



James R. Blair

December 27, 1912 - August 27, 2009

James R. "Jim" Blair, age 96 of Cambridge, Ohio went to be with His Lord Jesus Thursday, August 27, 2009 following a short stay at the Red Carpet Health Care Center in Cambridge. Born December 27, 1912, in Cambridge, Ohio, Mr. Blair realized there were not many things for teens to do, even when he was growing up, for recreation and "to keep kids off the streets, he founded the S.A.L.T. Factory, Inc. teen center when he was 79 years old. Mr. Blair started Blair's New Furniture & Upholstery in 1937, having worked for many years for the local Suitt Brothers Chair Factory which closed in the 1950's. Mr. Blair is a member of Beckett Avenue United Methodist Church, where he became a Christian for many years, and has been a member of the Gideon's International for nearly 50 years, having helped place Bibles in the U.S. and in some foreign countries during his travels to Canada, Mexico, Europe, Kenya, Egypt and Israel. He was also a member of the Cambridge Free Methodist Church for many years, having been Sunday School Superintendent, Lay Leader and a Sunday School teacher at both churches. Mr. Blair has written several editorials, especially on gambling, for the Daily Jeffersonian and for the past five years has published nearly fifty of his own religious articles in the Daily Jeffersonian as a ministry to serve His Lord. In the 1950's, he was assistant editor of Strangers and Pilgrims, a religious newspaper that continued for six years in Byesville, Ohio. In 2001, James was honored as a Person of the Year in the Daily Jeffersonian. Two years later, he was inducted into the State of Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame due

to his contributions to society in spite of his age. In his youth, Mr. Blair served 3 years in the Civilian Conservation Corps CCC's to help support his mother with the youngest of her 10 children.

His life story has just recently been accepted by "Unshackled!" which is reputed to be the longest running live radio broadcast in America or perhaps the world. His story will be dramatized in Chicago at the Pacific Garden Mission on October 10, 2009 and a second segment is tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2009. His debut is scheduled to be broadcast over nearly 2000 radio stations around the world and in ten different languages during the weeks of January 31, 2010 through February 13, 2010. Their website for hearing his featured life is http://www.unshackled.org/listen_home.html or contact www.unshackled.org for more information.

Mr. Blair was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel M. Blair and Anna Hosfelt Blair. His beloved wife, Wanda, preceded him to heaven on May 29, 1997, following 60 years of marriage, along with two infant children, Carol Lee and James Alfred Blair. Six brothers, Bill, Ray, Samuel, Edward, Ellis and Kenny Blair and two sisters, Alice Sparks and Lucille Miller also preceded him in death.

James is survived by one son, John D. Blair of Cambridge , and two daughters, Judith M. Danny Allender of Byesville, Ohio , and Jean Charles Melanko of Cambridge and one daughter-in-law, Joann Blair. He is survived by one sister, Anna Jones, of Cambridge , and one sister-in-law, Grace Anderson of Beach City , Ohio .

Also surviving him are seven grandchildren: John A. Ann Blair, Kimberly John Charlton, James R. Darla Blair, Robin Dan Boyer-Jackman, Shane A. McCance, Andrea Chris Miles, Justin Kandi Greer, and seventeen great-grandchildren and three great- great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Friends may call Sunday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 at Bundy-Law Funeral Home where the funeral service will be held Monday at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Randy Mercer and Rev. Sturman Moore officiating. Burial will follow the service in the

New Buffalo Cemetery , Buffalo , Ohio .

Memorial Contributions may be made to The Gideons International at P.O. Box 983, Cambridge, Ohio or to The S.A.L.T. Factory Teen Center, P.O. Box 67, Cambridge, Ohio 43725. On line condolences mat be made to www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ I have just heard James story on unshackled. Its a wonderful story of God's love mercy and grace.I am also a Gideon I also live in a town called Cambridge kind of cool. Ol also have worked with kids for years. I look forward top meeting this dear man in heaven one day. I know it is a great loss even though he was here for 90 plus years, if we stay true to God then we can be with him for all eternity. Thank you so much for sharing his story with us it really is a blessing
##imported-begin##Howard hoffman##imported-end##

February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I also just heard James' story on Unshackled and found it very moving. What an inspiration that he served the Lord with all his strength until the very end. I hope I can do this, too. Thank you so much for sharing his story!
##imported-begin##Janet van Graas##imported-end##

February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayer and thought are with the family
Leonard##imported-begin##Leonard Hopps##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Jim will be soo missed by me and my family. Will always remember that beautiful smile, his hats and his strong belief in the Lord. He and Rick my son had a photo shoot with all the hats we could find in the house, what a fun time!!!! Miss You Uncle Jim###imported-begin##Diana J. Shaw###imported-end##

August 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Jim's love for the Lord was manifest in all his endeavors, and his fervor for spreading the Word will leave a lasting legacy for us all. Our heartfelt condolences go to his entire family. We're thinking of you during this sad and yet joyous occasion as we all celebrate Jim's life.###imported-begin##Ben Lasoi & Family###imported-end##

August 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We were saddened to hear that our old friend of many years passed away although we rest in the knowledge that he is in the presence of his Lord and Savior.###imported-begin##Dr. Earl H. Bailey###imported-end##

August 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Jim was such a blessing to be around. I will always carry memories of time spent with him talking about different things. His love for the Lord will also continue to be an inspiration.###imported-begin##Ivan Lasoi###imported-end##

August 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ i just wanted to offer my sympathy to the family of jim blair....my memories from long ago were of a man that loved his God, his family and people...i know he left an imprint on many lives...God knew his work on earth was done and called him to his new home in heaven..##imported-begin##marlene graban coury##imported-end##

August 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Jim Blair as a wonderful husband to his sweet wife, Wanda, into whose home I was welcomed many, many times as Jean and I spent some fun growing-up years together. I remember his obvious love for his family, his deep compassion for others, his great work ethic, his wonderful sense of humor. But it was his love for his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that I will remember the most. Well done, Jim Blair...##imported-begin##Margaret Graban Jacobs##imported-end##

August 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I am deeply sorry for the loss of Mr. Blair. The Lord took him home to end his pain and suffering, his family are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Deana Craft-Barlock##imported-end##

August 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM