



James Allen Courson

September 11, 1959 - August 22, 2025

“And I will praise Your name forever and ever... One generation shall praise Your works to another... They shall utter the memory of your great goodness, and sing of Your righteousness. Psalm 145:2, 4,7

James Allen Courson “Jim” was born on September 11, 1959 in San Jose, California. He spent his first 17 years there as the youngest of Merle and Mary Courson and the sibling of his beloved brothers Dave and Jon, and sister Niki. He spent those years in what he called a wonderful “Leave-It-To-Beaver” environment. His stories of neighborhood adventures with a batch of wonderful boyhood characters brought him youthful delight. He and his family were always very active in church life which brought great joy.

After high school, he spent summers working on the docks of Coos Bay, Oregon living with his parents. During the school year, he attended Seattle Pacific University. Jim had the privilege of remaining active in collegiate athletics as a discus thrower, was an R.A. for two years, and was active in service organizations while working his way through college with a variety of jobs. He graduated from the SPU Education department with a degree in Physical Education.

After graduation, Jim worked as a tour guide in Alaska- albeit he’d never been there– the stories continued! From Alaska, he went to Southern Oregon where

he was smitten with the love of his life. He had the privilege of marrying Julie Atterbury on July 7, 1984. He considered this the best decision he'd ever made besides that of acknowledging Jesus as his Savior.

Shortly after marriage, Jim accepted teaching positions at Crater High School and Lincoln Savage Middle School in Southern Oregon. It was during that time that the first two of their three children were born— Abby and David. This completed the greatest delights of his life— to be married to a wonderful, godly woman and gifted with children from the Lord.

Jim and Julie were challenged to consider work in foreign missions. It was that challenge which led them to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Initially Jim had hoped to become a Bible translator- giving the Word to a people-group who were yet to have it. The Lord had other plans and had Jim and Julie work with missionary kids in Papua New Guinea for two years.

Upon return home to Southern Oregon, where Jim had planned to return to public education, he and Julie were asked to help out at an orphanage for a few weeks in Carmen Serdan, Baja Mexico. Those couple weeks turned into a grand total of 15 years. During that time, their youngest daughter Ellie was born. Jim's role in Mexico morphed into his becoming the Director of the orphanage and a pastor during those years.

Upon leaving Mexico, Jim took a position as a teaching pastor of a young church known as Solid Rock Fellowship in Tigard, Oregon for 5 years. At the end of that time, he came to Newberg, Oregon where he and his son David, along with his dear friend Steve Halajian re-organized Newberg Christian Fellowship. He had the privilege of pastoring the fellowship for 16 years. It was during these years of pastoring that Jim would see his children married and have their own children. David married Kristina Halajian and they had three girls- Arabella, Bellvidera, and Clementine. Abby married Ben Burgess

and they have had their three children, Caleb, Paisley, and Josie James. Ellie married Jordan Hughes and they are blessed with Rowena and Celeste James.

When remembering Jim, it is easy to recount how great of a story teller he was, his many foreign adventures, his gentle strength and kindness, how great of a pastor and teacher he was, and of course his best roles of husband and father- he was a humble man of who quietly laid up treasure in heaven as he served others with everything he did and is greatly missed. He would often refer to this life as a camping trip– always pointing us to Heaven and encouraging others to fix their eyes on Jesus and reminding others that these earthly tents are not made for eternity. He kept his eyes fixed on the Author and Finisher of his faith until the Lord called him home on August 22nd, 2025.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 13th at 3:30 PM at Jim's beloved "barn church." Please carpool if possible due to parking and if you're able to, bring a camp chair. The event address is 14141 NE Kuehne Rd., Newberg, OR 97132

Cemetery Details

Noble Pioneer Cemetery

NE Kings Grade Rd
Newberg, OR 97132

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **13**. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (PT)

The Barn Church
14141 NE Kuehne Rd.
Newberg, OR 97132

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I knew Jimmy before he married Julie. We all became good friends later in life. Jimmy filled in for me a few times when I pastored Calvary Chapel in Salem. We’d get together for breakfast at Sheri’s in Woodburn. I’m gonna miss him big time.

