

Meet Your Missionaries

Ron & Roz Wismer

Serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship



Birthplaces: Ron was born April 17 in Royal Oak, MI
Roz was born May 13 in Anderson, IN

Anniversary: October 6, 1984

Children: Daniel was born March 27, 1987 in Albertville, France while we were in French language school

James was born April 22, 1989 in Nyankunde, Zaire (DRC) during our first term

Mark was born April 3, 1991 in Nyankunde, Zaire (DRC) during our second term

Interests and Hobbies: Ron - SPORTS!!! (as a participant or spectator). He also likes puzzles – word puzzles, number puzzles and of course jigsaw puzzles.

Roz - meeting with friends for conversation and a cup of coffee, reading biographies, walking through parks & historical sites.

Salvation Age: Ron chose to follow Christ at the age of 10. Roz chose to follow Christ at the age of 8.

Favorite Verse: Ron - Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your works to the Lord, and you plans will be established.

Roz - Philippians 4:4-8 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, ..honorable, ..right, ..pure, ..lovely, of good repute, if there is anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

Education: Ron - Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL 1977-1979), Moody Bible Institute (Chicago 1979-1981) Aviation Program (Tennessee 1981 - 1984), Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID 2008-2009 Masters of Business Administration)

Roz - Taylor University (Upland, IN 1975-1977), Ball State University (Muncie, IN 1977 - 1980), Alliance Theological Seminary (Nyack, NY 1981 - 1983)

Testimonies

Ron: I grew up in a Christian home and we were in church every Sunday as well as most any day there was an event at the church. By the time I was 10 years old I realized my need to be saved from my sin and walked forward one Sunday morning after a particularly moving sermon by my pastor. I was baptized a few weeks later and began my journey as a follower of Christ.

I must mention that even before that time I had a strong desire to become a professional pilot. When I was in junior high school the Lord put it on my heart to become involved in some type of full time ministry. It was not until high school when I met a "missionary pilot" that I realized I could put both ideas together as one and thus faithfully follow what God had put on my heart. I certainly was not perfect through my developmental years, but God was faithful and led me through the process of becoming a missionary pilot through my studies at Wheaton and Moody Bible Institute.

We joined Mission Aviation Fellowship in 1985 and landed in Africa in 1987 where we served for 16 years as pilot and missionary. Due to several issues including our high school boys' education needs we returned to the US in 2003 and worked in the operations office at MAF's headquarters. When MAF moved to Nampa, Idaho in 2006 we were able to live near the campus of Northwest Nazarene University and combined with my understanding for the need for me to improve my administrative skills I decided to complete an MBA at NNU. I finished in 2009 and now that the boys are all out of the house, Roz and I decided to use some of the skills from my education in Africa. We are now living in Kinshasa and have taken the program management position.

Roz: My parents become Christians as young adults and so they provided home instruction that followed Biblical principles. Our family attended Sunday School and worship services regularly.

We were involved in Vacation Bible School and Child Evangelism Fellowship Club meetings.

At the age of 8, after reading a Sunday School paper, I recognized my need to confess my sin to God and to ask for forgiveness...I wanted to have eternal life in heaven. During my high school and college years the temptations of this world were strong and I was not consistent in my desire to think and act as one who was a Christ follower. I thank God that He continued to speak and challenge me until the time came when I submitted to His call on my life - for time here on earth, not just for the time in eternity.

University studies allowed me to examine and process the Bible instruction I had been given as a youth so that I knew for

myself, the truths that had been given to me by parents and Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and camp speakers. High school biology class and the satisfaction of being able to help others directed me to the pursuit of a BS in nursing. As a child I also heard many cross cultural missionaries tell of the work God had given them to do in foreign lands and I sensed that God was asking me to serve Him in a cross cultural setting. While completing basic requirements to serve with a group in Africa, I met Ron. We individually and then together felt the pull to live and work overseas.

Ministry History

Ron & I married in October 1984 and we applied to **Mission Aviation Fellowship**.

August 1985 We were accepted to serve with Mission Aviation Fellowship (**MAF**).

1985 - 1986 We worked (Ron - pilot/mechanic, Roz - home health RN) while raising support. **Grace Community Chapel became faithful supporters in prayer and finances!**

1986 - 1987 We lived in Albertville, FRANCE while in French language school

1987 - 1989 We arrived in ZAIRE (now DRC) and served as pilot & wife at the Nyankunde base. **Ron** used his training and skills as a pilot - mechanic - flight scheduler. Transporting pastors, teachers, students, medical personnel and supplies, food, construction materials. Performing routine inspections and maintenance on the airplane. Coordinating pilot/mechanic team members to meet the flight requests and needs of the local church and community.

Roz served as wife and mother, provided hospitality to travelers and flight followed via HF radio.

1989 - 1994 After 6 months of US furlough we returned to serve in Nyankunde. We moved to serve in Bata, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC in October 1991. **Ron** took on the responsibilities of the 1 pilot program while continuing to serve as pilot/mechanic. He had the opportunity to work with the local Bible School professor to play basketball with the local school students - whose school year was interrupted due to teacher strikes.

Roz continued to serve as wife/mother/hostess and had the opportunity to work with a baby boy whose mother had died at birth and the aunt was caring for him...we received a report after our departure that the aunt had stated to co-workers the desire to 'go the Jesus way' !

1994 - 1995 We furloughed in Saginaw, MI serving with our home church (son had eye surgeries)

1995 - 1998 We served in Kinshasa, ZAIRE (now DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of CONGO). **Ron** served as pilot/mechanic and performed the duties of the program manager. Responsibilities included supervision of 3- 7 program families located at 4 other bases, meeting with local officials, facilitating the renewal of licenses and passports, implementing annual business plan and strategy, setting and tracking the program budget.

Roz served as wife/mother/hostess and shopped for the MAF team that lived 'up country.' The Wismer Family had many opportunities to work and play along with the TASOK (The American School of Kinshasa) community of teachers and students many of whom came from other nations and religious practices.

1998 - 1999 Furlough in Saginaw, MI While there we were blessed, encouraged and refreshed as we once again enjoyed the camaraderie and challenges of the local church body

1999 - 2003 We moved to serve in Bamako, MALI. **Ron** served as pilot/mechanic/flight scheduler/program manager and occasionally preached in the neighborhood and international churches. **Roz** activities focused on the home environment. A favorite activity was planning and preparing for, and participation with 2 MAF co-workers in the weekly Discovery Club. Discovery Club was a time to 'share the love of Jesus' to students from the America School of Bamako through games, songs, Bible stories, verses and life principles, crafts and snacks.

2003 - 2011 Worked at MAF - US headquarters (Redlands, CA 2003 - 2006) relocated (Nampa, ID 2006). **Ron** worked in the Operations Department as manager for Operation Access and Research. **Roz** was involved in child care, apartment cleaning, front entry receptionist and classes for the youth who would be going overseas with their parents to serve with MAF (She also returned part time to work as a nurse for a home care company).

2011 - Returned (after 13 years!) to Kinshasa, DRC in July 2011. **Ron** is serving as the program manager for the Kinshasa and the Lubumbashi bases. (He is not flying) Our MAF team includes 8 or more (non DRC national) families/individuals and 13 nationals. **Roz** is actively involved in team communication and prayer times, hanging out with Ron at the office 1 day per week. . . and exploring other opportunities to serve...as we intentionally live so that "we can share the love of Jesus to those who are isolated..."

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