

Brother James L. Crudup

Personal Data: Birth: 12/13/46; Baptism 11/9/69
Ordinations: Teacher 3/28/71; Elder 10/30/76; Evangelist 10/23/02;
Apostle 10/14/07
Leadership: District Second Counselor
District First Counselor May 2007-May 2008
Mission Work: Nigeria, Kenya; Field Chairmen of Rwanda

James L. Crudup was born on December 13th 1946 in Millstone Township, New Jersey where for many years he was raised by his grandparents Omega and Roberta Crudup. Brother Jim loved and cherished them as a father and mother until they departed from this life. They raised him the best they knew how. They taught him to be respectful and honest and to fear God. He learned to love people regardless of who they were.

His grandparents taught by example; showing him that regardless of who came to their home they were made to feel very welcomed. He remembers his grandmother preparing food every weekend. No one was turned down. Brother Jim's grandparents would say, "Come in, sit down, have something to eat, and make yourself at home; there's plenty to eat." They taught him how to treat people as equals and that no one was any better than anyone else.

Brother Jim met his wife in Jacksonville, North Carolina while serving in the U.S. Marines Corp stationed at Camp Lejeune. He later served in Vietnam. After he returned to the United States, he was discharged in El Toro, California and was married to Sister Linda Sidberry on September 13, 1969. Sister Linda was baptized into the church in 1969 also, before he returned home from Vietnam.

GOD'S MERCY AND DIRECTIONS

Brother Jim recalls an event when he was in Vietnam. He had very little time left in Vietnam, a week or so when he remembers being hit with mortar rounds and gun fire. He and a friend had dug a fox hole to be used if necessary. Well it was necessary that day. As they got into the fox hole, mortar rounds were coming in, landing two and three feet away from them. He knows now that God took care of him and his friend.

Another time Brother Jim was coming in from the showers to get dressed and get his weapons. As he was returning to the tent, he heard bullets going over his head sounding like a fast ball a pitcher would throw. Those that have played baseball know what it sounds like. God took care of him again and he is thankful to this day.

MY EXPERIENCE

During his time in Vietnam Brother Jim remembers being outside alone one night, and there was a beautiful full moon. He will never forget as he looked up into the night sky that he asked God to please take care of him and promised, if God would allow him to return home safely, he would

serve him. He also asked God to give him a home and a beautiful wife. God did just that, and he will always be very grateful to him.

When Brother Jim returned back to the United States, he and Sister Linda were able to purchase a home in Lakewood, New Jersey after they were married. He started to attend The Church of Jesus Christ on a regular basis. One Sunday the service was very powerful as on the day of Pentecost. All the Brothers and Sisters were overwhelmed by the spirit of God. The elders were embracing one another. Brother Jim noticed that when the Spirit of God fell upon Brother Frank Baldwin, he stood up. The spirit was so powerful that he fell to the floor and the communion was knocked over in the process, but it never spilled.

Brother Jim saw this, but didn't think much about it at the time. Seeing that caused him to remember a dream he had only a few nights before. He dreamt he went to Brother Matthew Rogolino's house and knocked on the door. Brother Matthew's wife, Sister Joan, said to come in. As he walked in the door, he noticed there was a picture of the Last Supper with the Twelve Apostles on the floor. He glanced at it but didn't really pay too much attention to it. He asked Sister Joan, Where is Brother Matthew? (Notice that he called her "sister" but he was not a member of the church yet.) Sister Joan said, "He is not here, but when he comes in he will come through that door." She pointed to a tall door. As he looked at the door there was glass at the top of it where he could see the blue sky with beautiful white fluffy clouds.

As he sat in church that day showered with God's blessings he remembered the promise he had made to God that night in Vietnam looking up at the beautiful night sky that he would serve him when he returned home from Vietnam. Brother Jim thanked God for his tender love and for reminding him of the promise he made. It was then that Brother Jim and his grandmother asked for their baptism. Brother Jim will tell you that God and his wonderful beautiful wife, Sister Linda, have been his constant support.

MISSIONARY ENDEAVORS

Brother Jim's first missionary trip out of the USA was to Nigeria in November 2003, with Brother Joseph Perri to uplift and strengthen the brothers and sisters. They had a wonderful time visiting schools. The radio station recorded sermons to be put on the air. It was brought to his attention that he was the first Black American brother of The Church to visit Nigeria. He thanked God that the brothers and sisters received him very well.

His second trip was to Kenya in 2004. Again he was the first Black American brother to go Kenya to be with the brothers and sisters and to give them encouragement to continue on to perfection. He felt the love of the ministry and the saints.

On his third trip to Africa he went to Rwanda in April 2005. He has been blessed to be able to return in April 2006 and again in March 2007. He held the office of Field Chairman until April 2008.

As an Apostle of the church he has become the liaison for the African Sector.

CALLING AS AN APOSTLE

When Brother Jim was notified that he was recommended to be an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ, he became concerned that his calling was a true calling from God. Although he knew the brothers of the Quorum to be very good brothers filled with the love of God for him and all, he had some concern that his calling may have been because of his race. Brother Jim wanted a true confirmation that he was being called of God.

Two days before Brother Jim was to go before the Quorum. God gave him this dream. He was sitting on the steps of the rostrum of the World Conference Center. The building was empty with the exception of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. They were behind him, but he did not need to look to see, he knew they were there because he could feel their presence. Brother Dominic Thomas came walking up the aisle looking straight ahead. When Brother Dominic got to where Brother Jim was sitting, he stopped and looked at him and touched him on the shoulder as if to say don't worry everything will be alright. Then Brother Dominic proceeded up the steps of the rostrum where the other brothers of the Quorum were. He knew everything was going to be alright and at this point the dream ended.

Brother Jim then remembered a conversation Brother Dominic had with him in the main hallway of the conference center before Brother Dominic became ill. Brother Jim greeted Brother Dominic and he said to Brother Jim, "Don't think that what you are doing is going unnoticed." Brother Jim wondered what he was talking about. He thought maybe he was referring to his attendance at conference. He was not sure, but this dream answered Brother Jim's question as God brought Brother Dominic back to him letting him know that he was going to be accepted into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. He thanked God for Brother Dominic Thomas who led by example and always exhibited the love of God.