

## Spotlight on Jeff Eby

Jeff Eby was born in Ohio on September 9, 1943. He and his family moved around quite a bit in Jeff's formative years because his father was in the military.

In 1954 his family decided to settle in California, and chose Los Angeles as their home.

A couple years later, they moved again. "In 1956 I plunked down in Azusa when my mom put me in The Lark Ellen Home for boys. I was in the same dorm as Bob Lafata," Jeff said.

While staying at Lark Ellen, Jeff attended Slauson Elementary School for part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and was enrolled in Mr. Rich's homeroom class. He was there just three months before moving back to Los Angeles where he completed the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. "I actually lived in downtown LA near USC and the Memorial Coliseum, and it was quite the adventure for me as a young boy," Jeff said.

In 1957 Jeff, along with his mother and sister, Nancy (class of '60), returned to Azusa, where they stayed put for a while, so Jeff and Nancy could finish high school. Jeff was happy to be back, and mused, "We lived across from the Gas station Rachel Pille's father owned."

Because Jeff was used to change, he welcomed the many opportunities Azusa High had to offer, including the abundance of girls to choose from. Jeff admitted, "I was quite the player in high school until near the end of my senior year, when Beverly Warren (class of '63) set me up on a blind date with one of her classmates, Kathy Cox. It was love at first sight and we have been together ever since. On June 29 Kathy and I celebrated our 57th anniversary."



*Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Eby*



*Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Eby – 57 years later*

Jeff also sought long-term commitment and stability in the workplace, but it was difficult. In fact, after high school, Jeff actually held 22 different jobs, not all at the same place of employment.



*Jeff Eby – Electrician E-3*

His first job came when he enlisted in the US Navy and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Hornet. Here he worked as an electrician, E-3 rank. Jeff made two tours (sailings) to the Far East before he was discharged in 1964.

In addition to his stint in the US Navy, a few of the many diverse jobs he's held include stationery store clerk, Los Angeles motorcycle deliveryman, electrical construction worker, telephone worker, woodworker at a cabinet door company, machinist at a machine shop, sheet metal worker, air-conditioning installer, semi-truck driver, underground construction supply driver, desk clerk for YMCA, taxi driver, and minister.

The longest job he held was his ministry in prisons. "For 5 years I visited several prisons throughout the country and became lead minister of Prisoner's Bible Broadcast, a 30-minute radio program. Donations from the program paid for Bibles we distributed to prisoners," Jeff said.

After the radio ministry ended Jeff began to minister as volunteer chaplain at the California Institute for Men at Chino. Jeff explained, "I wasn't trying to convert them. Most of the time I would just talk friendly-like. Sometimes the prisoners asked me to telephone their wife, girlfriend or mom to let them know they were okay."

Jeff graduated from Azusa Pacific University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree, with a major in Religion and a minor in English.

After graduating college and working several jobs, Jeff finally found his niche—teaching school. Jeff taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Industrial Arts for 25 years within the El Monte City School District, before retiring.

Since retirement Jeff and Kathy have taken several vacations, with cruising always at the top of their list. One of their favorites is the Alaskan cruise, in fact they took the cruise twice and said it was worth every dime. "I like to say that if God was going to choose a place to live here on earth, He would definitely choose Alaska," Jeff said.



*Kathy & Jeff – Alaska Cruise*



*Kathy & Jeff - Trilogy at Glen Ivy*

It may not be Alaska, but Jeff and Kathy are pretty happy living in the beautiful 55+ golf community, Trilogy at Glen Ivy, in Corona, California, where they play golf as often as they can.

When he's not playing golf, Jeff ministers as lay pastor at Arlington Avenue Church of the Nazarene in Riverside.

Jeff and Kathy have a son and daughter plus four grown grandsons. Two of their grandsons are still in college. The other two graduated and have joined the workforce.