



Ken Van Weerdhuizen

JAARS

Ken was born to immigrant parents and raised in a rural farming area in Washington State. Ken's childhood was very sheltered. His early years were spent working on the farm and attending school and church. When he was 12 years old, Ken experienced a number of firsts:

- really "hearing" God's Word,
- an awareness of missions
- an unusual encounter with a missionary pilot.

God used each of those as direction-setting events in Ken's life. After high school, Ken left home to attend Bible College in Michigan. Soon after that he began flight training and earned his private pilot's license.

Chris, Ken's wife, also felt the Lord nudging her toward missions early in her life. After finishing Bible College, Ken and Chris were married, joined the work force, and began their family.

Though further aviation training was slow in coming, they see now, that God used those initial years of married life to prepare them for the mission field.

Finally, more than 11 years after getting his pilot's license, Ken and Chris and their three daughters arrived in the Philippines to serve with Wycliffe and JAARS. A son joined the family early in their time in the Philippines. One by one, each of their children graduated from Faith Academy in Manila and then returned to the US. For 20 years, Ken and Chris served Bible translation through aviation and other support roles. Ken's flying took him to the "far corners" of the island nation. After the flight program in the Philippines was closed in 2010, Ken and Chris made themselves available to serve wherever the Lord led.

In September 2011, Ken and Chris moved to Cameroon, Central Africa to once again serve in Aviation and support services. Due to changing times and economical changes, Ken and Chris closed out their time in Cameroon after one year.

Ken and Chris are now assigned to the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Ken serves as a pilot and administrative assistant and Chris works in HR with Wycliffe. The Lord continues to give them a passion for being a small part of the team that brings God's Word to people around the world, in a language and form that speaks to their hearts.