



James "Bill" Jenkins

November 21, 1934 - June 16, 2025

James "Bill" Jenkins, 90, of Lawrence, Kansas, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2025, of natural causes at his home in Lawrence, Kansas.

Bill was born in a cabin in the Shenandoah Mountains of Rappahannock County, Virginia, on November 21, 1934. He attended a country school in Sperryville, Virginia, and graduated from Warren County High School in Front Royal, Virginia, where he received a four-year scholarship to Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky.

However, the Methodist Church called him to serve at the young age of 21, and he was appointed to the Blue Ridge Charge, a circuit of five churches. Bill had already been serving as a lay pastor since age 17, and this formal appointment began a distinguished ministry career spanning over 50 years. He served Methodist congregations throughout Virginia, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Northern California, and Iowa. During his ministry, Bill continued his education, studying at Bridgewater College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and later earning a Master of Divinity degree from Berkeley Theological Seminary in California.

Bill met his beloved wife, Carol Musser, while pastoring a Methodist Church in Vallejo, California. They were married there in 1974. After retiring from the Methodist Church in 2000, Bill continued pastoring a community church in Marshall, Minnesota, for another ten years.

In 1994, with two children still at home, Bill and Carol took a leave of absence from the Methodist Church to pursue mission work in Western Samoa for about three years. Though they returned to the Iowa Conference, their hearts remained called to the mission field. After retiring from full time pastoring at age 75, Bill and Carol set out to fulfill that calling, serving together in India, Nepal, and Kenya. Bill taught in Bible Schools during the week and preached in many churches on Sundays. In 2021, a reaction to a COVID vaccination hospitalized Bill just days before a planned departure for Africa, ending his active mission work. Though unable to travel after that, Bill continued to find joy in attending Velocity Church in Lawrence, Kansas, encouraging all he met to "Trust in the Lord with all their heart."

Bill found great pleasure in playing piano, studying Scripture, and treasuring time with his children and grandchildren.

Bill is lovingly survived by his wife of 50 years, Carol Jenkins; his daughter, Jessica Brom, with husband Michael, and children Cody, Forrest, Matthew, Dominic, and Noah; his son, Jeremy Jenkins, with wife Kumiko, and children Manon, Jude, and Jase; his daughter, Janell Taveva, with husband Favor, and children Lawren, Landis, Lemuel, Liam, and Latimer; and his son, Justin Jenkins, with wife Marissa, and children Reece, Oliver, Grant, and Pippa.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at Velocity Church, 4000 West 6th Street, Lawrence KS 66049. The service will be officiated by his sons, Pastor Justin Jenkins of Velocity Church and Reverend Jeremy Jenkins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Velocity Church for the Bill Jenkins Memorial Fund for Missions, which will support Bible Schools in Kenya, a prayer center in Tokyo, and ongoing mission projects

around the world.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Celebration

JUL 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Velocity Church
4000 West 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66049

Tribute Wall

KR

“ I met Pastor Bill on a mission trip in Shillong Meghalaya, India 2014. Ever since we became like a family. He was a spiritual father to many. A man of prayer, kind, humble, full of Christlike character. His words of wisdom and encouragement still echoes in our hearts. Pastor Bill, your gentle smile will be dearly missed. Until we see you in glory! ❤️

Kasheli Ritter - June 30, 2025 at 12:15 AM

HR

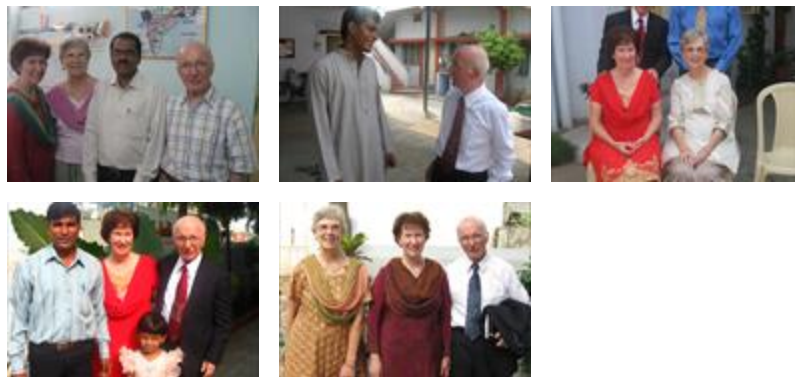
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Harold Ritter - June 29, 2025 at 12:05 AM

