

Woody McLendon

President of JAARS, Inc.

Woody McLendon serves as President of JAARS, Inc., a Christian non-profit ministry committed to the vision that people's lives and communities are transformed as they experience God's Word in their own language. JAARS exists to make Bible translation and language development possible, especially in the most remote and difficult places on earth. They do that by enabling locally-appropriate and sustainable solutions in transportation, technology, media, and training.

In his role as President, Woody brings with him experience in multiple levels of service and leadership in Wycliffe Bible Translators, SIL International, and JAARS. He also brings high academic credentials in engineering, and innovative leadership skills, strengthened by corporate experience, strong spiritual formation, and raising three daughters with his wife, Mary.

Woody committed his life to Jesus Christ as a freshman in college. Through involvement with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the InterVarsity Urbana Missions Conference, he learned about Bible translation and sensed God's call into missions. Woody and Mary met through a training program for Bible translation.

Before coming to JAARS in 2001, Woody served for several years as a linguist-translator and language surveyor in Niger, West Africa, with his family under SIL International and Wycliffe. At JAARS, he served in information technology for 10 years, moving up to the role of VP of IT for his last three. He focused on technology support for global innovation and collaboration in Bible translation. In 2011 he became the Sr. VP of Organizational Strategy for JAARS, assessing future opportunities for the organization in support of Bible translation.

In September 2012, Woody took over as President of JAARS, a role where he seeks to build a strong organizational and spiritual foundation for future Christ-centered ministry. He is grateful for the wonderful heritage of 65+ years of ministry through JAARS, and is diligently working with his team to respond to God's leading for the future. When he's not in the office, you'll find him with his family, studying God's Word, playing a pickup game of soccer, or learning something new.

