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The Barnharts began their time in foreign missions with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) back in January of 1990 when Bruce and his wife, Karen started as short-term associates in Shell, Ecuador. Karen taught elementary school at the Nate Saint Memorial School and Bruce worked in the shop as a mechanic for over one year and then transitioned on to the flight line for the remainder of their 2 1/2 years there.

They loved their time in Ecuador so much that they opted for career status with MAF and were thinking they might head back to South or Central America, but God had other plans. As many are aware, the late 80s and the early 90s brought epicenter changes to the political situation of the Soviet Block Countries. At that time, MAF was eager to launch into new directions and they partnered with the Co-Mission for any assistance they might be able to provide. Bruce and Karen were sent to Krasnodar Russia to continue Russian language studies that had started in South Carolina the summer prior to their departure in 1994.

At the end of their time in Krasnodar, The Barnharts joined PACTEC (Partners in Aviation and Communications Technologies) and moved from Russia into Kazakhstan where they spent almost 5 full years in Almaty.

In 2000, the Barnharts moved out of the 1.5 million populated city of Almaty in hopes of establishing a more traditional kind of aviation support role with radio communications and flight services.

Barnharts returned to the states for a normally scheduled furlough in September of 2004. After much deliberation, the family decided not to return to Kazakhstan with PACTEC and resigned from the organization in 2005.

Eventually they were asked to come on staff with Liberty University in their aviation training department. They have been in Lynchburg since the fall semester of 2006.