Steve Hopkins - January 27 at 11:36 AM

MW

“ Jim came to teach at Lincoln Savage Middle School during the start of my 2nd year. I was so happy to meet and get to know him. Jim had a gentle presence with the students. He was a born leader with a soft voice. It was a very good year and I was sad to see him leave. He was a lover of the Lord and shared with the staff his convictions. He was led by his heart. Rest in peace my friend. You are missed. Mo



Mo Wright - January 07 at 05:58 PM

SL

“ I've Known Jim since he was in High School. What an amazing man he turned out to be. We watched he and Julie grow into their missionary life and praised our Lord for the witness and impact that they made for so many. Heaven is a richer place now!

Steve Lehnhardt - September 12, 2025 at 03:53 PM

LF

“ Only heaven will reveal the impact both Jimmy and Julie had on the lives of the whole Fralich family...praising the Lord for them both and praying for Julie’s comfort and peace as she travels this new road without him...

Linda Fralich - September 11, 2025 at 08:05 PM

JW

“ We met this wonderful family in Papua New Guinea. Our families became fast friends.

Jim and Julie made such an amazing impact on our lives. I'll forever remember Jim's 'mermaid' performance for an event at the Teen Center in Ukarumpa.

Our trip to Ensenada proved to be life changing as this resulted in them moving to Newberg, Oregon to develop Newberg Christian Fellowship.

Jim was a fabulous Bible teacher. The best in his class. And so much authentic than his famous brother. Sorry, Jon. That is my personal opinion.

Jere Witherspoon - September 05, 2025 at 10:01 PM

DM

“ So many wonderful memories of Pastor Jim, Jimmy had a special gift and ability for gently leading people of all sorts to Jesus.

I will always be so very grateful for his friendship and how he extended the right hand of fellowship to me, my life would never be the same.

Dave McCoy

Dave McCoy - September 05, 2025 at 04:19 PM

DC

“ Jim exemplified an unwavering commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. His life reverberated with a love for God and a love for people. I witnessed his compassion as he literally gave the shirt off his back to a hurricane survivor in Honduras. I saw his faithfulness in teaching the Word of God to orphans in Mexico, and sharing the God of the Word to unreached tribes deep in the jungles of Vanuatu. I was impacted by Jim's commitment to "finish strong" in Papua New Guinea. As the years went by, I no longer saw Jim as my "little brother" but as a gentle giant of the faith. A man I look up to. A man of integrity. A man of humility. A man with Godly priorities. I'll miss you, Jim. I'll continue to look up to you. I'll always be thankful for you.

David Courson - August 30, 2025 at 08:25 AM

JW

“ Jimmy taught me what grace looks like in real time. I cherish the years I sat under his leadership at the Mission in Mexico. He had a profound influence in my life and I look forward to laughing again with him in heaven. Much love to Julie and the whole family.

Jim Wright - August 29, 2025 at 01:37 PM

RC

“ Jim is a man of character and grace now perfected in heaven. We love the Courson family and pray great grace on Julie and all his loved ones. We were privileged to know them and co-labor for a season.

Rick Cohen - August 27, 2025 at 03:12 PM

MM

“ Jimmy was such a faithful servant and reflection of the Lord to his family, friends and the world. I learned as much from him by watching as by listening. His race was well run and surely his rewards will be great!

Matt McCollum - August 27, 2025 at 12:31 PM

JM

“ Jimmy exemplified how to lead by humble sacrificial grace in a way that inspired everyone who served with them. An absolute legend we could only hope to aspire to!

Jeff Moody - August 27, 2025 at 12:11 PM

DP

“ A gentle giant filled with the spirit of the Lord. Well done.

Dan Patterson - August 27, 2025 at 10:19 AM

GR

“ We loved Jim and Julie so much!!!💔💔💔

gina renard - August 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM