

Three significant events spanning several years sparked Russell's spiritual awakening; the death of a younger brother, the divorce of his parents after forty some years, and his wife joining a church. Russell was raised Catholic, attended Catholic Schools and was an altar boy for many years. On Father's Day 1979, his wife gave him a Bible. Russell didn't approve of the church his wife and children attended so he was determined to know the "truth" and straighten them out. He commenced to read the Bible from cover to cover. It was during that initial reading of Scripture, when the Holy Spirit convicted Russell of his sins, with a broken and contrite heart, he repented and turned to God. Now he is ever grateful to know this truth; that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purposes!

Russell's spiritual gifting includes administration, leadership, teaching and discipleship. He's used these God-given gifts in service to the body at East Valley Bible Church for the last 11 years and professionally, while serving as a Budget Analyst for the Regional Offices of the IRS encompassing Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Nevada. Prior to retiring in 2000, Russell worked in the Criminal Division of the IRS as Branch Chief in the Phoenix office, overseeing operations in the tri-state District of Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada. Russell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Louisiana State University at New Orleans.

He has been married to Jacque since 1973 and they are the proud parents of three grown children and six grandchildren. The Shelton's reside in Chandler, AZ.