Entrepreneur, Business Executive and Missionary

David “Dave” Lindsey is a successful entrepreneur, influential leader and an active missionary. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business/Finance (1991) and a Masters of Business Administration in Marketing/Finance (1992) from Indiana University. He held positions with two Fortune 500 companies: Ingersoll-Rand and Hillenbrand Industries prior to founding DEFENDER Direct, Inc. in 1998. In the spare bedroom of his home, Dave founded DEFENDER to market, sell and install ADT security systems to homeowners. A fast-growth company, DEFENDER is now the largest home services dealer in the nation; representing such name brands as ADT, GE, Carrier and Honeywell. In 1997 Dave set out three main goals for his life: ***Build a business, build a family and build a mission.*** Though he has been blessed with wonderful success in these three areas, he continues to pursue growth in all three.

After building DEFENDER into a $390M+ company, which provides many growth opportunities for its 2,400+ employees, he made the decision to rededicate himself to his passions: missions, Board involvement and developing the leadership of business executives. DEFENDER Direct’s slogan “*Businesses don’t grow-people do*”, isn’t just a tagline. It’s the strategy that Dave used to expand his home services company to 2,400 employees and 121 nationwide offices. He also fostered an average annual growth rate of 60-plus percent during the past decade by investing in his employees’ personal and professional development. “*I’m only able to grow as fast as my people can grow*,” he says.

Since 1998, Dave has invested his time and given more than $20M to charity. He has also created the opportunity for his employees to build more than 200 homes for the poorest of poor in Mexico and the Dominican Republic through YWAM’s ***Homes of Hope*** program. Dave and his wife Jess have also formed a unique partnership with YWAM to create an organization called ***Companies With A Mission*** (CWAM) that focuses on changing the hearts of business leaders and helping them develop a culture of giving within in their companies. Dave got the idea for CWAM after hearing so many influential business leaders saying “I’ve always wanted to take a mission trip with my family, BUT…” CWAM provides these leaders an easy way to put aside the excuses and go on a mission trip! The experience is not only monumental for their families, but also gives them a unique opportunity to engage and network with peers. From this movement, the Super Service Challenge was born. This annual challenge encourages coworkers to form a team and serve charities in order to win prize money for the charities that were served. This challenge has grown from 91 teams in 2012 to 2,231 teams in 2013 and continues to gain momentum ([www.superservicechallenge.com](http://www.superservicechallenge.com)).

In 2011, Dave stepped down as CEO to further pursue his passion for missions as DEFENDER’s chief missions officer. Dave and his family took a spiritual journey of a lifetime through YWAM’s Discipleship Training School (DTS). Their training included learning how to be a missionary for three months in Kona, Hawaii then taking their learning to the mission field in Takamatsu, Japan for another three months. The journey was extremely rewarding and left the family on a spiritual high note. Dave is highly involved with the YWAM organization through being a YWAM’er and serving on several Boards: *Chairman of the Board-YWAM San Diego/Baja, Member of the YWAM International Advisory Board and the YWAM Legal Board.*

Dave retained his majority ownership of the company, as well as, his seat on the company’s board of advisors. In August 2013, he returned to the role as CEO.

Dave and his wife Jessica currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana with their three children; David, Maggie and Jackie Ray. Dave enjoys listening to music, coaching his children, praying, and playing golf and squash in his free time. He is also very involved in the local community through his participation with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, United Way and many other nonprofits.