



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

of the Evangelical Congregational Church

Empowering National Churches • Facilitating Mission Workers • Ministering to the Marginalized



Dana Abernathy

As a little girl I can see the Lord's protective hand in my life. He preserved me until the age of 15, when the Spirit called me to repentance. I grew by leaps and bound those first few years. After high school I packed all of my things and my pastor took me to the Moody Bible Institute in downtown Chicago. I graduated with a Bible Theology - Bible degree.

While there I met my future husband, Christopher Abernathy. He was an aviation major and it quickly became apparent to me that I was going to be a missionary wife. We married October 9, 1993. Our plan was for me to work to put him through Moody's flight program, but we ended up having Caleb instead. Our plans were not the Lord's plan. Then Dr. Ragsdale put us in touch with an organization in Coshocton, OH. MMS Aviation is an aviation apprenticeship program. Chris apprenticed for 2 ½ years and then we were asked to stay on as staff. Chris was a production mechanic and they eventually moved him into a training staff position. Chris' ministry on this earth was cut short by a glioblastoma multiforme...a highly malignant brain tumor. He was called to stand in the presence of his Savior on October 20, 2006.

I have continued on in a part time capacity at MMS Aviation. I worked as an office assistant for our Human Resources Director for about a year. Then the office manager and bookkeeper asked if I would want to work with her. I changed positions in 2008 and I am learning so much. I am learning that Mary's (and my) job is just important as the mechanics on the floor. We pay the bills - for utilities and parts, we run payroll, keep track of all the financing that goes in and out of MMS, and print invoices and statements. I have learned so much from Mary...she is a good teacher.

I have taken on the responsibility to mail the MMS GroundCrew. We mail out approximately 6,000 letters, 3 times a year. The mailing of the newsletters is a great use of my talents and abilities and I enjoy doing it.

I am part of our evaluation team. I arrange housing for potential MMS apprentices, when they come for a week of evaluation. I am on a newly formed committee to make sure that the evaluations go smoothly.

I have also been able to use my experience to walk alongside several women in my life who have lost their husbands. I am so humbled that the Lord would love me, let alone use me in this way. "...Beauty from ashes and strength from tears..."

Caleb also works at MMS. His mentor, Dave, has given Caleb opportunities to work on so many different things. He has helped Dave change the oil in my car. He has helped with electrical, computers, changing filters on various equipment around the hanger, fixed an electric window on the MMS van and so much more. Caleb's main job in the summer is to mow the grass. Dave is slowly finding things that he can give Caleb to do by himself. Caleb really enjoys being at MMS around his daddy's friends.

"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever." II Corinthians 16-18 (NLT)