

David & Elizabeth Blanton MMS (Missionary Maintenance Service)



David was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. He graduated from Appalachian State University in 1993 with a degree in marketing and management. He spent 14 years in sales and sales management in the office equipment industry in North Carolina and Virginia. After chasing and living the “American Dream”, David felt the Lord’s urging to make a significant move in purpose. He went from serving on the Board of Directors of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council of the Boy Scouts of America to a professional position with the Boy Scouts as a District Executive in the Roanoke,

Virginia area. He managed one of the nation’s largest Boy Scout Camps at The Blue Ridge Mountains Scout Reservation. After serving the Boy Scouts for two years, David was called to serve as Vice President of RENEWANATION, Inc., a non-profit ministry that promotes Christian worldview education in the K-12 arena. He worked professionally with RENEWANATION for four years and now serves on their Board of Directors.

In 2011, God gave David dream to fly. Not sure where it would lead, but sure that God was leading, David began taking flying lessons in Roanoke, VA. Soon after he began taking the lessons, it was clear that he was doing it to prepare for full-time missions work. David and his wife, Elizabeth, had been on several short-term missions trips to Guatemala, Jamaica, and in multiple states in the U.S. and it was on these trips that the Lord put it in their hearts that they would one day serve as career missionaries. David earned his Private Pilot’s Certificate in October of 2012 and his instrument rating in June of 2014.

In December of 2012, they sold their home in Roanoke, VA of 15 years and moved to Lynchburg, VA where David enrolled in Liberty University’s School of Aeronautics. At 41 years old, David was once again a college student. He graduated in December of 2013 with his FAA Airframe and Powerplant Certificate (aircraft mechanic’s license) in hand. After a weeklong technical evaluation, David was extended an invitation to join the team as a mechanic with MMS Aviation. MMS Aviation’s Mission Statement is: “Preparing People and Planes for Worldwide Missionary Service.” David and his family are currently building their support team to enable them to make the move to MMS in Coshocton, Ohio.

During the summer of 2014, David will be finalizing his necessary flight training with Mission Flight Group where he will earn his Commercial Pilot’s Certificate and will also be taking tactical flight training to prepare him for bush and jungle flying.

After becoming proficient as an aircraft mechanic with the experience he will get at MMS Aviation, David plans to serve as a missionary pilot/mechanic. He and his family are waiting on the Lord to direct where and with whom they will serve.

David and Elizabeth have been married since October of 1993 and have been blessed with two wonderful children: Ethan (16) and Anna (13).