

April 2019

Teresa and I cleaned out our closet recently and I took several bags of clothes to the nearby International Linguistics Center, a training site for Wycliffe Bible translators. Their shop allows deploying missionaries to get additional clothing at no cost and it's been our privilege for years to share our no-longer-used items for this good purpose.

As I hauled my bags to the drop-off window, there to the side was the familiar sign I had read so often before: "Give your best to the Master."

James and Dorothy Williams certainly gave their best. Starting in 1946, they were in pastoral ministry in rural west Texas for more than three decades and James never served a church that could contribute to a retirement plan. Today, we provide a monthly Mission:Dignity grant to Dorothy and it's not only an encouragement to this 95-year-old pastor's widow but to her family as well. I know you will enjoy reading their note of thanks on the back of this letter.

We appreciate you sharing so generously this month. Every dollar you've provided will help a retired pastor, worker or widow so they can buy groceries, pay for utilities, get essential medicine and so much more.

These faithful men and women gave everything to serve us, and now, it's our turn and our privilege to give something back in a way that honors the Lord and is a blessing to his servants.

Thanks again for giving your best to the Master!

Grace and peace,



John Ambra
Director of Development

March 12, 2019

Reference: Donor Grant to Dorothy M Williams

On behalf of Dorothy, her children Collene, Donald and Pamela extend to you our deepest appreciation for your commitment of \$225.00 for 24 months to assist us with at-home care for our mother.

In addition to the enclosed picture of Mother, we want you to have a glimpse into the lives of our mother and father. Our dad, James A Williams, was a full-time pastor for 31 years. During that time Mother served alongside dad as teacher, pianist and active member of Women's Missionary Union, in addition as caretaker of our home and loving disciplinarian of 5 children. Many of Dad's churches did not pay enough to support our family; therefore, Mother worked in the community hoeing and pulling cotton while Dad worked on cars and tractors for farmers in the community. Some of those farmers came to know Christ as a result of Dad's witness. In later years, Mother worked as a steam presser in a dry cleaner and then as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Abilene State School.

Our dad was short in stature, standing about 5'5". Shortening the leg length of Dad's pants was no problem. But white shirts with Dad's sleeve length were an issue. Mother worked carefully to remove the sleeves from Dad's new shirts, cut to reshape and shorten the sleeves at the shoulders and then skillfully sew them back on. Dad's shirts always looked neat and correct for his arm length.

Dad said he was called to pastor small churches. His largest pastorate started as a mission of First Baptist Sweetwater. When it was chartered as a church, I think there were 150 members. These small churches did not have custodians. It was our job on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday to clean the church for services. Dad was the church carpenter and grounds keeper. All of this was part of the pastor's duties.

Dad and Mother tithed and taught us to tithe. We were taught that a tithe belonged to God and what we gave beyond that was an offering. My sister remembers one of Dad's pastorates where he was paid \$25.00 for the week. Dad would sign the check and put it in the offering plate. That was his offering not his tithe.

Dad and Mother gave of their time and their resources to serving the Lord they loved and were dedicated to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are exceedingly thankful to individuals like you who love the Lord and willingly support those who have served and need assistance during their aging years.

Donald Collene Pamela