

## **Jim & Linda Sims**

### **New Tribes Mission Aviation**

**Jim** grew up in Montgomery, AL, trusting Christ as Savior when he was nine years old. He worked with his father in the family-owned pest-control business for eleven years before serving in the US Army, followed by additional service with the Army National Guard in Alabama and Texas.

Having had a fascination with flying from a very young age, Jim soloed at age 16. After serving full time in the Army, he began to work toward advanced aviation ratings, including helicopter pilot training with the Alabama National Guard and flying for the Texas National Guard.



In 1980 Jim was hired as a pilot for an independent oil and gas company in Dallas, TX. At this time Jim was in his early 30s and really began to understand what it meant to have a serious relationship with the Lord. While living in Plano, TX, Jim first heard that aviation was a skill that could be used on the mission field, and he was challenged to pray about how God might use him.

In 1986, Jim left the flying job and, along with his wife Linda, began missionary training with NTM. A year later Jim began NTM specialized flight training for the mission field. In 1988 the Sims family departed for Papua New Guinea (PNG) where Jim flew fixed wing and helicopters in direct support of the "bush" missionaries for eleven years.

**Linda** was born in Los Angeles, CA, the oldest of six children. Her father was a career officer and pilot in the Air Force. As a military family they had the privilege of living in many locations and experiencing different cultures. One of the highlights of her youth was living in England when her family was stationed there. Linda is a very good language learner and quickly picked up a British accent. When her grandmother came to visit, her friends, who assumed she was British because of her good accent, were puzzled as to why she had an American grandmother!

Linda attended college in California and earned a teaching certificate. After marriage she taught special needs children in Montgomery, AL, and later taught at a Christian school in Texas. She also homeschooled their middle son before enrolling him in the NTM boarding school in PNG.

In PNG one of Linda's main ministries was flight following via radio while Jim was flying. Because of the remoteness of the missionary out-stations, Linda was a key element in the day to day operation. She was the eyes, ears, and weather person for Jim as he flew.

In 2000 the Sims were asked to return to the States and serve as part of the NTM Aviation Leadership Team. Jim has served as Chairman and Director of Communications. Currently, he concentrates his efforts on presenting the needs and vision of the flight programs around the world. His current job title is Director of Stewardship Development. Linda has helped out over the years as Jim's office assistant.

Jim & Linda Sims have three grown sons, all of whom are in the military.