

GROUNDCREW



Jim inspects a repair of a DC-3 wing.

What does it take for something like MMS Aviation to become a reality? Vision. Yet, for a vision to become something tangible, it must be followed by commitment, courage, tenacity, and sacrifice.

MMS founder James W. (Jim) Miller was a visionary. He saw that training missionary aircraft mechanics by working on aircraft used by missionary organizations would have short- and long-term benefits. In the short term, aircraft would be prepared for service, and, in the long term, mechanics and pilot/mechanics would be prepared for missionary service. Pursuing this vision, Jim demonstrated the commitment, courage, tenacity, and sacrifice needed for MMS Aviation to become real.

Earlier this year, at the age of 88, Jim passed from this life to eternal life in his heavenly home. Before founding MMS, Jim and his wife, Marvine, served as missionaries in Ecuador. Jim was an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist with JAARS, Wycliffe Bible Translators' technical support arm.

In 1975 the Millers took leave from Wycliffe, and Jim began mentoring MMS' first apprentice in August of that year. Jim was a true craftsman in repairing and restoring aircraft. His high quality of workmanship remains the standard in the hangars and shops of MMS.

Jim's commitment to serve the missionary aviation community with excellence and economy still exists at MMS.

With God's provision and guidance, Jim obeyed, and God established an organization that has been a great benefit to the missionary aviation community for 45 years.



Jim services a magneto with MMS' first apprentice, Tim Tiffner.

Rebekah Patterson Begins Apprenticeship

Rebekah grew up in an aviation family and has had a passion for missions since she was very young. She hopes to serve in missionary aviation in Alaska. We are grateful that she chose to serve at MMS as she learns the skills necessary to serve as a pilot/mechanic!



Rebekah, standing next to the GCI Piper Malibu, her first aircraft project at MMS!



Jay finalizes the engine installation on MAG's Cessna 206.

Shearers join MMS Staff

Jay and Debbie Shearer came to MMS from eastern Pennsylvania, where Jay owned an aviation maintenance facility. Instead of retiring, they chose to give the rest of their career to the Lord by serving on our staff. Jay brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and they both have a heart for the Lord and for missions!

Jason Maust Completes Flight Training

Jason recently finished his flight training with Missionary Air Group in Burlington. The Maust family will be moving to Alaska, where Jason will serve as a pilot/mechanic with Arctic Barnabas. The mission of Arctic Barnabas is to strengthen and encourage pastor and missionary families to effectively advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout remote Alaska and northern Canada.



Jason stands with flight instructor Sean Garrigan.

Stephen Crothers Finishes Training at MMS

Stephen came to MMS as a certificated mechanic who needed some specialized experience. The Crothers family will serve with Missionary Air Group (MAG) in Honduras, as a pilot/mechanic family. MAG utilizes aircraft to deliver medical care, relief, and ministry services to remote people groups—showing compassion, after the example of Jesus.



The Crothers family made quite the impact on MMS!

COVID-19 Shutdown

Like much of the country, MMS Aviation closed down for several weeks in response to the Coronavirus crisis. Aircraft projects were put on hold, and completion dates were pushed back. We are now nearing the end of several projects at the same time.

Bearhawk for Haiti

Jenny Haver has done a fantastic job of leading apprentices **Josh Snader** and **Bryan Martin** through this project, which included installation of a newly overhauled engine, complete fabric recovering, and a multitude of other airframe repairs.

Maule for Ministry in Haiti

Tim Obarow is performing an annual inspection for this aircraft, which was recently acquired by a ministry that serves the remote regions of Haiti.

Piper Aztec

Tim Obarow completed the inspection on a Piper Aztec used for ministry in the U.S. The inspection revealed many "squawks," or issues that required repair. Tim spent several weeks returning this aircraft to an airworthy condition.

Missionary Air Group Cessna 206

Supervisors **Dale Coates**, **Jay Shearer**, **Jim Newman**, **Chuck Egbert**, and **Josh Adelsberger** are working to complete this project. The airplane has undergone a major inspection, repainting, engine and avionics upgrades, and many repairs. The airplane will serve remote parts of Honduras.

Mobilization Office

When someone inquires about the possibility of serving with MMS Aviation, **Keith and Karen Dodson** are there to answer questions and ask a few of their own! They are responsible for guiding new candidates from the beginning stages of inquiry all the way through the application process. When a candidate is accepted, the Dodsons become coaches, helping the new missionary through the process of building a personal support team. MMS has 4 new candidate evaluations scheduled in 2020.

Gospel Carrier International's Piper Malibu

Chris Jutte supervises this project with the assistance of apprentice **Rebekah Patterson**. This is Rebekah's first "real" aircraft project at MMS, giving her a good education in aircraft inspection and repair. **Mike Dunkley** is installing several new avionics components in the Malibu.



The Bearhawk looks like a new plane!



Tim Obarow installs the exhaust on the Piper Aztec.



Keith and Karen Dodson capably command the Graham, NC, MMS Mobilization Office.



Rebekah reassembles the landing gear while Chris supervises her work.

The picture at the bottom of this page is a special one. It shows a little girl following her daddy, who is an apprentice at MMS Aviation. She is watching the way he loves the Lord and has a heart for reaching the thousands of people groups who have never had an opportunity to hear the name of Jesus. When I was an apprentice at MMS, my own children were young, and their visits to the hangar were full of questions and discovery. My kids especially enjoyed picking through the scrap metal bin, looking for neat gears or shiny bearings to add to their treasure collection. Those days will always be a special memory for our family.

The 30 months that an apprentice spends here, learning how to maintain missionary airplanes, is a formative time for the whole family. They are a missionary family, learning to live on faith and accepting a new reality of temporary times and transitions. We encourage the families to visit the hangar. The lunchroom is often full of our children, taking the time to come and share a meal with our staff and look at what is being done in the hangars. MMS is a family environment where husbands, wives, children, and single adults all share life and work together, sharing the goal of preparing people and planes for missionary service.

Jim Miller, whose story is featured on the front page of this issue, had a vision for a unique way to prepare people for service as missionary aviators. MMS has prepared more than 80 apprentices and their families over the last 45 years, and those men, women, and their children have gone around the world, serving missionary aviation programs which are taking the gospel to people who desperately need to know the hope and salvation that can only be found in Jesus Christ. What a joy it is to share this time, short as it is, with these precious people who are preparing for a career of missionary service! Please keep MMS Aviation in your prayers, and ask the Lord of the harvest to send even more workers to learn and serve at MMS!

For His glory,

Phil

Phil Maddux,
President & CEO

"When I was an apprentice at MMS, my own children were young, and their visits to the hangar were full of questions and discovery."

MMS 45yrs
Aviation Missionary Maintenance Services

24387 Airport Road, Coshocton, OH 43812 • 740-622-6848 • 740-622-8277 fax
admin@mmsaviation.org • www.mmsaviation.org



Enhancing Trust