

Dan Kelly

IAMA, AirVenture 2010 Coordinator

I was born to Walter R Kelly and Ruth Kelly *at a very young age* in Greenville S.C. My Dad was in college at the time at Bob Jones University. Later we moved to Pennsylvania where my father pastored a church. He eventually began a Missionary Letter Service and it grew to service 327 missionaries. Because of this ministry to missionaries we had many of them visit in our home over the years. This gave me an insight into their lives and gave me a desire to be involved in missions even as a child. At the age of eight I accepted the Lord as my Savior. Fortunately my parents were strong Christians and requested me to attend a Christian college for at least one year. When the time came to start looking for colleges, we visited several but I knew that Piedmont was where God wanted me. I was impressed with the missionary aviation program. Just the summer prior to my senior year in high school, I spent six weeks in Alaska with a missionary couple where I experienced firsthand the importance of missionary aviation.

I graduated from Piedmont Bible College with a Bachelor of Theology in Missionary Aviation in 1984. My wife, whom I met in college, and I had a strong desire to serve the Lord wherever He would lead us. After graduation I felt it necessary to gain some actual experience in the area of A&P mechanics, so I got a job in Winston-Salem at Piedmont Aviation. I worked in the engine overhaul shop for three and a half years.

In 1988 I was approached by the Director of the Aviation Program at PBC to consider becoming an instructor for the school. After my wife and I prayed about this, we felt this was where God was leading us to be a part of training missionary pilots. During the twenty-one years of time spent at PBC, I served as flight instructor, Director of flight training, Director of MAI, and Chair of the Division of Missionary Aviation. I have been a member of the International Association of Mission Aviation (IAMA) for a number of years and currently serve on the board of directors. In September of 2005 we received the sad news that the Board of Trustees at PBC had come to a decision to close the Aviation Program. During the last four years I have been involved in the teach-out of the remaining aviation program students. These students graduated this past May. It has been an honor and a privilege to help prepare these men and women for the work God has called them to in places literally around the world.

Currently I am seeking what the Lord may have next for my family and me. While waiting I have had some opportunities to work with some missionary candidates to help prepare them for their technical evaluations as part of the acceptance process of the respective mission boards. Also during this transition time in my career, I have volunteered to be the IAMA coordinator for Air Venture 2010.

