

Meet Your Missionaries

Dan & April McKee

Encompass World Partners, North Star, Japan



BIRTH PLACES: St. Charles, MO (Dan)
Oklahoma (April)

BIRTHDAYS: 3/11 (Dan), 4/12 (April)

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Dan: Climbing, Hiking, Camping, Mountain Biking, Slacklining
April: Hiking, Music, Photography, Reading, Coffee, Slacklining

CHILDREN: Lincoln (3/5/2017)

FAVORITE VERSES: Isaiah 61:1-3 (Dan), Colossians 3:23-24 (April)

SALVATION AGE: 5 (Dan), 8 (April)

EDUCATION: Dan: Missouri State University (2006-2008) St. Charles Community College (2008) St. Charles Career Center (2010) studied Criminology and Sociology, A.A. Criminal Justice, EMT-B-License & Certifications April: Missouri State University (2007) Oklahoma City Community College (2008) studied A.A. Diversified Studies, recreation and leisure studies.

TESTIMONIES

Dan: I was born in St. Charles, MO. My Mother and Father were both Christians and involved with Grace. At the age of five I accepted Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. However, my 5 year old theology didn't extend beyond the song "Jesus loves me". Fast forward to my teenage years, and I began to question my purpose in life and ultimately my faith. This period, while challenging, helped me to see that God was real and had a plan for me. I was then baptized at Grace as a profession of my faith. Over the next several years I participated in youth group, various camps, and went on a mission trip to Mexico. After high school, I attended Missouri State University. All together these experiences led to a deeper desire to serve people and share the Gospel. I also met April, my future wife.

April: I was born in Norman, OK. Both my parents were believers, and I learned about Jesus at a young age. Although I faced a few hard times during my childhood, I knew that God loved me and someday I would go to heaven. However, I didn't quite understand how to have a real relationship with the Jesus until I was ten. At that point I began to learn what it really meant to have a personal relationship with God, and so my faith grew stronger. Throughout Junior High and High School I was involved in youth group, and attended several Christian conferences. I then attended Missouri State University on a track scholarship. This is where I met the love of my life.

Both: Three years later, we married. Our first year was difficult. During this time, we lost sight of God's purpose for our lives and began to live selfishly. But despite a difficult circumstance, God restored our marriage and simultaneously called us to help plant a church in Lincoln, Nebraska. This experience proved to be a transformational time in our lives, that would reaffirm our hearts for God's mission and vision to reach people that are far from Him.

In the fall of 2013, God put the country of Japan on our hearts. We spent three months in Norikura, Japan, on internship at an outdoor lodge called NorthStar. NorthStar is a "business as mission" that uses extreme sports and related activities to build relationships and ultimately provide opportunities to share the Gospel. This experience profoundly impacted our future plans. We like to say that God ruined our lives in the best way possible.

Our purpose as missionaries is to connect with guests, interns, and locals through extreme sports and genuine hospitality. We show them compassion and tell them that they have eternal value in Christ. Additionally, we engage our community in sacrificial service, intentional evangelism and whole-life discipleship. Our hope is to help cultivate a culture of disciple-makers amongst the Japanese—Northstar guests, interns, and locals—to train and equip them to take the gospel wherever they go.

HISTORY OF MINISTRY

Dan: Camp Counselor, Youth Volunteer, Mosaic Lincoln (Church Plant), Jacob's Well (House Church), Missio Dei (Church Plant), Intern at Northstar, Bible Study Leader .

April: Mosaic Lincoln (Church Plant), Jacob's Well (House Church), Missio Dei (Church Plant), Intern at Northstar, Bible Study Leader.

CURRENT MINISTRY

Dan: Bible study leader, support raising

April: Bible study leader, worship team, support raising.

Mission Contact

Encompass World Partner

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