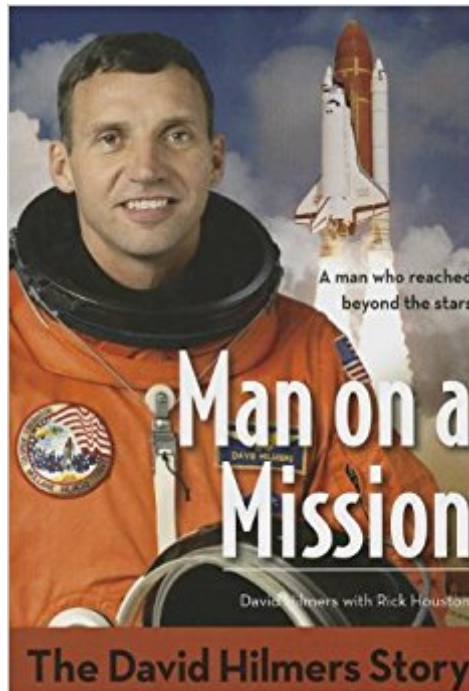




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Man On A Mission: The David Hilmers Story (ZonderKidz Biography)



Synopsis

“I floated toward one of the windows as Atlantis sailed high over the coast of Africa, unprepared for the incredible view that was about to unfold right before my eyes. Being an astronaut wasn’t enough. Dr. David C. Hilmer has launched into space four times as part of NASA space shuttle crews. But God had more planned for Dr. Hilmer. The beauty of the Earth from orbit reminded Hilmer of his first dream to become a doctor. He went to medical school, became a pediatrician, and has since launched into countless missions and disaster relief trips around the world. Dr. Hilmer’s extraordinary life and work as a missionary will inspire you to reach even higher than the stars.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-The title of this autobiographical profile is a triple entendre, as Hilmer not only relates experiences both as a crew member on four space-shuttle flights and a post-NASA career as a pediatrician in multiple poverty-stricken and war-torn countries, but also promotes the central role his Christian faith has played in guiding him through doubts, dangers, and significant life decisions. Interspersing frequent ruminations on his "faith journey," but only rarely even mentioning his family, he takes readers from his Iowa upbringing through his military and astronaut training, flights before

and after the Columbia disaster (two of which he coyly notes were classified, but curious readers can consult Wikipedia for details), medical school, and overseas relief missions to, among other locales, Botswana, Haiti, Pakistan, and even North Korea. The stingy assortment of small, murky black-and-white photos depicts Hilmers in a wide variety of settings, and though his steadfastly positive outlook gives the narrative a bland cast, his eventful life and his watchwords-"Did I make a difference?"-make worthy models.-John Peters, Children's Literature Consultant, New York City
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The story of an astronaut who dreamed of becoming a doctor, this book doesn't advertise its religious content on its front cover. Instead the photo features a smiling Hilmers in the orange launch and entry suit that was designed to protect astronauts after the Challenger explosion. But Hilmers' Christian faith is apparent from the first chapter, as he remembers (via author Houston) that an awe-inspiring view from the shuttle made him aware of "how small I really am, and how big God was, is, and always will be." Writing in an accessible, often conversational style, Houston emphasizes Hilmers' hard work and humility. After college, he became an aviator in the Marine Corps and a NASA astronaut before tackling the "flat-out grind" of medical school. The book doesn't paint Hilmers as a saint •he blames himself for the end of his 30-year marriage, for instance •but as someone who felt the need to be useful to other people. Occasional photos from his life and career finish off this fine package of an extraordinary life. Grades 5-8. --Abby Nolan

I wanted to become an astronaut when I grew up, unfortunately in my country this was not a possibility. I heard about this book in Relevant radio and was intrigued about an Astronaut that goes off to space and finds out that what he really wants to be is a physician to help people in Africa. This is an amazing story. Very inspirational. Amazing are all the degrees this man obtained and the clear idea of who he wanted to be. There were many parts where I saw myself and many more were very inspirational. I was just so disappointed that family was put in the back burner. That is the only part where I did not see myself. I am glad he published his story, but definitely this is a story of a gifted and brilliant person, who also works very hard to go after his goals. I hope my sons can read this story soon.

This describes the writer as well as David Hilmers. Rick Houston has proven his interest in and

knowledge of the space program in the US. When I finished this book I felt that David Hilmers was a lifelong friend. It was if he was sitting here telling me his story in person. How great is that!

Inspirational book for 12-year-olds just beginning their journey toward a future career. Outstanding motivation and achievement described as well as hard work and good attitude.

Highly recommend this book as it traces Dr. Hilmers' incredible journey through military service, space exploration, public health, medicine and the mission field.

Man on a Mission: The David Hilmers Story, by Dr. David Hilmers and Rick Houston was an excellent book. I could understand how God was always working in David Hilmer's life. He would always understand that if something didn't work out that it was God's will and he would move on and not let it bother him. There were so many good Godly character traits that were written about in this book. Two of my favorite traits were being a good steward and spending time wisely. I also was please at how he took his father's work ethic so seriously and applied it to his life. I highly recommend this readable book. Disclosure of Material Connection- I received Man on a Mission: The David Hilmers Story by Rick Houston and Dr. David Hilmers for free from DJC Communications. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

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