



James Melvyn "Mel" Ming

August 8, 1947 - February 4, 2026

James Melvyn "Mel" Ming, ardent Christ follower, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, went to be with the Lord on February 4th, 2026.

Mel was born on August 8, 1947, in Lynwood, California, to Assemblies of God ministers James and Mable Ming. Mel was in his senior year of college when he felt God's call to train people in ministry. He was a lifelong learner, earning advanced degrees in education and ministry. Mel's career spanned academia and ministry, including service as a professor, academic dean, missionary, pastor, and leadership in the Northwest Ministry Network. In each of these roles, and in his life outside of work, Mel was committed to investing in others and delighted in seeing people reach their full potential.

More than any title or accolade, Mel treasured being a husband to Martha, a father to his daughters, and a grandfather to his grandchildren. Mel also deeply valued and was intentional in his relationships with friends, many of which spanned decades. He had a delightful sense of humor and a booming, unmistakable laugh that filled any room.

Outside of work and family, Mel loved amateur radio. He first became a ham (N7GCO) in the 1980s, and in his retirement years, enjoyed wonderful friendships formed through the Spokane DX club.

Mel's life was guided by deep faith in God. He lived with integrity, humility, and conviction. His life purpose, a line he adopted from Dawson Trotman over 50 years ago, was "to know Christ and make Him known."

Mel is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Martha; his daughter and son-in-law, Hannah and Justin Bryeans, and daughter and son-in-law, Rebekah and Jeremy Kowalski; his grandchildren, Ethan and his wife Sariana, Noah, Tait, and Lucy Bryeans, and many extended family members and dear friends.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, February 21st at 1:00 pm at Valley Assembly Church, located at 15618 E. Broadway Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99037.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Atlas Free (atlasfree.org) or the Union Gospel Mission (uniongospelmission.org).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 21. 1:00 PM (PT)

Valley Assembly
15618 E Broadway Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99037

Tribute Wall



“ For those who've inquired, Valley Assembly will stream Mel's celebration of life on Saturday February 21 at 1p on their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/valleyassembly>

Justin Bryeans - February 20 at 07:18 PM

UM

“ It was 2006 when I met Dr Ming. He was teaching *The Church Development Process* at about 50 Hispanic pastors. It was three days of profound and practical wisdom, a gift from God for all of us. I was impacted by his teachings, for the first time I listened the systems theory apply to the church and ministry. It totally changed my understanding of church development forever. I also remember Steve Mills always ready to help and assisting him in those seminars. They made a great teaching team. I will never forget Dr Ming.

*Dr Urias Mendoza,
Assistant Superintendent at SPD-AG*

Urias Mendoza - February 18 at 02:05 AM

TW

“ I first encountered Mel as Professor Ming. I believe my freshman year at Northwest College was his first year teaching. He was such a lively speaker and teacher and so approachable.

Timothy White - February 17 at 06:23 PM

DC

“ I remember Mel and Martha sitting over lunch with Dave and I when I asked if I should continue my education. He looked at me and said it would benefit my marriage as Dave was working on his doctorate. - I went on to get my Masters and it has! Thanks Mel for being a proponent of education and marriage. You were a blessing

Debbie Cole - February 15 at 09:47 AM

BE

“ Always appreciated his encouraging words. I need to pass the baton. Thanks Mel

Bob Elfers - February 14 at 03:00 PM

SS

Mel touch our lives and leadership deeply—he patiently loved and served our needs with joy and expertise! He will be deeply missed in the Kingdom! All our love to Martha and family! Steve and Pam

Steve Smallwood - February 14 at 06:00 PM