



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

FEBRUARY 2022



A Giant For God!



Jerry loved fishing

On August 28, 1943 Gerald (Jerry) David James was born in Los Angeles, CA, the second of five boys. When he was just five, Jerry survived polio. His left arm never worked again, and his right shoulder muscles were paralyzed. But these physical setbacks did not slow him down - he wrestled with his brothers, played sports, hunted and fished. His legs became very strong! Passengers in a car he was driving would be rather startled to see him steering with his knees while shifting the gears!

After a life-changing promise made to God in the midst of a car accident, Jerry gave himself to Christian ministry. He graduated from Biola University, where he majored in Bible and Missions - and where he also met the love of his life, Lois, to whom he was married for over 53 years. They were the parents of 5 children - and the spiritual parents of many boys, girls, men and women!

Jerry and Lois began their ministry with NICE in 1968. He served as church planter, Board member, missionary pastor, Field Director - and even spent 5 years on loan to the Gulf States region (serving Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) to start and develop a Church Extension Mission there!



Jerry and Lois in early NICE ministry

With a great love for God and His Word, Jerry influenced many people in their walk with the Lord and their spiritual growth. Judi Allen (NICE Office Manager) remembered the wise, biblical counseling given by Jerry during her years in Bible college - *"As my college pastor, I could go to Jerry with any question or concern, and he always had just the right portion of Scripture to address my need! He helped set the course of my life in serving the Lord."* At the Memorial Service, many people from several of

the churches where the James had ministered expressed similar feelings: *"Jerry was my Pastor, my friend, my mentor, my example of a man of God."* Another stated, *"My, how Jerry loved the Word of God and memorized Scripture; to me he was a giant for God!"* Yet another recalled how Jerry would break into song at any moment, especially the hymns, which he loved. He and Lois were always willing to provide special music at church events.



In recent years, Jerry and Lois travelled throughout Oregon as the NICE Oregon Field Director, visiting, encouraging and praying with the NICE Missionaries. Even the week before God's call to glory, Jerry and Lois were planning another ministry trip to one of the NICE Missionaries who needed some spiritual help and counsel. One of his favorite verses, printed on the Memorial brochure, was Isaiah 41:10:



"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous hand."

Indeed, Jerry never lost his enthusiasm for serving his Savior, Who had called and equipped him for ministry. He truly was a giant for God! The Lord called him to glory on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. THANK YOU for your faithful prayers and support of NICE; they are a vital part of the on-going work of reaching people for Christ and for planting and assisting churches! You are the vital life-line for devoted NICE Missionaries like Jerry and Lois James.



Bob and Katherine Rodgers with Lois at Jerry's Memorial Service.

So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. I Corinthians 3:7