

Baptist International Mission, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9215  
Chattanooga, TN 37412-0215

William James

Rev. William (Bill) James

Bill was born in Cambridge, Mass., and grew up in the adjoining town of Watertown. He graduated from high school in 1942. Until his teen years, he attended the First Parish Unitarian Sunday School, but found no peace or knowledge of Christ there. For a time, he attended no church but listened to services on the radio. He was an Eagle Scout. Before entering the U.S. Air Force, he joined the local Congregational Church. When stationed in Florida, he heard and understood for the first time God's simple plan of salvation. In revival services at a Methodist Church in Richmond, VA, he had a desire to go forward during the invitation, but felt he was already a Christian because of his church membership.

During military service near Okinawa, he was bitten by a habu snake which usually kills its victim in 11 minutes. The Lord intervened. He had other plans for Brother James! While in the hospital, Bill found Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. His life was changed. He was called to preach at that time. After the war, Bill studied at Barrington College in RI, graduating in 1950. He left for missionary service in Japan in March 1951. There he met and married a missionary, Elsie Birkett of Joliet, IL.

Mrs. Elsie James

Elsie was born and attended school in Joliet. She participated in 4H clubs winning many honors. At age 14, she attended special meetings at Ridgewood Baptist Church at which she received Christ as Savior. After graduation from high school, Elsie worked for a year, then attended Northwestern Schools in Minneapolis, graduating in 1952.

Elsie went home to be with the Lord on May 31, 2008.

The couple have 3 grown children-Jennifer, Deborah, and Jonathan. Jenny is married to Joseph Crews and lives in St. Marys, GA. They have 2 sons Jason (20) and Jeremy (18). Deborah works for Honda Motor Co. Jonathan is married to the former Dawn Boker of Buffalo, NY. They both graduated from Tennessee Temple University, with Jonathan going nearly 3 years to seminary working for a Master of Education degree. For reasons he thought best, he enlisted in the US Army, but later entered the US Air Force officers training school at San Antonio, TX, graduating with honors. He is to be stationed in Omaha, NB. Dawn also works. She teaches third grade at an Omaha public school.

The Jameses completed 48 years of missionary service in March 1999. Bill has been missionary assistant at Iruma Bible Baptist Church (Independent). Bill worked in the church English school which is a basis for evangelism, many having come to Christ through this ministry. They would like to re-establish their literature ministry, but due to the high costs involved, they are waiting the Lord's opportunity and direction. The Jameses live in Denver, CO and promote missions in Japan and financial support for needy Japanese pastors.

Bill's "Timothy", Koji Shimizu, and his wife Yoshiko, finished graduate school in 1989 and returned to Japan to work in the Iruma church. They have two lovely children; a girl Yurika (7) and a boy, Yuki (5). Koji became the national pastor on April 1, 1990.

Retired October 1998 from full-time ministry in Japan.  
Where currently serving: Denver, CO

Date of COD's beginning support: 1965  
Birthdates: William (Bill) March 19, 1924  
Jennifer October 4, 1955  
Deborah December 21, 1956  
Jonathan May 5, 1959

June 2008