

Jim Metzler

JAARS



Jim was born and raised on a farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and began an interest in aviation in High School. At age 16, Jim received his private pilot license and following high school attended LeTourneau University. After a year at LeTourneau, Jim transferred to Moody Bible Institute as a Bible Theology student. It was at Moody that Jim met his wife to be, Cathy, and began to feel God leading them into mission aviation, so he transferred to the aviation course. After initial flight and mechanic training, Jim worked in the A&P School as a lab instructor and doing some classroom teaching. Realizing mechanics was more to his liking; he dropped the flight and graduated as a maintenance specialist in 1977 with a BA in Mission Aviation Technology.

Jim and Cathy joined Wycliffe Bible Translators originally as short-term assistants working at JAARS in the fall of 1977. A number of years were spent at Waxhaw in various roles, as well as doing several short overseas special maintenance projects. In 1986 they moved to Liberia, West Africa, where they worked until civil war closed the program in 1990.

Jim and Cathy have two daughters, Alicia and Melanie who are both married. Melanie has two children, James and Sierra.

Jim is currently working as the Maintenance Field Support Coordinator and assists the JAARS field programs with problems, questions and inquiries. The Helio Courier has become Jim's specialty and he responds to numerous inquiries received by JAARS from operators of that aircraft all over the world.

Several years ago Jim started Helio Services LLC. He rents a hangar in Lancaster, South Carolina works on Helio aircraft in the evenings and Saturdays. In addition to several major customer projects, JAARS has contracted his company to refurbish several Helios in preparation for sale.

In the little left-over spare time he has, Jim enjoys gardening and woodworking.