HR

“ 18 files added to the album India



Harold Ritter - June 29, 2025 at 12:02 AM

AK

“ To me Pastor Bill was the very picture of Christ Himself - humble, kind and deeply spiritual. His words of knowledge and wisdom greatly encouraged me in my spiritual journey. He will be missed but we'll meet again in heaven someday.
My condolences to Sister Carol and family for their loss. May the Lord grant them comfort during this time of bereavement.

Archie Kharpuri - June 21, 2025 at 04:05 PM

UA

“ Thank God for the moment I had with you. That will stay with me forever. Thank you, Sir. Rest well in the Lord.

Urieme Arijaje - June 21, 2025 at 12:40 PM

BK

“ Only heaven knows how much he impacted my life and ministry. A real major turning point for our lives, my wife and I and our entire church.
We'll miss you Pastor Bill . Enjoy a face to face with your savior whom you served so genuinely.
That picture of him was taken at our church in Nairobi, Kenya.
Pastor Benjamin Kasankya

Benjamin Kasankya - June 21, 2025 at 12:37 PM

UA

“ Urieme A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Bill" Jenkins.

Urieme A. - June 21, 2025 at 12:32 PM

UA

“ Urieme A. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James "Bill" Jenkins.



Urieme A. - June 21, 2025 at 12:32 PM

WI

“ Papa Billy, it's hard to imagine that you're gone I will forever remember the Triumphant church at the Spirit of faith bible school in Kenya. It was such an impact for me to this day, I shall dearly miss your Hilarious jokes in class. Go well papa heaven has gained a wonderful Man.

Winnie - June 21, 2025 at 12:11 PM

MB

“ My great uncle Billy , my poppy's brother. Thank you for always staying in touch. You are loved by many ! Squeeze my poppy for me. Big hugs and prayers to all the family ❤️



missy jenkins bowles - June 20, 2025 at 08:56 PM

WI

Papa Billy, it's hard to imagine that you're gone. I will forever remember the Triumphant church at the Spirit of faith bible school in Kenya. I shall dearly miss your Hilarious jokes in class. Go well papa heaven has gained a wonderful Man.

Winnie - June 21, 2025 at 09:01 AM

EM

“ Uncle Bill you will be greatly missed here on earth but heaven certainly gained a jewel of Angel. Your love of God and the gospel have meant so much to me over the years. Being able to call you and discuss things with you will forever be close to my heart. I will always remember how strong you were preaching my mom's service(your sister) and the encouraging message to all of us. Thank you for the stand you took and for sharing with us some of your most memorable moments preaching God's word. I love you forever and will miss you until we meet again. You have a beautiful family.
Until we meet again,rest in arms of Jesus.
Emma and Wayne Moore(your niece)

Emma Moore - June 20, 2025 at 02:07 PM

BK

Only heaven knows how much he impacted my life and ministry. A real major turning point for our lives, my wife and I and our entire church. We'll miss you Pastor Bill . Enjoy a face to face with your savior whom you served so genuinely.
That picture of him was taken at our church in Nairobi, Kenya.
Pastor Benjamin Kasankya

Benjamin Kasankya - June 20, 2025 at 05:41 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Brom - June 20, 2025 at 01:52 PM

EM

My Uncle, love this picture of him. This was his life sharing Jesus with everyone.

Emma Moore - June 20, 2025 at 07:24 PM