when I think about the future, I think a lot about her. Because of the state of our country, the division and the racial tension that is happening, it's a blessing. But it's also scary at the same time. Blessing in that is causing us to have conversations about race and deal with some of the baggage that we have as a culture in a country. But it's scary because I fear for the challenges that my daughter will face as an Afro Latina. How do we instill values in her that that she can take pride in who she is? So my hope is that she would continue on the work that we do, that she would be a bridge builder among people as well. That real change will happen when she becomes older, that people will have a real appreciation for our differences and not be fearful of them.