

Bio for David and Linda McCleery

David and Linda McCleery and their children, Jonathan (age 23) and Jacob (age 20), are missionaries with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). They are part of the MAF US support staff, where David is an Advocate Wing Manager for the Northern US. They live in Zeeland, Michigan.



David was born in Northern Ireland. His family immigrated to the United States when he was ten. After living in New Jersey for two years, they settled in Zeeland, Michigan. Through the guidance of his parents he accepted Christ at a young age.

While he was attending Northwestern College in Iowa an MAF pilot made a presentation, which excited him as he had always had a desire to be a pilot, and the spark for missions was ignited. He received a BA in Business at Northwestern and at Moody Bible Institute he received a certificate in Missionary Aviation Technology. He is a commercial pilot with instrument, and multi-engine ratings and has an airframe and powerplant mechanics license.

Linda grew up in Albert City, Iowa. She accepted the Lord as her Savior at a national youth convention when she was a senior in high school. She also attended Northwestern College in Iowa where she received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology, Psychology and Secondary Education. Linda was influenced by the strong missions program at the school and went on a short-term summer mission trip to India. She says, "This confirmed my desire to serve Christ in some way through missions." David and Linda met through a Bible study led by friends. They were married in 1986.

David and his family have been with MAF for 19 years, 12 of those years living and serving in Ecuador. In the later few years David was the manager for the MAF Ecuador program and became more aware and impassioned to work with nationals and move the MAF program towards a nationally run entity. He also became more aware of change in the mission world and began to see a real need for MAF to make a concerted effort to develop a more diverse international staff.

The Lord orchestrated multiple details which led the McCleerys to make the decision to return to the United States in the summer of 2005. David filled the role of MAF Latin America Director on an interim basis from January 2006 until January 2007. From June 2008 through May of 2011, David was the Director of Ministry Relations for International Needs Network USA which further developed an understanding of missions throughout the world. In July of 2011 David returned to MAF to manage the Advocate Wing for the Eastern half of the US.

David says, "we live in exciting and yet unstable times. Connecting Christians and the US Church in partnership with our MAF staff and ministries overseas is vital to advance the Kingdom and for a healthy global Christian community." David quotes Romans 12:5-6 (ESV) as a favorite passage, "...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."