



# The O'Connor's

Updating you on what God has been doing in our lives and where God has been leading us!

Hello!

Josh here! We hope this letter finds you happy and healthy. Our family is doing well as we end this month of May. Our eldest daughter is about to complete the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and is truly becoming a wonderful young woman. Our youngest daughters are 2 and 1 and definitely keep Leslie busy between potty training, crawling, and all-around toddler shenanigans. We are excited for summer activities to begin as we love to camp and hike. I am just finishing up the year teaching a class at the college on top of everything else I'm going to share in this letter.

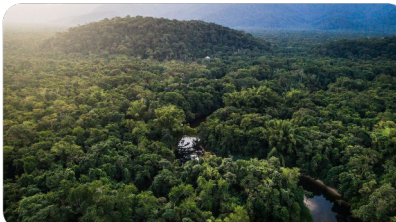
I'm mainly writing this to tell you about something exciting that we are doing called EP412 Ministries! If you have known me since I was a little kid, or even if you've only met me in the last few years, you probably know that one, I love airplanes/aviation, and two, I have a huge heart for missions. For the last 15+ years I've been working to combine those two things and it seems God has shown me a way to do just that.

Some of what is in this letter may be news to you, and some of it may be stuff you already know, but in the name of keeping everyone on the same page I'm going to give a little background. Keeping that in mind, this letter will be longer than most.



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:19-20



**Remote village receives shipment of Bibles**



From the time I was a small child in Sunday school, I wanted to be involved in missions. I went to LeTourneau University specifically for a Missions Aviation degree, because my plan was to go fly overseas for an organization like JAARS or MAF. Fast forward through college and the years after, and God started to push me in a slightly different direction. I realized I have a gift and heart for teaching. God has uniquely prepared me through my experience in the aviation industry to be someone that equips and sends people overseas for missions. That training and equipping is specifically in the skill set of an aircraft mechanic.

You may be asking yourself what aviation or aircraft have to do with missions at all. JAARS and MAF; what kind of organizations are those? Imagine for me the most remote place you can think of near where you live. For us in Montana, that would be the Bob Marshall and Frank Church Wilderness areas. It takes several days to backpack across them. There is extremely rugged terrain and wild animals. Both areas are in the mountains so there is the possibility of extreme weather in any season. These areas can only be accessed on foot, via pack train, by raft/kayak, or by air.

Now imagine that in the heart of a similar area is where you live. Several days' travel from healthcare, supplies, technology, and first world civilization... **unless** you have access to air travel. Any minor injury could spell disaster. For us, these areas represent recreation opportunities; risks that we are willing to take. But for hundreds of thousands of people around the world, this is the reality of their lives. Some of these communities have never once been introduced to the Gospel of Jesus!

Since just after WW2, there are multiple organizations, such as JAARS and MAF, that have been put in place around the world whose purpose is to reach communities like this. These ministries are able to access remote communities via airplanes and helicopters in the name of Jesus. Ministries that support evangelism, bible translation, and humanitarian missions by being the hands and feet of Jesus using an airplane. A missionary pilot can save a life by turning a multi-day trek through the jungle and or mountains into a 30min flight. Lives saved or new lives brought into the world that wouldn't have survived otherwise. I recently attended a missions conference and learned that the current missions fleet of aircraft, on average, saves two weeks of travel time in just one hour of flight time. How amazing!

These organizations are in constant need of more people willing to serve. Lately, these ministries have been really hurting for people with the technical ability and training to serve as pilots and mechanics. I went to school to be a missionary pilot and I wanted to fly overseas for an organization. Over the last decade though, God has been directing my path to use me in a slightly different way.

In 2019, just after marrying my beautiful wife Leslie, I started a company called JL Aerospace. JL Aerospace is a small aircraft maintenance shop serving the needs of the aviation community in the Bozeman area of Montana. I started this company to supplement the



*And He gave the apostles, the evangelists, the shepherds, and the teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

income that I had from working on helicopters. Almost two years later, at the end of 2020, Leslie and I felt that it was time to go full time with JL Aerospace and be completely self-employed. As JL Aerospace grew, it became clear that it was going to be the vehicle to achieve the dream God had placed on my heart. This dream was to run a business that would be able to train and equip mechanics for Kingdom work.

