

David and Marcia Skjaerlund
(pronounced "Scare-lund")



The Skjaerlund family has stewarded a life-long vision for their beautiful state of Michigan and for the nations. Dr. David Skjaerlund loves to enjoy life to its fullest, lives to worship God, has a passion for loving and believing in people, has a unique gift of strategic apostolic leadership, and is intentional in building the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Dr. Skjaerlund has spent his life in ministry service as well as serving in various business and political leadership roles.

Dr. David Skjaerlund has been married to Dr. Marcia Skjaerlund for over 28 precious years. Her heart beats with a joy for God. They have had a wonderful journey together of encountering God through life's mountain tops and valleys, while stewarding the Presence of God in their life, family and their spheres of influence. They are passionate about equipping and empowering the next generation to be an influence to the nations in every sphere of influence.

Educational Background

David graduated from Kalamazoo College receiving the *Outstanding Senior Biology Major* award, completed his PhD from Michigan State University in Animal Science with specialized training in molecular biology, and has published over 15 scientific journal articles in the area of growth biology of muscle proteins. Marcia, a high school valedictorian, attended Oral Roberts University with honors, received her DO from Michigan State University at 23 years of age, and served as a gastroenterologist for over 25 years. Both David and Marcia have completed various ministry training programs as well as pastoral equipping schools.

The Skjaerlund children

They have three beautiful, fun and gifted children: Hans, Cora and Jonathan (20-25 years of age). While in high school, all three children were in the top five of their graduating class, competed in varsity sports, held various student leadership positions, were grounded in their faith in God, helped with the family business and enjoyed having fun. Hans graduated from University of Michigan after 3.5 years of majoring in Economics and is now a product pricing analyst for the world's largest manufacturer of foam cups and containers. Hans is married to Jordan, who works in the human resources department for the same company. Cora graduated from Oral Roberts University with a major in biomedical chemistry, loves playing the piano, and has served on month-long mission trips to Guatemala, India and Indonesia. While attending ministry school, Cora works with special needs children and her husband, Ben Marsh, helps coordinate mission trips for Bethel. Jonathan is a pre-medicine undergraduate student at Michigan State University and is a member of the Spartan Marching Band and Spartan Brass Band.

Ministry Experience

Dr. David Skjaerlund has served as Executive Director of the Society for Creation Science, an organization that supported local chapters on college campuses which engaged in issues around the issue of creation/evolution. He is the author of the book *Creation/Evolution: Understanding the Issues at Hand* as well as other columns and papers on the foundational subject. Dr. Skjaerlund has served in various church leadership roles, including co-leading Morningstar Christian Church in East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Skjaerlund coordinated and co-led six leadership trips for campus missionary leaders to encounter Israel for a four-week intensive biblical study experience. Dr. Skjaerlund has served on the leadership team for unique missionary trips to the nations of Sierra Leone, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Columbia. Dr. Skjaerlund organized the Traverse City Leader Development Program, a three year effort to equip local leaders in establishing and living a Kingdom culture that transforms the world around them. Dr. Skjaerlund is also a writer and speaker, capturing revelations on the King and His Kingdom and articulating Kingdom paradigms related to daily living, relational leadership, church community, nation building and Kingdom transformation.

Public Policy Experience

Dr. Skjaerlund has served as a policy advisor in the executive office of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and as Director of MDA's Office of Policy Implementation within the Michigan Department of Agriculture, with responsibility to develop legislative initiatives related to property tax reform, environmental stewardship, land use policies, agriculture development and agribusiness enhancement. He served as the coordinator for Governor Engler's Farmland and Agriculture Development Task Force (1994) and is principle author of the report, *Policy Recommendations and Options for the Future Growth of Michigan Agriculture*. Dr. Skjaerlund is the principle author of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials' *Agriculture Trends Working Paper* (110 pages), documenting current land use trends and the impact on agriculture, and author of the report *Use Value Assessment: A 50 State Comparison*, an analysis of agricultural and property tax policies across the nation. He is also author of six professional journal articles on land use planning and zoning.

Economic and Community Development Experience

Dr. Skjaerlund served as the Executive Director of Rural Partners of Michigan (1997-2002), a nonprofit public/private partnership organization dedicated to strengthening rural communities through economic development strategies, community infrastructure investment, health care system improvement, business expansion and leadership development. Dr. Skjaerlund served as the President of Midwest Land Legacies, a private company dedicated to providing innovative and successful solutions on land use, economic enhancement, and community revitalization. Dr. Skjaerlund serves as President & CEO of Solomon Investment Strategies LLC, a company that provides assistance to business, organization and government leaders in assessing, developing and implementing successful leadership and business development strategies. Solomon facilitates the development of various business ventures in the area of agriculture, bioenergy, real estate and biomedical. Dr. Skjaerlund served as President and CEO for Liberty Renewable Fuels LLC which was a development stage company designing and building a \$250 million facility producing feed, food and fuel from corn. Dr. Skjaerlund has also owned and operated Pleasant View Farms for over 25 years, which includes an active commercial farming operation growing 1200 acres of corn and soybeans. During high school he owned a 100 sow farrow-finish swine operation.

Family Life

David and Marcia have learned the goodness and faithfulness of God in both mountain top experiences and in the valley seasons, including the death of a brother while mountain climbing, financial difficulties, leadership and relational challenges, assisting aging parents, and recovering from Stage IV lung cancer with a diagnosis of only a month or two to live. Through it all, they have learned that God upholds Romans 8:28 in accordance with Ephesians 3:20-21 because of Ephesians 3:14-19. They cherish faith, family and friends while enjoying the beauty of life. The Skjaerlund family enjoys recreating in the four seasons, whether skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, sailing, tubing, running, hiking, mountain climbing, hunting, fishing photography or a good family game of basketball, football or paintball. They love the creative and performing arts and enjoy conversing and laughing with friends around a table of good cuisine.

