

News and Information Office
Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board
Box 6767, Richmond, Virginia 23230

Revised December 13, 1993

SAMUEL M. JAMES
Vice President for Creative Leadership Development

Born: May 25, 1932, in Liberty, N.C.

Education: Received the bachelor of arts degree, with a major in Greek, from Wake Forest College (now University), Winston-Salem, N.C., and the master of divinity, master of theology in New Testament interpretation, and doctor of ministry in pastoral counseling degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Chaplain intern and resident, North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, 1971-73. Center for Creative Leadership (Executive Management course/workshop), Eckerd College, 1985.

Married: Rachel Kerr of Durham, N.C.

Children: Deborah, Stephen, Philip and Michael are grown.

Prior experience: Pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Liberty, N.C., and Grace Baptist Mission, Durham, N.C., which became Homestead Heights Baptist Church. Served in the U.S. Navy.

Published: Authored "Training for Urban Evangelization" in An Urban World, edited by Larry Rose and Kirk Hadaway. Authored a chapter entitled "The Church in the War-torn Vietnam Society," 25th Anniversary Bulletin, Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary.

Previous Foreign Mission Board assignments: Appointed missionary in March 1962 for general evangelism in Vietnam. English-language evangelist, Kowloon, Hong Kong, 1962, while awaiting visas to Vietnam; language study, Dalat, Vietnam, 1962-64; director of theological education and pastor of one church and planter of three others, 1964-75; founder of Vietnam Baptist Theological Seminary, Saigon, and president, 1967-75; coordinator of Urban Evangelism, Saigon area, 1973-75; faculty member and trustee for Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary, 1965-80, and chairman of committee to design the first doctor of ministry degree tailored for Asian pastors and scholars.

After leaving Vietnam, he went to Guam to aid in refugee efforts with Southeast Asian refugees and then to the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., where he served as research assistant to the director of the Overseas Division.

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Served as Field Representative (now called Associate to the Area Director) for East Asia, stationed in Taipei, Taiwan, 1976-80. Resigned as a missionary on Oct. 31, 1980, to join the board's staff in Richmond, Va., as Director of the Missionary Learning Department, Nov. 1, 1980-May 31, 1985, where he was responsible for the programs of orientation and training of missionaries, auxiliaries and volunteers and missionary development programs. He was responsible for designing the philosophy and concepts for development of the Missionary Learning Center at Rockville, Va., and worked with architects to design it. He became Area Director-elect, June 1, 1985-Dec. 31, 1985, and then Area Director, Jan. 1, 1986-June 30, 1992, for East Asia. He lived in Hong Kong and administered work of missionaries in East Asia. Returned to Richmond as Regional Vice President for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, July 1, 1992-Dec. 31, 1993, administering work of missionaries in the region.

Current assignment: Elected Vice President for Creative Leadership Development, effective Jan. 1, 1994, following a staff reorganization. Assigned to the office of the Senior Vice President for Overseas Operations, he leads in developing church growth strategies overseas, evaluating FMB training programs for overseas personnel, and evaluating board involvement in leadership training of national Christians overseas.