

James Howard Martin was born on August 15, 1930. He was a second-generation minister in the Congregational Holiness Church, the son of Rev. Joe and Lillian Martin. As a young man, he served our country for 4 years in the United States Navy.

He was married to the former Sara Ford, the daughter of Rev. Johnny Ford and Mrs. Ruby Ford. They were blessed with two children, Debbie and Jamie.

Bishop Martin entered the ministry in April 1959. He would serve as pastor of several Congregational Holiness churches in North Alabama, Central Georgia, and West Carolina districts. These included West Griffin, Martin's Crossroads, Weaver, Tredegar, Jacksonville, Hall's Chapel, Gadsden, Nances Creek, and Community.

Bishop Martin attended Jacksonville State University and Gadsden State College. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in Theology from International Bible School and Seminary.

He served several years on the General World Missions Board. As well, he served the North Alabama District as Assistant Secretary and First Assistant Superintendent.

He was elected as the Superintendent of the West Carolina District during the time he served as Pastor of the Martin's Crossroads Church.

He was elected as the General Superintendent of the Congregational Holiness Church in 1977, where he served for eight years. During these years, he was a frequent Camp Meeting speaker.

After leaving this office in 1985, he returned to Alabama, where he would pastor and serve as the Superintendent of the North Alabama District.

Bishop Martin died on April 28, 2008, at the age of 77. He is buried in the Chosea Springs Community Cemetery near Heflin, Alabama.