Since early 2021, JL Aerospace has employed an apprentice name Caleb who is learning to become an aircraft mechanic. The apprenticeship style of learning has the benefit of allowing Caleb to gain experience in the industry that will be useful on the mission field but is also allowing him to get this needed training without building up student loan debt. Student loans are probably the number one reason that people with a heart for missions never get to the mission field. Missions organizations are less likely to send you overseas if you are still in debt from your time in college. The more time spent paying off debt, just to make it to the mission field, is more time people go without knowing about our incredible Savior. This is a problem we would like to be a part of fixing.

This is where EP412 Ministries comes in. EP412 is a (pending) 501c3 tax exempt nonprofit. It exists to train and equip people to go overseas and serve in missions, specifically as mechanics. The name EP412 comes from the book of Ephesians. Ephesians 4 talks about the makeup and functionality of the body of Christ. Verse 11 talks about how Christ gave specific roles to each of us as apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and specifically teachers. Verse 12 then points out that the purpose of these roles is to “train and equip” saints for the ministry of the Kingdom. The short-term goals of EP412 are to support Caleb and the apprentices that will follow him, in their training for the mission field. The medium to long term goals are as follows. Number one, we want to partner with aviation missions organizations for the purchase of aircraft, engines, avionics. Second, we will support the worldwide missions organization fleet with maintenance services, consultations, and emergency help for large projects. Incredibly, we have already begun to do all of those things.

As time goes on, we would like to have more than one apprentice, and we would like to always be partnered with an organization on a specific project. Further, with enough resources, we would have the ability to place apprentices with other training organizations, based on what fits their needs best.

Now for the fun part! I’m writing to you because we want you to be involved. The great part of the body of Christ is that it is truly made up of many members. I cannot do this alone, and I wasn’t designed to do this alone. So, how can you help? Great question!

The number one way that you can help is to pray! Pray that God blesses the work we are doing, pray customers remain happy with the work that is done, that airplanes stay safe, and pilots stay flying. Ultimately, I want God to be glorified in what we are doing here at JL

**Ways you can pray:**

Blessings for the work at JL  
Aerospace/EP412 Ministries

Safety in the workplace and for the  
airplanes being worked on

Josh as he balances life between  
work and home

Encouragement for Leslie as she  
holds down the fort at home with  
their three beautiful girls

Financial provision

*This QR code will take you directly  
to our website where you can read  
all about what we're doing and who  
we are.*

*You can also click 'Sign up' and  
we'll send you our updates and  
newsletters via e-mail.*



Aerospace and EP412 Ministries. If you check out our website, I have a whole list of prayer requests that I will keep updated.

Second, EP412 Ministries relies on financial contributions to support the work of missions organizations. Your one-time or ongoing financial support is greatly appreciated. We will keep the website [www.EP412.org](http://www.EP412.org) updated with ways to give and projects to support as we grow. You can give by mailing a check to us, or by donating through the link on the website.

Finally, if all of this stirs your heart to greater action, we are looking for a few individuals to join our team as board members. I have one board member in place so far, and in working towards our accreditation with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, we need five board members in total. Requirements for board members are really simple. You need to love Jesus, and you need to love missions. Aviation experience is not a must have, but it is a bonus. If that gets you excited, please reach out to me and we can have a conversation about what that would entail.

Thank you so much for your prayers and partnership with Leslie and I as we go forward into what God has called us. If you want to receive regular updates via email, send me your email address through the website, through social media, or simply by emailing me! If email is not your thing, we will continue to send updates by mail as well.

Contact info:

[josh@ep412.org](mailto:josh@ep412.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh O'Connor'.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Josh O'Connor